THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

“I love being a Dragon. I am so blessed that O’Dowd teachers and coaches gave me their time and energy, and educated me to improve my life, my family’s life, and communities around me. I will continue to do everything I can to help.”

-Garry Hill-Thomas ‘00

O’DOWD’S ANNUAL FUND ENSURES THAT EVERY STUDENT AT O’DOWD FINDS OPPORTUNITIES TO PURSUE THE FULLEST EXPRESSION OF THEIR TALENTS AND CURIOSITY. EVERY GIFT CONTRIBUTES TO ENRICHING THE QUALITY OF O’DOWD STUDENTS’ LIVES AND LEARNING.

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**WRITE US!**

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

Dragon Magazine  
9500 Stearns Ave.  
Oakland, CA 94605
Greetings Dragon Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

As the 2019-2020 academic year began, I felt the same excitement I do every year at the start of school. Students return and fill our campus with good spirit and friendship. Colleagues catch up with one another on summer adventures. Orientations and retreats that prepare teachers and students for our shared work go off without a hitch, and just like that we are launched into another year of teaching, learning, and collective growth as a community. In a familiar refrain, I’m confident our best days are ahead!

I am pleased to welcome new leaders and teachers, some of whom are featured in this issue. Our new Principal, Dr. Christopher Smart, is now immersed in the year with our families, students, teachers, and his strong team of Associate Principals. Together, these leaders have brought a level of energy and enthusiasm that matches the positive vibrancy of our students and that point to excellence and innovation.

Our charism and values are coming to life in new ways as well this year. We are deepening our attention to “Community in Diversity,” a charism value that calls us to celebrate and honor who we are individually and collectively in ways that uplift our entire community, increasing belonging, joy, and learning.

Our efforts to strengthen how we enact this value through our classrooms and teaching is led by our new Associate Principal of Academics, Dr. Tanya Susoev, and Academic Dean, Patrice Wakeley ’01. Their work to enhance learning, in partnership with teachers, students, and leaders, is informed by what educators know and research affirms: that belonging is the gateway to both personal and academic growth for students. I encourage you to read more about Tanya and Patrice and their approach to building inclusive learning in this issue.

Also included is our 2018-2019 Annual Report, including stories about the generosity of our Dragon families and friends—a generosity likewise inspired by belonging to a school community rooted in its values and contributing to the common good.

“We are deepening our attention to “Community in Diversity,” a charism value that calls us to celebrate and honor who we are individually and collectively in ways that uplift our entire community, increasing belonging, joy, and learning.”
“We are deeply grateful for a year marked by unprecedented giving of time and treasure from alumni, parents of alumni, current parents, and friends.”

Every gift supports tuition assistance, campus development, and professional development opportunities that ensure O’Dowd remains a relevant, bright presence in the Bay Area and beyond. Our culture of philanthropy propels us forward in new ways, filling our sails!

When you receive this we will have just celebrated Spirit Week, including the Night Rally for students, Alumni Beer Garden, and Friday night football game that is among the most robustly attended games of the year. Our first theater production of the year, Godspell, will likely be having its opening weekend, to be followed by two more productions this year, including Cabaret in January and another this spring.

On behalf of our Board of Regents and our entire community, thank you for the many ways you come back, give back, and help us to ensure that the joy and generous spirit of Dragons remains present in countless ways. In partnership with you, we are seizing our compelling future with bright hope!

With gratitude,

James Childs, MA, MEd

Transforming Lives Dinner

THANK YOU

Thanks to the many generous supporters who sponsored and joined us for O’Dowd’s Fifth Annual Transforming Lives event.

Special thanks to our student speakers, Chisomaga “Chisom” Nlemigbo ’21 and Natalie Gutierrez Morales ’21, who shared their educational journeys at O’Dowd and their gratitude for all who contribute to support tuition assistance.

Keynote speaker, Gene Yang, former O’Dowd math and computer science teacher of 17 years, MacArthur Genius Grant recipient, and graphic novelist, spoke to supporters about teaching, the strength of community, and the importance of co-curriculars at O’Dowd.
The class of 2019 earned admission to more than 200 colleges and universities. One hundred percent of students who applied to four-year colleges were accepted, with 33% attending private colleges and universities, 20% attending UC schools, and 20% choosing out of state colleges and universities.
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Columbia College Chicago
Columbia University
Concordia University - Irvine
Cornell University
DePaul University
DeSales University
Diablo Valley College
Dickinson College
Dillard University
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Milis College
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Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rider University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rocky Mountain College
Roosevelt University
Saint Mary's College of California
Santa Barbara City College
Santa Clara University
Santa Monica College
Sarah Lawrence College
Scripps College
Seattle Pacific University
Seattle University
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Scripps College
Seton Hall University
Sonoma State University
Southern Methodist University
Southern Oregon University
Spelman College
St. Edward's University
St. John's University
Stanford University
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas A&M University
Texas Christian University
The American University of Paris
The College of Saint Rose
The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science & Art
The George Washington University
The New School - All Divisions
The Ohio State University
The University of Alabama
The University of Arizona
The University of Findlay
The University of Iowa
The University of Montana, Missoula
The University of Montana, Western
The University of Tampa
The University of Texas, Austin
Trinity College
Trinity College Dublin
Tufts University
United States Air Force Academy
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Whitman College
Whittier College
Willamette University
William Woods University
Woodbury University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University of Louisiana

* INDICATES COLLEGES STUDENTS CHOSE TO ATTEND
Bishop O’Dowd High School’s 65th Commencement was held Sunday, June 2, at Oakland’s Paramount Theatre of the Arts, with graduates and their families gathered to celebrate one another and the culmination of their high school experience before going off to futures and colleges across the country.

Several seniors received special honors at Commencement. Alden O’Rafferty and Colm Connolly were honored for exceptional leadership with the General Activity Award. Colleen Cushing and Keshawn Wynn received Loyalty Awards for their exceptional service to others. Elizabeth Avery and Austin Jones were recognized with Scholar-Athlete Awards for their excellence in athletics and academics. And for their exceptional embodiment of the O’Dowd mission, Aisha McMahon and Xavier Brown received Regents’ Awards.

We are so proud of the Class of 2019—for their achievements, character, and contributions in and beyond O’Dowd. Congratulations, Class of 2019, the newest members of O’Dowd’s thriving alumni community—we are rooting for you and are excited to learn about your bright futures.
MESSAGE OF LOVE
FORMER O’DOWD TEACHER TOM TYLER RECEIVES
THE COR UNUM AWARD

At Commencement each year, O’Dowd honors an individual with the Cor Unum (One Heart in Christ) Award. This highest honor is presented to an O’Dowd community member whose life and work embody O’Dowd’s mission to create a more just, joyful, and sustainable world. This year’s recipient was our Commencement speaker and former O’Dowd faculty member Tom Tyler.

Tyler was recognized for his integral role—as a former 26-year teacher at O’Dowd, parent of alumni Sage ’13 and Maya ’13, volunteer, and respected advisor—in educating the O’Dowd community about our shared responsibility in caring for the earth and helping further our school’s commitment to our charism value, “kinship with creation.”

In a compelling address to the graduates, Tom shared the importance of serving the common good. And he reflected on how today’s divisive, turbulent times reflect those of his youth in the late sixties and early seventies—assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the resignation of Nixon, an unpopular, ongoing war. He shared with an audience quickly filled with affirming nods and ‘yes’ responses, “In short, during my high school years it seemed like the ideals of America were being severely tested and pushed almost to the breaking point. Does this sound all too familiar?”

He also shared words of encouragement for the Class of 2019 about taking action and civic responsibility. “And we know that you are committed to protecting our precious planet and will strive to create a more just and sustainable world for all its people and its creatures. We know that you know too much to be fooled and that you will stand for what you know to be right and fair.”

Tyler ended his address by sharing a story told by a rabbi who visited his high school religion class when he was a young man. The rabbi suggested to his class that only two questions mattered: ‘What have you learned? And how well have you loved?’ Tyler closed by sharing the rabbi’s final words as advice and an invitation to the Class of 2019: “Share your passion. Show mercy. Accept suffering. Practice compassion. Hold each other tenderly and with love, always.”

Watch Tom’s full speech at https://youtu.be/uld1IVw-01g

“Share your passion. Show mercy. Accept suffering. Practice compassion. Hold each other tenderly and with love, always.”
PEARL LI, CLASS OF 2019 VALEDICTORIAN

“It is under the guidance of amazing teachers at O’Dowd that we have become both academically and mentally prepared for challenges along the way that imparted to us problem-solving skills, resilience, the ability to connect and collaborate with others, and a more comprehensive understanding of ourselves and the world around us.”
Watch Pearl’s full speech at https://youtu.be/b-9_MTti22Y

ALDEN O’RAFFERTY, CLASS OF 2019 SALUTATORIAN

“These memories don’t disappear as we graduate. These people don’t either. You have both for the rest of your life. You have O’Dowd for the rest of your life.”
Watch Alden’s full speech at https://youtu.be/MQyAmhstqkc
SENIOR CLASS GIFT

A tradition of senior class giving was started by the Class of 2014 and has continued each year. This year, the Class of 2019 students and their families raised over $63,000 to celebrate their four years at O’Dowd and give back to provide an O’Dowd education to future generations.

O’Dowd is eternally grateful to the Class of 2019 for creating such a meaningful gift.

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CLASS OF 2019 FAMILIES, STAY CONNECTED!

Keep O’Dowd up to date at www.bishopodowd.org/update

FALL/WINTER MAGAZINE 2019 9
COMMITTING TO VALUES
Over the last two years, O’Dowd’s community of teachers, leaders, staff, and students have invested deeply in defining the values associated with our mission and charism, “Finding God in All Things.” This has included creating a Charism Guide that grounds our charism values—community in diversity, strength of character, academic excellence, kinship with creation, social justice, and joy—in our faith and collective work. These values are displayed on plaques in classrooms and common spaces, accompanied by questions to spur personal reflection, and remind us of our commitment and hopes for our educational work. The reflective questions have been integrated into our morning prayers as well as community gatherings, from faculty meetings to liturgies. Indeed, they have become living parts of how we shape learning, norms, faith, and our interactions with others.

This year, we are paying particular attention to our charism value, “community in diversity,” and the reflective questions, “When have I felt different? When have I felt connected? What do I want to do about that?”

We are deeply focused on helping to ensure a place for everyone in our community to experience belonging.

In addition to feeling good, the authentic experience of belonging and connection is, as research shows, instrumental to learning. Whether in the classroom or on the stage, court, or field, belonging is the gateway to growth.

LEADERSHIP, LEARNING, AND BELONGING
At the forefront of O’Dowd’s efforts to foster belonging and inclusion that strengthens academic learning and outcomes are O’Dowd’s new Associate Principal of Academics Dr. Tanya Susoev and Academic Dean Patrice Wakeley ’01. This academic dream team brings together unique qualifications to amplify learning in a culture of belonging at O’Dowd.

Susoev, who grew up in San Francisco and attended Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep, worked as both a teacher and contributor to equity and inclusion work at her alma mater, and earned her M.A. and doctorate degrees in educational leadership at Mills College. She also holds an M.A. degree in peace and justice studies from University of San Diego with a concentration in conflict resolution and arts-based community building and has worked locally and internationally on community arts projects with a focus on community, conflict resolution, and youth voice.

Ensuring a culture of connection in O’Dowd’s diverse community of 1,250 students and more than 150 adults is a tall order; it is also essential to our students’ learning, formation, and futures.
Tanya and Patrice bring essential elements to this. As female educators and women of color with diverse professional experiences in and beyond Catholic education, they bring unique competencies, passion, and commitment to serve the common good in this way.

After spending substantial time together this past summer with Principal Smart and Associate Principals Jase Turner and Brian Judd, Susoev and Wakeley are working with teachers to strengthen inclusive learning with spaces, pedagogy, and curriculum that ensure academic rigor and include a range of histories and perspectives.

Wakeley is an O’Dowd alum who earned her M.A. in counseling at Loyola Marymount, has traveled extensively, and has worked in a variety of nonprofits including Oakland’s East Oakland Youth Development Center (EOYDC). She returned to O’Dowd in 2014 as our Academic Support Liaison and was a member of O’Dowd’s Counseling team before taking on her new role as Academic Dean.

Susoev’s and Wakeley’s combined education and experience represents an exceptional gain for O’Dowd’s teachers and students. New Principal, Dr. Christopher Smart, emphasized the importance of their work and expressed his enthusiasm about their leadership. “The work we are doing is about giving people opportunities to build relationships rooted in knowing each other and serving each other better. And that gives joy.

This year, O’Dowd teacher-leaders will be facilitating workshops for colleagues so that teachers’ expertise is front and center, making this learning an ongoing part of our community.”

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Susoev said, “We know top-down professional development isn’t effective, and a lot of our teachers are already doing excellent work to ensure inclusive learning. This year, O’Dowd teacher-leaders will be facilitating workshops for colleagues so that teachers’ expertise is front and center, making this learning an ongoing part of our community.”

In addition to working with teachers on enhancing curriculum and teaching, Wakeley has begun meeting with student leaders to explore how students experience belonging at O’Dowd. She shared, “The work we are doing with teachers is complemented by meetings with student leaders.

O’DOWD’S MISSION & CHARISM

Bishop O’Dowd High School is a Catholic College-Preparatory community, guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ, that educates its diverse student body to build a more just, joyful, and sustainable world.

TO FULFILL ITS MISSION, OUR CHARISM CALLS US TO SEEK INTEGRAL STUDENT OUTCOMES WHEREIN STUDENTS AT BISHOP O’DOWD HIGH SCHOOL WILL FIND GOD IN ALL THINGS THROUGH:

COMMUNITY IN DIVERSITY
Recognizing the inherent dignity of all humans, attuned to the real world experience of difference and the shared experience of being human.

WHEN HAVE I FELT DIFFERENT?
WHEN HAVE I FELT CONNECTED?
WHAT DO I WANT TO DO ABOUT THAT?

STRENGTH OF CHARACTER
Integrity with self and others built on truth and expressed in loving action guided by an informed conscience.

HOW HAVE I STOOD UP FOR SOMETHING GOOD?

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
Purposeful pursuit of knowledge in a process of self-development and in service to the common good.

WHAT HAVE I BECOME CURIOUS ABOUT?
HOW WILL I USE WHAT I LEARN TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE?

SOCIAL JUSTICE
Responsible to stand in solidarity with the marginalized and to work for a more equitable society.

WHOM HAVE I STOOD WITH, SERVED, AND EMPOWERED?

KINSHIP WITH CREATION
Practices that care for God’s creation as a sign of our love for God and neighbor.

WHAT HAVE I DONE TO SUPPORT A SUSTAINABLE NATURAL WORLD?

JOY
Passionate appreciation of the infinite love of God, of self, of others, and of the gift of life.

WHAT HAVE I GROWN TO APPRECIATE?

“We want to be sure that our intention and work to foster belonging and connection resonates for students in meaningful ways. We need to be sure we are listening to our students.”
Associate Principal Brian Judd helped to organize faculty and student leadership retreats before the school year began that emphasized “one body, many parts,” (Corinthians 12:12-27), including exercises that invited adult and student leaders alike to examine their unique identities and experiences in the context of our shared values and common community.

Looking to the future, Associate Principal Jase Turner said what most excites him about O’Dowd’s focus on community in diversity. “As a leadership team, we share a core value of diversity, inclusion, and equity work that is integrated with academic excellence. I am most excited that we are putting systems in place so that this work is truly collective and sustainable.”

A CULTURE OF CONNECTION AND FUTURE SUCCESS

As a school rich with diverse perspectives and identities, O’Dowd provides ideal preparation for students when they go on to collaborate with others in college and in the workplace. Among the hottest topics in HR circles today is recruiting for diversity. Why? Studies and articles by top influencers including McKinsey & Company, Deloitte, Boston Consulting, the Harvard Business Review, and Forbes, among others, indisputably show that diverse teams—including diversity of socioeconomics, ethnicity, gender, race, and other categories—demonstrate stronger outcomes in innovation and revenue than their less diverse peers.

At a time when social divisiveness is threatening the real strength of diverse communities, O’Dowd is proud to strengthen learning and success in a culture of belonging. President J.D. Childs said, “We want to strengthen and create systems and conditions in which all students will flourish through a sense of belonging. Tanya and Patrice have a slate of professional development opportunities this year to help us as adults learn, grow, and change.”

Evidenced by countless stories of diverse O’Dowd alumni who are inspiring contributors to their personal and professional communities, we know that students who experience connection in O’Dowd’s diverse community today are individuals who will contribute to, as our mission states, a “more just, joyful, and sustainable world” in their futures.
61 STUDENT CLUBS AT O’DOWD PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH WAYS TO EXPRESS AND SHARE THEIR DIVERSE EXPERIENCES, INTERESTS, AND IDENTITIES.

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This year, the New York Times is commemorating the 400th anniversary of start of the American slave trade in 1619. Its 1619 Project seeks to redefine the year as “the true founding of the United States, placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of the story we tell about ourselves and who we are.”

O’Dowd history teacher Tony Green has taught history and social science courses and coached at O’Dowd since 1986. He has mentored generations of students and appreciates the opportunity for education the 1619 Project offers. While Green affirms the importance of the 1619 date to the experience of black Americans, his African American History course offers something more. For more than 30 years, Green has taught the entire range of African history and civilization in a course whose themes are comprehensive, candid, and redemptive, and whose content significantly pre-dates the 1619 start of US slavery.
How did your African American History course originate?

My course was largely formed by the work done by Professor Oba T’Shaka at San Francisco State University and Dr. Richard Navies, who coordinated the curriculum at Berkeley High School in the late sixties and early seventies. It’s changed over the years, but the fundamentals are the same. Africa had rich civilizations and diverse cultures and traditions before the start of the slave trade, and that history of civilization was lost with the introduction of slavery in the West.

So how do you help students deepen their historical perspective and understanding?

We start by affirming a positive identity for African culture and history, showing its many forms and influence. And this course takes them from the beginnings of civilization in East Africa.

We first learn about important figures in Africa’s ancient history and culture. Among others we study Imhotep, Egypt’s master architect, physician, and statesman who lived around 2600 BC; Nubia and Nubian queens including Shanakdakhete and Amanirenas; and the Aksumite Empire. We learn about the Scillitan (Christian) martyrs executed in 180 AD, and Mali’s Mansa Musa, the 14th century African emperor who is credited by modern historians with being the wealthiest man in history.

How does students’ understanding of slavery change by understanding this ancient history?

It’s important to understand who African people were culturally before their cultures and identities were removed by the creation of race, racial status, and western chattel slavery. Students need to connect that larger, deeper history with the realities of slavery. For example, we just had a visitor, an O’Dowd alum and professional drummer from Haiti, Ajayi Jackson ’92. He visited class to trace African history for students through the musical tradition of drumming. He shared that while enslaved Africans retained and evolved a drumming tradition and culture in Haiti and Cuba, drumming was absent in the United States. Why? Because the British form of slavery attempted to eradicate that personal expression, community, and communication in order to maintain control. African drumming and rhythms become something very different when you understand this. He shared that the experience of the Baptist Church today is a piece of history, that the Baptist hymns express community and faith through voice in the absence of the drum. You could see students connect the dots as he spoke.

Why is 1619 so important?

1619 was very different. The enslavement of Africans under British colonial rule was far more oppressive, and only 5% of the American population were slaves, a much lower percentage than in the Caribbean for example. The much smaller number and greater geographic distribution of enslaved Africans within the US resulted in a very different experience and historical legacy for those Africans. If we don’t understand such differences, we can’t deal with the social fallout that black Americans have experienced. Or really begin to address it meaningfully.

When the class is over, what sort of perspective or takeaways do you hope students will carry forward?

The most important lesson I start all my classes with is our common origin in Africa. We are all blood related and share the same DNA. The variation of skin color is just an adaptation to our environment. I would like all students to understand the role Africans played in the development of the entire Western world economically, socially, and politically. The investment capital derived from African mineral wealth and labor not only drove the Industrial Revolution but capitalism itself.
Josh Staub ’93 is an artist and filmmaker for Walt Disney Animation Studios. While you may not recognize Josh as you would a celebrity on the street, you will most certainly know his impressive portfolio of Academy Award-winning Disney films. Through art direction and visual effects, to lighting supervision and lighting artistry, Josh has contributed to films including: “Frozen,” “Tangled,” and “Bolt,” and animated shorts including “Inner Workings,” “Feast,” and “Paperman.”

With his impressive contributions to Academy Award winning films, in 2018 Josh was inducted into the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences (Oscars) for “exceptional accomplishments in the field of theatrical motion pictures.” In other words, Josh gets to nominate and vote on Academy Award winners. This year, in addition to his full-time job at Disney and work for the Academy, Josh joined USC’s School of Cinematic Arts as an adjunct professor, mentor, and guest lecturer, helping young filmmakers find their own paths and talents in an industry that is incredibly competitive.

When we spoke with Josh, he described a combination of early experiences that influenced his path as well as the serendipity that led him where he is today.
I turned them down. I loved school. That fall I attended University they actually tried to convince me to skip college altogether, and worked in the owner's basement. After a couple of weeks there, that wasn't so common. It was basically a startup, and I lived and WA doing computer-generated artwork on a video game. In 1993 worked for a computer game company called Cyan in Spokane, An unusual one! The summer after I graduated from O'Dowd I What path did you take after high school?

I always loved writing, art, music, but never really knew how those things could end up being a career. Like a lot of kids, I explored them all as hobbies. Honestly, I was very serious about baseball and played at O'Dowd, but a couple of seminal moments during my high school years altered my thinking and as it turns out, my career trajectory.

My dad in particular was always into film and music, and I spent summers with him in Washington state. He would often take me to films and then to a coffee shop afterwards and he’d ask me what I thought about the film, its characters, and its message. I remember thinking, can’t we just enjoy the movie? He always wanted to get into the story behind the story. Questions like, “What’s the director saying? Why do you think this movie was made?” He knew that movies could have a big impact on your worldview and how you empathize with others, and that rubbed off on me.

Another moment that stands out vividly for me was during my sophomore year at O'Dowd, when at the dinner table one evening my stepfather said to me, “Josh, baseball is so competitive that if you’re really serious about pursuing it in college and even beyond, you’ll probably need to consider dropping everything else and focusing on that.” I was doing a lot of writing, art, music, and other creative work at the time and realized then and there that I needed to start thinking practically about my future. I expect my family and friends thought I’d choose baseball, so they were surprised when next year I chose to quit and focus on my creative pursuits instead. He was right about the focus required to be great, and I couldn’t imagine my life without having made that choice.

Who and what at O'Dowd had an influence on you?

I loved my time at O'Dowd. My biology teacher Mr. Goodhart, physics teacher Mr. Holston, and history/government teacher Ms. Sussman all had a profound impact on me. Each of these O'Dowd teachers had an infectious curiosity for learning and a passion for their craft and area of focus. I believe these traits are also necessary for success in filmmaking.

What path did you take after high school?

An unusual one! The summer after I graduated from O'Dowd I worked for a computer game company called Cyan in Spokane, WA doing computer-generated artwork on a video game. In 1993 that wasn't so common. It was basically a startup, and I lived and worked in the owner’s basement. After a couple of weeks there, they actually tried to convince me to skip college altogether, and I turned them down. I loved school. That fall I attended University of Washington but without a clear major, so I just took classes I knew I would enjoy: Creative Writing, Comparative Literature, History of War, Psychology, and Logic. Cyan kept giving me job offers during my freshman year, and I kept turning them down, until later that fall Cyan's computer game Myst came out. It ended up being the top selling computer game of all time, and the idea of leaving school early to work for Cyan didn’t seem so crazy after all. That spring at the age of 18 I left UW and moved back to Spokane to work on the sequel to Myst called Riven, for which I was a designer and lead artist. A couple of years later we released Riven, and it sold a record million copies before it even hit the shelves. After Riven, I was named Art and Visual Design Director for Cyan (which had now grown to close to 50 employees), and I spent the next 12 years in that role.

During this time I got married to my wife Bonnie (who was also an employee for Cyan), and we had our first child, Mia. Two years later we had our son Eli, and it was at about that time that I began to realize that it might be time to get back to pursuing my first love: film. While still working full-time at Cyan, I began to spend one or two nights a week working on an animated short film after my wife and kids went to bed. I created everything for the film—writing, design, lighting, scoring, and performing the music, sound effects. I did all of these things, not because I was necessarily the most qualified to do them all, but because I wanted to learn as much as I could about the filmmaking process. After a year and a half I finished "The Mantis Parable," an 8-minute animated short film with a simple story with a message for my young kids about grace and forgiveness. To my great surprise, the film took off and ended up screening in over 100 film festivals around the world as well as at the Smithsonian, the National Gallery of Art, and MoMA in New York. It even qualified twice for consideration of an Academy Award nomination.

Because of “The Mantis Parable’s” success, I was approached for representation. It was all very fast and overwhelming. I was just a guy who made a little film in my garage, but I was meeting with the big guys: Pixar, Disney, Dreamworks, Blue Sky. I realized quickly that the next logical step for me was not to direct at one of
these huge studios out of the gate, but instead to just get in and learn as much as I could about their process. Walt Disney Animation Studios in particular was very gracious and talked me through what all the roles were and how all the pieces of making a feature-length animated film fit together. In the end they asked me what I thought I would enjoy most, and I chose lighting. In an animated film, lighting is where the color, the mood, and the atmosphere all come together—it’s the last step in the process, when everything is illuminated beautifully.

"...to become great at something you have to pursue it with reckless abandon."

Obviously, your time at Disney has been fruitful, to say the least.

It's been quite a ride. In 2007 I moved my family from Spokane to Burbank to light on “Bolt” for Walt Disney Animation Studios. A year later I was promoted to Lighting Supervisor on “Tangled,” supervised again on “Frozen,” and it went on from there, eventually branching into “Paperman,” an animated short with an illustrative rather than computer generated look. Fast forward a few years, and my role at the studio now is to oversee the film’s look through every step of production—from layout, to animation, to lighting, and everything in between. Today, my oldest child, Mia, is a sophomore at Wheaton College in Chicago where she plays volleyball, and my youngest, Eli, is a senior in high school and pursuing film. I attend the Sundance Film Festival every year, and this year Eli went with me for the first time. I hope to include Mia as well in future years.

And now you’ve been inducted in the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences–the Oscars. What does that mean?

Being inducted into the Academy was the proudest moment of my career. The most tangible aspect of this is that I’m an Academy Award voter, so I help determine who wins every award at the Oscars. Additionally I attend screenings with fellow Academy members all year round, and from the fall through spring (Oscar season) I spend evenings discussing the craft with filmmakers I admire who have hopes of their film being nominated. It’s just ridiculous. It’s heaven for me.

AND you’re teaching at USC?

I’ve always loved to teach, share, and collaborate with students. I’ve been in their shoes: I know what it’s like to have a passion for something but not know exactly how to pursue it or where I might fit into the process. On Monday nights I teach a class I created called Studio Careers: From Story to Screen. The class takes students through each part of the process in creating an animated film to help them find out where their passions lie to actually pursue a career in the industry. I’m also mentoring five students this year who are working on their senior thesis films. It’s incredibly rewarding.

So your advice to young people?

At Disney we like to say that “quality is the best business plan.” In other words, whatever you create, make it great, and the rest will take care of itself. I firmly believe this sort of thinking applies to career aspirations as well, and to become great at something, you have to pursue it with reckless abandon. There are so many distractions in life, but if you really love something and want to get better at it, you’ll even spend your spare time doing it. Frankly, it’s probably something you’d do for free. The other secret is that, at least in my industry, even the best colleges can’t provide you with everything you need. No matter where you go to school, you need internal passion and drive to achieve success. A lot of people assume that you “need to know somebody” to get into an industry like mine, but the truth is, it’s all about the quality of your work. If you are fantastic at what you do, nobody will care where you came from, or how you got there.
As we students walk down the hallways of our school looking at pictures of alumni on the walls, do you ever wonder what they’re doing now and what accomplishments they’ve had in life? Well here’s one former Dragon that will make you proud! Matt Bettinelli-Olpin ‘96 has recently directed the blockbuster thriller movie, *Ready or Not*. The movie introduces a newlywed named Grace who goes through a dangerous game of hide and seek in order to be initiated into the wealthy Le Domas family. In this interview, we get to see the mastermind behind this crazy, exciting movie and see what makes him the legend he is today.

Did you always know you would be destined to become a successful director, writer, actor, and musician?  

Definitely not, I did love the arts though. Especially music. When I was at O’Dowd I was in a punk band which included a few other former O’Dowd students. That turned me on to some kind of creative expression, but I didn’t know until later where I was heading.

Do you still play in a punk band? Did you start in Oakland?  

We started in Oakland and we still see each other occasionally, but unfortunately we are no longer a band. It would be great to have a band reunion, maybe someday.
I still see Oakland as one of the greatest, most dynamic and diverse cities in the world. I love the people and the community. I love the entire ethos and ethics of growing up here and what you learn in terms of how you treat people, how to be positive.

How would you describe a day in the life of Matt Bettinelli-Olpin?
I have a 3-year-old so that consumes a lot of it. I also work with a group of guys I’ve been working with for a decade now batting around ideas and trying to figure out what we’re doing. I like the creative process and being able to do it every day is very fun.

How was it growing up in Oakland? Do you see a difference today?
I was a kid growing up in the eighties and nineties. I don’t know how much it’s changed in the last 20 years, but I still see Oakland as one of the greatest, most dynamic and diverse cities in the world. I love the people and the community. I love the entire ethos and ethics of growing up here and what you learn in terms of how you treat people, how to be positive. All my favorite music is from Oakland. Grand Lake Theater was the “in” movie theater. When I was a kid, my dad took me to the Paramount Theater for the Friday night classics, which is where I fell in love with movies. My parents still live in the same house I grew up in, so when I come to visit, Oakland still feels like home.

What route did you take to get into filmmaking? Did you and do you still face a lot of roadblocks out there?
There was no easy route, it’s a constant learning process. I spent 20 years writing and making things for 10. I started at UC Santa Cruz, but it wasn’t until I moved to LA and started filming stuff that I felt like I was in love with it. I was always a fan of movies, but that always seemed out of reach, until you just start chipping away towards that. As gigantic as the roadblocks were, I just didn’t care, and eventually they just disappeared on their own. You learn how to make the thing you want to make, and it’s having that do-it-yourself ethic that was a big part of me learning to make movies.

What is the most memorable film that you’ve done, and why?
I really loved making Ready or Not. It was a particularly charmed experience. I have a lot of fond memories of making all of our movies because when you’re making a movie you get close to people and it’s such a fun community to build.

What is your creative process like?
Equal parts fun, exciting, daunting, and overbearing. When you’re in the beginning of something, you never know what it’s going to be; you’re just creating something out of nothing, so it seems like such a gigantic hill to climb. Then, all of a sudden, you’re at the other end of it. My favorite part of the process is the actual physical making of it, like shooting it and editing it. Everything leading up to that is all so conceptual. A lot of it’s done by faith.

What or who has influenced you the most in your career?
Growing up in Oakland you get taught to do it yourself, believe in yourself. If you break the rules, fine, but know what rules you’re breaking. Have your own point of view. That’s ingrained in you if you are from the Bay Area. The punk bands, hip-hop, all of it. I make movies now, but I do feel a lot of that comes from going to Gilman as a kid, listening to independent hip-hop, just learning that you don’t need someone to tell you it’s okay to do it.

Do you have any advice for young filmmakers/directors out there?
Believe in yourself, because no one else is going to at first. Have a point of view. Embrace the failure. It’s the perseverance that actually makes something good. Be open to collaboration and working with other people. I think the only way it really works is if you work well with other people and collaborate.
Bishop O’Dowd High School has always welcomed philanthropic support to ensure our college preparatory education remains strong and available to deserving students. For 68 years O’Dowd has remained competitive and accessible, thanks to gifts of every size from our community. This year, three O’Dowd families—one alumna, one parent of alumni, and one current family—have raised the bar, taking giving to new heights with individual gifts at and above $1 million. This outpouring of generosity from the O’Dowd community is advancing plans to create the O’Dowd Center, a new physical space that will support our mission and programs.

The 38,000-square-foot O’Dowd Center will sit in the heart of our campus. The building will be situated just behind our current gymnasium and will include:

- A gymnasium with seating for 1,400 to be used for court sports, masses, assemblies, and rallies
- A drama studio providing instructional space, a dance rehearsal space, and a black-box ensemble performance and rehearsal space
- A music studio offering instructional space and recording equipment as well as private rooms for small group and individual practice
- Two new classrooms with advanced audio-visual presentation capabilities and flexible seating for innovative teaching and learning
- A state-of-the-art athletic performance lab with new training equipment
- Outdoor plaza and viewing decks overlooking the sport fields for casual enjoyment and events

We look forward to sharing more as plans progress on this exciting and transformative community project.
Despite her name appearing on every list of top lawyers, Cabraser has never forgotten her humble origins and the social justice values she learned at O’Dowd. “I’ve belatedly realized how much I owe to this school and its vision as an institution,” she said in her Founder’s Day remarks. “Its commitment to assisting all of us — whatever our dreams, whoever we are — to make something of our lives that has meaning.”
Don and Ellie Knauss—O’Dowd parents of Alec ’10 and Kara ’13—believe in focusing their philanthropy. For them, educational institutions give them the biggest bang for their altruistic buck. “Education benefits everyone,” Ellie explains. “Regardless of zip code or ethnicity, for those who want to learn more, they’re the people we try to help.” While most of the Knausses’ giving is aimed at the university level, they made an exception for O’Dowd. Their donation of $2 million to the new O’Dowd Center is the largest individual gift ever made to the school.

Don is retired as chairman, CEO, and executive chairman of the board of The Clorox Company, where he and Ellie still fund the Knauss Scholars Program. They’ve also been lead donors to Texas A&M University, Indiana University, and the new complex at the University of San Diego’s Business School. Apart from their education focus, they’re big supporters of UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital in Oakland and, as a breast cancer survivor, Ellie has passionately advocated for that cause.

At O’Dowd, the Knausses have led by example. In 2017, they funded a $500,000 matching gift for financial aid that resulted in $1 million in endowment funding. They’ve also been key donors to the school’s Renaissance Campaign and the annual Transforming Lives Dinner. Ellie served for seven years on the Board of Regents.

Looking back on the O’Dowd education of their two youngest children, Ellie remembers, “As a family, we moved more than 20 times. We recognized O’Dowd was special with its phenomenal mission of nurturing the whole student. We really credit Steve Phelps with that vision and see this as a tribute to him. J.D. Childs and the entire staff have done a wonderful job of stewarding that spirit.”

The Knausses hope that their own generous gifts will inspire others to give to the school and its new O’Dowd Center. “Everybody has a part to play, no matter what size,” Ellie says. “You’ll feel so much better about yourself, about the school … everybody wins.”

To learn more about the O’Dowd Center, please contact Rebecca Bischoff at (510) 553-8628 rbischoff@bishopodowd.org.
A NOTE OF THANKS

An important part of student learning and formation at O’Dowd is an awareness of the impact each of us can have on others’ lives—through both service and philanthropy. A commitment to giving back is deeply embedded in the O’Dowd experience—students commit to 100 volunteer hours in the four-year service learning curriculum; the campus ministry team raises funds from the entire student body to help with disaster relief and other pressing needs; the Anawim project offers juniors and seniors an in-depth opportunity to learn about social justice by connecting with people who experience the injustice of marginalization; all students take a culminating religion course called Peace and Justice that explores contemporary social justice issues; and seniors also raise funds for O’Dowd’s tuition assistance program to help with the $3.5 million distributed each year to provide a financial bridge to O’Dowd families. Students leave O’Dowd with a deep awareness of others’ needs as well as an understanding of ways they can make the world a better place.

Not surprisingly, the entire O’Dowd family, including alumni, parents, and grandparents, possesses a strong commitment to service and philanthropy. Each year, an outstanding number of volunteer hours and gifts of all sizes help ensure that O’Dowd’s mission is lived and that the work of our faculty and students is well supported. The Development office is privileged to see this strong culture of philanthropy on a daily basis.

One of the most important fundraising initiatives of the Development office each year is to provide funding to meet the operating needs of the school. Annual giving contributions address pressing needs including annual scholarship dollars for need-based aid, academic program development initiatives, and funds to support Dragon athletics and other co-curricular programs. Thanks to many donors, our goals were met, raising $2,883,816!

Our leadership giving societies of those who contribute above $2,500 in annual giving, those who have contributed over $100,000 in lifetime giving, and our Heritage Society (those who remember O’Dowd in their estate planning), have each seen increased membership in the last year. Thank you, O’Dowd community.

Of special note are the advanced leadership gifts we’ve received for the O’Dowd Center project. In addition to the school’s first $1 million+ gifts received from individual donors, featured on pg 22-23, we’ve seen extraordinary generosity at other leadership levels, demonstrating the confidence and commitment this community extends to the school’s future.

While leadership giving is crucial to meet O’Dowd’s vision and goals, donations at every level are essential to our success. This year, we saw gifts from 2,174 members of our community. Alumni giving continues to rise, and in the 2018-2019 school year gifts totaled $873,193, including 52 first-time alumni donors and 102 alumni gifts from those celebrating their 5- and 10-year reunions. In addition to alumni giving, 87% of current parents contribute through the Parent Pledge Program, and as always, many of our parents of alumni continue to give generously in recognition of how their children were supported for success. We are equally appreciative of the many gifts we received from our grandparents.

The O’Dowd community is deeply engaged as well. The opportunities for O’Dowd families to come together to advance the school’s mission are frequent and meaningful. The Board of Regents, Transforming Lives Dinner Committee, Crab Feed and Auction Committee, Dragon Parents Group, Alumni Task Force—all of these groups partner with the Development Department to reach out to invite the broader O’Dowd community to support the school’s success.

O’Dowd has an important mission to both provide an excellent education for our students and to extend this education to as many deserving students as possible, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Thank you to everyone who gave during the 2018-2019 year. Your continued support of O’Dowd ensures we can continue the beautiful work of educating our students to become their best selves in and beyond their time at O’Dowd.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Bischoff, Chief Development Officer
GIFTS BY LEVEL

Through philanthropy, each of the individuals below are strengthening the faculty, programs, and facilities that serve O’Dowd’s students and fulfill our mission. We deeply appreciate the generous giving—at every level. Giving from faculty and staff, parents, grandparents, alumni and their parents, as well as friends of the school are vital to O’Dowd’s success.

We are grateful for the philanthropic support of parents who invest in their children’s education and the well-being of O’Dowd.

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Cynthia D. and Kevin V. Lynch
Lisa Coffey Mahoney ’76 and
Robert D. Mahoney ’76
Anne M. Doran Marchetti ’63 and
Michael Marchetti
Alicia Marshall
Dina M. Weinschelbaum and Craig J. McMains
Kellie McElhaney
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Antonia Moreno and Sean J. McKillop
Jeanette and Damian McNeil
Philip A. Meany ’56
Jennifer Hugenerberger and Kevin Mintz
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Camille C. Calica ’91 and David L. Montes De Oca
Kirsten S. Foley and Stephanie A. Montgomery
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Kapola K. B. Young and Diana Ciraulo Young ’83
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Patricia Bevilacqua
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Taylor E. Bunkers ’11
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Camarena-Hittle ’69
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Kathleen U. Scannell Flood ’83 and
Patrick J. Flood ’81
Timothy P. Forsyth
Fred J. Schmidt & Associates
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Edward S. Gallagher ’56
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Cathia Walters-Knight and Donovan Knight
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Dorothy Wilson
Joyce and Garfield Windross
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Ming-Ching Wong
Demetrius B. Wren ’88
Phing Y. Yamamoto ’03 and Ryan Yamamoto
Josephine and Gary Yee
Monica Kearney Yu ’93 and Alexander S. Yu
Richard Zimmerman
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We would like to recognize the individuals who have contributed to the very foundation of the school by supporting the facilities, programs, and scholarships that make O’Dowd what it is today. Each of these special donors has a cumulative lifetime giving history of at least $100,000. Their support and leadership allow us to reach our goal of educating intellectually competent, just, respectful leaders.

Basilian Fathers in Oakland
Carl A. Bergard
James T. Bill ’55
Tracey Borst and Robert Menicucci
Elizabeth Cabral Cabraser ’70
Lillian Cadenasso and Ross J. ’1 Cadenasso
Jim Canty ’60
Kathleen A. Connelly ’60 and Parkes Johnson
Suzanne Schofield Connolly ’65 and Peter Connolly
Margaret Cornwall
Ana F. Costa ’72
Steve and Kate Costa

ANNUAL REPORT

HERITAGE SOCIETY

We wish to thank alumni, parents, grandparents, faculty, staff, and friends who joined the 1951 Heritage Society by remembering O’Dowd in their estate plans.

These donors help secure the financial future of O’Dowd by naming O’Dowd as a beneficiary in their will or trust. This unique way of giving allows future Dragons to enjoy a superior Catholic college preparatory education.

The following individuals made the school aware of such a provision as of June 30, 2019.

Liza Dawn Aduviso and Gil Ramirez
Darrick J. Tonini and George P. Aguiar ’71
Karín Rimel Amour ’75 and William Amour
Maria Isa Angeles
Stephen M. Avery ’71
Patricia H. and V. Paul Bail ’58
Lisa Morbidelli and Michael Barbee
Dyan Radich ’66 and Richard Beito
James T. Bill ’55
Lillian and Ross J. ’1 Cadenasso
Jim Canty ’60
Kathleen A. Connelly ’60 and Parkes Johnson
Suzanne Schofield Connolly ’65 and Peter Connolly
Margaret Cornwall
Ana F. Costa ’72
Steve and Kate Costa

STUDENTS CONTRIBUTED 40,800 HOURS VOLUNTEER SERVICE TO THE EAST BAY COMMUNITY

We would like to recognize the individuals who have contributed to the very foundation of the school by supporting the facilities, programs, and scholarships that make O’Dowd what it is today. Each of these special donors has a cumulative lifetime giving history of at least $100,000. Their support and leadership allow us to reach our goal of educating intellectually competent, just, respectful leaders.

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Erin Jaeb and Kevin J. Kelly
Ellie and Donald Knauss
Geraldine F. and Howard J. Korth
Monica L. and John M. Marcone
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Imelda and Alan McIntosh
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Cheerie Nanninga ’66
Norma and Caesar Nutil
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Sue and Joe Raphael ’70
Joseph Ratto

Robert and Helen Odell Fund
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Diane L. Steccone Smahlik ’62 and Michael A. Smahlik
Judith Logan Smith ’64 and Timothy J. Smith
Kevin and Debora Sweeney
Louisa B. and John J. Tallarida
Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation
Anthony B. Varni ’57
Katharine and Daniel Whalen
The Whalen Family Fund
William H. Donner Foundation
Y & H Soda Foundation
Anonymous (11)

THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT PROVIDED 45 WORKSHOPS

THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT PROVIDED 45 WORKSHOPS
GIFTs FROM ALUMNI

All O’Dowd students benefit from the altruism of the men and women who came before them. Alumni understand the value of the O’Dowd experience perhaps better than anyone, and the ongoing support of the alumni community is critical to the school’s continued success.

Thank you to the alumni who gave so generously during the 2018-2019 school year.

1955
Roberta Souza Andersen
James T. Bill
Beth Sullivan George
Carol A. Hubert
Jacqueline Haake Jacobberger
Rodney I. Krug
Beverly Mello Rettus
Geraldine Joyce Scharf
John W. Tarabini
Helene Simi Twyford
Geraldine Joyce Scharf
William H. Wiegmann

1956
Ann Thompson Buckley
James B. Curran
Sharon L. Yates DeCarly
Marion Ferreira Durbin
Carlyne Medeiros Durnan
Michael F. Egan
Edward S. Gallagher
Yvonne Post Garayalde
Robert F. Gillfether

1957
Bernadine Castagnola Carpenter
Sheila Moyles Cushing
Ronald Diritto
Joan LeBer
Sharon Duffy Rinehart
Anthony B. Varni

1958
Phil Davidson
Stephen V. Davoren
John R. Dougery
George Jardim
Douglas Johnston
Peter P. La Torre, Jr.

1959
Phyllis A. Riley Bazzano
John P. Burke
Pepper Jurich Sbarbaro
Patricia Borba McDonald
Richard E. Meagher
Marlene Costa Nielsen
Myrma Dutra Rodrigues
Ronald J. Simon

1960
Jim Carney
Kathleen A. Connely
Jane I. Gonsalves DeCoite
Stephen J. DeCoite
Jacqueline Reid Dettloff
James C. Dietrich

1961
Carolyn Billings Abrams
Melinda Wilson Abrazado
Sharon O’Connell Hatch
Sharon Schmitt Kluball
Thomas Lotz
Joan Voorhees Martiny
Dana J. Morris, M.D.
Sally Mazzuchelli Panella
Stephen R. Petersen
Kathleen Schmidt Padilla

1962
Mary Frances Corcoran Barranti
John M. Burns
Sharon Arnold Gonsalves
Andrea L. Hayes Gould-Simon
Barbara Blackman Hadley
Heide Aguirre Happoldt
Mark Hellender
Robert F. Jardine
Carol Koerlin Kloninger-Piper
Pamela Ellis Mack
Ann Sheridan
Diane L. Steccone Smahlik
Wesley P. Smith
Donna McKenzie Soto
Arthur J. Spencer
Victoria Bramsman Srago
Ann Feyen Walsh

1963
Lyn Cardin Andersen
Suzanne Montoliu Brenna
Joan Guettinger Carter
Kevin J. Donahue

52 ALUMNI MADE THEIR FIRST GIFT TO O’DOWD

119 ALUMNI ARE DRAGON PARENTS

10 ALUMNI ARE DRAGON GRANDPARENTS
Jane Mullen Gates
Robert Hall
Barry LeMay
Anne M. Doran Marchetti
Gertrude McCulloch
Thomas J. McPartland
Richard J. Moore
Richard Murphy
Linda K. Leighton Quick
Josefa Tozer Scholz
Anonymous

1964
Patricia Mitchell Bartholomeu
Grace Prindville Campbell
Patrick W. Golden, Jr.
Catherine Kirby Levinson
Marjorie Matthews
Christina Pitta Nickle
Mary C. Oppedahl
J. Barrett Pullman
Judith Logan Smith
Steven F. Splendorio

1965
Donna M. Chenier
Suzanne Schofield Connolly
Tim Cummings
Cheryl Delahoussaye
Patricia A. McCormick Dimond
George F. Farley
Thomas Gilfether
Noreen Angiola Maresca
Mary Ann Rokovich
Ramona A. Sampayan
Carolyn H. Serrao
Patricia Menghini Walters

1966
Dyan Radich Beito
Laura Mayes Benz
Ron Flores
Mary Schneider Hanlon
Cherrie Nanninga
Donald G. Pouliot
Terri Texeira
Edmond E. Traill
Carl E. Vandrie

1967
Suzanne Arnhart
Elizabeth Davis Blasius
Dennise Burgess
David W. Dixon
Reginald A. Edwards
James R. Kohles
Michael McGuire
Linda Oakes Perkins
Michael Scanlon
James M. Schiavenza
Richard Schukraft
J. Catherine Camacho Snelling
John D. Tebow
James R. White

1968
Edda M. Browne Caraballo
Theresa Erwin
Ann J. Chiapajone Graves
Nick Grover
Donald E. Keeley
James P. Negri
Donna Rumulo Vannucci
Carolyn Cranston Lott
Thomas P. Roberson
Joanna White Ryder
Randal L. Thorntilly
Ed Trujillo

1970
Nancy Burnham Boyd
Louis Breznikar
Elizabeth Cabrall Cabraser

1971
Stephen M. Avery
Deborah Bailey Breznikar
John A. Ceconci, Sr.
Kathleen Sereda Glaub
Janet Capurro Graham
Janet Layrac Haun
Steven Ponce
Diane Songey Twomey

1973
Pamela Warner Berry
Edward J. Dold
Mark D. Muller
Lisa Nicolini
Anne O’Malley Thomasmeyer

1974
Susan Paul Alton
Melinda A. Eisenhut Dunn
Leonidia F. Gonsalves
Mimi Righetti Iwanski
Cookie D. Lee
Elizabeth A. Cammerer Letz
John S. Muller
Pamela LaBrie Murchison
Michael Raphael
Nicholas Schommer
Steven F. Sciamanna
Frederick M. Turner
Michael Valva
Patrick Vaughan
Nancy Vierra
Michele M. Winkenbach
Anonymous

1975
Karin Rimel Amour
Michael A. Cusortelli
Julie Matthews Grajeda
Wayne T. Gregori
Lori KovenChambers
Becky A. McFarland
Robert Mooney
Dale A. Hampton Muller
Linda Kline Richard
Teresa Sorisio Ritelli
Edward J. Ritelli, Jr.
Margaret M. Valva
Victor Viegas
Rick Zaslove

1976
Al A. Carrasco
Lisa Coffey Mahoney
Robert D. Mahoney
Alisa A. Morua
Daniel J. Schneider
Michael F. Ward
Franklin D. Washington

1977
Philip Arca
Richard J. Cadenasso
Stephen C. Godfrey, O.D.
Ernesto Romo
Maureen Barry Tyree

5 ALUMNI ARE BOARD OF REGENTS MEMBERS
23 ALUMNI ARE DRAGON EMPLOYEES
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Jenny Beery Collins
Erin Faughnan Conner
Grace Gamoso Curcio
Miguel J. DeAvila
Christopher Fee, M.D.
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Llewelyn B. Richie
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Denise T. Tinsley
Peter A. Visk
Meghan B. Bailey Wallingford
Nari E. Williams

1990
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Adria G. Ibarra
Marie O. Jensen
MaryAnn R. Richards Pearson
Joseph N. Williams

1991
Camille C. Calica
James C. Erickson
Kimberly Nakahara Erickson
Elizabeth M. Gonzalez
Alexander D. Grell
Roberta E. Kreitz
Elizabeth Prola Roberts
Brian K. Rogers
Aniesha I. Sapp
Lisa M. Taylor Van Nyhuis
Nicol R. Williams-Prutt
1992
Kaya S. Smith Aranha
Jason J. Beito
Paul A. Carney
Jessica E. Kinman Clark
Meridith L. Armstrong Forristal
Adam E. Herndon
Brian J. Loeffler
Brian M. Payawal
Aimee L. Tom
Lisa A. Baskin Wright

1993
Tracy C. Ward Allen
Juliet A. Arechiga
Laura Thirion Billups
Joy A. Jaeger Ehlers
Tarik Glenn
Johnna Concannon Grell
Scott A. Hilgert
Jane S. P. Schmitz
Monica Kearney Yu

1994
Christopher J. Duncan
Erin N. Galvin-Valenzuela
Sarah D. Mertz King
Amy C. Nolin LeBold
Kathryn C. Fenstermacher Snoebeleen
Khari E. Stockey
Meghan C. Veronda Sullivan
Jessica W. Y. Ng Verby

1995
Shannon M. Donahue
John R. Taggart
Monique L. Tascoe-Burris

1996
Leah M. Casey
Else Gittmer Johnson
Cara D. Power Marasco
Daniel P. Sullivan
Matthew E. White

1997
Felicity L. Meu
Edward C. Vieira-Ducey

1998
Jess J. Brown, Jr.
Maynard C. Fairchild
Karen L. Fleming
Starr Saunders Gray
Grant D. Power

1999
Carmen G. D. Echols
Douglas T. Vierra, Jr.
Jeanine N. Walker

2000
Anna R. Temple

2001
Patrice Wakeley

2002
Christine M. Hazlehurst

2003
David A. Green
Lauryn C. Holloway
Elizabeth A. Kramer
Phing Y. Yamamoto

2004
Vincent A. D’Onofrio
Daniel M. Poniatowski
Claudia N. Topete
Anonymous

2005
Christopher R. Ardoin
Daniel J. Hess

2006
Michael J. Parry

2007
Michael S. Lineberry

2009
Zosha A. Adam
Tina K. Pancho-Bernadett

2011
Taylor E. Bunkers
Thomas P. Counts
Dustin R. Dolby
Laura J. Goslee
Emily A. Hawkins
W. Terrence King, Jr.
Sarah L. Raven Marsh
Joseph A. Tortolani

2012
Caroline R. Counts
Adam J. Gildea
Celina C. Reyes
Alyssa V. Rollins

2014
Lucas M. Cortez
Caroline C. Desler
Dominic Drury
Tara J. Viviani

2015
Matthew E. Gildea
Pheobe N. Chung Simmons

2016
Danielle D. Viviani

2017
Dylan S. Brown
Jessica C. Delaney
Madeleine A. Farrington
Irine T. Le
Tamarik O. Rabb

2018
Luke W. Ditzler
Anna Dubon
Jayla S. Goler
Sabine Schroepfer

MORE THAN 200 ALUMNI ATTENDED THE 2019 GRAND REUNION
Alum Garry Hill-Thomas ’00 recently moved back to Oakland from Reno with his wife Rosana and their two boys, 10-year-old Garry Jr. and seven-year old Kionni. As he returns to Oakland, Garry is embarking on his new real estate venture, Community Hill Developments, focusing on residential, multi-family, and recreational facilities projects. But his main focus now is family. “Life has shifted to being there for them. Garry Jr. just started at St. Leo’s. I hope my boys have the opportunity to be Dragons.”

Hill-Thomas grew up not far from O’Dowd and shares that when he left school each day there was a standing joke about whether “you go right or left” at 98th Ave. His home was to the right, down near the McDonald’s at East 14th. He says that before he came to O’Dowd he didn’t know if it was the right fit for him, but he knew he wanted to play basketball.

Of his first days at O’Dowd, he shares, “I’d never been around such different demographics of people—from nationalities to socioeconomic backgrounds. It was my first experience of that in life. And my teachers—they taught me not just about academics, but life too. Because of that experience, I realize now I can walk into any board room, gym, anywhere, comfortable in my own skin. I never would have gotten to that point going anywhere else.”

Hill-Thomas just made his first gift to O’Dowd and shared in a note to the school, “I love being a Dragon. Please accept this donation as a thank you for everything you have done for me, my family, and the many kids within this community.”

When he arrived at O’Dowd as a 13-year old focused on basketball, he soon realized that wasn’t going to be enough to succeed.
He recalls the first report card he received. Though his friends were always joking around in classes, he remembers that when they got their first report cards, everyone seemed to have GPAs far higher than his 1.8. “I remember the feeling of embarrassment. But it was accountability. You can mess around but the standard is high. When I begged her not to take me out of O’Dowd, she figured I had some toughness.”

He describes many good memories, including positive role models like basketball Coach Mike Phelps, who “obviously had a big influence on my life,” and Mr. Mason, “one of those people that you just can’t help but smile when you see him.” He also surprised himself by taking a drama class and recalls how much the class “stretched my way of thinking and being in the world.”

Hill-Thomas also credits O’Dowd alum Tony Ronzone ’83 (Dallas Mavericks’ director of player personnel and current O’Dowd parent of twins Austin and Cade, both of whom are seniors on the Varsity Basketball team), whom he met when he was a freshman, for being a very positive influence and guiding him. “He has so much pride in the school. He’s a really good guy.”

“I’d never been around such different demographics of people—from nationalities to socioeconomic backgrounds. It was my first experience of that in life.”

By his senior year at O’Dowd, Hill-Thomas was an honor student and received a basketball scholarship from University of Nevada, where he earned his undergraduate degree and his MBA in 2015. Between his undergraduate and his MBA, and after a remarkable college career in basketball that landed him in UNV’s Athletic Hall of Fame, he played in the NBA G League, travelling and playing internationally. In Reno, he embarked on his real estate development career as co-CEO of Pink Hill Properties, building The Towers at Pink-Hill to provide affordable housing for UNV students.

Grateful for the success he has enjoyed in Nevada, he is very happy to return home to Oakland. “I’m happy to bring my family back to Oakland and closer to family and friends. I look forward to my kids having positive experiences as Dragons in the future. We look forward to attending O’Dowd events and continuing to give back to a school and city that have done so much for me. I hope my story encourages other alumni to donate and continue donating to O’Dowd, whether big or small. Giving back is a great gesture of humility and thankfulness!”

**ENDOWMENT**

An endowment fund is restricted capital that provides a permanent source of income for O’Dowd. The principal is invested in a disciplined manner, and the earnings and investment appreciations are channeled back into the fund. This allows the endowment to grow over time and become a source of long-term support that can be maintained permanently.

Endowments provide funding for families who might not otherwise be able to afford a Catholic college preparatory education; they also provide resources for the programs and services from which all O’Dowd students benefit.
$4.1 MILLION O'DOWD'S ENDOWMENT AS OF JUNE 30, 2019

Louise and Wesley P. Smith ’62
Donna McKenzie Soto ’62 and Raymond Soto ’58
Ke Xu and Arthur J. Spencer ’62

CLASS OF 1963 SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Lyn Cardin Andersen ’63
Joan Guettlinger Carter ’63
Anne M. Doran Marchetti ’63 and Michael Marchetti
Gertrude McCulloch ’63
Linda and Richard J. Moore ’63
Susan and Richard Murphy ’63
Sid Quick and Linda K. Leighton Quick ’63

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Suzanne Schofield Connolly ’65 and Peter Connolly
George F. Farley ’65
Noreen Angola Maresca ’65 and Joseph W. Maresca
Carolyn Serrao ’65
Patricia Menghini Walters ’65

CLASS OF 1966 SCHOLARSHIP FUND
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Laura Mayes Benz ’66
Cherie Nanninga ’66
Laura Mayes Benz ’66
Terri Texeira ’66 and Sherry Wright
Mary and Edmond E. Traile ’66

CLASS OF 1967 SCHOLARSHIP FUND
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Elizabeth Davis Blassius ’67
Jean and Michael McGuire ’67
Alice and Michael Scanlon ’67

CLASS OF 2016 SCHOLARSHIP FUND
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Lisa and Michael Alton

CLASS OF 2017 SCHOLARSHIP FUND
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Rener M. Price
Debra L. Yau and Richard F. Weeks, Jr.

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Sharon Schmitt Kluball ’61
Dana J. Morris, M.D. ’61 and Milagros Morris

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Ashley and Edward Alfred
Amy B. Briggs and Richard Ames
Katharine Earhart Batcheller and John W. Batcheller
Mary Ann and Frank L. Bautista
Tracy S. and Roger A. Becker
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Cara Logan Brockbank ’88 and Ryan A. Brockbank ’88
Marcia Brockbank
Leann C. and Simon E. Cawley
Kathleen A. Freeman and James D. Childs
Elizabeth A. McKoy and Timothy C. Choate
Elaine A. and Patrick J. Connolly ’85
Annette and Thomas A. Counts
Yolanda and Clayton Davis III
Julianne K. Stone Del Mello and Carlos F. De Mello
Nancy J. Scanlon and R.K. Dupee
Jordana Elderts ’87 and Joseph S. Restagno
Natalia N. Lopez-Whitaker and Jose G. Esteva
Valerie F. Brown and John L. Ewins
Sujata Pagedar and Jay Feist
Lori G. and Brian G. Fogarty, Jr.
Christine A. Marke and Colin A. Forth
Elizabeth M. Kane Gonzalez ’91 and Kenneth W. Gonzalez
Claire E. Lester and Jonathan Goospeed
Laura B. and Sebastian B. Grady
Lauren A. and Aaron M. A. Grich
Rocio E. and Michael A. Haas
Catherine Harris
Blanca M. Senor and Christian F. Hausser
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Marni and John Hunter
Annie Mallick and Daniel Junge
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Alexandra M. and Niall J. Murphy
Laura W. and James P. O’Hare
Indelissa Carrillo and Arun K. Ramanathan
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Marcia and Anna Raymond
Nicole C. and Justin J. Sanchez
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Anonymous

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Catherine Kirby Levinson ’64
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Debbie Cornuff and Vince Rocha
Colette Roche
Deborah H. and Michael A. Roosevelt
Frank Sparks
Cheryl Fields Tyler and Thomas J. Tyler
Joanne Mao and Joseph D. Walthers ’85
Mary K. Wren

STEPHEN TOM ’78 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Mark Kramer
Emily Bach and Thomas J. Moglia ’81
Chris Chandler and Daryl K. Tom ’81
Katie and Leonard Tom

WIXSON FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Sheila Moyles Cushing ’57
Agnes and Fiore Marcheschi

Those wishing to establish their own endowment or contribute to existing endowments should contact Michelle Hawkins, Senior Director of Development, at (510) 553–8630 or mhawkins@bishopdowd.org.
CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

We are deeply appreciative of those who made commitments in support of campus improvement projects, ensuring that our school’s facilities are healthy and vital for coming generations.

Kerwin and Lisa Allen
James T. Bill ’55†
Rebecca Bischoff and Cesar Chirinos
Tracey Borst and Robert Menicucci
Jody Brettkelly and Kevin K. Coldiron
Fiona A. Brophy and Thomas G. Hales
Elizabeth Cabrall Cabraser ’70
Sharon and Steven A. Callaway ’80
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Shana W. and Richard A. Daum
Margaret and Michael D. Deslet
Karen and David Dold ’61
Fr. Leo J. Edgerly, Jr.
Melinda A. Eisenhut Dunn ’74
Dana and Robert Emery
Christine and Mark Garavaglia
Michelle and Joseph Hawkins
Toni and John Heagerty ’60
Mary and Glen Hentges
Amy Duffy Hester ’89 and Kevin P. Hester ’88
Marietta and Christopher M. Hickey
Lora and Christopher Johnson
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Very Reverend James V. Matthews II†
Imelda and Alan McIntosh
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Rhonda M. Jackson Morris ’83 and Jack E. Morris
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Laurdes Lopez-Roque and Roderick Roche ’81
Diane L. Steccone Smahlik ’62 and
Michael A. Smahlik
Judith Logan Smith ’64 and Timothy J. Smith
Debora B. and Kevin M. Sweeney
Kimberly and Sean Walsh
Ji and Daniel M. Winkler
Anonymous (5)

IN HONOR OF

LizaDawn Adviso
Dylan S. Brown ’17
Juliet Arechiga ’93
Christine A. Marke and Colin A. Forth
Susan J. Herman
Arlene B. Fischhoff and Richard P. Trevor
Fritz Blume
Susan R. Biakanja
Lloyd Burrows ’22
Janice Dost
Jules Busacca ’21
Salvatore Busacca
Al Carrasco ’76
Annette and Thomas A. Counts
Karen and Michael F. Ward ’76
Soleena Carrillo Ramanathan
KB Ramanathan
Nelly Magdalena Roque
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Coach Tom DeTurk
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Jaiden Douglas Mendoza ’21
Louise Douglas
John F. Ellis ’19
Marianne Ellis
Aidan Forth ’18
Christine A. Marke and Colin A. Forth
Robert Fusinati ’19
Linda S. and Robert P. Fusinati
Rivers and Patricia Gee
Genevia Gee Fulbright ’80 and
Edward Fulbright
Robert Gex Jr. ’00
Barbara and Robert B. Gex, Sr.
Meg Gorzycki
Karen M. Ruiz ’88
Rose Hanrahan ’11
Ilieana and Robert Krumme
Arnauna Jefferson ’17
Rener M. Price
Ruby Kambeitz
Sharon O’Connell Hatch ’61 and Bruce Hatch
Gary Mason
Jean Schroeder
Caitlin R. Moser ’16 and Matthew S. Moser ’16
Sarah and Mark Moser
MaryAnn Richards Pearson ’90
Audrey and Paul L. Richards
Esmeralda Pedroza ’21
Kathleen Schmidt Padilla ’61
Keri Pegram ’99
Philippa and Anthony R. Pegram
Karen Proehl
Christine A. Marke and Colin A. Forth
Stella Richards
Jon Richards
Austin Ronzone ’20 and Cade Ronzone ’20
Jan Lezny
Madeline Schoenthaler ’20
Virginia Taylor
Sabine Schroepfer ’18
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Joseph L. Scott ’90
Maxine and Leonard C. Scott, Jr.
Beverly Sereda
Arleen and Robert Maginnis
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Connor Thomas ’17
Jessica D. Clark and Daryl L. Thomas
Otto Tierney ’22
Susan and Martin Tierney
Caitlin Walsh ’14
Kimberly and Sean Walsh
Fran Warmerdam
Kathy Huff and David Beittel
Julian Wilson ’22
Dorothy Wilson

TRIBUTE

These gifts were made to honor members of the O’Dowd community. We thank donors who recognize their classmates, friends, teachers, and loved ones through gifts to the school.
MEMORIAL

These gifts were made to memorialize members of the O’Dowd community who have passed. We thank donors for remembering their loved ones with special gifts to the school.

IN MEMORY OF

Anna Alberti
Cynthia and Richard J. Puppione
Nina Anxolabehere
Lori KovinChambers ’75
Jon and Jeanne Arca
Sherry and Philip Arca ’77
Patrick M. Barry ’73
Maureen Barry Tyree ’77
Frank and Donna Bramsman
Victoria Bramsman Srago ’62 and Michael Srago
Aprill Bridgeman
Mary A. Pezzuto and Paul J. Farrington
Julie Stupey Burns ’63
John Burns ’62
James P. Canty ’82
Patricia Canty
Timothy J. Canty, Jr. ’58
Patricia Canty
Anna F. Costa
A. Marice Ashe and Larry Orman
Amy and Joshua S. Costa
Steve and Kate Costa
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Kathy Levitt
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Kamala Tully
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Anonymous

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Patricia and Robert Cross
Molleen Dupree-Dominguez and Marc Dominguez
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Nicole Pagano and Mark Lederer
Meredith Parry
Meghan B. Bailey Wallingford ’89 and Maxwell J. Wallingford
Frances J. Warmerdam and James Patterson
Phillip M. Dobbs ’62
Rolly Dobbs

Donald Doran ’59
Anne M. Doran Marchetti ’63 and Michael Marchetti
Sister Katharine Emery, O.P.
Victoria Bramsman Srago ’62 and Michael Srago
Robert Grazzini ’55
Diane and Nelson M. Gomes
Joan Grazzini
The Most Reverend Mark Hurley
Susan and Michael F. Egan ’56
Pat and William H. Wiegmann ’55

Betty Mason
Annette and Thomas A. Counts
Linda McFarland ’79
Becky A. McFarland ’75
Paul Mosher ’82
Patricia Canty
Carole Paisley
Sharon L. Yates DeCarly ’56
Brendan E. Pedder ’93
Laura Thirion Billups ’93 and Tom Billups

Carl W. Pence
Annette and Thomas A. Counts
Michael Petrini
Darcy and James Diamantine
Sheriis Dozier
Rina and James P. Negri ’68
Julie A. Wilson Petrini ’70
Linda Maria Petrini
Randal L. Thornally ’69

Mike Phelps
Sharon and Thomas J. Bjornson

Stephen Phelps
James T. Bill ’55
Luz A. and Aldo M. Diaz
Dana and Robert Emery
Gloria J. Ramirez Halman
Gabriela and Nathan H. Harding
Melissa S. Schoen and Thomas A. Huntington
Dianne and Myles E. Lampenfeld, M.D.
Mary and Dan McEachern, Jr.
Debra L. Nelson
Mary E. Pratt ’72
Debra Valls-Qualters and James Qualters
Colette Roche
Mildred C. Sorrells
Cheryl Fields Tyler and Thomas J. Tyler
Mary K. Wren
Anonymous

Michael Porcella ’90
Michele A. Colgan ’89 and Manoucher R. Gholamipour

David M. Pouliot ’65
Catherine H. and Donald G. Pouliot ’66
Mary and Nicholas Prepouses
Margaret M. Valva ’75
Tracy and Michael Valva ’74
Tish M. Valva ’78
Edmund Proehl
Annette and Thomas A. Counts
Kathleen Radovan
Valerie Kercher Hasson ’60
David M. Rose ’60
Dolores R. Butkus
Jim Canty ’60
Shirley George-Ross
James McGee
Pat Scalise
Beverly Sereda
Samuel Taylor ’17
Amy and James D. Crudo
Dan Friel
Nicole DeMarais Shaw ’81
Anonymous
J. Eric Thiel
Bobbe and James W. Skiles
Stephen Tom ’78
Mark Kramer
Chris Chandler and Daryl K. Tom ’81
Katie and Leonard Tom
Timothy Whalley
Jeffrey and Polly Lee
Anonymous

Laverne Willits
Jeanine Willits Songey ’80 and Jim Songey
Clifford Wixon ’57
Sheila Moyles Cushing ’57
Agnes and Fiore Marcheschi
Andrea V. and Gerald J. Ramiza, Jr.
Mark T. Woerner and Dayna P. Wixon Woerner ’83
Many companies support private secondary education by matching a donor’s gift, often as much as two or three times the original contribution. A special thanks to those companies who matched gifts contributed by O’Dowd donors during the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

This list reflects gifts made between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019, including outright gifts and pledge payments while excluding multiple-year pledges. The fundraising numbers referenced are pre-audited numbers.

We make every effort to provide a complete and accurate listing and regret any errors. We welcome any corrections to the report at advancement@bishopodowd.org.
Investing Forward and Paying it Forward

TAMARIK RABB '17

During his time at O'Dowd, Tamarik Rabb '17 immersed himself in several leadership opportunities that spoke to both his strength as a student and his desire to make a contribution to the community beyond the classroom. Among his many contributions were participation and leadership roles in the Black Student Union and as Philanthropy Officer for his senior class, urging his classmates to contribute to the senior gift, which benefits tuition assistance.

Rabb, a vocal supporter and proud recipient of tuition assistance at O'Dowd, today attends UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business. With enviable business savvy, Tamarik has managed to strategically "invest forward" in his education and advocate for others, paying it forward even as he focuses on his own bright future.

After graduating from O'Dowd, Rabb chose to attend community college at Cañada College in Redwood City to both benefit from additional academic development and learn admission to some of his top choice schools upon transferring. This decision also spared him from taking on significant debt in the form of student loans as he completed his first two years of coursework at Cañada. Community college was far more than a convenient path to four-year college, however. Even with the long commute from Oakland, Rabb enjoyed leadership opportunities, serving as a Student Senator and Commissioner of Finance for the Cañada College Student Senate, and as a fierce advocate for students impacted by homelessness and food insecurity, including lobbying members of Congress in Washington, D.C. In addition to his advocacy work, he found a supportive community at Cañada while serving as the Vice President of Finance for the Cañada College chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the 6th most distinguished chapter of 1,300 internationally. Eager to leave a lasting impact, he co-founded the Black Student Union on campus, helping to create a safe space for students.

INVESTING FORWARD AND PAYING IT FORWARD

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environment where all people could share their experiences and ques-
tions about social injustices experienced by black communities.

This fall, Rabb entered UC Berkeley’s Haas School of Business as a junior,
majoring in business administration. His exceptional performance at Cañada
combined with internships in local government, philanthropy, accounting, and
real estate development, earned him a Regents’ and Chancellor’s Scholarship.
The scholarship provides full tuition, a research fellowship, a faculty mentor,
and other great benefits.

This well-rounded, passionate, dedicated Dragon is excited for future
opportunities in finance and real estate development. As he moves forward,
he is committed to remaining an advocate for those often overlooked when
business decisions are made. By sharing his story, Rabb hopes that other
O’Dowd students realize that attending community college and making the
best of your education experience can be just as rewarding as a traditional
four-year experience while also keeping exceptional university education
accessible and affordable.

Asked about how O’Dowd shaped his path, Rabb shared, “The time I spent
at O’Dowd really reshaped my outlook on my future. Developing an excellent
academic foundation and building key leadership skills allowed me to
persevere through the toughest situations.”

2019 ALUMNI SUMMIT
NEW WAYS TO RECONNECT

More than 25 O’Dowd alumni enjoyed gathering for the 4th Annual Alumni Summit held this month at the Center for Environmental Studies on the O’Dowd campus. The Alumni Summit brings alumni together who have great interest in supporting the mission and community of O’Dowd. Associate Principal Brian Judd kicked off the evening with a lively Kairos activity that brought back warm
memories among many, and he invited them to share their O’Dowd experience. Laughter and song were the order of the hour.

Alumnus Jim Negri ’68 led the Summit program, focused on alumni engagement. Alumni Relations Director LizaDawn Aduviso and
Dragon Launch Coordinator Meghan Wallingford ’89 shared current and future opportunities for alumni to come back to O’Dowd
and alumni contributed their own ideas and feedback. Together, alumni explored ways to reconnect with their former classmates
with events like next month’s Alumni Beer Garden or the Night at the Theater held in May. They also expressed excitement about
engaging with current students through Career Day, mock interviews, mentoring and helping students build LinkedIn profiles, and
visiting classes as guest speakers.

The evening concluded with alumni sharing what they most appreciate about O’Dowd, from lifelong friendships to all-star teachers
and what O’Dowd means to them. Summit leader Negri said, “O’Dowd made me who I am.” Others including Pita Toler ’07, Dana
Ciraulo Young ’83, and David Schwiegerl ’61 shared similar sentiments of O’Dowd as a home, a foundation of love, and a place that
shaped them. Ron Ratto ’80 kept it simple: “Education. Sports. Community.”

If you are an alum and want to find ways to reconnect and give back, we encourage you connect with Alumni Relations Director
LizaDawn Aduviso at (510) 577-9100. We also encourage alumni to share your updates at alumni@bishopodowd.org.
A boisterous crowd of Dragons came out for a night of good cheer, friends, and sharing fond memories at O’Dowd’s 7th Annual Alumni Beer Garden in October. Guests enjoyed an artfully crafted tailgate spread, local brews, and catching up with fellow alumni and staff before the big game against Piedmont High School (with Dragon victory).

Alumni from every decade showed up to reconnect with friends. Jack Dold, O’Dowd teacher and Boys Dean in the sixties and seventies, shared stories about his time at O’Dowd and looks forward to catching up with more alumni at the Grand Reunion May 16, 2020 (celebrating the classes ’55, ’60, ’65, ’70, ’75, ’80, ’85, ’90, ’95, ’00, ’05, ’10, ’15).

It is especially heartwarming to see our loyal supporters return year after year to celebrate O’Dowd. Dick ’63 and Linda Moore shared, “We love going to this event! Every year we talk to new people and it’s always an interesting conversation.” Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate O’Dowd. We look forward to welcoming you back to campus soon.
1960
Richard Martino spent 20 years with the US Naval Oceanographic Office, two years with the US Pacific Fleet, and fifteen years with the US Defense Department. He retired in 2003 from what is now called the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA).

1961
David Schwoegler After his retirement in 2008, David began volunteering for non-profits. He currently writes a “What’s good to eat or drink,” a monthly column for Oak-land Magazine. David has also served as an auctioneer for non-profits over the years.

1965
Richard Hewitt earned his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering in 1969 from Santa Clara University and his Ph.D. in Marine Biology in 1981 from Scripps Institution of Oceanography. For 50 years he led numerous surveys and expeditions in all oceans and coastal ecosystems for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He currently works as the Assistant Director for the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, which provides advice on the conservation and management of living marine resources in the Antarctica, tropical Pacific Ocean, and west coast of the United States.

1969
Joanna Ryder graduated from Santa Clara University in 1973 with a degree in business and marketing. She enjoyed two careers: first as a fashion model in New York and then as a development officer with The Hunger Project. She has been married to husband Julian for 42 years and has three children and two grandchildren. “To have spent much of my working life in a role that recognizes the interconnectedness of all human beings and is about serving others in a spirit of partnership has been a great gift to me. I know that my time at O’Dowd was part of what led me in this direction,” she said.

1975
Julie Matthews Grajeda shared this Class of 1975 picture from their mini-reunion. The photo was taken in Yosemite, where they took in the national park’s brilliant star show. Left to right: Ivy LeBlanc Wagner ’75, Jane Grey Forrette ’75, Julie Matthews Grajeda ’75, Barb Moeller Bischoff ’75, Ann Brekke Yungert ’75, Bridget McBride Belick ’75, Louise Donovan Catalano ’75, and Kathy Rueger ’75.

1983
Rhonda Morris was among 124 women business leaders recognized by the San Francisco Business Times in the 2019 Bay Area’s Most Influential Women in Business. Rhonda is the Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer for Chevron. She cited O’Dowd’s Algebra teacher Mrs. Volpi as her inspirational mentor, saying, “She taught me that being comfortable asking for help makes you better and stronger.”

1986
Sarah Lillevand was selected by the Piedmont’s City Council to serve as Piedmont’s next City Administrator.

1987
Ersie Joyner was recently honored for his service as the leader of Oakland Police Department’s Ceasefire program. Joyner and Oakland Police Department colleagues have significantly reduced gang violence in Oakland through Ceasefire. This summer, Ersie was featured in both Oakland Magazine and The Guardian for his effective and inspiring leadership.

1990
J. Powell and son Aaron visited campus to see O’Dowd basketball coach Lou Richie ’89 and Gerald Benet ’93. Jasen is the LA Clippers’ medical trainer and has been with the Clippers for 21 years. He is also a wonderful supporter of our athletics program and has donated physical therapy equipment and led trainings on campus. He hopes to find an LA high school for Aaron that will provide the same experience O’Dowd gave him.

1995
Kathleen Richards, who has spent more than a decade working in journalism, has returned to her activist roots, doing media and communications work for a women-led global campaign focused on ending the Korean War.

1996
Matt Betinelli-Olpin is the Director of Ready or Not, a horror film now playing at a theater near you. Matt earned his B.A. in Film from UC Santa Cruz in 2000 and worked for New Line Cinema as he built his career. When not directing a major film, he leads Radio Silence, a DIY filmmaking collective and production company specializing in high production values at a modest budget. See the interview with Matt on page 19.
D’Lonra Ellis was promoted to Vice President, General Counsel for the Oakland Athletics. Oakland A’s president Dave Kaval shared, “D’Lonra’s passion for the A’s and vast experience will be critical as we move toward our goal of building a new Oakland waterfront ballpark and continuing our focus on being a best-in-class organization.”

Omari W. Keeles is the Assistant Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at The Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching at Northwestern University and is in the process of completing a Ph.D. in the Combined Program in Education and Psychology at the University of Michigan.

Megan Sweeney married Jesse Castillo at the Julia Morgan Ballroom on May 11, 2019. Jesse, a graduate of Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School also attended O’Dowd for two years. Pictured is the Sweeney family: Louis ‘97 and Anto and their two kids Ian and Kevin, parents Kevin and Debi, Megan ‘01 (bride), Jesse Castillo (groom), Joe ‘20, Jillian ‘06, and Carlos Perez ‘06. Natalie Roderick ‘01 was the maid of honor and Matt Chapman ’00 was a groomsman.

Adrienne Shamszad, makes music that is a special blend of folk, soul, blues, and Eastern influenced improvisational vocals. Her lyrics are inspired by the mystic poets of Iran as much as the folk poet-songwriters of the sixties and seventies. In August, she performed at Berkeley’s Freight and Salvage. Find her on Spotify.

Dr. Trevor Mitsuki Fujinaka completed his Periodontal residency with a Masters of Science in Dentistry and Certificate of Advanced Graduate Standing in Periodontology from Boston University’s Henry M. Goldman School of Dentistry. Trevor has now joined his family’s practice in Oakland.

“RJ” Gozinsky-Irwin is the founder of Original Organic Gardener, a non-profit that teaches sustainability and organic gardening in Oakland’s underserved communities. RJ has enjoyed working with Bishop O’Dowd interns through his program.

Nisarah Lewis recently starred in the one-woman show on Broadway, “Miracle in Rwanda.” When interviewed on KTVU news about the role, she credited her alma mater and drama teachers Dennis Kohles and Ms. O for getting her started. “Bishop O’Dowd is where I found my love and my passion for acting.”

Chad Cromer is Staff Sergeant in the 2nd Air Refueling Squadron, at the McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. “Serving in the Air Force active duty has been a tremendous experience and great blessing from God. My aircraft, the KC10A extender, plays a very critical role in defense of our nation. It’s a great honor to be a career enlisted aviator and make the mission happen.”

Amina Scott earned her B.A. in music at Loyola University New Orleans and her Masters in music at Florida State University, Tallahassee. She leads a jazz trio and is a band leader with Noruz. Amina is also an adjunct professor at her alma mater, Loyola University, mentoring the next generation of ensembles and bass students.

Christopher LeBoa, a Stanford University graduate student in human biology, was among three individuals honored by Stanford with the 2019 Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel Award for “distinctive and exceptional contributions to undergraduate education or the quality of student life at Stanford.”

Phoebe Chung Simmons was married to Austin Simmons in June 2019 at The Bridges Golf Club in San Ramon. Her maid of honor was Mairin Boyle ’15 and one of her bridesmaids was Zoe Rechenbach ’15.

Frankie Hammoud continues her strong performance in softball after O’Dowd, earning Pac-12 All-Freshman at Oregon State University and now garnering a spot on Team USA.

Share news about career moves, publications, additions to your family, awards, etc. at www.bishopodowd.org/keep-odowd-date/

To submit Class Notes, please email LizaDawn Aduviso at laduviso@bishopodowd.org.
IN MEMORIAM

Nora E. Burnham ’71
Sister of Margie Burnham Mazauley ’75, Diane Burnham Winter ’73 and Nancy Burnham Boyd ’70

Jeanne Connolly Dean ’71
Sister of John P. Connolly ’66

Antoinette DelRio ’57

Ann Lobdell Graves
Mother of David L. Graves, USAF Retired ’79, Carolyn Graves ’78, Catherine L. Graves ’85, Gerald W. Graves ’81

Barbara C. Ham ’61

Gregory Johnston ’57
Husband of Patricia A. Tobin Johnston ’57 (deceased), sister-in-law Constance Tobin Sturdy ’60

Joan Kane
Step-mother of Cheryl Kane ’71

Bento Leal
Father of Maureen F. Leal Flores ’75, Catherine P. Leal ’69, David T. Leal ’70, Gregory W. Leal ’73, Mark J. Leal ’73, Patricia M. Leal Newlan ’77

Donald Lees ’57

Tari Mayes Lynch ’70
Sister of Laura Mayes Benz ’66, Margaret Mayes Brune ’68, Frederick Mayes ’63, Penny Mayes Sheaffer ’62 and sister-in-law of Edwin Sheaffer III ’62

Robert Francis MacDonald
Father of Christine MacDonald Downs ’82, Edith A. MacDonald Linkletter ’90, D. Jerome MacDonald ’89, Paul F. MacDonald ’86 and Scott G. MacDonald ’87

Sister Miriam Gerken Mendez ’64
Sister of Margaret A. Gerken Goldsmith ’69

Anita Moglia
Mother of Michael Moglia ’77, Thomas Moglia ’81 and Stephen Moglia ’83

Hung Nguyen
Father of Huong Nguyen ’08, Karin Nguyen ’09, Hedda Nguyen ’13, and Ben Nguyen ’19

Gerald O’Donnell
Former teacher

Jeanne Parsons
Mother of Joseph F. Parsons ’74, William Parsons ’76, Jeanne Parsons Davidte ’78, James T. Parsons ’79, John A. Parsons ’75, Christine Parsons Rehm ’80 and mother-in-law of Charles Rehm III ’74

Mario G. Perez ’91
Father of Mario G. Perez, Jr. ’15 and Javier A. Perez ’18

Mike Phelps
Former O’Dowd teacher and basketball coach. Brother of the late Steve Phelps, O’Dowd’s former president.

David Promani ’75

Michael Ratto ’65

Susan Schlemmer
Mother of Sean K. Schlemmer ’89, Patrick C. Schlemmer ’89, Donald K. Schlemmer ’91, Karen Schlemmer Christ ’92, Patricia A. Schlemmer Trujillo ’93, Michael D. Schlemmer ’94, Kathleen H. Schlemmer ’97

William C. Spalding ’56

Tony Valim ’62

Bishop O’Dowd High School encourages The Dragon readers to forward to the school copies of obituary notices about the passing of O’Dowd community members so that the names of the deceased can be listed in the In Memoriam section of this magazine. Please send the notices to LizaDawn Aduviso, c/o Bishop O’Dowd High School, 9500 Stearns Ave., Oakland, CA 94605, or email them to laduviso@bishopodowd.org. Note: Listings are based on information known at press time and may not include all surviving family members.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 17-19, 24-26 WINTER MUSICAL CABARET
This year, we have added a winter musical in addition to our fall and spring productions. Join us in January for Cabaret. The musical takes place in pre-WWII Berlin and is a romance whose themes of political upheaval remain painfully prophetic, reminding us of the horrors humans are capable of, lest we forget. Details regarding showtimes and tickets will be available on the O'Dowd website.

FEBRUARY 1, 2020 CRAB AND PASTA FEED
Don’t miss O'Dowd’s community fundraiser, featuring crab, pasta, silent and live auctions. Proceeds benefit the O'Dowd student experience including athletics, drama, debate, retreats, and the dozens of clubs that provide leadership skills and creative outlets for students. Purchase tickets early—this event will sell out! Learn more at www.bishopodowd.org/crab

MARCH 28, 2020 DRAGON HOOPS BOOK RELEASE
Join the O'Dowd community for a special night celebrating O'Dowd basketball and the publication of Dragon Hoops, the latest graphic novel by former O'Dowd teacher, award-winning author, and MacArthur Genius Grant recipient Gene Yang. Event details and RSVP will be available on the O'Dowd website.

MAY 1, 2020 ALUMNI NIGHT AT THE THEATER
Alumni are invited to join us to celebrate O'Dowd's tradition of theater. Details regarding showtimes and tickets will be available on the O'Dowd website.

MAY 16, 2020 GRAND REUNION: PARTY ON THE QUAD
As members of the Senior Philanthropy Team, we made our first gifts to O’Dowd. It’s exciting to pay forward the privilege we’ve been granted and extend the helping hand O’Dowd has given to so many of us. We are honored to follow in the footsteps of generous alumni like Jim Negri ’68.

- Kyron Loggins ’19 and Salome Finau ’19

Double Your Impact

Did you know that many companies match donations made by their employees to Bishop O’Dowd High School?

If you work for, or are retired from, a company with a matching gift program, your contribution to O’Dowd can have twice the impact.

Gifts of any amount to O’Dowd help strengthen teacher professional development, support co-curriculars including theater, athletics, debate, and music, and give students opportunities to express their faith and commitment through service learning opportunities.

By completing a matching gift form, you may be able to double, or even triple, your gift. It’s easy and we are here to help. For more information, please contact Nicole Ferdinando, Director of Annual Giving, at (510) 553-8669 or nferdinando@bishopodowd.org.