

# PAX ET BONUM

SPRING 2022 VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 3



*St. Francis*  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



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ALUMNAE & CONSTITUENT RELATIONS

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XITLALI RODRIGUEZ  
TAFOYA'S PHOTO  
INSPIRES AN ORIGINAL  
WORK OF ART BY  
SIXTEEN FELLOW  
TROUBADOURS

**READ MORE ON PAGE 12**

PAX  
ET  
BONUM

The *Pax et Bonum* magazine seeks to share with the reader the spirit of St. Francis Catholic High School. Stories and pictures of the activities and accomplishments of students, alumnae, parents, and staff provide glimpses into the ways in which the school's mission is carried out and its legacy continued. St. Francis benefactors are gratefully acknowledged in the *Statement of Community Support* each fall.

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St. Francis Catholic High School is fully accredited by the  
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Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC.)

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



DEAR ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY,

It's hard to believe we're already reflecting on another school year. Thanks to the unwavering commitment of our community, we navigated the omicron spike with grit and grace. I'm proud to witness daily how we truly care for one another. You'll enjoy seeing both masked and unmasked photos that capture the joy felt on campus.

While we continue our nationwide search for the new President of St. Francis Catholic High School, I want to take a moment to say thank you for the tremendous amount of support I have felt during these past several months. I know that with every challenge we face, we face it together.

We are truly blessed to be able to continue our rich legacy of educating young women who come to us from 75 different zip codes. The pages of this 40th edition of Pax Magazine illustrate the unmatched support we have received from our alumnae, especially during Career Day (pages 20-23) and on numerous retreats (pages 4-7), our parents and grandparents who filled Serra Court with new chairs and joined us for Crab Feed (pages 18-19), and of course our dedicated faculty and staff.

As we approach the end of the school year, I ask you to keep St. Francis in your prayers. We are continuing to navigate the impact of the pandemic, economic uncertainty and a war in Eastern Europe. When the world is uncertain, we find ourselves refocusing on our values and priorities. We look forward to welcoming new families into our community as well as a new President. Our priority is to always support our students, faculty, staff, alumnae, parent and grandparent community.

In the coming days and weeks, we will be celebrating the Class of 2022 with the return of many beloved senior class traditions. In May we host the Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation ceremonies will take place back at the newly renovated Memorial Auditorium. We can't wait to fully welcome the Class of 2026.

In the spirit of Pax et Bonum (peace and goodness),

Interim President/Principal

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## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER



### DR. CARON HOUSTON

Dr. Caron Houston is a concierge physician whose practice provides in home care for frail elders in the Sacramento community. She loves being a doctor and caring for people in need. Her career highlights are working for the Indian Health Service, teaming up to open premier senior health clinics in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and directing a community health Center in New York City. Since moving to Sacramento, she has been on staff at Sutter since 2007.

Dr. Houston learned to know God and love her Catholic faith as a high school student at Saint Agnes Academy and parishioner at Saint Mary's of the Purification in Houston, Texas. She attended Wellesley College and received her medical training at the University of Texas San Antonio and the University of New Mexico. She is a wife and mother of three and loves exercise and the performing arts. Her family is peacock proud of their SFHS 2012 graduate who is now a practicing attorney in New York City.

"I hope that my faith brought me here, so I could speak, out loud, about what I know and believe," says Dr. Houston. "I am humbled and fulfilled by this opportunity to be of service. Being raised in a Black catholic church with gospel music, I have prayed with a wide variety of parishes, and I hope my legacy will be defined by an open heart and respect for all."



BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD! PSALM 46:11

KAIROS IS A GREEK WORD USED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. IT MEANS "TIME," BUT NOT "TIME" IN THE SENSE OF A MINUTE, AN HOUR, A DAY—INSTEAD, IT MEANS A CRUCIAL TIME, A TIME OF CHALLENGE, A TIME OF DECISION, A SPECIAL TIME – GOD'S TIME.

St. Francis retreats are more than small group discussions about faith and feelings; retreats are experiences that may provide some a safe place to cry, releasing pent up emotions, while others will laugh harder than they ever thought possible, all while deepening their relationships. Our retreat program builds over the four years of high school. It traditionally starts with the Freshman One Day: *Created in the Image of God*; a two-day Sophomore retreat: *Who Do You Say That I Am?*; and the three-day Junior retreat: *Celebrating the Gift*. The capstone retreat is the four-day Senior Kairos. Kairos is a Greek word meaning time that cannot be measured – God's time. It is a special time of discernment, a crucial time of thought, and a focused time of decision and challenge. Kairos is often regarded as the most meaningful experience of a student's four years. Retreats allow Troubies to reflect, share and grow in their faith and sisterhood through sharing stories, asking questions without judgment, and working with peers and staff to see God in their everyday lives. These retreats would not be possible without the sacrifices and support of our staff and alumnae, who really answered the leadership call this year.



### THANK YOU TO THE 34 ALUMS WHO HELPED LEAD KAIROS!

Amaya Barnes '17, Gabriella Bell '20,  
 Sarah Brust '17, Claudia Campos '19,  
 Julia Cannon '17, Samantha Collins '15,  
 Brittney Cook '17, Monet Cook '20,  
 Christina De Leon '20, Reina Deol '17,  
 Alexis Dozier '19, Katrina Fox '08,  
 Sarah Hamilton '12, Suraya Kamas '17,  
 Nicole Lawrence '19, Aurora Le '15,  
 Nicole McBride '20, Diane Menardo '15,  
 Sophia Mendoza '19, Katie Mumm '17,  
 Sarah Mumper '14, Alexis Padilla '09,  
 Katie Poggi '15, Amirah Rogers '19,  
 Suzanne Salazar '20, Katie Schembri '14,  
 Bella Silva '20, Kaitlin Solis '17,  
 Vivian Stacy '20, AJ Tanner '19,  
 Gabriella Thomas '19, Evanne Torrecillas '11,  
 Victoria Valdez '19, Alexis Valenciano '12





JULIA'S GROUP  
AT KAIROS 83

## JULIA CANNON '17



Julia is planning to finish her Master of Science degree this June from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in Civil & Environmental Engineering with an emphasis on sustainable water resources. For the past two years, she has worked part-time with MKN, a water and wastewater engineering firm in Arroyo Grande. After graduation, she plans to take a gap year to do some traveling and is hoping to spend some time living in Japan. From there she will continue working towards her Professional Engineer (PE) license.

### WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM KAIROS AS A STUDENT?

I attended Kairos 61 and led Kairos 63 my senior year. As a student I was mostly excited to attend Kairos as I didn't know anything about it, other than hearing and seeing my friends come back so excited for me to go. Knowing this, it was still important to me to go into it with an open mind and let go of any expectations of how it would impact me. Mr. Poggi was my leader on K61 – his encouragement was the main reason that I applied to lead, and I still have a lot of gratitude for that extra push as leading Kairos became one of my favorite takeaways from St. Francis. With both retreats, I learned that it was the people I felt I was the most different from and thought I had nothing in common with that were generally who I had the most to learn from.

### WHAT IMPACT DID KAIROS AND THE OTHER RETREATS HAVE ON YOUR LIFE AS A STUDENT?

I learned to approach others with more kindness, and to be more gentle with myself. As a student, I was pretty wrapped up in my own head, and realized that I didn't need to carry the weight of my anxiety on my own. In struggling with my enoughness throughout high school, Kairos helped me to recenter and reflect on where it was stemming from; it helped me to build confidence even when I didn't have all of the answers. My perspective shifted to have a more empathetic lens as I realized how much strength was in the women all around me.

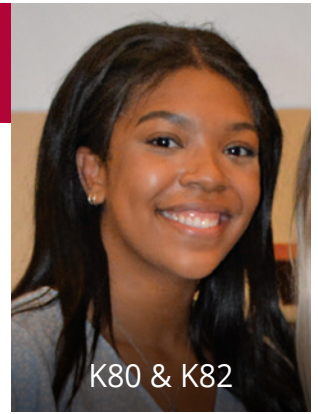
### WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO COME BACK AS AN ALUM TO BE AN ADULT LEADER ON KAIROS?

The timing of it couldn't have been more perfect, as I was transitioning from having finished my undergrad degree to shifting towards my graduate program. Having a good amount of my friends and support system move away from San Luis Obispo, I knew that coming back to such a sacred space would help me to reflect on what I'd experienced in college and be intentional about the coming year. As a leader, I knew that the retreat became more fulfilling when I was able to experience it again in a new way. I was excited for the chance to meet so many new incredible, intelligent, and caring seniors. What I love most about Kairos is that in the beautiful process of these four days, it makes you feel as though you've known the group for much longer. What surprised me was how smoothly the week went, despite us all being a bit rusty from two years away. For having our first leadership team meeting just hours before the retreat started – some of us meeting each other for the first time – everyone just instantly clicked and it came together in the most lovely way possible.

### WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM KAIROS AS AN ADULT?

I think what I am continuing to learn is to be more intentional about slowing down. When it comes to practicing mindfulness and gratitude, I still will sometimes find myself rushing through juggling school, work, clubs, and life in general, and these practices turn into to-do list items. Coming back to this space, the week felt long in the best way, giving me a reminder of what it means to be present with a softer pace. As an adult leader, it was both fulfilling and exciting to meet seniors where they were at and have a bit more guidance to offer them, still being close to my college experience but getting ready for the next adventure.

# ALEXIS DOZIER '19



K80 & K82

Alexis currently attend San Diego State University and is majoring in Psychology with a minor in Counseling and Social Change.

“I always loved going on retreats throughout my time at St. Francis and I was just as excited to go on Kairos. What I didn’t know was that Kairos would be such an immensely positive experience for me. I grew much closer to my friends and family and that would not have happened without Kairos. I became much more confident in my voice and the importance of using it. My stories were important and deserve to be heard. I then wanted to be a student leader because I wanted the girls in my class to have a positive experience as well and begin to become the best versions of themselves. I thought about how amazing my Kairos leaders were and I wanted to be that person for someone else. Though I went in with that goal, I did not

realize how much the girls in my group would boost up my life as well. I feel as if I’ve done a lot of growing in the two years since graduating and I was glad to share everything I learned up until that point. Through Kairos, I saw how much I love to talk to people and really listen to people. Additionally, I realized how important mental health is and that is what inspired me to pursue psychology as a career and in the future, receive my doctorate. At the end of the day, I will always remember the Kairos with a big heart and will be eternally grateful for that experience.”



K80 & K81

# ISABELLE SILVA '19

Isabelle is a Public Health major at the University of Nevada, Reno and is currently taking a gap year in Spain working as an au pair.

“I went on K70 and I was a part of group 6. I also led and directed K75. I loved all the retreats offered at St. Francis, so I knew I was going to love Kairos too! Kairos taught me so much about my relationship with God, life, and myself. When I heard there was a need for Kairos alum to

come back and help “restart” the retreat I had to do it! Leading as an adult was just as fulfilling as it was leading when I was a student. I found it very inspiring to help the girls learn more about themselves and God during a time when the world was so unsure. I was honored to lead with such an amazing group of women because without them these retreats wouldn’t have been possible.”

# VICTORIA VALDEZ '19

Victoria attends American River College and plans to transfer to Sac State as a business major this upcoming Fall. After graduation, she plans to pursue a career in the music industry.

“Kairos helped me learn what it truly means to love myself and others unconditionally. Kairos also taught me to not judge others because everybody has their own story. Kairos and other retreats at St. Francis also enabled me to meet people and form friendships with others that wouldn’t have happened if I didn’t attend those retreats. Attending these retreats have helped me throughout my daily life because they gave me an incredible sense of self. Being a leader on this year’s Kairos was important

to me because I wanted to be able to give the students of SF an experience that I was so thankful for. I realized how much Kairos gave to me; I wanted to give back that gift. After attending Kairos as an alumnae, I realized that there is always something that I can learn about myself and that there is room for me to constantly grow as a person.”



K82 & K83





# 50 YEARS LATER:

## TITLE IX CONTINUES TO OPEN DOORS FOR TROUBLE ATHLETES

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BY MELISSA TRIEBWASSER, DIGITAL MEDIA ASSOCIATE

“NO PERSON IN THE UNITED STATES SHALL, ON THE BASIS OF SEX, BE EXCLUDED FROM PARTICIPATION IN, BE DENIED THE BENEFITS OF, OR BE SUBJECTED TO DISCRIMINATION UNDER ANY EDUCATION PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY RECEIVING FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.”

“I am a product of Title IX,” said Maryclaire Robinson, a class of 1986 graduate and the current head coach of the St. Francis soccer program. “My college program was a club two years before I went there; Title IX elevated it from a club program to an NCAA, Division I collegiate program.”

Fifty years after the adoption of Title IX, the statute remains the most impactful legislation when it comes to female athletics. Passed in 1972, Title IX ensures that female athletes have the same rights and access as their male counterparts when it comes to participation, scholarships, and other key factors across athletics.

For the thousands of female athletes to come through the gyms and fields of St. Francis, to call it a game-changer would simply be an understatement.

“The concept that women receive equal benefits and respect seems like it would be an ancient idea, however it surprised me that it was only 50 years ago that Title IX was put into effect,” senior softball player, and UConn softball signee, Grace Jenkins said.

“WHEN I THINK  
OF TITLE IX,  
I THINK OF  
OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR WOMEN.  
I HAVE SUCH  
GRATITUDE FOR  
WOMEN WHO  
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OTHERS SO THAT  
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GET ALL THOSE  
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THAT ARE SO  
INVALUABLE.”

TINA GALAXIDAS WATTS '90

When Title IX was first implemented, there were 300,000 women and girls playing college and high school sports in the United States. Female athletes received 2% of college athletic budgets, and athletic scholarships for women were virtually nonexistent. Forty years later, in 2012, more than three million girls and women were participating in high school and collegiate sports, and today, one in five girls participate in athletics at some level. Prior to Title IX, that number was one in 26.

“When I think of Title IX, I think of opportunities for women,” said Tina Galaxidas Watts, a 1990 graduate who received a scholarship to continue her basketball career at UC Davis. “I have such gratitude for women who fought and helped pave the way for myself and others so that we would have the opportunity to play in college and to get all those experiences that are so invaluable.”

Melanie Baccay, a 2016 graduate who went on to play softball at Michigan State and currently serves as an assistant athletic director at Cal Maritime, credits her current role and past opportunities to the legislation. “If not for Title IX, I don’t know how realistic of a goal it would have been to dream of getting a scholarship to play Division I softball, not to mention being an Assistant Athletic Director at a university.”

At St. Francis, nearly half the student body is a member of one of the 12 different sports and 21 different teams on campus. For the students that come through the various athletic programs on campus, it is often a seminal experience.

“Being a part of St. Francis sports has meant a lot to me, and has changed me for the better,” senior lacrosse athlete Zahra Smith said. “One thing that I am going to take away from my experience at St. Francis is that more goes into sports than being talented; you have to be a good person on and off the field.”

“The ability to participate in athletics throughout my life has been, and continues to be, the opportunity of a lifetime. I couldn’t imagine a life where sports wasn’t a huge part,” Baccay said. “God didn’t just bless me with the ability to play the sport I love, He used softball to bless me with an education, important life skills, relationships that I get the honor of cherishing for the rest of my life, the opportunity to learn from some amazing athletes and mentors, the opportunity to give back and be a mentor, and the opportunity to learn about and celebrate women in sports.”

The opportunities that exist because of Title IX resonate with each generation that has been impacted by its implementation, opening doors that might have been otherwise closed. For Robinson, her ability on the soccer field not only provided the means to pay for college, it gave her resources once she got there. “Colorado College was a college my family couldn’t afford. I received a scholarship, I received fantastic academic advising, and I received the opportunity of a lifetime. All of that happened because my college had to comply with Title IX.”

Jenkins also thanks those that worked in the past to pave the way for the future. “My scholarship has allowed me to play the sport I love in college and provided me the opportunity to play on the big stage. I am incredibly thankful for all of the female coaches and mentors that have supported me through my journey, as they have been impacted by Title IX as well.”

“I believe that Title IX has paved the way for really brave and courageous women to make history and leave their footprint in the world of athletics,” Baccay said. “It is super important that we honor and celebrate those that came before us and who made these opportunities a possibility.”



ZAHRA SMITH '22  
LACROSSE – DELAWARE STATE SIGNEE  
(ALSO PLAYS SF BASKETBALL)

“Being a part of St. Francis sports has meant a lot to me and has changed me for the better. One thing that I am going to take away from my experience here is that more goes into sports than being talented; and you have to be a good person on and off the field.”



MELANIE BACCY '16  
SOFTBALL – MICHIGAN STATE

“The ability to participate in athletics throughout my life has been, and continues to be, the opportunity of a lifetime. I couldn’t imagine a life where sports wasn’t a huge part. God didn’t just bless me with the ability to play the sport I love. He used softball to bless me with an education, important life skills, relationships that I get the honor of cherishing for the rest of my life, the opportunity to learn from some amazing athletes and mentors, the opportunity to give back and be a mentor, and the opportunity to learn about and celebrate women in sports.”



GRACE JENKINS '22  
SOFTBALL – UCONN SIGNEE

“St. Francis softball has granted me the pleasure of playing alongside some of the best people. Not only are they gifted athletes, but they are just incredible people who always give their best and never fail to make me laugh. I look forward to practicing every day because of the amazing people I am surrounded with.”



MARYCLAIRE ROBINSON '86  
SOCCER – COLORADO COLLEGE

“You as an athlete, you as a young woman, have the chance and the power to decide how you want to be, what your attitude is, your effort, your intensity, what you want to be known for. How you want to move through your season or your competition. And I think that can be forgotten because results become important, things get in the way, and yet if you can grab onto the fact that you have power, you own that opportunity, because you’re the one that gets to play.”



XITLALI  
RODRIGUEZ TAFOYA '23



## ARTISTS INSPIRING ARTISTS

XITLALI RODRIGUEZ TAFOYA'S PHOTO INSPIRES AN ORIGINAL WORK OF ART BY SIXTEEN FELLOW TROUBADOURS

It was her freshman year when Xitlali Rodriguez Tafoya '23 took a picture of what many would consider a downtown landmark for her photography class. Her inspiration may not surprise many. "News of a COVID-19 pandemic was beginning to rupture. I had gone to a second-hand store with my sister on a rainy day and I noticed the depressing atmosphere of the weather," recalled Xitlali. She said she wanted to capture the feeling of melancholy and isolation that the pandemic caused, but took a slightly different approach. "I used the orange/red tints in the sky and sign to give the depressing photo a sense of hope. By capturing the trees, I acknowledge the importance that nature has on our wellbeing, especially during the time of the pandemic."

She never imagined that photo would turn into an original work of art, created by arts teacher Richard Siggins' painting students during the Fall semester. And it was done without Xitlali knowing, until the big, emotional reveal one morning in the halls of the arts building. "When I first saw the painting, I started crying! It had been a surprise planned by my amazing Freshman photography teacher, Mr. Siggins! My goal to show my emotions and culture through my photography had been achieved, which brought tears out of my soul."

Perhaps another surprise for Xitlali, her experiences at St. Francis after having attended public schools her entire life. "I told myself that I was going to take advantage of this opportunity by 'showing the school what I was made out of!' I planned on exhibiting my photography skills so that my peers could understand my feelings, as well as my cultural background."

"My ultimate goal for photography has been to demonstrate my Latino culture to individuals who may not be familiar with it. Since I was a freshman, I have had nothing but caring and encouraging teachers who have supported my theme." Xitlali's current art teacher is one of them. "Mrs. Willow has also been such an extraordinary support for my growth. She has provided her classes with catalogs that exhibit a variety of artists, creating new inspirations for students." Xitlali finds inspiration from fellow classmates too, through sharing what they enjoy about a piece as well as providing helpful criticism.

Sixteen artists, twenty-four individual canvases, all coming together to recreate the one photo of Harv's Car Wash, which operated at its 19th and L location in Sacramento for nearly 50 years, and inspired a high school freshman and inspired us to put it on the cover of our 40th edition of the *Pax et Bonum Magazine*.

STUDENT ARTISTS: Bella Austin '22, Nicole Capps '22, Olivia Charles '25, Riley Fitzgerald '25, Aiden Groen '22, Mia Hill '25, Hannah Howes '25, Grace Mastagni '25, Nadia Ortega '25, Lucie Pickering Pick '25, Laiba Kumar '23, Gabrielle Rosario '25, Eva Rossi '25, Kendall Shower '22, Reyna Tumber '25, Isabella Wadding '24

# HOW DO YOU GET TO CARNEGIE HALL?

JUST ASK SOPHOMORE AND VOCALIST KATE KASTEN!

St. Francis High School sophomore Kate Kasten '24 was selected for the 2022 High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall and will be performing with the mixed choir in Vienna, Austria at the Musikverein, home to the Vienna Philharmonic, this summer.

She submitted her audition in August for both programs, singing "Caro Mio Ben," an Italian aria and found herself singing in the world-famous Carnegie Hall by February, a venue that marks the pinnacle of music achievement.

"When I arrived there, our choir practiced for two days, 9AM to 5PM, and worked very hard on all of our pieces. It was absolutely incredible to perform on the Carnegie Hall stage. When you look out into the audience, it is gold and white with red seats and left a huge impression on me as a musician," said Kasten. "I was really excited to meet new people and be able to perform in a choir with such hard working high school girls who were at the same level as me. It was fantastic to be in such a talented and professional group."

"Being selected to the Honors Performance Series is something each finalist should be extremely proud of accomplishing," said Marion Gomez, Program Director for the Honors Performance Series. "We processed nearly 10,000 nominations this year and have selected over 500 of the most talented student performers from around the world. Working with these conductors and performing at Carnegie Hall is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that these musicians will never forget."

Kate has always been drawn to music. She started piano lessons at the age of five and began singing in the second grade, performing "Tomorrow" from the musical *Annie* in the school's talent show. "From that moment on, I have been obsessed with performing on stage and singing for others," said Kasten.

Acceptance to these elite groups of performers is a direct result of the talent, dedication, and achievements demonstrated by Kate in her application and audition recording. It should come as no surprise that Kate is also a member of the St. Francis Chamber Choir and Show Choir. "We are so proud to see Kate's passion and hard work be recognized and rewarded with such a unique opportunity," said Elias Mendoza, Principal. "Our students continue to be challenged during this pandemic, but their faith, leadership and search for excellence has never wavered as evidenced by Kate's accomplishments."

"The Chamber Singers here at St. Francis prepared me for the level of professionalism needed to perform in such an environment. Mrs. (Tina) Harris guides her choir to be the best it can be and creates a professional but fun choir environment. I am also in the Show Choir which has taught me the importance of teamwork and endurance when singing. It has been so fun to explore these types of choirs and I cannot wait to continue singing at Saint Francis and in my far future."

But, before Kate heads off to Austria this summer, she's playing Kim Macafee in *Bye Bye Birdie* at the Woodland Opera House. "I plan to continue with music and singing, as well as acting, and pursue it as a career." Bravo Kate!



## CONGRATULATIONS!

INAUGURAL CLASS OF SFHS SACRAMENTS  
PREP PROGRAM COMPLETE THEIR JOURNEY



Congratulations to three St. Francis students who completed their RCIA journey at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Sacramento, during the Easter Vigil: Sasha Sanchez '25, Minahya Vargas '25, Elysa Pascua '24. These are the first young women to complete the Sacraments Prep Program at St. Francis under the guidance of Mrs. Colleen Morrison. Mrs. Morrison also helped connect three other students with the RCIA programs at their home parishes.

Prior to Easter break, Sasha, Minahya and Elysa had lunch with a team of faculty and staff who shared about the Church, its basic teachings and its beliefs in our Sacraments Prep Program. May God always be in your lives.



# SPRING MUSICAL: JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

In our first, fully-staged, live musical since 2018, the St. Francis Arts Department made the bold decision to take its musical production to the next level. Thanks to the talent and dedication of countless staff, faculty, students and parents, led by Technical Director Jeremy Toy, Serra Court was transformed into an outdoor performance space for our Spring Musical: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

With music and lyrics by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, St. Francis' very own Kiera Anderson took a fresh approach in directing the show that celebrated its 50th Anniversary just prior to the COVID shutdown of 2020.

March can be one of the wettest months for Sacramento, but we were lucky enough to have all six of our AMAZING outdoor performances without interruption.





# MOTHER DAUGHTER BALL

On March 12, 2022 mothers and their Troubie daughters were invited to gather for a magical evening: the Mother-Daughter Ball - A Twinkle in Time on the St. Francis High School campus.

The night wasn't limited to moms and daughters. It was a night for all the special women in our Troubies' lives to dress for fun and dance the night away. Moms, daughters, aunts, nieces, sisters, cousins and grandmothers came out for music, games, photos, dessert and lots of love!



ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

# THE *selfe* event

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022**

**KEYNOTE & AUTHOR  
ADRIENNE BANKERT**

**MAKE KINDNESS  
YOUR SUPERPOWER!**

The SELFe Event builds on St. Francis' four pillars of Service, Excellence, Leadership and Faith (SELF), by bringing in dynamic speakers who provide relevant and challenging content for women, celebrating each woman's uniqueness and potential, and helping women of all ages navigate real life challenges and opportunities.

Our SELFe Events bring women of all ages to the St. Francis campus for a day with a vibrant marketplace, and networking with business and community leaders. Our fourth annual event on September 18th welcomes Sacramento native and Emmy Award-winning journalist, Adrienne Bankert, as our keynote speaker.



REVELRY 2022

# Fire & Ice

**SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022 AT 6:00PM**

**\$150 PER PERSON | COCKTAIL ATTIRE**

5900 ELVAS AVENUE, SACRAMENTO, CA 95819

**6:00 - 8:00PM:** STROLLING DINNER, LIBATIONS & STUDENT ENTERTAINMENT

**8:00 - 9:00PM:** STUDENT PERFORMANCE & AUCTION

**9:00 - 11:00PM:** MUSIC & DANCING

Sponsorships and tickets are available at [WWW.STFRANCISHS.ORG/REVELRY](http://WWW.STFRANCISHS.ORG/REVELRY)



# EXPERIENCE SUMMER AT ST. FRANCIS

2022

## CAMP TROUBIE

Two-week camps for rising 5th to 8th grade girls beginning June 13

## CAMP TROUBIE, JR.

One-week camp for rising 1st to 4th grade girls July 18-22

## THEATRE CAMP

IT'S BACK!

Two-week camp for rising 5th to 8th grade girls & boys beginning June 13

## SPORTS CAMPS

One-week camps for rising 1st to 9th grade girls beginning June 13

## ACADEMIC CLASSES

High school level co-ed courses for grades 9-12. Courses are offered in 3 week sessions.



REGISTER  
TODAY!

# Crab Feed



## PINCH ME, IT CAME BACK IN-PERSON!

While we did one (hopefully) last pivot, a bustling crowd was delighted when the 2022 Crab Feed came back to campus in person! A great time was had by all who came out on February 26th for another fun-filled, sold-out event.

As we know from missing it, it doesn't get any better than a great evening with good friends to support a great cause – our Troubies! More than 650 members of the St. Francis community (including a lot of alums and alum parents), enjoyed an evening of delicious food, tempting items to bid on, fabulous desserts and then dancing the night away to Clean Slate!

Our dynamic and returning chair, Lucie Kroettinger (Emily '23), led an amazing committee who gave us a rousing good time. This event would not be possible without the hundreds of parent volunteers who made it all happen and then returned the campus to "normal" for classes on Monday. It takes a village, and St. Francis has the best village.

A true community-builder and fundraiser, the Crab Feed raised more than \$130,000 for our Troubies. Thank you to our sponsors, attendees, committee members and the myriad volunteers who made this night another fabulous St. Francis memory!

Now, we're ready for some Fire & Ice at Revelry on May 7th.





**2022 Crab Feed Executive Committee**

Thank you to our dedicated and hardworking Executive Committee for your leadership!

- Lucie Kroettinger . . . . . Chair
- Danielle DeArkland . . . . . Dessert Auction Lead
- Aimee Gillum . . . . . Reservation / Seating Lead
- Kelly Heisinger . . . . . Sponsorship Lead
- Chantel Incaudo, Aeisha Mastagni, Kim Ramirez . . . . .
- . . . . . Decor Co-Leads
- David Kallan . . . . . Set Up Coordination Lead
- Toria Kaufman . . . . . Volunteer Coordination Lead
- Lindsey McLaughlin . . . . . Raffle / Game Lead
- Cori Mering & Aris Bajar . . . . . Marketing Co-Leads
- Ben Meyer . . . . . Crab Shack
- Michael Romo . . . . . Logistics Lead
- Josh Strawn . . . . . Bar Lead
- Steve Stuck . . . . . Dad's Club Advancement Liaison
- Nissa Swanston . . . . . Server Lead
- Special Events Associate . . . . . Natalie Anzini
- Advancement Associate . . . . . Ann Moritz Gregory '89
- Facilities Operations Manager . . . . . Bill Hanrahan
- Director of Advancement . . . . . MaryAnne Kelly, P'09



IT'S ALWAYS IMPRESSIVE TO SEE THE DIVERSE CAREER PATHS ST. FRANCIS ALUMNAE CHOOSE. DURING THIS YEAR'S CAREER DAY, WHILE EVERY TOPIC WAS POPULAR, THERE WERE A FEW REAL STAND-OUTS. FROM CLINICAL RESEARCH THAT LED TO AN OCULAR IMPLANT, TO A PASSION FOR WRITING THAT TURNED INTO A SUCCESSFUL CAREER. EACH HAS ONE THING IN COMMON - THE INFLUENCE THEIR ST. FRANCIS EXPERIENCE (AND TEACHERS) HAD ON THE PERSON THEY ARE TODAY.



## JULIE SOTO '06

AUTHOR, SELF-EMPLOYED

As an upcoming debut author, Julie is excited for her first book to be published Spring 2023. She signed with her literary agent in July of 2021, and successfully sold two adult rom-coms earlier this year. As a playwright, Julie's musical "Generation Me" won the 2017 New York Musical Festival's Best Musical award, as well as Best Book for Julie's work on the script. After graduating from St. Francis, Julie studied Theatre Arts and Creative Writing in college.

### WHAT LED YOU DOWN YOUR CAREER PATH?

It's hard to say what inspired me. I was always a storyteller, whether in acting or in playwriting, so the transition to author was an easy one. I've always been more drawn to the artistic paths than the "normal" ones, and I feel like I had enough confidence in myself to really take a shot at it.

### HOW DID ST. FRANCIS HELP GUIDE YOU?

St. Francis gave me my first Creative Writing class. I remember signing up for four English electives my senior year, because I knew I wouldn't need the extra science, math, and foreign languages to get into my top school, a CSU. St. Francis allowed me to have a year of brand new reading and writing experiences before leaving for college.

### WHICH TEACHERS WERE INFLUENTIAL FOR YOU?

Ms. Farrell (now Mrs. Borasi at Jesuit) and Mr. Weldon

### WHAT DID YOU LEARN AT ST. FRANCIS THAT IMPACTED YOUR CAREER?

St. Francis taught me tenacity and hard work. Without the ingrained dedication to deadlines and perfection that St. Francis gave me, I would never have been able to take on a career like writing that is very much a self-employment. I have no boss making me sit at my desk and write a book. I have to give myself goals and deadlines and meet them.

### WHY WAS IT IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN CAREER DAY THIS YEAR?

This was the first Career Day where I was actually in my dream career and my forever career. I thought it was important to talk to the SF girls about what a career in publishing looks like, because I know that I would have never had the pathway when I was their age. Also, I wanted to be available for any questions they may have and be a resource for them.



# CHRISTINA CONNOLLY '14

STAFF ATTORNEY, EAST BAY CHILDREN'S LAW OFFICES

Christina Connolly, "CJ," earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from UC Berkeley in 2018. While at UC Berkeley, she worked with incoming students in the residence halls and recognized the great disparity in their educational experiences. She then went on to earn her J.D. from UC Hastings, College of the Law in 2021. At Hastings, CJ was heavily involved with youth advocacy and education related programs and clinics, including spending her first legal internship at the East Bay Children's Law Offices (EBCLO). She is currently employed as a staff attorney at the EBCLO, where she is working on a project to provide educational and placement stability to foster youth.

## WHAT LED YOU DOWN YOUR CAREER PATH?

When I was a child, I had thought I wanted to be a teacher. Then, by the time I started 4th grade, I had been told that I "talked a lot" and was "bossy" so I should consider becoming a lawyer... and I never looked back! Everything I did from then on was focused on me passing the bar exam. From taking Latin to participating in Mock Trial and Moot Court, I was determined to achieve my dream of advocating for others. I always knew I wanted to do something with education and children and was lucky to come across the world of dependency law while attending UC Hastings. From my summer internship I fell in love with advocating for foster youth, especially because of the intersection of their identities and the different areas of the law that are connected to it.

## HOW DID ST. FRANCIS HELP GUIDE YOU?

Absolutely! While at SF, one of the first things I did was figure out how to join the Mock Trial team. My first time competing in the Sacramento County courthouse wearing a suit and heels really solidified that this was the career for me. I felt so comfortable and powerful. I also owed a lot of that to my academics. The rigor and quality of skills I learned in the classroom gave me a solid foundation for the courtroom. SF helped me strengthen my writing skills, oral advocacy, leadership, community building, conflict resolution and so much more!

## WHICH TEACHERS WERE INFLUENTIAL FOR YOU?

I was lucky to have three particularly special teachers while at St. Francis: Mr. Dodson, Dr. Briggs, and Mr. Strawn. Each of them taught me something different that not only enabled me to be a great attorney, but also helped shape me into a better person. They encouraged me and challenged me academically, socially, and spiritually. They allowed me to grow as a leader and as a thinker, while laughing it up along the way.

## WHAT DID YOU LEARN AT ST. FRANCIS THAT IMPACTED YOUR CAREER?

St. Francis taught me that you don't know everyone's story so it is important to lead with love. On every retreat, I would be amazed by the strength of my classmates as they survived their hidden struggles. I see that same resilience in my foster youth clients as they suffer from serious physical or emotional trauma, yet are able to share a laugh over a Starbucks frappuccino. Being able to connect with others was a skill I was fortunate to develop at SF and bring within me into my career and every avenue of life.

## HOW DID SF HELP LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR YOU?

SF helped lay the foundation for me by ensuring I was a well rounded human being in the world. By focusing on all four pillars throughout my education, I was able to find a career that allowed me to serve others, provide excellent advocacy, be a leader in my field and community, and live out the tenets of my faith in my work. I was never afraid to fail and that enabled me to go after my dreams.

## WHY WAS IT IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN CAREER DAY THIS YEAR?

It was important for me to participate in Career Day because I wanted other young Troubies to know that, even if you don't know anyone in the field you want to enter, you can still become successful. If you build on the skills SF has taught you, reach out to those that are in positions you hope to be in, and trust in your own ability, you will be able to achieve greatness.



# ALLISON KUSTIC '17

## LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT, CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY

Allison graduated from St. Francis in 2017 (go Stitch!) and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Dominican University of California in 2020. After working for a non-profit for a short time after graduating, Allison started as a Legislative Assistant with the Office of Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez in 2021. Allison supports the Assemblymember's legislative package and covers a number of issue areas for the office, including natural resources, the judiciary, housing, and transportation. In her free time, Allison enjoys hiking, traveling, baking, reading, and cycling.

### WHAT LED YOU DOWN YOUR CAREER PATH?

I was inspired to work in public service for a number of reasons. Growing up in Sacramento, I was exposed to state government at an early age and made trips to the Capitol building in elementary school. In high school, I participated in the YMCA's Youth and Government program, which is a state-wide mock state legislature and trial program. Drafting, advocating for, and analyzing (mock) legislation opened my eyes to the crazy beauty that is the legislative process. My career is hectic at times, but working on legislation that improves the lives of Californians is incredibly rewarding.

### HOW DID ST. FRANCIS HELP GUIDE YOU?

St. Francis fostered my confidence and encouraged me to explore many interests. I didn't seriously consider a career with the Legislature until senior year of high school while taking Mrs. Roman's AP US History course. Learning about American history spurred me to make changes in the world and leave a lasting positive impact.

### WHICH TEACHERS WERE INFLUENTIAL FOR YOU?

Mrs. Roman

### WHAT DID YOU LEARN AT ST. FRANCIS THAT IMPACTED YOUR CAREER?

My career requires me to navigate sometimes difficult political tensions and differences of opinion. St. Francis instilled in me that kindness and compassion should always guide my actions. Even in the midst of challenging disagreements, I am able to be friendly, respectful, and kind because of the values I was taught at St. Francis.

### WHY WAS IT IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN CAREER DAY THIS YEAR?

It was important for me to participate in Career Day to share my passions with young women who are just starting out on their professional journeys. I found a passion for public service at the tail end of high school and I'd like to expose others to the sector as well. I also developed a love of environmental science in college that has been tremendously helpful in my career now and I enjoyed encouraging young women to explore different subjects both at St. Francis and in their next steps.

## THANK YOU, PRESENTERS!

### WHO BETTER TO INSPIRE TODAY'S TROUBIES THAN THEIR TROUBIE SISTERS WHO ARE ALREADY WORKING IN MYRIAD CAREERS!

On March 11th, thirty-four alumnae visited campus or zoomed in for Career Day. Students gained insights about their educational and career journeys while exploring careers they were previously attracted to or those they never knew existed. They had an opportunity to have questions answered and begin building their network with this impressive group of women.

Sessions included everything from aviation to biotechnology, engineering, education, government relations, law, media and publishing, military careers, medical careers, public safety, social work, technology and more.

With more than 11,000 alumnae spanning the globe, today's Troubies benefit from career insights and advice from those that have gone before them. These contacts not only give students a sense of connection, but the relationships they build and knowledge they learn is an incredibly useful tool for expanding their horizons now and in the future.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR ALUMNAE WHO PARTICIPATED. #TROUBIEFORLIFE



# CARON HOUSTON, P '12

## CONCIERGE PHYSICIAN

Dr. Caron Houston is a concierge physician whose practice provides in home care for frail elders in the Sacramento community. She loves being a doctor and caring for people in need. Her career highlights are working for the Indian Health Service, teaming up to open premier senior health clinics in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and directing a community health Center in New York City. Since moving to Sacramento, she has been on staff at Sutter since 2007.

### WHAT LED YOU DOWN YOUR CAREER PATH?

I was inspired to pursue a career in medicine by my uncle, a lawyer, who said “Caron, be a doctor!” In the beginning I was uncertain about this career but I knew that it was competitive and so I was determined not to fail. With such a vague goal, the academic challenges were even more difficult, but by grace it all came together halfway through medical school when I was finally able to get out of the library and care for patients. My uncle gave me very good advice and he is still one of my best fans.

Geriatric medicine was also a serendipitous choice for me. Initially, I was drawn in by a family friendly schedule with regular hours. I never imagined how much joy and fulfillment I would gain by spending my days with the grandparent generation. It is a rewarding and upbeat field in which a doctor can really help improve the quality of life for a very vulnerable population. Work days are about teamwork, details and love!

### WHAT TEACHERS WERE INFLUENTIAL FOR YOU?

In high school, my religion teacher (a Dominican nun) taught me how to know God. My English AP teacher taught me how to work hard and laugh all at the same time. My medical school dean believed in me and saw my potential. Looking back, I wish I had more mentors. It is right that I pay it forward and guide young students on the same path.

### AS THE PARENT OF AN ALUM AND NOW A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, WHAT BROUGHT YOU BACK TO INVOLVEMENT IN THE ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY?

It seems, not long ago, that I was “just a high school student” at a similar Catholic girls school, next I was “just a mom of an SFHS student.” I never would have guessed that I would be here at SFHS. It must be God calling me back to a place that is so important in a young woman’s life. I have learned that faith more than anything or anybody else buoys my life. I have been a hushed and private Catholic woman so now, I must be here to speak my truth and pray out loud with the community.

### WHY WAS IT IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN CAREER DAY THIS YEAR?

I want students to have a real idea of the many careers that are possible. I want to be honest about the exhilarations, victories and the disappointments that will be part of life especially if you are ambitious with big dreams. Bottom line? Go Troubies! Si se puede!

# JASMINE BERNAL '07

## TRUST THE PROCESS AND KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE FUTURE!



“Trust the process” wasn’t just something Jasmine Bernal ’07 experienced on Kairos, it’s been something she’s seen time and again in her own life. And fortunately for today’s Troubies, she joined them for Career Day to share the unfolding of her career journey.

A K-12 Catholic school kid, Jasmine continued her undergraduate education at the University of San Francisco (USF), and later her graduate studies. Like her SFHS education, she fully immersed herself in her undergraduate experience enjoying the many friends she made on campus and sharing everything from meals to workouts to Mass together. Each time she learned she was only one more class away from a minor, she decided to go for it. She graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, with minors in Chemistry and Latin American Studies.

In college, she focused her history and music/art course requirements on Latin American history and culture. With parents both from Latin America—her father was from Peru and her mother from Panama—she was interested in expanding her knowledge and awareness in this area.

“Sometimes we graduate college expecting that we will know what we want to do: get a dream job, make good money, etc. But in reality, it can take years to figure what you want to do and discover new passions that you never thought you had,” Jasmine reflects. “I am a strong believer that things happen for a reason and that God has a plan; we just have to trust the process!”

It was during her sophomore year at St. Francis, in a “normal bio class” with Mrs. Joyce Ownbey, that Jasmine’s passion for bio was uncovered. “I loved her class and actually enjoyed reading the books, studying for tests, and even taking the test,” she recalled. “I remember coming home from that class telling my parents and brothers that I was going to major in Biology.” Jasmine knew intrinsically that she wanted to work in health care, and at that point thought being a doctor or nurse were the only options.

She returned to Sacramento after undergraduate and took a year off to study for the MCAT. During that time, she worked in a tutoring center and enjoyed making money. She then went to work at Sol Aureus College Preparatory, a nonprofit charter school where she got to experience wearing multiple hats. This time away allowed her to realize that she didn’t want four more years of medical school followed by the internship and residency requirements. That process felt too long, would incur too much debt, and the work life balance just wasn’t for her.

Knowing that healthcare was still calling her, she left her jobs and returned to USF where she graduated in 2014 with her Master’s in Public Health. During grad school, she got a contract job at Genentech within the insurance/reimbursement department as a case manager. She provided financial assistance to patients who were receiving monthly eye injections with a drug called Lucentis. She found this experience closer to what she wanted to do but not exactly.

A real turning point in Jasmine’s career was her next position as Clinical Research Coordinator at UCSF. When she applied, there were three departments that needed help: Pediatric Oncology, Genitourinary Oncology and Gynecology Oncology. Although it wouldn’t have been her first choice, getting assigned to gynecology oncology ended up the best decision ever. She worked in a small department with amazing doctors who really valued the opinions of their researchers. There was a lot of “girl power” on the team and every day was a learning day. During her time at UCSF, she handled 10-15 different studies in areas that included ovarian, cervical, uterine, and vaginal cancers. She was even able to observe robotic surgeries, biopsies, and look at CT/MRI scans as the doctors really wanted to show Jasmine what they do and expand her knowledge and experience. She enjoyed the direct patient interaction and described the most rewarding part of this job as being a first-hand witness to drugs that worked on patients who were considering hospice!



Her UCSF experience was closer to what she wanted, but she really wanted to work for “a sponsor” (e.g., pharmaceutical company). That was when she applied for and landed the role of Global Studies Manager at Genentech/Roche. During the interview process, she asked what department she would be working in and learned that there was an opening in Ophthalmology—specifically working on an ocular (eye) implant. The medication used in the ocular implant was the Lucentis drug that she had worked on during her early career at Genentech. It all came full circle! And she couldn’t be happier or more fulfilled.

It’s been four years this summer in her current position, and she’s worked on two different eye studies – patients with Diabetic Macular Edema and Wet Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD), both indications cause vision problems and/or lead to blindness. Susvimo<sup>1</sup>, the ocular implant, was approved for wet AMD in October of 2021 and is the first and only FDA-approved treatment that offers as few as two treatments per year. It is currently only approved in the U.S. for this indication. She hopes that the indication for Susvimo<sup>1</sup> will expand to other indications, in hopes that it can help others with different eye disease.

Jasmine has no intention of leaving Genentech. “The people are great, benefits are superb, the work is meaningful, and the environment is fun,” she muses. What’s more, Genentech Gives Back—in fact, that’s their biggest week each year. All employees get super involved in working at various nonprofits of choice. The week culminates with a surprise concert at Oracle Park where every performer is kept under wraps until just before they go on.

Jasmine reflects on those early years of her career, remembering constantly applying to places and not getting the job she wanted. “It felt sad and depressing,” she shared. “You work so hard in college – think you’ll be wanted by a company/institution and get your dream job.” As she shared with students during Career

Day, it’s harder to launch that first dream job. Her advice: You just have to continue working hard and you’ll get there eventually. A natural optimist, a quote that inspired her was: “With every “No” you get, you’re one step closer to the “Yes” you have always wanted!” When she shares why she came back to participate in Career Day, “I am super grateful for the education and the overall experience I had at SFHS! That’s why I try to participate as much as I can in events that can inspire young women.”

When asked who had the greatest professional impact on her, Jasmine doesn’t hesitate to say it was her parents. “They have been supportive the whole time,” she recalls. Even when she wasn’t doing her ideal work or would come home and be frustrated, they reminded her to keep doing what she was doing and that one day she would get there. Basically, they reminded her to “trust the process.”

Jasmine continues to enjoy living in the Nob Hill area of San Francisco and working remotely. At Genentech, they were able to work remote even before the pandemic. During the pandemic, the company provided desks, monitors, chairs and all the necessities to create a home office. She is engaged to Alex Hernandez who she met six years ago in San Francisco, and they are currently in the midst of planning their big day at the end of the year.

Congratulations Jasmine on keeping your eye on the prize and persevering to make a difference. We wish you and Alex every happiness now and in the future.

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<sup>1</sup> Whooley, Sean. “FDA approves Genentech’s Susvimo drug-eluting eye implant.” *Drug Delivery Business News*, 22 October 2021, <https://www.drugdeliverybusiness.com/fda-approves-genentechs-susvimo-drug-eluting-eye-implant>. Accessed 7 April 2022.

# UPCOMING ALUMNAE EVENTS

**HOMECOMING  
RALLY & RECEPTION  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

The annual Homecoming Rally will be taking place on Friday, September 30. Share in the joy and good memories of Spirit Week and join in on the fun with your Troubie sisters!

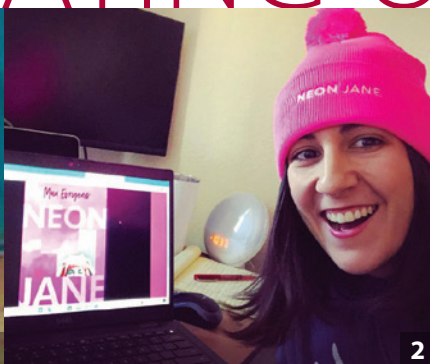
**LEGACY FAMILY  
BREAKFAST  
AUGUST 17, 2022**

The Legacy Family Breakfast is a special gathering for Alumnae who are the mom, aunt, grandmother or sibling of a current student. Join us for a breakfast reception followed by the Welcome Mass.

**CAREER DAY  
MARCH 24, 2023**

Alums, share your knowledge and experience with current Troubies and help them explore a variety of career options.

# CELEBRATING OUR ALUMNAE



## CLASS REUNIONS

As the world continues to open up, alums are busy making up for lost time in planning their reunions.

**Class of 1972: Golden Grads** – May 19, 2022 (Lyndie Kahanek organizer)

**Class of 1997: 25th Reunion** – date being finalized (Jennifer Mello Lovelace and Mary Loewen Reed organizers)

**Class of 1973: 50th Reunion** – June 2, 2023 (Deirdre Bigus and Susan Jacobs Kasamatis organizers)

If your class year ends with a 3 or 8, then it's reunion time in 2023! And if you missed celebrating your reunion during the last two years, we want to help you plan a fun-filled event for your class. To help plan your class reunion, contact:

**MaryAnne Kelly, P'09**  
mkelly@stfrancishs.org  
(916) 737-5033

Or visit  
[www.stfrancishs.org/reunions](http://www.stfrancishs.org/reunions)

SFHS alumna **Molly Riehl '07** recently returned to her hometown of Sacramento, after working in Eugene and Portland, Oregon, to join the team at *Good Day Sacramento*. Her parents still live in the East Sacramento home where she grew up, and her two sisters also live nearby. In December, Molly came back to her old stomping grounds of St. Francis High School to profile UCONN signees and soon-to-be-alums, Grace and Hope Jenkins. She was even brave enough to step into the batter's box and picked up a few pitching tips. Molly recently told *Sacramento Magazine*, "There's nothing like working in TV in your hometown." **1**

2013 SFHS alumna, **Maia Evrigenis'** first novel, *Neon Jane*, is being released in May 2022. You can view the book for purchase on Amazon and Barnes and Noble. After receiving her BS in Applied Psychology from NYU, Maia went on to attain her MFA in Creative Writing from CalArts. These educational experiences led her to completing her novel which is being published by Koehler Books. Maia's flash fiction piece *Sanitize* was selected for the *Best Small Fictions 2021 Anthology* published by Sonder Press. She was selected for the Stories on Stage 2020 writing contest in Sacramento and is featured in *Twenty Twenty: A Stories on Stage Sacramento Anthology*.

Many 2019 SFHS Kairos alums may remember Maia when she returned as an adult leader for K-74. Follow Maia on social media to hear about upcoming release parties in Sacramento ([www.maiaparasevrigenis.com](http://www.maiaparasevrigenis.com) and on Instagram @maiaevrigenis.) **2**

**Nicole Hopkins '18**, a senior majoring in English at Montana State University's College of Letters and Science, received the Jordan Smith Undergraduate Fellowship from the National Resource Center for the First-year Experience and Students in Transition. The award recognizes Hopkins work in MSU's Sophomore Surge program in which peer mentors guide and support incoming freshmen through their first year of college. Nicole attended the center's annual conference Feb. 12-15 in Orlando, Florida, where she was recognized and attended events to advance her skills. **3**

**Julia Zara '21** writes, "My first semester in college was everything I could've dreamed it to be. USC is definitely my place. I've made some really wonderful friends who push me to be myself, and who are just as creative and ambitious as I am, so it's safe to say that God really does have a plan, and I'm grateful that I followed it.

I've gotten heavily involved with the student newsroom, and I serve on the photography desk and the social video desk! My last assignment for the photo desk was to attend an official press conference for the newest head football coach, and I was sitting next to reporters from ESPN and the LA Times!!! For the social video desk, I was chosen to produce videos for the Annenberg Media social media accounts. My last video was the first one on the page to receive 10k views! Also recently, my photo was chosen as the cover photo for a student-run magazine, and I'm set to cover an upcoming NASCAR race. I really don't think any of this would've been possible if it hadn't been for my Historian role on Student Council, as well as all the other extracurriculars I did at SF." **4**

THE ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL  
COMMUNITY MOURNS THE LOSS OF  
THE FOLLOWING ALUMNAE:

- Margaret Cook Leary '49
- Carlene Azevedo '54
- Joanne Porter Garnett '55
- Patricia Callahan Martin '67
- Jennifer Lehner '92
- Raquel Clayton-Gonzales '09

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

*St. Francis of Assisi - Pray for us.*  
*St. Clare of Assisi - Pray for us.*

# *St. Clare* LEGACY SOCIETY

The St. Clare Legacy Society honors donors who have made St. Francis Catholic High School part of their legacy, ensuring that future generations of young women can call St. Francis home and benefit from an exceptional faith-based education program.

We invite you to join the members of the St. Clare Legacy Society by naming St. Francis Catholic High School as a beneficiary in your will and estate plans. Your generosity will make a positive and lasting impact on the future of St. Francis by enabling us to fulfill our mission to educate young women to change the world through faith, excellence, leadership and service.

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## ST. CLARE LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

*The St. Clare Legacy Society recognizes donors who have made St. Francis Catholic High School part of their estate and legacy.*

*Thank you to our inaugural members:*

Marion & Paul Bishop  
Tracy Brazil  
Linda & David Coward  
Kathleen & Jim Deeringer  
Lindsay DeFazio '95  
Katalin Ernest Hart & Alan Hart  
Lisa & James Ferrin  
Dr. Paul J. Fry II  
William Hegg Charitable Annuity  
Monsignor James Kidder  
Jeanne Moore '69  
Ali Morr '89  
Rev. Msgr. Brendan O'Sullivan  
Candice Pederson  
Kathleen Peterson and Family  
Jeanette & Chris Ray  
Loreine & Nicholas Simopoulos  
Anthony Spinetta  
Elaine Sturges '55  
Jaqueline Peterson Ward '73 & Richard Ward

*“Go forth in peace, for you have followed the good road. Go forth without fear, for He who created you has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Blessed be you, my God, for having created me.”*

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI



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You can become a member of the St. Clare Legacy Society by:

- ♦ placing St. Francis Catholic High School in your will
- ♦ making St. Francis Catholic High School the beneficiary of a retirement account
- ♦ making a gift of life insurance policy
- ♦ creating a charitable gift annuity
- ♦ establishing a charitable trust

*Please join the members of the St. Clare Legacy Society in leaving a bequest to St. Francis Catholic High School.*

For more information, contact MaryAnne Kelly at 916.737.5033 or [mkelly@stfrancis.org](mailto:mkelly@stfrancis.org).



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For information about important  
dates and upcoming events,  
please visit our website:  
[www.stfrancishs.org](http://www.stfrancishs.org)

**Parents of Alumnae:**

Please forward this publication and  
notify the Advancement Office of the  
updated address for your daughter.



# Wrapping up a Year & Getting Ready for the Next

**2022 REVELRY: FIRE & ICE**  
May 7, 2022

**SELFe EVENT**  
**FEATURING ADRIENNE BANKERT**  
September 18, 2022

**ALUMNAE HOMECOMING RALLY &  
RECEPTION**  
September 30, 2022

**THANKFUL THURSDAY**  
**ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING**  
November 3, 2022

**CRAB FEED**  
January 28, 2023

**2023 REVELRY**  
April 22, 2023



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