

ALMA MATER

WINTER 2020

Flintridge Preparatory School
flintridgeprep.org/preptalk

PrepTalk



CELEBRATE PETER BACHMANN

SATURDAY
MAY 30, 2020

After 40 years, Headmaster Peter Bachmann is retiring from Flintridge Prep. Generations of families have benefited from his vision, wisdom and warmth.

On May 30, join us to honor Peter's extraordinary legacy of curiosity and community with a grand farewell event.

Gather with friends, faculty and family to celebrate and thank Peter, along with his wife, Molly, for four decades of passionate and selfless commitment to Prep.

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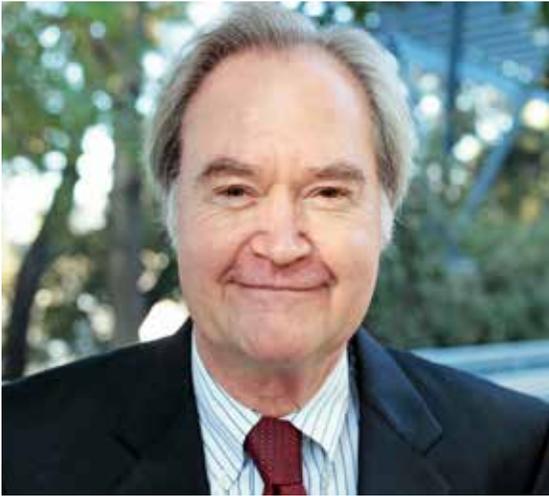
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From the Headmaster



“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.”

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

While sitting in the Birmingham jail, Dr. King penned this communal vision. In detailing his call for universal values that “uplift human personality,” King calls upon Socrates’s “unswerving commitment to truth,” Jefferson’s “majestic words of the Declaration,” Jewish philosopher Martin Buber’s “I—thou relationship” and Christian theologian Paul Tillich’s warning that “sin is separation.” He summons his scholarship in the great conversation of the past to battle segregation, racism and socioeconomic disparity in his own time and create a more universally inclusive future.

At Prep, we identify our communal vision as “Prep for Life.” Prep for Life is embedded in our Mission Statement, which asks us to prepare students not merely for college but for an “engaged, balanced and responsible life.”

On May 24, we will not say a final farewell to the Class of 2020 but launch them through Commencement into the next stage of their journey, with the school as a willing partner whenever it can be. Like Dr. King’s books, we stand ready for action whenever our graduates want to tug on the past to propel them into the future.

Martin Luther King, Jr., in this essay and in his famous “I Have a Dream” speech six months later, offers us the gift of perspective, a balance of past, present and future that unites rather than divides. During times of uncertainty and transition, in a season when we celebrate his birthday, his words seem particularly welcome.

—Peter Bachmann, Headmaster

Alumni, Parents Gather to Honor Peter Bachmann



Over the past few months, Peter Bachmann visited cities across the country ahead of his retirement in June 2020. He reunited with alumni and parents of alumni, from 2019 graduates and their families to those who have known Peter since his very first steps on campus in 1980. In January, the California Club in Los Angeles was filled with warm hugs and conversations with Peter. Peter joined more alumni at events in Culver City, San Francisco, Palo Alto, New York, Washington, DC, San Diego and Orange County.

SEPTEMBER 2019

AUGUST 2019



BACHMANN COLLABORATION BUILDING CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



The Bachmann Collaboration Building has been swiftly taking shape on the north side of campus. Now more than halfway complete, all three floors have been constructed and the roof is being installed as *PrepTalk* goes to press. With an emphasis on STEAM, Global Studies and Leadership, the building will be open for classes this fall.

The Collaboration Building is the last of three capital projects during Phase II of the Enrich, Inspire, Ignite campaign, which ends June 30, 2020.

Last April, we launched the Trustee Challenge for parents, parents of alumni and alumni. Three trustee families—the Gitlins, the Crawfords and the Webster/Kenne family—are matching a total of \$1.5 million in

gifts to the building. To participate in the challenge, make a gift to the Annual Fund, and any additional gift to support the building will be matched. So far, parents of alumni have taken the lead, contributing the greatest dollars that have been matched.

We still have until June 30, 2020, to have your gift matched in the challenge!

If you love Peter Bachmann, there has never been a better time to show it by making a gift in his honor to the Bachmann Collaboration Building. Students for generations will benefit from the learning they will experience in this extraordinary space.

AUGUST 2020

OCTOBER 2019



Latest Look: **DECEMBER 2019**





A CAREER AS EDUCATORS, A LIFETIME AS LEARNERS

Welcoming the Pickett Family

by Nicole Haims Trevor '91

PERHAPS THE BEST WAY to get to know Jim Pickett, who will join the Prep community as Head of School on July 1, 2020, is through an anecdote.

When Jim was earning his master's degree from Towson University in Maryland, he and his wife, Susie, also an educator, moved to Smith Island, in the Chesapeake Bay, for a memorably hot and mosquito-filled summer. Jim was studying human geography—he was interested in understanding how the unique conditions on the island impact its community, economy and social structure. The culture on Smith Island could be slow to warm to outsiders, but the Picketts—who arrived with a canoe to get around the island and an air conditioner to cool off their rented trailer—developed relationships by earning the trust of respected members of the community, attending weekly church services in the three

communities on the island and making themselves useful to everyone they encountered. In short, by participating wholeheartedly and without judgment, they made deep connections and came to understand the culture from the inside out.

For the Pickett family, relationships matter. In fact, Jim began his career in independent schools after almost a decade teaching at the college level because, as he explained, "I just was not getting the human side of the equation, the human relationships."

The Prep Board is impressed by Jim's eight years at Castilleja School in Palo Alto, where he has overseen all aspects of the Upper School's operations, including the hiring and evaluation of faculty, staff and administrators; academic and co-curricular programs; and management of the budget.

Jim has also guided major initiatives, including a redesign of the school's schedule, improvements to Castilleja's counseling and college counseling programs and leadership of a school-wide task force on athletics.

Jim's relationships-first approach is inherently aligned with Prep culture, and he says he has always lived a "naturally interdisciplinary" life. He describes himself as "a geographer by training. I was obsessed with maps and geography when I was a kid. But it wasn't about location; it was about connection. And this is the same way of thinking about a strong liberal arts and sciences curriculum—it's broad based and allows you to go deeper when you have an interest. The generalist approach allows one to see patterns that others might not see."

Jim says he believes that learning widely and deeply is one of the most important goals of an independent school education. Referencing Carol Dweck, the pioneering social psychologist who coined the idea of a "fixed mindset" versus a "growth mindset," Jim notes that "her research challenges the notion that individuals are born smart; instead, she encourages parents to teach children to enjoy challenges and to develop a lifelong appreciation for learning. When students overspecialize by taking advanced classes simply to please an unforgiving college admissions process, the joy of learning can get lost when it's needed most. And, most importantly, students need to have that mental flexibility."

Like her husband, Susie Pickett, an accomplished educator with a thriving tutoring practice, actively nurtures a growth mindset in young people while cultivating a spirit of lifelong learning. "I think that teaching students how to learn is as important as the content that we're focused on in the moment."

This philosophy has been passed down to Anna Pickett, who knows her way around a car engine, is an avid knitter and is taking an array of courses at Mount Holyoke College, where she is a sophomore. Taking classes ranging from Discrete Mathematics to 19th Century Russian Literature, Anna sees no need to specialize before she's ready, though now that she is in college, she does see a connection between her choices and her parents' broad approach to learning. As a writing mentor to "firsties" (first-year students), Anna has found that while focused on their needs as writers, she is open to discussing the bigger questions they have as they transition to college.

Together, the family has traveled extensively, exploring Mexico for months at a time, driving throughout the United Kingdom, as well as visiting the U.S. National Parks. Physi-

cally active, they enjoy long hikes on mountain trails and biking; in addition, Susie is an avid kick boxer and Anna fences at Mount Holyoke. It seems that for this family, the process of doing is also a process of making meaning.

In fact, when they moved to New York, the Picketts settled in by helping Anna realize a lifelong dream of having chickens; together they built a fortress of a chicken coop and raised a small flock. All three agree that home is wherever they're all together.

Home is where they were this December, when they attended Prep's Winter Alumni Day and witnessed firsthand our tribute to retiring Assistant Librarian Reggie Ursettie (see pages 22 and 34-35). Jim, Susie and Anna spent the evening observing the festivities and making new friends with parents, alumni and faculty.

"I think Susie and I both pretty quickly got a sense of the authenticity of Prep," Jim says, "And truly, that's what we saw at the event. It was just a lovely, authentic, warm celebration."

In his September email to the Prep community, Jim noted: "The dual meanings of the motto 'Prep for Life' so perfectly encapsulate our work: both to nurture ethical foundations, emotional maturity and intellectual curiosity among our students to last a lifetime, and to create a community to which we are all forever linked. It is a tremendous honor to lead this critical work."

This is an important transition. I'm going to spend the first year listening deeply and learning the culture and community.

JIM PICKETT, Incoming Head of School

Together the Picketts will dive into the Prep community, living close to campus. Jim looks forward to his first year as Head of School, which will be spent immersing himself in the details of the school and engaging with the community.

"This is an important transition. I'm going to spend the first year listening deeply and learning the culture and community. As difficult as it is to follow someone like Peter Bachmann, I think for us it is about jumping into the ocean with both feet. That means understanding the culture and knowing what the pace of change looks like. We want to embed ourselves in the community so that we feel genuinely connected." ■



DESIGNING for COLLABORATION



AT PREP, faculty and administration hope to lay curricular and extracurricular foundations for students' lives on campus and beyond. This year we have seen a physical manifestation of such foundations rise in front of us each day, as the Bachmann Collaboration Building takes shape at the north end of campus. Just as the concrete floors and steel beams will support hundreds of students in their learning next fall, so too do we aim to continue building and maintaining an intellectual and conceptual framework for deep understanding that faculty can pass on to students.

To help themselves and their students grow, faculty take advantage of generous professional growth funding each year, leading to new understandings of disciplines and pedagogies. On campus, faculty growth happens through informal conversations in the faculty room, visits to each other's classrooms and presentations by colleagues, all nurtured and sustained by curiosity and connection.

A spirit of collaboration exists within our faculty, whether teachers are teaming up for a class, reaching out to their colleagues for advice or seeing the world through their students' eyes. Faculty have organized journeys that span Los Angeles and the globe and put their unique spin on the One Book, One School concept. You can read about some of their thought-provoking innovations in the following pages.

As you'll see throughout these articles, the concept of the classroom takes on many forms. Learning happens everywhere and anywhere. We anticipate that the Bachmann Collaboration Building, which will open in fall 2020, will enhance Prep's culture of deep collegiality for faculty and students, encourage cross-pollination among disciplines and provide space for all students in all grades to encounter and embrace new and challenging ideas.

Sarah Cooper

Dean of Studies, History teacher

*Beginning 2020-2021:
Assistant Head for Academic Life*

Vanessa Walker-Oakes

Dean of Faculty, History teacher

*Beginning 2020-2021:
Assistant Head for Student Life*

◀ *Eighth, 9th and 10th grade students from Geometry and Painting and Drawing classes wrote code and programmed the laser cutter to create centroid triangle mobiles that represent all that they balance in their lives.*

Professional Growth Enriches Campus Culture

WHEN A FACULTY member writes a paper, participates in a conference, does outside research or takes a class, this work benefits the entire Prep community. Professional growth opportunities don't just keep individual teachers engaged with and connected to their fields; sharing experiences back on campus encourages faculty to connect across disciplines. Being a student for life is good for everyone.

Eleventh Grade Dean and Spanish teacher Katie Canton feels "energized and fulfilled" by the seminar she's currently taking on school leadership. It includes networking, outside coaching calls and workshops on clarifying values. "When I seriously needed it, professional growth has helped me face change and transition, and also reminds me that we *do* live out our mission at Prep."

Lately, programs that remind teachers to see students holistically, beyond the classrooms, are in demand. Dovetailing with initiatives on campus that encourage STEAM, Global Studies and Leadership, professional growth experiences spark conversations and cross-curricular innovations.

The school provides money through special funds earmarked for professional development so that faculty can perfect a skill, pursue an interest or present at a professional conference. Faculty apply for the grants each year and can access an amount up to \$5,000 every five years.



Reid Fritz advises 7th graders in Algorithmic Thinking as they create a robotic arm to demonstrate how an elbow joint works.

Since the start of 2019, at least 25 of our 70 faculty members have attended workshops, summits and conferences, and taken online and in-person courses in subjects as diverse as Chinese and ceramics. Faculty have explored topics like equity and inclusion, "educating anxious brains" and gender and sexual identity.

Becoming a student again allows teachers to evolve how they connect with their students. History teacher Abel Fuentes saw this firsthand at the 2019 Exeter Humanities Institute—West, a five-day working conference that explores the student-centered,

discussion-based seminar style called the Harkness method.

"The conference was structured so that each participant was given the opportunity to assume the role of a student and that of the instructor/facilitator. I found the opportunity to engage as a 'student' particularly insightful, as it made me keenly aware of the challenges a student might [have] when it comes to participating in discussion," says Fuentes, who has implemented one Harkness seminar a week this past semester. He says it empowers his students

to “make meaning of new information together. They learn to become receptive to other ideas and perspectives and empathize with their fellow classmates.”

Listening and empathy are essential themes at conferences faculty have recently attended, especially ones where faculty across departments team up to learn more about a topic or issue. Math teacher Madeline Martin and biology teacher Michelle Gee attended the 2019 NAIS People of Color Conference together and participated in sessions about equitable grading and racism in STEM curricula.

“A lot of the talks I went to focused on my experiences as a person of color, especially as an Asian American. I also went to workshops that talked about equity and diversity work in science classrooms. It feels natural to incorporate into history and literature, but it’s less obvious in STEM, so I got a lot of ideas, inspiration and jumping-off points to think about,” says Gee, who recently presented what she learned to the Science Department.

Echoing Gee’s experience, Martin says the conference got her thinking more broadly about issues and concepts she hadn’t considered before. “There were just so many ideas to process and think about and consider. Since we’ve been back, we’re still debriefing,” Martin says, adding that she and Gee hope to attend again with students and more faculty.

A new program, the Curriculum Innovation Grant, was inaugurated in 2019 by Prep and is supported by the E.E. Ford Foundation. Faculty who require intensive time in summer to prepare new units for the coming school year are encouraged to apply for grant funds. Last summer, the grant helped support Prep’s STEAM Initiative. Science teacher Eric Kleinsasser did local on-the-ground research, preparing field trips for his Environmental Science class, while physics teacher Reid Fritz created new units for the 7th grade Algorithmic Thinking class.

“Often, when you choose a professional growth course, the content is very targeted. These funds provide financial and philosophical freedom,”

Fritz explains. “Last summer, I did for this class what I ask my students to do: to think about something, carry it to its logical conclusion, then back-track to see what improvements I could make.” He ran ideas past STEAM Coordinator Dr. Shane Frewen, Science Department Chair Laura Kaufmann and Dean of Studies Sarah Cooper; Kaufmann and Frewen gave Fritz practical tips and directed his thoughts toward the overall science and STEAM curricula, while Cooper advised him about trends in education, how to incorporate social-emotional learning in his teaching, and Prep’s curricular philosophy overall.

The Curriculum Innovation Grant provided Fritz time to think, and he appreciates it. “It’s Prep saying, ‘We want to see what you are coming up with.’ Professional growth funds, and especially this grant, are yet another way Prep supports us faculty. They want to see us succeed and do the best we can.” ■



“Professional growth
... reminds me that
we *do* live out our
mission at Prep.”

Katie Canton
11th Grade Dean
and Spanish teacher

Expanding the Classroom Experience Across Borders and Oceans

STUDENTS AND FACULTY traveling the globe together is not necessarily a new phenomenon. In 2010, Spanish teacher Manuel Nuñez started taking students and teachers to Nicaragua in what began as a cultural exchange but evolved into an expanded initiative that provided support to a sister school in Managua and advocacy for a pediatric cancer hospital called La Mascota.

Travel transforms how students, and all people, understand community, which is why the immersive experiences of travel within and outside the United States have become as essential to Prep's Global Studies program as its interdisciplinary curriculum.

"Over the last few years, in particular, and over the last decade, we've started to see the importance of bringing global awareness into our curriculum and to try and encourage our students to think about being global citizens," says Ingrid Herskind, Prep's Global Studies Coordinator.

A result of a detailed planning process in forming the program is that Prep's global experiences are called projects, not trips. The projects promote engaged learning, active curiosity and opportunities to build connections across borders and oceans. The inaugural projects each had a specific focus curated by the faculty leaders and Herskind to complement and enhance curriculum, yet students were free to approach their travels with their own diverse viewpoints and goals.

"Over the last few years...we've encouraged our students [to be] global citizens."

Ingrid Herskind
Global Studies Coordinator

- A science trip to Arizona last spring let students become biodiversity researchers for a week (read more in the Summer 2019 issue of *PrepTalk*).
- Student artists, art teachers Ricardo Rodriguez and Melissa Manfull and Spanish teachers Fabian Bejarano and Nuñez explored the connections between artistic and political expression in Cuba, visiting artists' homes and local galleries.
- Eighteen students and three faculty, including Herskind, physics teacher Reid Fritz and English teacher CI Shelton, traveled across China. Students learned about Chinese development and identity, sharing their impressions in daily discussions and blog posts.
- French teacher Dr. Lauren Van Arsdall and French and Latin teacher Toby Wagstaff led students through French cultural and language immersion across Paris, the Loire Valley and Normandy.

With a dedicated home for the Global Studies Initiative in the Bachmann Collaboration Building coming this fall, Herskind notes that the space will act as an idea incubator, encouraging more curricular innovation across campus, as well as fueling more global projects.

This summer, a new batch of students and faculty will have the opportunity to explore ideas, issues, policies and cultures in various locales. This June, small groups will learn about history and migration in Italy, Slovenia and Croatia; biodiversity and changing ecosystems in the Andorran Pyrenees; Chinese identity and US-China relations in rural Western China; creating art within the Cuban political and social climate in Havana; and service and sustainability in Mexico City.

The inaugural global travel projects have reverberated throughout campus this past school year. Student reflections about their experiences after returning to campus are as diverse as the students who went on these excursions.

Visit flintridgeprep.org/preptalk to read additional student and faculty reflections on their travel experiences. Check out our Instagram and Facebook to see a clip of Jahselyn Medina's dance video, inspired by Cuban culture and filmed at the Bachmann Collaboration Building construction site.

CUBA



"Art is everywhere in Cuba. I got to realize how important art is to their culture. I wanted to create a dance [for Prep's Cuba Art exhibit in November 2019] inspired by Cuban music. I wanted to embody my experience in Cuba and what I learned, and... incorporate my Latin roots and my own style into the dance. [This past fall,] we recorded a video at the [Bachmann Collaboration Building] construction site because we wanted it to be in an industrial setting. In Cuba, people are refrained from doing certain things because the government regulates them on a daily basis. They have to go out of their way to host private exhibits and shows, so I wanted to show that...you don't need to have a studio to dance in, as long as you have the passion and drive."

JAHSELYN MEDINA '21

"I've always wanted to go to China because I thought it would be interesting to visit the country of my ancestors and to see what China was like for myself. Due to the animosities between Taiwan and China, I felt like I was only seeing one perspective when my family members told me about their travels. ...I noticed that there was a great disparity with the aggressive calls from the Chinese government to *tong yi Taiwan* ("unite Taiwan back into the mainland") and the hospitable interactions I had during my trip. It is unreasonable to judge the character of the people of a country based on the actions of its government."

LEON KUO '21

CHINA



FRANCE



"It was my first trip out of the country, so it was an exciting experience for me.... I saw this as more a cultural and history trip. Normandy was unique for me, because my grandfather was actually a part of the D-Day landing forces, so my parents wanted me to especially take in the beaches from WWII and WWII history."

SAM WALTON '20

Visual, Performing Arts Teachers Turn Los Angeles into Their Studio



Dancers and ceramicists at Prep have watched performances, taken master classes and visited artists' studios, under the guidance of their teachers.

“I really wanted to give students the experience of seeing an artist in their element.”

Biliana Popova
Ceramics teacher

LEARNING SOMETHING NEW can happen anytime and in any location. That is part of the ethos guiding faculty who take their students out into the community to reimagine the classroom and discover new ways to infuse their curriculum with real-world knowledge. For our performing and visual arts community, it's learning about dance, theater, painting and ceramics within the vast artscape of Los Angeles.

For the past eight years, Performing Arts Chair and dance teacher Molly Mattei has been taking her dance students to see performances and partake in master classes.

“I love observing my students in these new settings. I can see what teaching styles and approaches are effective that I may not have thought of, or ways in which another teacher or performer can engage with them and analyze a technique that is

working,” Mattei explains, sharing that she also becomes the student herself on these excursions. “I’m constantly looking for new ways to teach material, technique and skills. It is just as much of a learning experience for me as it is for the students. Just getting out of the classroom is stimulating and helpful in boosting my creative juices when it comes to creating themes and choreography for our programs here at Prep.”

Mattei has taken her students to see the nationally acclaimed Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and local companies like Diavolo. “The idea of getting out of the classroom and out into the greater community, I think, is crucial for not just students in the arts but in general,” shares Mattei. “It is easy to become comfortable and feel safe within the confines of the school. Being able to steer the students briefly into the unknown is so



valuable and rewarding. The reacting and problem solving done in those moments is so helpful in preparing them for real world situations they will most likely experience after they leave the [Prep] setting.”

She notes that more Performing Arts faculty are doing the same, inviting guest artists to their classes or attending performances at LA theater venues.

The Visual Arts Department is also keen on showing what is possible in art for their students by bringing artists onto Prep’s campus and taking students out into the city. Ceramics teacher Biliana Popova has invited guest lecturers to her classes before, but when seniors in her fall Advanced Ceramics course wanted to learn more about ceramic lamps—something Popova wasn’t an expert on—she decided to tap into her network.

She reached out to artist Beth Katz, the owner of Mt. Washington

Pottery who creates a collection of functional and decorative ceramics, to see if she would guide students through the process of making lamps. Katz warmly agreed, and students spent time learning about Katz’s creative process, touring her workspace and discovering how to turn their craft into a career.

“I really wanted to give them the experience of going out and seeing an artist in their element, in their environment,” Popova says. Being able to sit in an artist’s studio and see “the way they organize things and a larger body of work...was really fascinating for them.”

It also allowed Popova to learn something new—a fact that she acknowledges is part of developing one’s craft. Popova knows this well, having taken part in professional development opportunities, attend-

ing a summer 2019 sculpture course at Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Colorado.

While creativity thrives within Prep’s campus, exposing students to art that’s happening in their own backyard of LA is revitalizing both the students’ and the teachers’ craft.

“After any field trip or guest artist interaction, I usually have the students write a reflection on their experience. I have them tell me how they felt before seeing the performance or taking the class, and then what they learned about themselves through the process,” Mattei says. “They always come away from the experience having learned something about themselves: that they are able to pick up movement faster than they thought, that they really enjoyed a new style, and that it brought out a side of them they didn’t know they had. They walk away feeling empowered and inspired, which is what I hope for.” ■

PrepReads Project Spurs Collective Conversations

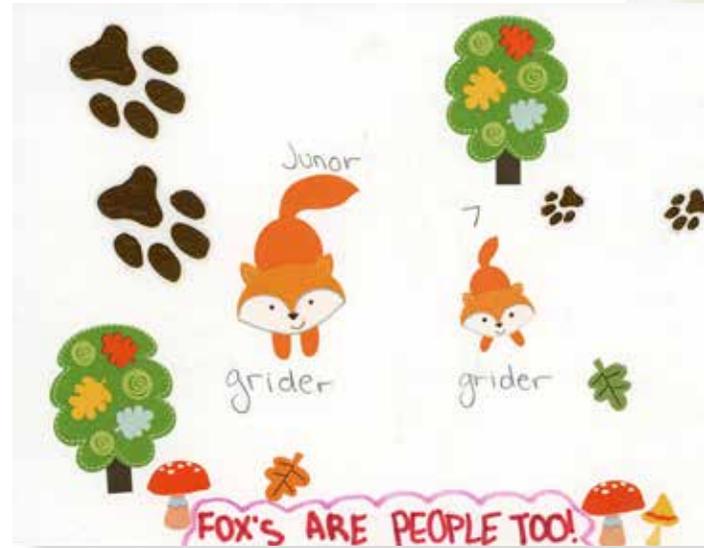
WHEN PREP'S ENGLISH DEPARTMENT decided to launch a One Book, One School project last fall called PrepReads, they did so with the intention of bringing together different members of our community. "We love how this PrepReads project gave us the opportunity to cross grade levels and departments," shares Dr. Tyke O'Brien, English Department Chair. "It was really great to see the campus come together around conversations—students across grades and sections, parents, faculty and staff."

All Prep students read George Saunders' *Fox 8* over the summer break. Written from the perspective of a fox who learns to speak "yuman," the book touches on themes of sustainability, environmental responsibility, language and more. Faculty, staff and parents were also invited to read the very short illustrated hardcover. English teachers incorporated the book into their fall curricula and some faculty in other departments integrated the book's themes into their lesson plans.

Megan Burton and Patrick Ferry combined Burton's 10th grade English class and Ferry's City in Literature 12th grade students for a discussion that focused on gentrification, colonization and the food chain. Jodie Hare and O'Brien prompted their students to write letters in the voice of Fox 8 or in response to Fox 8. The 8th grade students in Erin Peterson's theater class wrote *Fox 8*-inspired theatrical monologues.

"Younger kids love hearing from the older kids and feeling seen."

Dr. Genevieve Morgan
English teacher



Dear Yung Fox,
I hop yur first dazs at Prep Den hav been nise. Enjvy yur Middle shool daz, they ar very nise and quite eazy. Sum basic help 4 ya, dont go on the big grass place wit chairs, the big foxes will get mad. Play sportz, they ar gud fun in middle shool, and hi shool is more inknts. Writing from tiv yencz of experiance, this shool is prety cool. Go to gams and dancez, go out wit tweinds and eat the fud here, its very gud. I recumennd the turkie sandwich, never fails. Hav fun at yur new shool, yv will make lotz of memorys. stay in shool!
-Fox 10

PLACE STAMP HERE
Luna Remulla
Elintridge Den Shool

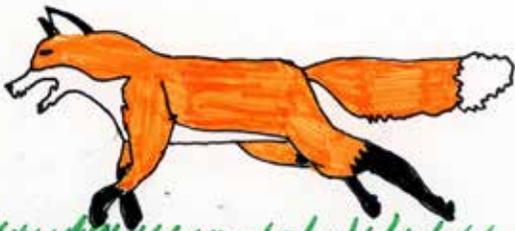
Do's:

- Eat as much tree cheeze macaronias possible
- Avoid the Wolf Den + Field (seniority)
- Respek upper clasman, you will be one soon
- Have much fun! (college is coming)

Don'ts:

- Be obnackshius
- Do Farfnite Dance
- **VERY IMPORTANT!**
Do not report cuting in food court to Yumans

Flintridge Den



everyone kavs a gud chicken

life can be gud... especially de chicken.

chicken wing

bush

thank you

Dr. Genevieve Morgan came up with the idea of cross-grade pen pals, having her 11th graders write postcards in the voice of Fox 8 to incoming 7th graders in Celeste McMillin's class, offering advice on Prep life and words of encouragement as new students began their first semester (see photos of some postcard examples, left). Morgan also collaborated with Burton—Burton's 8th graders exchanged postcards with 9th grade English students.

"Since I teach 9th and 11th grade, I know younger kids love hearing from the older kids and feeling seen. So many of the 9th graders were new to Prep this year, so it was a good way to meet older students, and it was a chance for me to collaborate with other English teachers," Morgan says.

"The 7th graders were excited and surprised to be acknowledged by the 11th graders. They were enthusiastic about receiving advice about Prep in such a creative, humorous and playful way, including tips for what to order at lunch and words of caution to stay clear of the Senior Patio," shares McMillin. "Both grade levels successfully emulated the voice of Fox 8, and many students were able to weave relevant themes and other elements of the plot into their postcards."

These connections that students made with each other, through a book, showed up in club events, activities at Morning Meeting, discussions in science, performing arts or math classes and casual conversations between a 12th grader and an 8th grader.

"PrepReads really speaks to our sense of community and feels like a lively addition to the ways we bring everyone together to kick off each school year with open arms," says O'Brien. "We also feel excited by how it not only runs connective threads across departments, grade levels and various Prep groups, it also bridges the gap between curriculum and—dare we say—having a great time." ■

Alumni Profiles

LESLIE ITO '92 The Power of Art



Leslie Ito '92 has dedicated her life to the arts as an agent for social change.

In middle school, she had a profound awakening to the power of art. Her Japanese American grandparents were interned during World War II and never spoke about their experiences. "Our history was buried," explains Ito. "The silence affected them, and our whole family." Then, her grandparents

took Ito and her sister (Noelle '98) to a film screening about the internment camps in the United States, allowing them to experience, understand and question what their grandparents had endured—and that set Ito on her path.

At Prep, Ito loved taking all kinds of art classes with teacher Barbara Cutler, but knew that the life of a studio artist was not for her. She went to Mount Holyoke College, where she majored in American studies. Even as a student, Ito began to address the marginalization of groups by museums and galleries, "providing a space or platform for those whose experiences had been left out," she says.

Ito's first stint as an executive director was with Visual Communications, the nation's first Asian American media arts organization, where she founded two filmmaking programs—one for older adults and one for emerging artists. After working with the California Community Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the LA County Arts Commission, she moved to the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC). While there, she was awarded a Stanton Fellowship, and continued to showcase untold stories.

Under Ito's direction, the JACCC, along with other community-based organizations, advocated for the preservation of Little Tokyo as a thriving community and a cultural landmark. "We used arts to build bridges," she says.

In 2018, Ito became the Executive Director of the Armory Arts Center in Pasadena. Her aim is to expand the reach and power of the arts, and by extension, enrich and empower the community. Ito cites the Armory's 30-year program that takes 4th graders into nature to learn about science through art projects as an early STEAM program, and its Artful Solutions program that serves the homeless population, as sustainable game changers.

"The arts are a tool for teaching and learning, addressing inequities and opening minds," says Ito. "Using the arts to help solve, or be part of the solution for, some of the critical issues facing our communities today is my mission."

BEN NAECKER '05 Thinking about Thinking



Ben Naecker '05 entered the University of Pennsylvania as an undergrad fascinated by philosophy: "I wanted to study 'thinking,' very broadly construed. How does it work? Where does it come from? How can we understand it?" Courses in philosophy of mind, cognitive science, psychology and linguistics led him to computer science, mathematics and logic. He took biology and neuroscience classes, trying to answer the question "Where does thought come from?" Heady stuff (pun intended).

But Naecker was equally captivated by music—so much so that he and his college bandmates moved to Austin, intent on music careers. Their band, Very Bad Wizard, had some success with its first album, *Speak Up*, but Naecker says he missed the intellectual stimulation of college. A job as a research assistant at UT Austin studying visual performance in humans led him to a PhD program at Stanford.

Naecker began investigating the retina. As he devised experiments to test how the retina assembles and transmits images, his interest in the study of information processing was piqued. Using his curiosity and largely self-taught computer skills, he created software that could both process data that was coming out of the lab, respond and then run basic steps in the experiments. "Computers are incredibly powerful," he says. "Understanding how they work gave me insight into how our much more powerful and complex brains function." Now he works at a health tech company, Q Bio, which aims to give people a detailed snapshot of their health.

Naecker says, "I have always been a 'dabbler,' in that I enjoy learning about many things in many different areas. My underlying motivation, if there is one, has mostly been to help people and to learn as much as I can about as many things as I can. That skill was always appreciated and celebrated at Prep, by Peter Bachmann most of all."

Seemingly disparate ideas crop up over and over in his life, Naecker says. "The study of philosophy helps me think clearly about my current projects at work. Ideas I encountered designing neuroscience experiments have been crucial to my technical success at Q. And, of course, the value of clear writing and speaking, much of which I learned at Prep, has proven itself countless times." Thinking about thinking, ultimately, is thinking about making connections, whether it's philosophy, physiology—or both.

BIJAN KARIMI '90

Learning from Struggle



Bijan Karimi '90 is a tinkerer, a communicator, a problem-solver. After a 10-year career in financial services, he transitioned to emergency management and is now the Acting Deputy Director of Emergency Services for the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management. This big career change was made possible in part by the intellectual encouragement he experienced at Prep.

"What ties my life together is lifelong learning," Karimi says. "I wasn't the best student at Prep—my sister Shirin '92 was far better—but I've learned there's nothing wrong with struggling. You need to develop skills to deal with setbacks. An easy path isn't always the best path."

Karimi learns from engagement. He credits his grandfather and his father, who came from Iran with "nothing but creativity," with igniting a hands-on approach to a life of learning by doing. He used the data organizational skills learned as a biology and environmental science major to create his first career in finance. Today, he uses skills developed in finance to bring order to government emergency services offices.

At work, Karimi and his team spend their days thinking about what could go wrong in a big city and how to manage the consequences when they do. "Every emergency response situation will be different, and I rely on creative people who can figure out solutions in real time," he says.

Karimi says Prep taught him to value both hard work and making connections. Critical thinking, which he first encountered in Gary Garfield's Utopian Literature class, and logic, from Vatche Hagopian's geometry class, are skills he uses every day as he creates systems that will keep a fragmented city safe in any emergency.

His enthusiasm for growth and development is contagious. While holding down a full-time job that would consume most people with worry, Karimi is working toward a doctorate at USC (he holds two master's degrees as well). For fun, he tinkers with a home 3D printer. He created and hosts a podcast called *The Reflecting Pool*, engaging graduates from his second master's program at the Naval Postgraduate School on topics from fake news to drone security. He also designs and creates equipment for his Search and Rescue team. "You learn a lot from struggle—how to deal with failure, how to move forward, how to be proud of your accomplishments and how to be humble. I guess that sounds a lot like my time at Prep," he says.

DEANNA WATSON NOBLE '10

Product, People and Process



Making toys all day sounds like a dream job. For Deanna Watson Noble '10, who has worked for Mattel since graduating from college, it is.

As a Key Lead Development Program Management Associate, Noble manages segments of the product development team that creates Hot Wheels, Matchbox cars and Disney/Pixar Cars vehicles. She's involved in

everything in the years-long development of the toys, from design to engineering, costing, planning and manufacturing; she also interfaces with the packaging and marketing teams.

"My job changes hourly," she explains. "Anything that touches the product, I help to oversee." She also uses her people skills constantly, employing "an open-cubicle policy," she laughs. "I learned about management, formally, at Pepperdine (she earned an MBA in leadership and organizational change while working full time at Mattel). I also learned a lot from sports—I reference basketball all the time."

Noble grew up playing basketball, beginning as a pint-sized elementary school guard, growing into a standout varsity player at Prep, and continuing in college. She played every team position and was a co-captain, coach and referee.

She strives to be that well rounded at work. "In my current position, I'm like a development head coach," Noble says. "I'm orchestrating the process, leading it, providing oversight, interfacing and being the bridge with other departments."

At Prep, as college approached, Noble wanted a job "where I thought up cool ideas." Her mom suggested looking into engineering, and Noble found a phrase that struck her: "Engineers turn dreams into reality." That phrase kept her motivated at Loyola Marymount University, where she found she was a "process person" who loved the design process and studying systems.

A summer internship on the Hot Wheels team at Mattel, which came through a program called Inroads that matches college students with paid internships, put her on the fast track to her current career.

Noble is a rarity—a young black woman in engineering management. But she says, "I've always been the oddball—I was the only black female in my mechanical engineering graduating class, I was one of few black students at Prep—but I don't feel uncomfortable. We have a lot of women at Mattel in management, not necessarily in engineering, and not necessarily in cars! But women are represented!" By committing to a deep understanding of product, people and process, she's on the road to making a difference, one miniature vehicle at a time.

Take Note

New Roles, New Faces



Sean Beattie



Julie Mejia



Rob Lewis



Molly Mattei



Dr. Shane Frewen

Current Faculty Assume New Titles

New assignments for longtime teachers in the 2019-2020 academic year include **Sean Beattie**, serving as Athletic Director, while **Julie Mejia** takes over as the new PE Department Chair. Beattie says he really enjoys the behind-the-scenes look at the Athletics Department. "I still love and have always loved the interaction with the kids on campus; this job allows me to see more students play more, which is great," Beattie says. Mejia notes that her days are busier than before, but "getting to teach and play with our students is always the highlight." In between emails and meetings, she enjoys working with faculty members, new and old. "Everyone is working hard, remaining flexible, adapting and leaning on each other, and it has been a positive, successful transition!" she says.

Rob Lewis is now Executive Artistic Director with dance teacher **Molly Mattei** moving to Chair of the Performing Arts Department. Mattei enjoys interacting with other Performing Arts faculty and students. "I am able to see how change and innovation can occur from the inside out, beginning with ideas coming from students and teachers, which I pass on to

the administration." Lewis, who continues to teach drama, is now responsible for after-school logistics to help everyone use auditoriums and rehearsal spaces effectively. He'll also head up two new programs, Prep Radio (catch them at www.prepradio.net) and the Prep Arts Community, which draws students from across the visual and performing arts to work together on projects, both on campus and in the community.

Anticipating the new Bachmann Collaboration Building is new STEAM Coordinator **Dr. Shane Frewen**. Working across all departments and all grade levels to facilitate interdisciplinary projects is, he says, "a joy." He loves bringing people together in fun and inventive ways, like helping 8th grade English students create laser-cut puzzles or connecting painting and geometry classes.

"Having an all-campus makerspace in the new building will introduce so many students to what is possible—sewing, programming, robotics, 3D printing, woodworking and so much more. I'm looking forward to having a display of student projects—nothing is more motivating than seeing something awesome that your friend made in the very same room!"

Welcome New Faculty and Staff

This fall, Prep welcomed new staff and faculty who bring diverse backgrounds and interests to campus.

Ramses Barden '04 joined the faculty full time to teach PE. He is the new head coach for varsity basketball and assists with coaching middle and high school sports, including football. A former NFL player for the NY Giants who lives by the Zulu mantra "I am because we are," Barden holds a BS in business administration from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He says that this year, "I'm looking forward to learning from the legends."

Systems administrator **Liam Carrillo** has been working with Prep's computers and technology since the summer of 2019.

Lydia Margitza now runs the Attendance Office. A singer and actor, she is a member of the Harry Potter Frog Choir at Universal Studios and sings 1940s tunes with the Beverly Belles. She's looking forward to getting to know more of "this incredibly gifted student body," some of whom she met before she started working on campus through her husband, Prep's Instrumental Music Director Dr. Ross Margitza.

Alisha Mullaly teaches dance and is the coach of the dance team. She earned her BA in communication studies and dance at California State University, Long Beach. A lover of R&B music, *The Office* and Halloween (the holiday, not the movie), she's enjoying being "in the mix" of faculty and students on campus.

Erin Peterson '09 holds a BA in performing arts with a minor in creative writing from Clemson University and studied Shakespeare at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. A newlywed who enjoys entertaining, cooking and rooting for the SF Giants and the Clemson Tigers, she teaches drama and has several roles in student life.

Natalie Rajmaira joined Flintridge Prep from the Kinkaid School in Houston, TX. She enjoys Prep's small class sizes, and the challenge of finding activities that are engaging for everyone while encouraging lifelong physical fitness. With "baby Raj" born December 26, she had a fast start at Prep before taking maternity leave; besides teaching PE, she coaches MS softball and track and the freshman/sophomore women's volleyball team.

Camila Ryder became Assistant Director of Communications in May 2019. A graduate of Swarthmore College, she comes to Prep with a master's degree in English and American literature from



Prep welcomed new faculty members this fall, including two alumni: Alisha Mullaly, Erin Peterson '09, Ramses Barden '04 and Natalie Rajmaira.

NYU. She's enjoying learning all about Prep, sitting in on classes and attending events. "My favorite place on campus is the Atrium because I love seeing the students' art on display," Ryder says.

Erica Sprague works in the Finance Office. Formerly a contract attorney, she

is also a freelancer for TASCHEN publishing. She loves living in LA for its diversity, and takes advantage of great food, museums and shows when she can. Her favorite time of day is evening, "especially after my kids have gone to bed."

Dr. Jay Wagener Advises Parents to Keep Calm and Transition On

Dr. Jay Wagener, a licensed clinical psychologist in practice for more than 35 years in Pasadena, was the opening speaker at the Prep Community Speaker Series in October 2019. His topic was a parent-focused approach to letting go when kids "set sail" for college.

Wagener recommended preparing for the college transition well in advance, acknowledging the changes ahead and being realistic. While the process can be difficult, the result is an incredibly empowering experience for both parents and their children. With proper encouragement and reinforcement, students emerge from the senior year more confident and independent.

"From the moment you taught them to walk, you taught them to walk away from you," Wagener said.

"You're teaching them to find their self-identity and giving them the confidence to realize who they are."

Wagener offered advice to parents on navigating this change and encouraged them to find new interests early; find relief in reduced stress; and recognize their children as burgeoning adults.

The Prep Community Speaker Series, sponsored by the Parents Association and the Fathers Club, aims to bring topics of interest to the Prep community. Catherine Price, author of *How to Break Up with Your Phone*, spoke on February 20, and Dr. Wendy Mogel will visit on April 7. Stay tuned for more details about the April event.

Saying Farewell to Reggie Ursettie

Reggie Ursettie, whose huge smile and huge heart have warmed the Prep Library since 1996, will retire at the close of the 2019-2020 academic year.

The Assistant Librarian started in 1996, a year before her best friend, former Head Librarian Sue Hodge. Ursettie was not formally trained to be a librarian, yet Peter Bachmann hired her. "I explained that we were first and foremost a people place, and that her contribution was going to be that very warm, human touch," says Bachmann. "She has been that constant for decades of students, who know that if they simply need a safe adult to be with Reggie's always going to be there for them."

Over the years, Ursettie has offered a sympathetic ear to countless students. She's even let some nap under her desk. "I promised Peter that he would never regret hiring me," says Ursettie. "I am here because I have such a heart for the teen years. They can be fun, but also full of angst. I provide a soft place for students to fall."

In every iteration of "their" Prep library—from the Jorgensen Library in the 1990s to a temporary trailer to

the two-story Chandramohan Library that opened 12 years ago, Ursettie and Hodge strove to create both a community center and a library. That philosophy still holds true, according to Head Librarian Meryl Eldridge, who joined the staff in 2007.

"It was the mission of Prep's library, and the atmosphere, that drew me here," Eldridge says. "I wanted to work with Reggie. She believes the best of everyone, and that everyone is capable of doing their best—it shows, you feel it through every word and gesture, through her compassion and her experience."

Ursettie says the secret is that the library "combines the bookish nature of Prep with human development. Prep is rigorous, and students expect a lot from themselves. In the library, we create a warm, inviting place. It's not a 'shushing' library—it's a gathering place."

Ursettie's deep involvement with Prep has gone well beyond her position. She was the Leo Club adviser for 17 years, helping students create the Club 21 Walkathon, which raised about \$30,000 each year. She was a Republican

Club advisor, bringing speakers to campus and overseeing a Class of 2003 Presidential debate.

Along with then-senior Kate Tucci '07, Ursettie created Mr. Flintridge Prep. Since its inception, she has persuaded senior boys to spoof a beauty pageant in the name of charity. Similarly, the Junior Parent Dinner, which she has run for the last decade, intertwines laughter and purpose.

Ursettie not only bonds with students, she bonds with teachers, hosting post-faculty-meeting happy hours in the library, as well as showers and book clubs at her home in Arcadia. English teacher and 8th Grade Dean Megan Burton calls Ursettie, "the most welcoming, loving mama bird on campus. To know her is to love her. Students and faculty are always draped across the library desk talking and laughing with her."

It's the humor and laughter, the idea of "kids first, then work," that defines Ursettie. The constant interruptions at her desk run the gamut from "I don't feel well" to "Will you help me with my Prom ask?" Ursettie embraces it all, and says of her unexpected 24-year career: "There are three things that define me, all starting with F: faith, family and Flintridge Prep.... Prep became a part of me—the best part."

Students, faculty and alumni reciprocate those feelings. Kirstie Jeffries '07 says, "Ursie, as we affectionately call her, is a big reason I'm the person I am today. She taught me to love myself and embrace the things that make me different. I—and countless other members of the Prep community—have been truly lucky to know her."

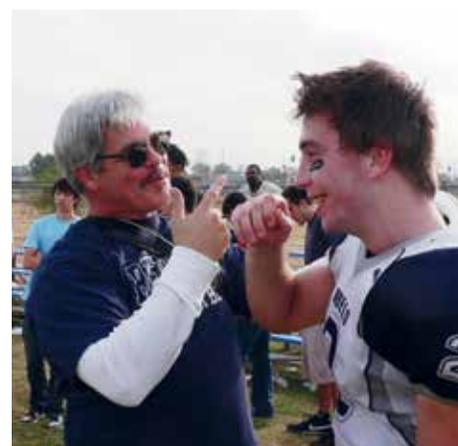
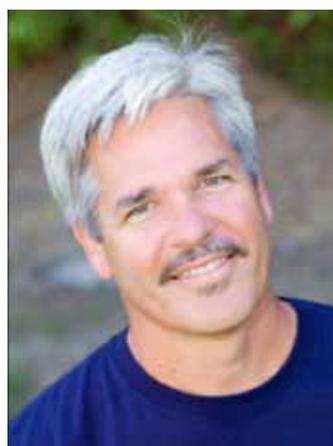
At Winter Alumni Day, Bachmann, faculty, staff, her family, alumni and friends celebrated Ursettie, including a special tribute from her friend and former colleague John Ruch, as well as a touching video and slideshow that spanned her 24 years at Prep.

With Ursettie's energy level, retirement is going to be as active as her life at Prep. She and her husband of 48 years, Howard, plan to travel the world and visit family, which includes four children and 12 grandkids.



Surrounded by family, friends and alumni, Reggie Ursettie was celebrated at Winter Alumni Day.

The Spirit of Homecoming: Remembering Tom Fry



Coach Tom Fry, pictured left with the 2003 football CIF champions and right with a player, embodied the spirit of Homecoming and Prep. Above, the 2019 Spirit Court.

Ten years ago this Homecoming, Coach Tom Fry passed away. Coach Fry lived and breathed school spirit. He dedicated his life to Prep in all its manifestations. History teacher, football coach and webmaster, Tom embodied the spirit of Homecoming for 30 years. He showed up at every game and performance, and he knew every student's name. He would drive long distances to see alumni play in big college games. He attended alumni weddings and colleagues' family celebrations, and he pitched in whenever needed to help a friend, tell a joke or offer a hand. Tom's legacy was showing up in every meaning of the phrase. Tom never quit.

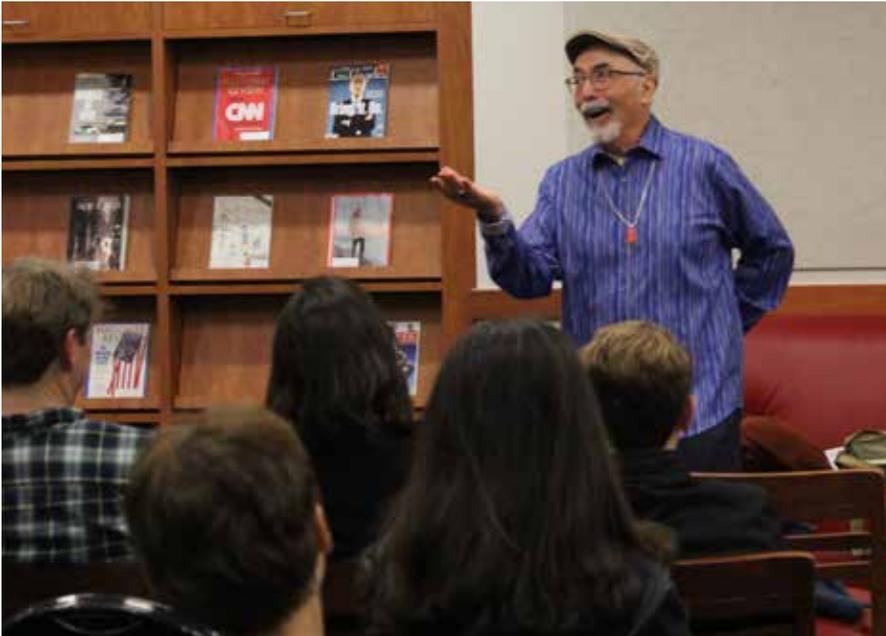
According to Matt Linder '98, who was coached by Tom and is now an assistant football coach at Prep, Tom had a well-developed sense of ethics. He possessed an independent spirit and was willing to stand up for what he believed was right. He was all in. He was Prep for Life.

Linder recalls some of what his coach taught him: "Integrity is playing to win, playing fairly, playing at your best. You owe it to your teammates to play at your highest level."

Every year, we remember Tom's warmth and enthusiasm with a moment of silence at our autumn pep rally. But every day, his spirit lives on at Prep through our teachers and students who show up for each other.

Tom would recognize today the things he loved when he was alive. Honesty, kindness, generosity and respect—the pillars of our Honor Code—along with joy, laughter and playfulness remain at the heart of our school spirit and traditions, including the newly revamped Homecoming Spirit Court. Our community continues to appreciate individuals who question, revise, consider multiple viewpoints and conclude that the more challenging option often results in the more rewarding outcome.

Former U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera Shares His Story



Juan Felipe Herrera shared his poetry and stories with students, faculty, parents and the local community.

When a former U.S. Poet Laureate touches down on Prep's campus, something magical will likely occur. That was very much the case when Juan Felipe Herrera spoke with students, faculty, families and the local community at two unique events in January.

At an afternoon student assembly on January 9, Herrera took the crowd in Norris Auditorium by surprise when he capped his delivery of the line, "That's where poetry lives—life," by playing his harmonica. The students roared with excitement as Herrera played the harmonica while telling stories about growing up and experiencing "a lot of challenges as a boy of color," the impact of childhood teachers and choosing kindness and empathy when we encounter the world.

That same evening, Herrera talked to parents and the public about how his family's storytelling influenced him as a writer and poet. The harmonica also made its way into the poetry reading, much to the audience's delight.

Spearheaded by the Global Studies Initiative, the two events with Herrera were part of Global Studies Coordinator Ingrid

Herskind's and Dean of Studies Sarah Cooper's desire to "bring in a speaker who would embody both global and local perspectives, while also telling a compelling narrative that would draw in students, faculty, parents and community members alike," Cooper says.

Herrera is the first Latino to hold the national poet laureate position, having also served as California State Poet Laureate. His poetry spans a multitude of genres and styles. Herrera encouraged students to express themselves and to "come together as a group or a grade and listen to each other and respect each other."

"Tying Mr. Herrera's visit into cultural and Global Studies allows us to link the past, present and future," explains Herskind. "Global Studies draws on and integrates multiple domains of knowledge and approaches to knowledge creation across cultures and societies. Mr. Herrera's charismatic approach to literature and cultural history encourages our students to make connections across the curriculum and time. He's exactly the magical conduit we need to excite and inspire this generation of students."

Noteworthy Speakers This Year

- **Dashka Slater** (right bottom), author of *The 57 Bus*, spoke at a student assembly in October about the real-life story behind her book. Slater also visited Dr. Genevieve Morgan's 9th grade English class and touched on the story's grappling with racism, identity and socioeconomic status.
- Morgan's 9th grade students also read *The Way You Make Me Feel* by young adult author **Maurene Goo** (right top, with students), who visited in November through a partnership between Morgan, Head Librarian Meryl Eldridge and the student Library Advisory Council.
- *How to Break Up with Your Phone* author **Catherine Price** spoke at the parent-organized Prep Community Speaker Series on February 20. (This April, author **Dr. Wendy Mogel** will be the third speaker in the series.)

Leadership Initiative Launches Junior Leadership Day



When asked about the mission behind the Leadership Initiative at Prep, Dean of Student Life Barrett Jamison explains that, along with consultant Laura Campobasso, he is trying to help students redefine what and who a leader is. "We need to get them to see that leadership is not just your title, it's your behavior, your attitude, the skills you have and the experience that you bring to any group you are part of. That's the first step," Jamison says. "We're redefining their self-concept, which is a challenging task."

Taking this challenge by the reins, Jamison and Campobasso launched the Junior Leadership Day Workshop last October. The stated objective of the workshop is to build confidence, increase self-awareness, discover strengths to understand one's personal leadership style and develop each student's potential.

According to Campobasso, she and Jamison aim to create a "leadership cycle" beginning in students' junior year, starting with the leadership workshop in the fall. "They have the opportunity to discuss what type of leader they would like to be on the campus and beyond. They gain insight into leadership qualities and skills. As the year progresses, these skills are reinforced through FLINT club activities."

The workshop entailed a series of small group leadership training sessions, including an opening keynote by Peter Bachmann, a closing keynote by John Heil, a lunchtime meditation and four sessions:

- **GOAL SETTING AND VISION**, hosted by Heil, a self-made leader who spent much of his career at Lawry's Foods. Heil is the father of Jennifer Hershfield '02 and Whitney Heil Abramo '06.
- **PERSUASIVE COMMUNICATION AND ACTIVE LISTENING**, hosted by Martha Montag Brown, parent of Brendan Brown '06, Matthew Brown '07 and Morgan Brown '10 and founder of Martha Montag Brown and Associates, LLC.
- **PERSPECTIVE TAKING**, hosted by Dr. Jay Wagener, on helping high school students and their parents navigate the teen years (read more about Dr. Wagener's Speaker Series talk on page 21).
- **PROBLEM SOLVING FOR EFFECTIVE DECISION MAKING**, hosted by Hal Hershfield, who provided an academic perspective on the factors that lead to poor decision making.



In his opening remarks, Bachmann noted that the Leadership Initiative came to life five years ago, saying that the goal of the program has always been to "accent the communal over the contractual."

Jamison seconds that sentiment. Leadership affects everyone across the campus and will continue to do so from the third floor of the new Bachmann Collaboration Building.

"Defining leadership differently and viewing all students as leaders really shapes everything else. It impacts our Global Studies and STEAM initiatives," says Jamison, who will be the school's Dean of Students in fall 2020. "Leadership impacts classroom engagement, the projects we do, the classwork we're doing. It impacts what happens on the field, on the stage and in our clubs. Everywhere you go, if we're thinking about ourselves differently, then we're acting differently."



Spotlight

She Kills Monsters Slays the Stage



Three-headed dragons. Swordfights. Cheerleading dance-offs. Nineties jams as musical interludes. *She Kills Monsters* does not sound like a typical story about a high school girl grieving her sister's death. Written by Qui Nguyen and set in 1990s Ohio, the play follows cheerleader Agnes Evans (Tess Robertson-Neel '20), who embarks on a quest through the role-playing world of "Dungeons and Dragons" after discovering her sister Tilly's (Angie Henderson '22) notebook for the fantasy game. Agnes enlists Chuck (Ryan Waldheim '20) to be her Dungeon Master as she delves into Tilly's alternate universe, replete with a team of outsider heroes (Hannah Murphy '20, Lindsay Browne '20 and Matin Bagheri '21) who guide Agnes as she learns the "D&D" playbook, confronts her sister's death and discovers Tilly's experiences with bullying, sexuality and identity. The Prep production—directed by Scott Myers—explored grief, friendship, inclusivity and love through comedy, featured epic battle scenes and, of course, a little bit of magic. "In 35 years of directing extracurricular plays at Prep, this is the only play I've produced in which every character is a high school student, confronting authentic and powerful adolescent conflicts," Myers shares. "This play's beauty is that it goes to bat for ideas that matter profoundly while maintaining an offbeat, whimsical, often hilarious tone—and never becoming preachy."

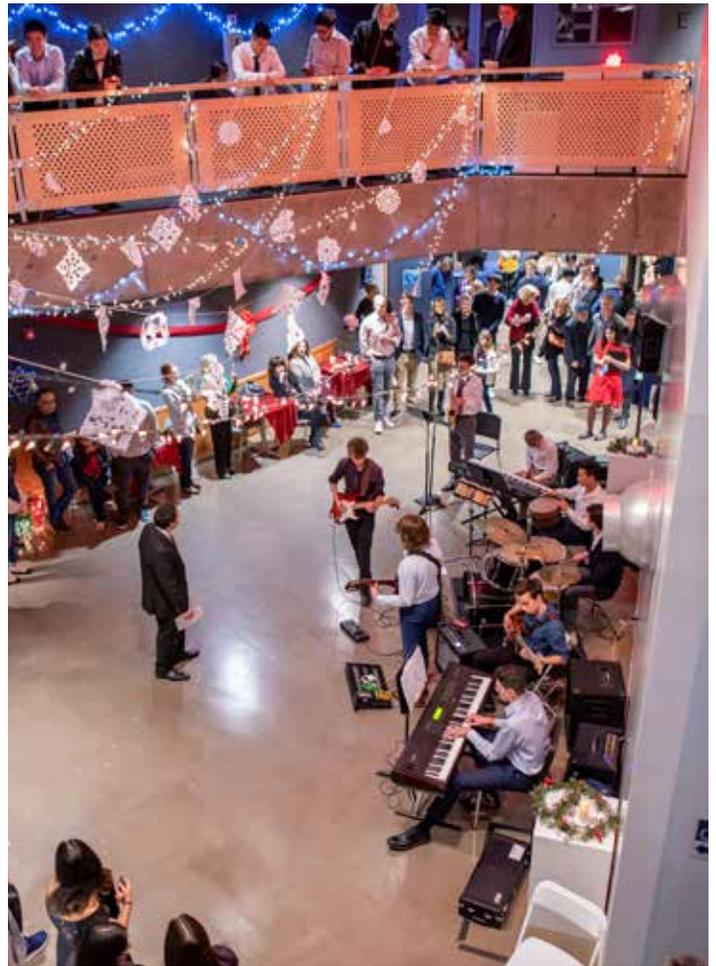
Winter Dance Concert Turns Inward

Life at Flintridge Prep took center stage in the choreography for the Winter Dance Concert. With a theme of "Introspection," each dance took a deep look inward into students' experiences during their time at Prep. A frolic through the 9th grade trip included rolling out sleeping bags, pillow fights and snorkeling. A few dances took on the stress and anxiety brought on by midterms and academic demands, with students dancing on top of desks. Another dissected the obsession with one's phone and social media, even highlighting the school's new cell phone policy. Within each of the performances, parents, friends and faculty were moved to discover Prep through the dancers' perspectives.



New Music and Vocal Festival Debuts

Debuting a reimagined winter instrumental and vocal concert, Dr. Ross Margitza and Steve Hill, alongside Performing Arts faculty and the Prep Arts Community, presented the Winter Festival "Sounds of the Season" on a chilly winter's evening. With three acts taking place in Norris Auditorium and the Atrium, the audience went on a melodic journey through choral and orchestral renditions of classic holiday tunes, jazz standards and popular songs. The vocal ensembles and choirs partnered with the orchestra students, and the Flintridge Singers were even accompanied by faculty cellist Mark Salzman. The jazz rock ensemble jammed to Bob Marley and Grover Washington, Jr., in the Atrium as the audience took part in festive activities, including posing at a photo booth and feasting at a gourmet food truck.



Interactive and Imaginative Works Displayed at Art Show

Coinciding with Halloween, the Visual Arts Quarter Art Show engaged in some artistic fun, particularly in the Drawing & Painting gallery. Melissa Manfull's 10th grade and 12th grade classes created interactive coloring books, with themes of either "Life & Death" or "Eras," in which visitors were invited to color in the drawings and add their own flair to the pieces. Other student artists displayed their paintings, as well as reduction-cut animal prints (see right, by Josephine Fellows '25). Ceramics students highlighted pieces that used different techniques during the firing process to add unique effects to their designs. Some even created jewelry after learning metalwork from teacher Biliana Popova. In the photography section, students in Ricardo Rodriguez's 10th grade class explored an imagined world called "BlueTopia" through the cyanotype process of coating regular paper with chemicals to make it photosensitive. Senior photographers shared their projects that examined topics ranging from cultural identity to U.S.-Mexico border crossings.





GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Starting out the season, the girls cross country squad ranked fifth in their division after garnering the 2018 league championship title along with top-three finishes in both the CIF finals and state. With strong performances throughout the fall at races like the Ojai and the Clovis Invitationals, the team saw a wealth of personal best records despite injuries. At the league finals, the girls placed fourth, overcoming Westridge and Providence with 82 points and a top-10 finish by Nicole Mirzaian '22. Early in the race, Mirzaian pushed to the front of the pack; the team also saw a big break when Natalie Bax '20 and Rosalinda Chen '22 stormed through a Poly pack midway during the race, which earned them 12th and 15th place, respectively. Qualifying for the CIF Prelims, the girls made it to fourth place in the heat. At the CIF Finals, the "varsity team pulled together seven excellent performances, placing ninth, which was two spots ahead of where they were ranked, and besting Chadwick and Poly—two teams they'd been chasing all season," says Coach Jill Henry. Three players were named to the second All-League team: Mirzaian, Bax and Chen.

MVP: Natalie Bax '20
Coaches Award: Silvia Ioannou '21
Most Improved Award: Joyce Kirk '22



BOYS CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS CIF CHAMPIONS

It is almost a given that boys cross country will take home the Prep League championship title, given their history of 26 titles in 27 years. At this past season's finals, the duo of Hudson Billock '21 and Bennett Oakes '21 demonstrated their prowess on the course, breaking from the pack to finish together for first and second place, respectively. Five Prep runners edged out their opponents to finish in the top 10. After this success, the squad turned their attention to CIF Southern Section Division V Championships. Going into the meet, the boys were ranked third, says Coach Scott Jung, and they "performed well as a

team in order to defeat the higher ranked teams" and take home the CIF Championship title. The boys then raced at state, coming in fifth out of 24 teams. "The varsity team experienced health and injury issues throughout the season," Jung notes, adding that other runners stepped up until their teammates healed and "were all able to compete together at CIF finals and state." Seven runners were named to All-League teams, with Billock, Oakes and Daniel Kotlyar '20 on first team and Andrew Odom '21, Grady Morrissey '20, Dominick Schrader '22 and Rudy Ruiz '21 on second.

MVP: Bennett Oakes '21
Captain's Award: Grady Morrissey '20
Coaches Award: Daniel Kotlyar '20
Most Improved Award: Hudson Billock '21



FOOTBALL

Football spent most of the fall season undefeated, starting with an early nonleague matchup against the Cate School. Prep secured a 48-26 victory, with four touchdowns from Max Gitlin '20, nine passes and two touchdowns from Zach Kim '21 and six receptions and two touchdowns from Ben Grable '20. Coach Russell White recalls the memorable game as a "great team effort and the first win against Cate in three years." The team secured a few more victories before suffering a loss against Windward at Homecoming. They roared back into formation, defeating Milken 69-14. Another early-season surprise? In a game against Thacher, Silas Chavez '21 set the school record for the longest field goal with a 52-yard kick. The team was 1-1 at the end of the Prep League season, automatically qualifying them for the CIF playoffs. While they defeated PAL Charter Academy in the first round 56-6, the boys ultimately fell to rival Cate in the quarterfinals, ending a successful season with a 10-3 record. Four players were named to All-League teams: Gitlin and Grable on first team and Kim and Chavez on second. Gitlin, Grable and Kim made first team All-CIF.

Co-MVP: Zach Kim '21

Co-MVP: Ben Grable '20

Dan Lewis Award: Max Gitlin '20

Joe Miller Outstanding Lineman Award: Pearce Harris '21

Tom Fry Coach's Award: Germaine Harvey '20 and Ben Baraga '20

Coaches Award: Charlie McCormick '20



GIRLS TENNIS

Girls varsity tennis started off the year with three victories under their belt, including their match against Marshall, which saw sweeps from the top singles player Esme Nix '23 and the top doubles team of Jackie Hsu '21 and Sophie Haddad '23. The season was characterized by stiff competition from rival schools and being a younger team with only one graduating senior, says Coach Roger Hollomand. In an early match between Prep and Chadwick, the team kept their opponent on their toes but narrowly lost in later games. The team earned successful victories over Providence twice last fall, defeating them 14-4 in both meetings. In the second matchup, in October, Maya Khurana '20 won all three matches, as did the doubles team of Manya Lalwani '22 and Briana Tran '21. Though the girls spent the season trying to come out ahead of their league rivals, they did not advance to CIF this year. They are looking ahead at rebuilding the team for 2020.

Co-MVP: Esme Nix '23

Co-MVP: Heidi Lin '22

Coach's Award: Rachel DeMerit '23

Most Improved Award: Annabel Hou '22



GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

When summing up the past semester for the girls varsity volleyball team, Coach Sean Beattie says it perfectly: "The team had one of its best seasons in recent memory." It's true. As the girls kicked off the year with a bang at the Hollywood Showcase Tournament in August, they defeated opponent La Reina High School 15-10 in the finals, "capturing the first tournament title that I can remember in my 23 years coaching," shares Beattie. They translated that early momentum into five-game volleys in league matches against Mayfield and Westridge. Though the girls battled during CIF playoffs, they fell to Archer. "The girls gave it their all, and I couldn't have been prouder of each and every one of them," Beattie says. Three players were named to All-League teams, with Jada Gritton '20 on first team and Ellen Chang '20 and Kaitlyn Chen '20 on second.

Co-MVP: Jada Gritton '20

Co-MVP: Ellen Chang '20

Coach's Award: Kaitlyn Chen '20

Leadership Award: Ani Bernardi '20



BOYS WATER POLO

The boys water polo team sought to build back their momentum this season after last year's third-place finish in the league championships. Early in the fall season, the team competed at the Malibu High School Tournament, seeing "more success than previous years in Malibu," says Coach Andrew Phillips. Led by captains Hakop Kaplanyan '20 and Will Fosselman '22, the team beat rival Brentwood 14-7, advancing to the championship game against Palisades. Though they fell in the final matchup, the team's strength sprang from the tight bond between the players. "The seniors have done a great job leading the way for future classes and set a great example in and out of the pool," Phillips says, shouting out the senior squad of Shant Armenian '20, Gage Detchemendy '20, David Egan '20, Kaplanyan and Barnett Liu '20. Finishing with a 14-10 record, the boys took third in league and advanced to the CIF playoffs, but ultimately fell to Yorba Linda. The team demonstrated "great work ethic and great discipline" throughout the season, shares Phillips. Four players made All-League teams, with Kaplanyan and Fosselman on first team and Diego Barraclough '22 and Noah Corral '23 on second.

MVP: Hakop Kaplanyan '20

Coach's Award: Will Fosselman '22

Most Improved Award: Dylan Mealey '22

JV SCOREBOARD

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

10-5 Record, 8-4 League

MVP:

Ashlyn Zhang '22

Defensive Player of the Year:

Melody Huang '22

Offensive Player of the Year:

Sienna Arrobio '22

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Most Improved Award:

Jahselyn Medina '21

Newcomer Award:

Anya Rose '23

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Freshman Award:

Ben Odawara '23

Newcomer Award:

Owen Sussman '22

BOYS WATER POLO

MVP:

Henry Brookbanks '23

Coach's Award:

James Dixon '21

Most Improved Award:

Egbert Liu '22

Prep College Athletes Compete at NCAA Tournaments

On college sports teams across the United States, you'll find many a Prep alum carrying on that special balance of athletic and academic excellence that they honed at their high school alma mater. This fall, a handful of former Prep athletes set their sights on reaching the NCAA tournaments with their respective teams.

Since his freshman year at Georgetown University, cross country runner **Jack Van Scoter '16** has been helping his team earn league and regional titles. This fall, the international history major competed at the NCAA Division I Championships cross country tournament in Terre Haute, IN, racing against athletes from 31 college teams.

A sophomore at Claremont McKenna, **Sophie Gitlin '18** runs for the joint collegiate Claremont-Mudd-Scripps (CMS) cross country team in addition to studying economics and philosophy. After winning the NCAA regional title in November 2019, Gitlin and the CMS team qualified for the NCAA Division III Championships in Louisville, KY. Gitlin's former Prep cross country coach Michael Roffina, with whom she keeps in touch, traveled to Louisville to cheer her on. "I coached a lot of great runners, but Sophie is probably one of the best runners I've ever coached," Roffina said. Gitlin, who was co-captain of Prep's cross country team, placed 136th in the 6K with a time of 23:06.1. "Having Coach Roffina and his wife, Sue, fly out to Louisville to cheer me and the whole team on was incredible. Rofo [Roffina] had a significant role in my high school experience and his support since I have



- ▲ **Tim Treinen '18** (front, center) celebrated with his Johns Hopkins soccer teammates on their league championship title.
- ▼ **Sophie Gitlin '18** (far left) ran at the NCAA Division III championships with the CMS cross country team.

graduated has been overwhelming. I am so grateful to have had a part of Prep at that race with me," shares Gitlin.

When he isn't busy studying for his dual neuroscience and Spanish major, **Tim Treinen '18** plays for the Johns Hopkins soccer team. This past season, the team won their league championships for the first time in 11 years and were ranked the number three team going into the NCAA tournament. "Going to NCAA ranked number three, especially because we've never ranked that high before, was a lot of pressure. Every game mattered," Treinen says.

Conrad Oakes '18 and his water polo teammates at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) competed at the NCAA Division III Championship tournament for water polo this fall—the first time the NCAA hosted a competition for Division III water polo. "This was the inaugural year of a D3 water polo championship, so there was definitely a feeling that what we did this year is almost pioneering for later years and teams," shares Oakes, who played goalie in the match against Johns Hopkins. The team placed third in the tournament.

Do you or any of your classmates have unique stories you'd like to share with the community? Reach out to the Communications Office at communications@flintridgeprep.org



1940

80th
reunion

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 29, 2020

1945

75th
reunion

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 29, 2020

1950

70th
reunion

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 29, 2020

1955

65th
reunion

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 29, 2020

1960

60th
reunion

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 29, 2020

1964

CHUCK EDER was awarded 1st prize in the people category for the 13th annual "People, Places and Things" photography competition for *Fox Cities Magazine*, a publication in Northeast Wisconsin. His entry, titled "Oneida Powwow," depicts a Native American dance competition that takes place annually in Oneida, Wisconsin (see below).



1965

55th
reunion

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 29, 2020

1968

JIM WELCH performed the organ at recent events at the Tabernacle in Salt Lake City; Aspen, CO; Solvang, CA; Stanford Memorial Church; and Canton, OH. His wife, Deanne, retired after 37 years as a nurse at Stanford Hospital. Their son Nicholas just finished his freshman year at Stanford, where he met Kimmy Chang, also a freshman. They were married on August 22, 2019, in Provo, UT (see above).

1970

50th
reunion

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 29, 2020

1975

45th
reunion

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 29, 2020

1977

JASON CHUAN co-founded 8HZ, a sustainability company that focuses on "clean energy and all the aspects of consumer product design for sustainability," according to Jason, who adds that their logo is made entirely from plastic found on the beach on Molokai (see below).



1980

40th
reunion

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 29, 2020

1985

35th
reunion

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 29, 2020

MARK GANGI was named to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 2019. Only three percent of AIA members have this distinction, which recognizes architects who have made significant contributions to the profession and to society.

1990

30th
reunion

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 29, 2020

1995

25th
reunion

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 29, 2020



Roll Over Your IRA to Flintridge Prep

If you are 70½ or older and taking mandatory income distributions from your IRA, you can avoid the income tax generated by these distributions by directing a gift directly from your IRA to Flintridge Prep. You can direct up to \$100,000 per year—it's a great estate planning tool.

Contact Lakshmi Dastur-Johnson
ldastur-johnson@flintridgeprep.org

Class Notes Wanted

Submit Class Notes any time to alumni@flintridgeprep.org or by phone, 818.949.5526. Email digital images (JPEG or TIFF, 300 dpi resolution, size 5x7 inches) or send photo prints to Flintridge Prep's Office of Alumni Relations. News and photos may be reprinted in *PrepTalk* and/or our alumni web pages, depending on image quality and space availability.

PrepTalk reserves the right to edit Class Notes, primarily for length and style considerations, though also for clarity and redundancy. Class Notes entries are not fact-checked for accuracy, nor should their inclusion in the magazine be considered an endorsement from the school.

Please contact Jacqueline Epley Tegart '97, Co-Director of Alumni Relations, at alumni@flintridgeprep.org or 818.949.5526.

1999

HEATHER OWEN MOORE

received the 2019 Jane Ortner Education Award from the GRAMMY Museum. Moore, an 11th grade history teacher at Arcadia High School, was selected for her integration of music into the classroom experience and her lesson plans for her course, "Getting Happy—Life in the Great Depression." The award includes a monetary honorarium for Moore and a grant for Arcadia High School.

2000

20th
reunion

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 29, 2020

2002

TONY TYRE (below), an estate and trust lawyer, appeared on a question and answer show on KABC radio Los Angeles, answering listeners' estate and trust questions.



2004

BROOKS KIRCHHEIMER

shared a serendipitous Prep reunion at a wine dinner he hosted at his restaurant, Hearth and Hill, in Park City, UT, that he co-owns with his father. "It was funny to find out that the wine representative was none other than Prep alum **STEPHANIE CUADRA ARMENGOL '93** (below), who is the founder of Terrestoria and lives in Italy the majority of the year."



2005

15th
reunion

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 29, 2020

2006

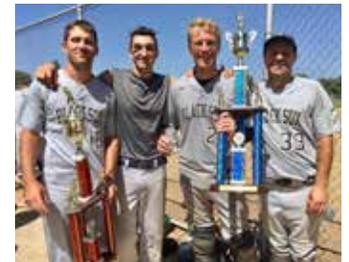
CATALINA COMBS

(below right) works for the Tournament of Roses as a creative and development assistant, while also writing movie reviews for the website Black Girl Nerds. Catalina, who played soccer while at Prep, met up with former athletes and Prep coaches at Alumni Sports Day in December.



AYANA MARTIN (above left) completed her PhD in molecular medicine and translation science at Wake Forest University and is working for Bristol-Myers Squibb as a clinical educator liaison, collaborating mainly with rheumatologists regarding a T-cell drug for autoimmune disorders. She joined **CATALINA COMBS '06** at the Alumni Sports Day at December's Winter Alumni Day.

MARK RODLI and three former Prep baseball athletes, **RYAN HAWKINS '06**, **MAX ARMAND '07**, and **JOE COSTNER '06** won the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks men's baseball championship on September 8, 2019 (see below).



2008

IAN SANDER (below) lives in San Francisco and recently joined Grand Rounds, a health-care tech company, as an Organization Development Partner, where he is designing, testing and implementing an enterprise-wide leadership development program. In May 2019, he earned an MS degree in Organization Development with Dean's Honors at the University of San Francisco.



GENEVIEVE WOODHEAD

was awarded the 2019 Pecos Conference Linda Cordell Prize for her paper "Corrugated Pottery: A Legible Record," which pieced together pre-Hispanic ceramic production by studying ancestral Puebloan and Mogollon pottery with exposed coils. She is an archaeology graduate student at the University of New Mexico.

Winter Alumni Day 2019

Though it was an uncommonly chilly day on December 23, the excitement of old friends, colleagues and classmates reconnecting with each other filled the campus with that characteristic Prep love and warmth. Winter Alumni Day started off as it always does with Alumni Sports Day, which saw friendly yet competitive volleyball, water polo and basketball games, as well as special reunions between former athletes and coaches. In the afternoon, young alumni who graduated in the last 10 years learned more about career opportunities at the GOLD Networking Mixer, where industry insiders (i.e., parents and alumni) shared their experiences as UX designers, lawyers, architects and more.





Retiring Assistant Librarian Reggie Ursettie was honored at the evening's Alumni Reception (read more about Ursettie on page 22). The night was just getting started, as the Classes of 2009 and 2014 traveled down to Miller Theater and met up with former classmates and friends at their reunions. The party continued at iX Tapa, where alums ranging from the Class of 1986 to the Class of 2019 joined together to celebrate their Prep connections.

SAVE THESE DATES

May 8

Masters Circle Reception*

May 28

Bachmann Circle Reception*

May 29

Spring Reunion Day including reunions for Classes of 2005, 2000, 1995, 1990, 1985, 1980, 1975 and 1970, and 50+ year reunions

May 30

Peter Bachmann Retirement Celebration

**By invitation only*

2009

KATIE LEAVENS, (below right) who is the assistant registrar of incoming loans at LACMA, presented advancements in time-based media artwork collecting practices with fellow industry experts Kacie Rice (MFA Houston) and Deanna K. Tyler (Art Institute of Chicago) at the Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists Conference in Philadelphia.



2010

FRANCES MCCLOSKEY KLIMAS and her husband, Dan, welcomed twins (below) Lottie and Theodore (Teddy) in April, making the Klimas a family of six. The family returned to California and are currently living in Sierra Madre.



2011

ALINA OKAMOTO graduated from USC and is enrolled in a master's program at the University of Minnesota in healthcare administration.

2014

CADY DECK and **MAX BORK '13** attended the Hopkins-Nanjing Center together and participated in Nanjing's Dragon Boat Festival race (see below). Max graduated with an MA in international studies from Johns Hopkins University and Cady is finishing her MA at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies this fall.



WILL NEWMAN is living with his Prep classmates **WILL DIXON**, **SARAH YOHO** and **TEDDY WILLARD** in Arlington, VA.

MAYA OKAMOTO graduated from Carleton College and is applying for law school. She is getting married to Chris Madden, whom she met at Carleton, in April.

GRADY WILLARD received a Fulbright scholarship to research methods to improve disaster relief in Barbados.

2015

BARRETT WEISS graduated last year with a BS degree in Aerospace Engineering from Stanford University, and won the NCAA championship in gymnastics. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in aerospace engineering at Stanford. Weiss adds that he is becoming "a dual D1 varsity sport athlete by walking onto the track and field team. If you would like to know more, please email me at barrettw@stanford.edu."

2016

SCARLET KILPATRICK will graduate from Yale University in May with a degree in chemical engineering. She is currently entertaining offers from several schools around the country offering spots in their PhD programs for environmental engineering.

2017

KENDALL KIKKAWA plays football and basketball on intramural teams at UC Berkeley and he is also playing on the Cal Women's Basketball practice team. He is majoring in bioengineering at Berkeley, with a minor in data science.

2018

SOPHIE GITLIN (below) raced at the NCAA Division 3 cross country championships in Louisville, KY, on November 23 for Claremont Mudd Scripps. Her former coach, Michael Roffina, attended and cheered on her and her teammates. Read more about Gitlin's race on page 31.



TIM TREINEN is studying neuroscience and Spanish at Johns Hopkins University. He currently plays defense on Hopkins soccer team, which won the Centennial Championship League for the first time in 11 years. The team went on to compete at the NCAA Tournament against other Division III teams. Read more about Treinen's NCAA journey on page 31.

2019

MATTHEW BABOR is a freshman at the University of Puget Sound, where he is enjoying Russian history and joined the Timbermen, an a cappella group, as a bass.

YAYA BROWN is a freshman at Bard College and is studying sculpture.

PRESTON HO is having an amazing experience studying abroad for four months in London, adding, "Prep prepared me well. Thank you to the teachers and community!"

KYLA KIKKAWA continues to act, sing and dance at Washington University in St. Louis where she was cast in the production of *Legally Blonde* and performs in school a cappella and hip hop groups. Kyla is considering neuroscience, as she is fascinated by the connection between the brain and the arts, and is an inaugural member of Beyond Boundaries, a two-year interdisciplinary program focused on societal and intellectual challenges of the future.

JOHN LYTLE's AP Studio Art portfolio was selected by the College Board to be included in their online collection. His portfolio of photographs was one of 48 selected from more than 66,000 portfolios submitted and will be an invaluable resource for students and art educators about the AP Art and Design portfolio expectations.

BEN SACKS is enjoying a liberal arts education at UC Berkeley with a possible major in history. He is attending the Cal football games, has joined a fraternity and is playing for the Cal Club Golf team.

MARISSA STARKS is happily adjusting to New England and her new life on the East Coast, where she is studying math and science at Tufts University.

FLINTRIDGE PREP GOLF TOURNAMENT



APRIL 27, 2020

Come together with friends for golfing, fun and camaraderie!
Sponsored by the Fathers Club, the tournament includes lunch, golf, wine and bourbon tasting and an auction.
Join us for some—or all—of these events!

All proceeds support Prep faculty through the John Plumb '64 Fund for Professional Development.

Email Sheng Jin (sjin159@gmail.com) for more information.

Who Would You Celebrate?

The Athletics Hall of Fame is looking for nominations! The inaugural Hall of Fame celebration will happen next school year and will celebrate the very best of Flintridge Prep coaching, athletic spirit and competition.

Criteria:

- Athletes, teams and coaches will be considered based on whether they brought honor and distinction to Prep by performing at a high level and demonstrating an exceptional degree of play and sportsmanship.
- Anyone in the community, living or deceased, who has shown dedication to and support for Prep Athletics is eligible for nomination if they graduated before 2010.
- An honorary award may be considered for anyone who has had a significant and positive impact on Prep Athletics.
- Nominees not selected for induction will remain eligible for renomination.

Contact HOF@flintridgeprep.org or visit www.flintridgeprep.org/hof for more information.



IN MEMORIAM

BRUCE ARNOLD '49 passed away on January 4, 2019. He attended Princeton, majoring in engineering, and earned an MBA from UCLA. He began his career with IBM, then served in the Army, returning to work for IBM and ultimately settling in Cameron Park, CA. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Janet; three children; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

ROBERT W. JURGENSEN '50 passed away on June 21, 2019. A star athlete at Prep, he led the football team to its third-in-a-row league championship as a senior quarterback, played forward on the basketball team—scoring 16.6 points per game his senior year—and pitched for the baseball team his junior and senior years. He was Commissioner of Academics his senior year and won the Sportsmanship Award his junior year. Bob's dreams of playing professional baseball were dashed by a back injury at Stanford, but he not only earned a bachelor's in economics there, he also met his future wife. He later received an MBA from Pepperdine University. After serving in the Army, Bob worked for his father's business, Jurgensen's grocery stores. After 20 years (and rising to president), Bob moved to Solvang to pursue his interest in education at the Dunn School, where he worked for two decades as business manager, teacher and coach. Bob was an active member of the Santa Ynez Valley community, volunteering and serving on multiple boards and charity foundations. Having attended Poly before Prep, Bob wrote this about a mid-1970s matchup on the basketball court: "[It was] the Flintridge/Poly game of over 40 years ago. Two of our sons were the stars of their respective teams. The game was at Poly and they were heavily favored. Doug '74 for Flintridge sank two free throws with two seconds to go to win the game for Flintridge. Side note: the referee came over to me at halftime and asked me to shut up. I yelled at him no matter which team was called for a foul. Good memories." Bob is survived by his wife; children Ken, Doug '74, Lynn and Neil; four grandchildren; brothers Hal and Tom and sister, Carole Sundt.

J. LAWRENCE "LARRY" STONE '50 died January 1, 2020. At Prep, he was a football player, and served as Commissioner of Athletics his senior year. After attending USC, he founded Farr and Stone, a small business-focused financial services company. His son Bruce joined him in 1979, and in 1998 the firm became Stone Tapert, adding insurance and benefits services. Larry was a board member of the Oralingua School for the Hearing Impaired in Whittier and for decades he was an active advisor for his fraternity, Beta Theta Phi. He was a member of the Board at Flintridge Prep from 1980–1982. Predeceased by his daughter Alison (David), he is survived by his wife, Nancy; children Diana (Mark), Bruce (Shelly), JJ (Amy), and Debbie (Jeff); 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

JAMES CARTER '57 died on November 21, 2019. Coming to Prep as a high school freshman, he played varsity singles tennis from 1955-57, served as secretary of the Junior class and worked on the *Highlander* newspaper.

ALEX JACOBS '08 died August 21, 2019. A musician and guitar player, he was in the Luthier Program at the Musicians Institute of Hollywood and worked as a provider of in-home behavioral therapy to autistic children. Alex started Prep in 7th grade, and was a member of the Collective, *Folio*, Key Club and the Jazz/Fusion Ensemble. His senior year, he was President of Discover the Arts (a nonprofit entity he founded) and shared the honor of being Prep's class valedictorian. Graduating from Brown University cum laude with a degree in psychology, he then enrolled in a PhD program at the California School of Professional Psychology. He is survived by his parents, Paul Gordon Jacobs and Dr. Diane Jacobs, his stepfather, Walter Whitaker, and his stepmother, Beatriz Jacobs; step/half-brothers and sisters, including Teresa Jacobs '91 and Nicole Jacobs Martin '93; grandparents John and Audrey Stecher; and aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews, including uncle Chip Jacobs '80 and cousins Samantha Jacobs '12 and Lauren Jacobs '14. Alex's family donated much of his musical equipment to Prep to inspire more Prep students to follow their musical dreams. Additionally, the family is planning to create a fund at the school in his memory.

Can we get your number?

Are your parents still getting your mail? Then it's time to update Prep's alumni database with your most current information.

Please contact us at alumni@flintridgeprep.org with your email address, phone number and mailing address. Let's stay in touch!

RISE TO THE CHALLENGE



\$500,000
from Alumni

\$500,000
from Parents

\$500,000
*from Parents
of Alumni*

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The Bachmann Collaboration Building will impact Prep students for generations to come. Three trustee families have come together to generate \$1.5M in matched gifts through June 30, 2020.

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Let's build the future of Prep together.

Visit our website or text us:

www.campaignforprep.org/challenge

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Kris Anne & Mike Gitlin (Parents Challenge)

Kim Kenne & Rich Webster (Parents of Alumni Challenge)

LOWERY LEGACY SOCIETY

Plan your gift and perpetuate the mission of Flintridge Prep

Named for Flintridge Preparatory School's founder and first headmaster Doane Lowery, the Lowery Legacy Society recognizes individuals who provide for Flintridge Prep in their estate plans or through other deferred giving arrangements such as charitable remainder trusts, life insurance policies, retirement plan assets and real estate.

A deferred gift through your estate is a simple way to make a positive impact on Flintridge Preparatory School. Larger deferred gifts may establish endowment funds, creating lasting impact and a legacy honoring what Flintridge means to you. By providing for Prep in your estate plans, you will enhance the lives of future students.

For more information about bequests, charitable trust arrangements, life insurance, gift annuities and retained life estate gifts, contact Lakshmi Dastur-Johnson, Director of External Affairs, at 818.949.5524 or ldastur-johnson@flintridgeprep.org.



PrepTalk is published for the Prep community, including parents, alumni and friends of Flintridge Preparatory School.

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Flintridge Preparatory School seeks to nurture in its students the knowledge, critical skills, community values and creativity essential for an engaged, balanced and responsible life.

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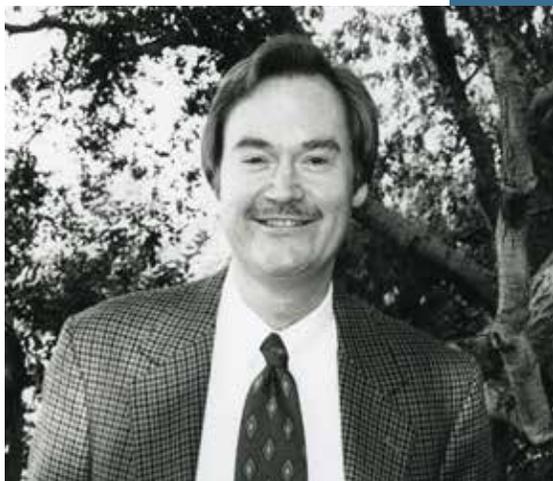
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If this publication is addressed to a son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please inform the Alumni Office of his or her current mailing address. Thank you for helping us keep our records up to date.

818.949.5526

alumni@flintridgeprep.org

Share Your Story about Peter Bachmann



Everyone who has walked Flintridge Prep's halls since 1980 has a Peter Bachmann story. Whether he taught you, cheered at your game or performance or showed you his characteristic compassion, generosity and commitment, Peter has made an impact on the entire Prep community for 40 years.

Whether you've got a great story to tell or you just want to say thank you, we want to hear from you. Email us at communications@flintridgeprep.org by April 24, 2020. Please include the subject line: Peter Bachmann Story. All your contributions will be shared with Peter and may be used in an upcoming article.

Keep an eye out for invitations to events honoring Peter in May 2020.