

THE BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION FOR THE COMMUNITY OF ST. PATRICK-ST. VINCENT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

SPRING 2021



GRADUATION!



*"He who can preserve gentleness amid pains, and peace amid
worry multitude of affairs, is almost perfect"*

—St. Francis de Sales



**ST. PATRICK
ST. VINCENT**
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



THE BRIDGE

SPRING 2021

The Bridge nameplate visually represents the unique gifts and talents shared by our students, alumni, parents, faculty and staff—the many parts that merge into the one community that is St. Patrick-St. Vincent Catholic High School.

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MISSION STATEMENT

ST. PATRICK-ST. VINCENT CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL, A CATHOLIC COLLEGE
PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL OF THE
DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO, CHALLENGES
OUR DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATION
TO SEEK TRUTH AS CREATIVE, COMPLEX
THINKERS AND TO BE RESPONSIBLE
CITIZENS AND COMPASSIONATE
INDIVIDUALS WHO SHARE THEIR GIFTS
WITH OTHERS.

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The Bridge

Editor: Erin Jacobs, Director of
Development & Communications
Contributing Writer: Patrick Vogelpohl,
Dean of Safety

We welcome ideas for articles and feature stories that reflect the school mission and might be of interest to the St. Patrick-St. Vincent community. The Bridge is published twice yearly, and content has a long lead time. SPSV reserves the right to edit content for length and clarity or to decline to publish any material. To reach the editor, please contact the Office of Advancement: t.godinez@spsv.org or 707.644.4425 x441.

On the Cover, our outdoor drive-by graduation ceremony was a fun and colorful celebration for our impressive 2020 graduates and their families.



Dear Friends,

As you read through this long-awaited edition of *The Bridge* that spans the extraordinary year that the pandemic has defined, I hope you will recognize two pervasive themes: faith and flexibility. Without question from my perspective as your principal for the last five years, this is how we endure as a community and continue to provide a Catholic education that graduates thoughtful leaders who are on their way to building us a better world.

In my graduation address to the Class of 2020, I spoke to our graduates about their tremendous resilience in a time of crisis and their hearts full of boundless love, always offering to serve others in the community. We saw this resilience as they entered the last quarter of their senior year and found themselves pulled from their faith-filled community to manage their academics and celebrate God alone from their homes. We witnessed their boundless love in their response to those devastated by fires. When headlines of social injustice created divisions in our country, this class of students demonstrated their love for one another regardless of what divides us. They are the leaders who will work to create a world beyond cruel divisions.

It has been one year since our faculty demonstrated their preparedness to pivot to distance learning, a plan that had previously been in place for fire season in California. Within days, we challenged teachers to deliver the same rigorous curriculum and engage student life experiences virtually. They met this challenge by utilizing a new set of tools and technologies and collaborating to create a new set of best practices that continue to evolve to this day.

Flexibility and creativity were the keys to reaching students beyond the classroom. Our dedicated community designed meaningful experiences, including virtual Mass and retreats, our first virtual performing arts productions, and even online spirit weeks. Clubs continued to meet online and invented new ways of celebrating the SPSV community while being apart.

In this issue, you will read inspiring stories about our newest graduates, faculty, and alumni, many of whom are working in innovative roles supporting the response to Covid and one in the entertainment industry, keeping our spirits up with award-winning television production.

While we work through this most challenging school year, let us unify around our mission to inspire a new generation of Bruins with the desire, courage, determination, voice, and heart to build us a better world.

God Bless,

Coleen Martin
Principal

"Remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, and look forward to the future with confidence."

—St. John Paul II

2020 was the first year SPSV produced a recorded graduation ceremony that premiered on YouTube. Graduates and their families were among 2200 viewers who watched from home, and then the special event concluded with a drive-thru conferment of diplomas presented by Bishop Jaime Soto. The diploma ceremony was also live streamed so friends and family could celebrate online.

the class of 2020

94
GRADUATES

97%
ACCEPTED TO
4-YEAR
SCHOOLS

28%
ACCEPTED TO
UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA
SYSTEM

59%
ACCEPTED
TO THE CSU
SYSTEM

3% ENTERED THE
ARMED FORCES

ACCEPTED TO
138

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
INCLUDING...

Alabama A&M University (HBCU)
California State Polytechnic University
Clark Atlanta University (HBCU)
College of Charleston
The Culinary Institute of America, California
Howard University (HBCU)
Old Dominion University
Pennsylvania State University
Pepperdine University
Prairie View A&M University (HBCU)
Purdue University
Rutgers University
Saint Mary's College of California
Syracuse University
Texas Southern University (HBCU)
University of Connecticut
University of Washington
Xavier University of Louisiana (HBCU)

Historically Black Universities and Colleges (HBCU)

special honors



JOHNREY SICAD SAN PEDRO

**The Brother William F. O'Sullivan
Award for General Excellence**

(Presented to the senior with the highest
grade point average for seven semesters)



GABRIEL SANTIAGO SILVEIRA

**Order of St. Patrick-St. Vincent,
The Msgr. Thomas A. Kirby Scholarship**

(Presented to the outstanding senior for
service to Church, school and community,
scholarship and co-curricular participation)



JOHN DWYER '88
AP & College Prep U.S. History Teacher

**The Brother Edmund Rice Award
for Outstanding Teaching**

(Voted by students in the Class of 2020)

DISHON JACKSON

Bruin basketball center Dishon Jackson earned two section titles and one state title before joining the Division I program at Washington State.

Proud of his accomplishments, Dishon believes he's paved a path for upcoming generations to make the direct leap to D-I basketball.

With God as his number one influence, Dishon says his connection with God is always present in his life. "I really take it seriously as a standard of being a good man," Dishon said. "That's one thing I focus on every day, just trying to be a better me."



CHLOE ORTEGA

Cal State East Bay:
Volleyball, Libero
as a Defensive
Specialist



TAMEIYA SADLER

SPSV's Tameiya Sadler was chosen as the *Vallejo Times-Herald* Female Athlete of the Year in both 2019 and 2020. She went on to play basketball for the University of Washington Huskies, and the standout guard was honored as the Pac-12 Freshman of the Week on November 30, 2020.

After a Powerful Start, All-School Read Adapts for the Pandemic

BY PATRICK VOGELPOHL

Each year, a thought-provoking book is selected for all SPSV students, faculty, and staff to read over the summer as part of our new All School Read program. The purpose of the program is to increase the amount of reading done by our students and to engage our entire campus in a common discussion regarding pertinent social topics.

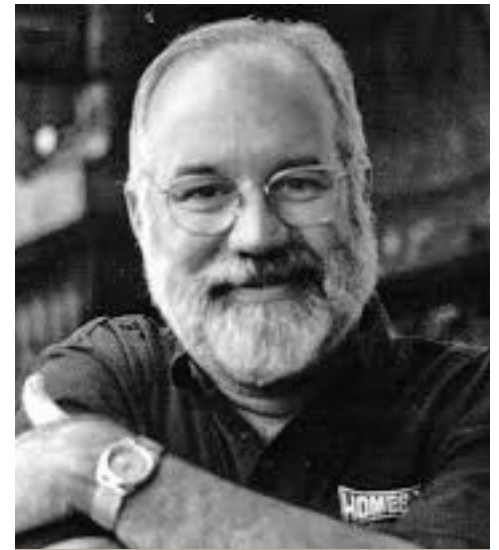
Dr. Doug Evans, SPSV's assistant principal, assembled a committee of faculty and students to select SPSV's first all-school read in the spring of 2019. "Our students spend entire days making sense out of big ideas, and our teachers are masterful at helping students do so," Dr. Evans said. "Why not have the whole school engage in discussions about a book that speaks to who we are?"

Our first book, *Tattoos on the Heart* by Fr. Gregory Boyle, S.J., profiles men and women who found their way from the violence of gang life to rehabilitation

and service with Homeboy Industries. Fr. Boyle and his colleagues had founded Homeboy Industries to offer his "homies" wit, hard advice, and endless grace as they overcome traumatic beginnings and face the consequences of their criminal behavior. The organization provides job training, access to education and legal services, art therapy, counseling, tattoo removal and more.

After reading the book and seeing Fr. Boyle and some of his homies speak in Sacramento, Nancy Truax Narciso '71 had her art classes complete drawings and paintings inspired by *Tattoos on the Heart*. "I admired the 'homeboys' and girls who worked so hard to change their lives," said Nancy. "So it was important for me to meet Fr. Boyle and a few of his boys."

Religion teacher Meg Arguelles '13 and dean Patrick Vogelpohl led a group of students on an immersion trip in and around Boyle Heights. After meeting with community leaders who worked alongside Fr. Boyle to reclaim their streets, the students toured the



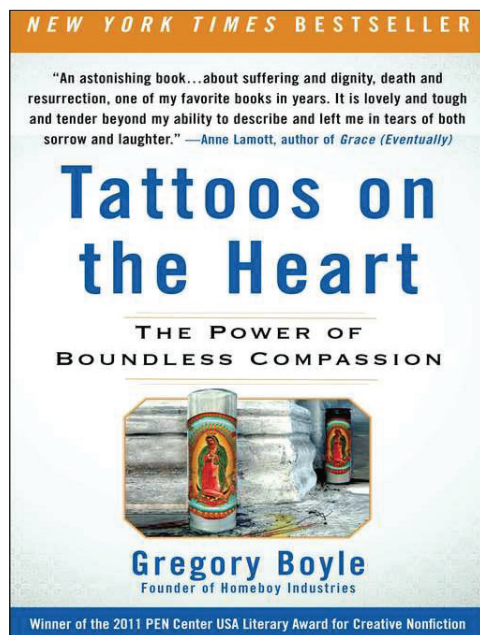
FR. GREGORY BOYLE, S.J.

community with a local mother who began protesting gang violence after her son was killed. The group attended a prayer service in what used to be one of Boyle Heights' most violent housing projects, and met with Mission Dolores School leadership to learn about the sociological impact of trauma.

Through reading the book and then engaging in the immersion trip, our students experienced a deep appreciation for the reality of the vibrant Latino immigrant community that is Boyle Heights.

The Freshman Class Studies *Bees*

Before SPSV shut down the campus



due to COVID-19, Dr. Evans and his next committee had named *The Secret Life of Bees* as the school's all-school read for 2019-2020. However, with the school adjusting to distance learning, only incoming ninth graders would be expected to read Sue Monk Kidd's first novel, a bestseller about a young girl named Lily and her journey toward healing and the transforming power of love.

Students in Mrs. Rodgers' Accelerated Freshman English class have already analyzed the book, with some reading it a second time. Some classmates noticed how the summer of 2020 felt like Lily's journey through 1964, particularly as the United States wrestled with powerful questions about race, oppression, and equity. "It's crazy to think that we're dealing with the same issues today," said Lily Woodall '24.

Valerie Ortiz '24 saw a specific connection between the book and the

"This novel has shown me that there are good people in this world."

Emma Boyle '24.

racism that characters face. "It was going on then, and it's going on now," she said. "And if we don't do something, it's just going to keep going on."

Amanda Lo '24 appreciated characters that understood the importance of mental health in the 60s. "I like the lesson that it's okay to be sad," Amanda said. "I like that Lily becomes emotionally healthy. She's okay with expressing her feelings and being sad."

"This novel has shown me that there are good people in this world," said Emma Boyle '24. "This novel has shown me that no matter where you grew up, what you've been taught, what your faith is, you choose who you want to be, and you can choose to be good."

For more information on the first all-school read, check out Ms. Meg Arguelles's article on the next page.

A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

COVID TIMELINE MARCH 2020-FEBRUARY 2021

MARCH 12, 2020

Principal Coleen Martin officially closes our campus. SPSV remains closed through the remainder of the academic year. 400 students and 30 faculty are successfully transitioned to distance learning.

MAY 1, 2020

With decorated cars and Decision Day apparel, our seniors celebrate with the first ever campus drive-thru event to pick up their graduation caps and gowns and yard signs for their homes.

MAY 18, 2020

Bishop Soto celebrates Mass at the Cathedral for all graduates with just a few seniors from each high school in the Diocese.

JUNE 8, 2020

We open our campus for in-person #futurebruin Summer Camp with safety guidelines and social distancing.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

The Class of 2021 Senior Sunrise includes a drive-thru event with breakfast burritos.

OCTOBER 25, 2020

Socially-distanced Open House brings families to campus for small-group tours led by student leaders.



FEBRUARY 8, 2021

Bruins hold a virtual Talent Show with video submissions.

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

JAN

FEB

MARCH 30, 2020

To boost morale, students celebrate an online Spirit Week.

APRIL, 2020

We honor our community family members working in essential roles and with a heart to serve on social media.

MAY 13, 2020

We begin our 150th Year Anniversary Appeal with a series of stories celebrating our heroes, including those at St. Vincent's who served the community during the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918.

MAY 23, 2020

Our first virtual Graduation is livestreamed via YouTube with over 2200 viewers.

AUGUST 4, 2020

The Class of 2024 meet each other via Zoom Orientation.

OCTOBER 7, 2020

50% of students return to campus for in-person instruction.

NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Three female athletes signed to compete at the college level in a special signing event celebrating Audrey Rafols (Girls Tennis at Dominican University of California), Kaleena Yra (Softball at Saint Martin's University), Alicia Campbell (Softball at Oregon St. University).

January 21, 2020

All students, faculty, and staff are tested for COVID in a drive-thru clinic at SPSV before returning to campus.

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

SPSV welcomes the Class of 2025 with a special drive-thru acceptance event.

WHAT WE SAW



IN BOYLE HEIGHTS

BY MEG ARGUELLES '13

In *Tattoos on the Heart*, Fr. Gregory Boyle, S.J. describes his spiritually intimate relationship with the people of Boyle Heights. When their hearts broke, his heart broke. When they celebrated, he celebrated. His descriptions of each person made us feel what he felt with them, whether it was frustration because of their untapped potential, or feelings from disappointment and sadness to hope and joy.

While powerful, this experience was only paper-deep until a chosen few answered the call to join a week-long immersion program into the community that Fr. Boyle described in *Tattoos on the Heart*.

In November 2019, a group of Bruins flew to Los Angeles and drove to Boyle Heights. Spending five days in the footsteps of Fr. Boyle, this small but mighty group (pictured below) included Christian Venegas '23, Thea Himbing '21, Angelya Ray '21, and Milton Montiel-Cabriaes '21. Dean of safety Patrick Vogelpohl and I chaperoned.

Getting to Know the Neighborhood

Ours wasn't a mission trip. We had nothing to offer the community, except to see and hear them—and to learn.

We spent our first full day getting to know the Dolores Mission neighborhood and its history. Our guide was a mother who had been present during street violence, protests, and many other events that Fr. Boyle describes in his book. We heard inspiring stories of a community fighting to matter, and to receive the same resources that were afforded to nearby wealthy areas. We heard that community members' cries for



help were ignored by the City of Los Angeles after several people were injured and even killed on dark streets, where streetlights remain in disrepair or were never installed in the first place. We heard how the women of Mission Dolores Church sold food to pay for street repairs. And we learned that the neighborhood's mothers and grandmothers—the soul of the community—still spend nights together, praying and planning their next church events.

While showing us the deceptively simple Mission Dolores Church, parish pastor Fr. Ted Gabrielli, S.J. explained how its



artwork expresses and inspires his parishioners. One painting, completed by a priest many years ago, depicts Mary as a refugee mother holding Jesus while making her way to Los Angeles. Fr. Ted said the painting gives immigrant mothers hope for their new lives in America.

Restorative Justice

Ellie Hidalgo, the pastoral associate at Dolores Mission Church and School, talked to our students about the concept of restorative justice—that the only way to inspire change is to welcome people back into their communities, help them build strong authentic personal connections, and guide them toward honest opportunities to make a real living. She explained how the Dolores Mission community began reducing neighborhood violence by building connections with often-ostracized gang members and the gang-affiliated.

Tutoring and Urban Education

In the afternoons, we tutored students from Dolores Mission School's after-school program, which was developed to keep the children off the sometimes-dangerous local streets. We also met with school president Karina Moreno, who discussed the importance of education in reviving the neighborhood and showed us some of the amazing academic work her students accomplished by eighth grade graduation. While many local kids doubt that they will have the resources or opportunities to attend a good high school (let alone college), Dolores Mission

School prepares students to earn admission into some of Los Angeles' best Catholic schools.

All Things Homeboy

For those who see no alternative to gang life, Homeboy Industries was created by Fr. Boyle and his colleagues to be a beacon of hope in a neighborhood that had seen better days. When our group visited, we were in awe of the strength, resilience, and hope shared by each person in the building.

Homeboy Industries centers around its headquarters and the Homegirl Cafe, where employees start every morning with prayer and words of wisdom before they get to work. Clients and employees run the cafe as well as a silkscreen business, while the organization offers practical resources such as free tattoo removal, tutors, social workers, and professionals who teach trade skills to open up opportunities. The headquarters buzz with therapists, doctors, priests, gang members, ex-gang members, men, women, teens, children, people in suits, and

"In Scripture, Jesus is in a house so packed that no one can come through the door anymore. So the people open the roof and lower this paralytic down through it, so Jesus can heal him. The focus of the story is, understandably, the healing of the paralytic. But there is something more significant than that happening here. They're ripping the roof off the place, and those outside are being let in."

Fr. Boyle, Tattoos on the Heart

people in sweats. Everyone is busy, but everyone has a second to warmly welcome visitors. Love and compassion fill the halls.

Without hesitation, our tour guide shared his story with us. He had joined a gang when he was young because his friends and family were part of it, and he felt he had no other way to be safe and make money. Sentenced to life in prison at age 16 for being affiliated with a robbery and refusing to implicate fellow gang members, he was released from prison 25 years later. Homeboy Industries offered him opportunities for a better life. Five months later, he was giving us a tour of as a living testament to the work they do.

The presence of Christ was undeniable during our time in Boyle Heights. As we walked the streets, bore witness, and reflected on our days, one thing was clear: In a space once paralyzed by violence and neglect, compassion now fills the streets, pews and halls of Boyle Heights. Christ is present. Those outside are let in. Boyle Heights is being reborn.

Class of 1976

Randy Mack



A realtor for Artisan Sotheby's International Realty, Randy Mack '76 is also the director of Redwood Empire Chapter HOG, a nonprofit Harley-Davidson Owners Group sponsored by the Cotati Sonoma County Harley-Davidson dealership. In October of 2020, *The Press Democrat* ran a feature article about Randy and his chapter of HOG, which is 100 members strong.

Class of 2000

Jennifer Fernandez Zenteno

After graduating from USF with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Jennifer Fernandez Zenteno '00 has been working at Kaiser since 2006 in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit taking care of premature babies and, in 2020, became an advice nurse. She married Robert in 2011 and they have two children, Olivia who is three years old and Camila who is eighteen months old.



NOTE

We want to share your news with your classmates and the SPSV community, so let us know what's going on with you! If you include high-resolution photos, we'll probably use one. Send updates to the SPSV Development Department.

(The School reserves the right to decline to publish or edit any material to reflect the values of our mission.)

Reunions Coming Up



HELP PLAN AN UPCOMING REUNION WITH YOUR CLASSMATES!

The Development Department is here to help! Contact us at alumni@spsv.org or 707.644.4425 x441 and we will help you get started!

SV Class of 1960

The committee is looking for current email addresses from their classmates. Please contact Claire LaBelle Luke at 916.253.3711 or vern.claire@eyesonthefuture.com with questions about the postponed reunion and to update your email.

SV & SP Classes of 1970

Watch for news about your 50++ year reunion. For more information contact Catherine Hanson at c1hanson@comcast.net or 916.397.3042 or John Isaacson at isaacsonj52@gmail.com or 707.999.6647.

Mikala Caton '11 Fights the Spread of Covid-19 on the Central Coast

BY PATRICK VOGELPOHL

Epidemiology is an interdisciplinary practice. Using science and health data to study disease, epidemiologists must also be outstanding communicators who can provide public officials with clear, actionable updates, especially during a pandemic. One such epidemiologist with a talent for analyzing and clarifying critical information is SPSV alumna Mikala Caton '11.

After graduating from SPSV, Mikala attended UCLA as a Biology major with a minor in Global Studies. She planned to go to medical school and become a doctor. To fulfill graduation requirements, she studied abroad during her senior year, attending the University of Ghana. "I found myself in West Africa during the peak of the Ebola outbreak of 2014," Mikala said. "Luckily, Ebola never got to Ghana, but it was the first time I had thought about epidemiology. I wanted to know who, how, and why certain people get sick and others didn't."

While in Ghana, Mikala interned at the West African AIDS Foundation where she assisted with community health education and a local HIV/AIDS study. Returning to the U.S. to continue that work, Mikala finished her BS degree, interned at AIDS Project Los Angeles, and applied to graduate school. In 2018, she earned her Master's in Public Health from Emory University in Atlanta, where she was an epidemiology research assistant at the Centers for Disease Control.

Today, Mikala is an epidemiologist whose work is crucial to the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency's response to COVID-19. She first heard of the virus in January, 2020, during a nationwide call with public health representatives from state, county, and city health departments and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

"The CDC alerted us about a cluster of pneumonia of unknown etiology in Wuhan, China, with linkages to a live animal market," said Mikala. "I wasn't sure what to expect because knowledge about the disease, the level of spread throughout the world, and the recommendations or actions for local health departments changed daily. However, by early March, I knew we would be fighting this for a very long time."

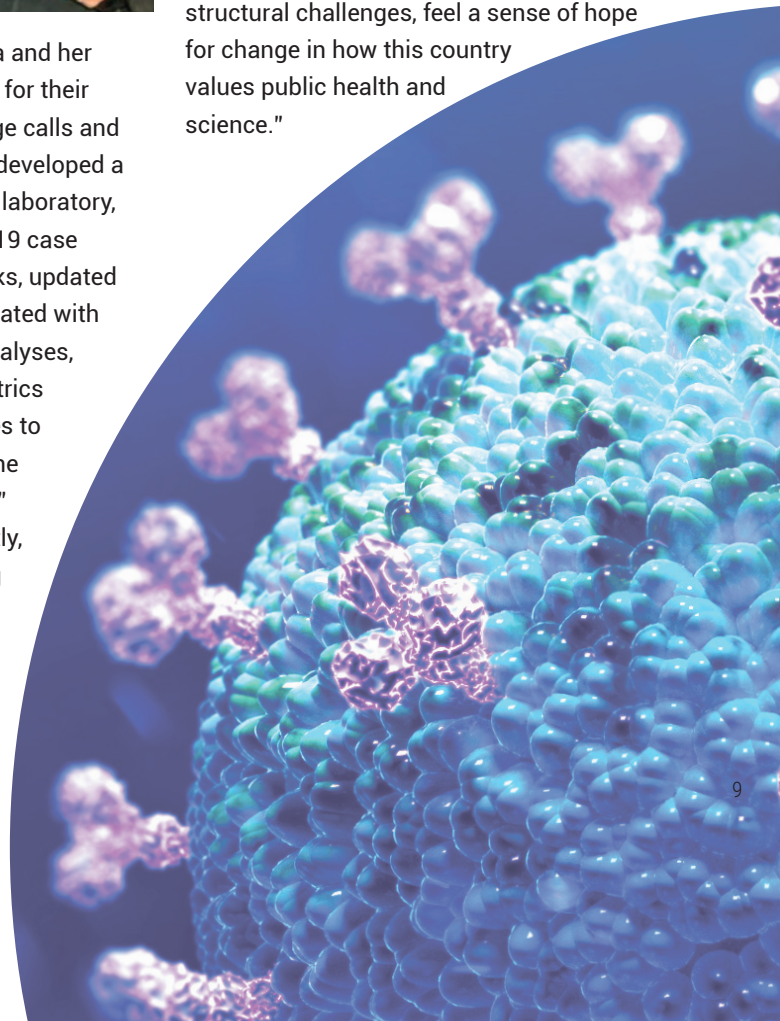


Early in the outbreak, Mikala and her colleagues created processes for their infectious disease unit to triage calls and conduct investigations. They developed a surveillance system to gather laboratory, hospital, and medical COVID-19 case data. "I assisted with outbreaks, updated our data dashboards, collaborated with other scientists to conduct analyses, and monitored trends and metrics to inform health officer policies to protect the county and keep the spread to a manageable level," Mikala explained. More recently, Mikala has been collaborating with a University of California at Santa Cruz statistician to create a mathematical model that makes county-based projections for COVID-19 hospitalizations. "We provide the model a set of assumptions, along

with case, hospital, and death data," Mikala explained. "The model runs thousands of simulations and provides a median estimate and range of possible future outcomes given the data and assumptions provided." While no model is perfect, Mikala states that this weekly process helps the county estimate future trends so they can prepare for possible surges.

"I am proud of our work every day and am grateful to work alongside such a resilient and brilliant team," Mikala said. "When comparing our COVID-19 rates or tier status, it seems we are doing relatively well at mitigating and controlling the spread. However, with every outbreak or COVID-19 related death, there is always the gnawing feeling that we should be doing better."

To stay optimistic during such a difficult time, Mikala says she practices gratitude and talks to her family regularly. "As tough as it is to work in a local health department right now, I have a lot to be thankful for and continue to remind myself that I am not alone in this battle," she says. "I feel honored to play my part and, despite the structural challenges, feel a sense of hope for change in how this country values public health and science."



ROB BLACK '92 WINS PARAGLIDING INDUSTRY AWARD

JOINS SPSV BOARD OF TRUSTEES



BY PATRICK VOGELPOHL

For 21 years, Rob Black '92 was one of SPSV's most effective and respected instructors. The physics and math teacher "taught in a way that made students figure out how to advocate for themselves and truly try new things," said current math and social studies instructor Kyle Bates '14. "His classes were difficult at times," Kyle added. "But it was all about your growth as a student and a person."

So no one on campus was shocked to learn that the United States Hanggliding and Paragliding Association (USHPA) named Rob its paragliding instructor of the year for 2020, just two years after his retirement from SPSV. Rob is also the newest member of St. Patrick-St. Vincent Catholic High School's Board of Trustees.

Rob began skydiving in 2002, eventually became a skydiving instructor, and started paragliding in 2008. By 2015, he earned the rank instructor from the USHPA and opened his own school, Penguin Paragliding. Since then, he has trained approximately 200 pilots across the Bay Area.

"Rob's is not a cookie-cutter operation," said his student Dave Smart, who is also SPSV's business manager. "He allows students time to learn as each student's schedule and ability dictate, regardless of how long it takes." Dave added that Rob provides a variety of launch, flight and landing locations that create better, safer pilots. "Many students and former students speak about being members of Rob's Penguin Paragliding 'flock.'"

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Rob was not sure how his business would be affected. "We shut down for a month in March but since April 2020, I've never been busier," Rob said. "It's an outdoor thing, easy to stay six feet away from people, if not more."

We don't touch the same stuff, and everyone is dying to get outside."

Rob credits his wife Florence for managing all aspects of their business so he can focus on teaching.

His subject matter hasn't changed much. "Flying—in and of itself—is a science," Rob said. According to Rob, students learn about Bernoulli's principle, and air speed and ground speed. "Paragliding," he said, "is just applied physics." Rob says his job is not just to teach students how to run off of a hill and fly, but to learn about the intricacies of the places where they fly.

With his long history at SPSV, Rob was also a natural fit for the SPSV Board of Trustees. He graduated from the school in 1992 and taught here for 21 years; and also served as head boys JV soccer coach, head boys varsity soccer coach, science department chair, math department chair, Flight Club moderator, Robotics Club moderator, and traveling science presenter. According to John Lloyd, president of the school's Board of Trustees, Rob's history as a student and faculty member "brings a depth of insight essential to the Board's policy development objectives."

While Rob is "still learning" about the Board of Trustees, he is comfortable contributing to discussions about day-to-day instruction and eager to concentrate on how the Board ultimately serves SPSV students.

"The kids at St. Pat's have always been just amazing humans. Just kind, good kids," Rob said. "People would ask me, 'How did you teach for 21 years, or why didn't you go somewhere else?' This was always the answer: 'The kids at St. Pat's are awesome.' It never occurred to me to go to another school."

Welcome back to campus, Mr. Black!



A Bruin Rises in Shondaland

BY PATRICK VOGELPOHL

When a television show becomes a hit, its lead actor or top writer becomes one of the show's producers. Editors, however, typically don't ascend to this coveted role.

Vanessa Delgado '08 is not a typical editor. As Hollywood began managing the COVID-19 pandemic, *Grey's Anatomy* showrunner Krista Vernoff offered Vanessa the role of co-producer.

Upon graduating from Santa Clara University in 2012, Vanessa joined "Shondaland" and started as a production assistant on *Grey's Anatomy*. Shondaland is the production company owned and operated by the legendary Shonda Rhimes, creator of *Grey's Anatomy* and the new hit *Bridgerton*. "I never imagined any of this would happen," said Vanessa, who has edited the hospital drama for the last three years. "All I ever dreamed was to edit *Grey's Anatomy*."

Although Vanessa will edit the show's season premiere and the finale, she now spends most of her time in post-production, reviewing the directors' cuts of episodes before sending off new versions to Vernoff.

Vanessa, sister to Miguel '06, Andre '10, Shawn '13, Antonio '15, and Dominic '18—and a member of SPSV's 2008 CIF state champion women's basketball team—recently spoke with *The Bridge* about finding her way in Hollywood, and the vital role sports played in her achievements.

On Producing Television During a Pandemic

There are so many shows that were almost guaranteed not to come back on the air. *Grey's Anatomy* was in a privileged position where we would go back, no matter what. But we had to ask ourselves,

"How do we do this safely, and respect the climate, do it well, and make good TV despite all of it?"

You just have to adapt. There is no other option except to adjust.

On Succeeding in Entertainment

I did the grind. I was a production assistant, and I did a lot of running around L.A., dropping off hard drives, picking up coffees, working nights, and not having a social life. It's all part of it, and it was worth it.

It's about your personality and how you are with people more than anything else, whether producers and the top, top dogs on the show, or craft services employees.

Within Shondaland, the culture is deeply rooted in loyalty. Everyone is so respectful of each other, puts in the extra work, and is so lovely. Those are the people who end up having this longevity that seems unattainable.

Growing Out of Basketball

I was a pretty good basketball player for the freshman team. I was the captain junior year on junior varsity. I maybe played a total of four minutes the entire year we won the state championship. But I was a part of something bigger than me, and I learned a lot of discipline.



THE GIVING REPORT

THE SPSV FUND

Your donations to the SPSV Fund are critical as it provides a sustainable, year-round source of funds for educational resources and materials, faculty professional development, student financial aid, campus and curriculum enhancements, extracurricular activities, and so much more! The following are gifts to the SPSV Fund for the fiscal year **July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.**

ALUMNI DONORS

CLASS OF 1936

Anne Kilkenny Thompson '36

CLASS OF 1941

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Jacquelyn Boyette

SPOT Campaign Funds Field Study in Life Science

Science Teacher Published in Peer-reviewed Journal

BY ESME TSIRKAS '21, GABRIEL TOGONON '22 AND MARCELLA CARDONA '22

An article about SPSV students, written by science teacher Summer Ragosta, Ph.D., was recently published in the UC Press award winning, peer-reviewed journal, *The American Biology Teacher* (Vol. 82, No. 8, pp. 515-521). The article, "Broadening Student Perceptions of Science through Participatory Data Collection & Research-Education Partnerships," describes research carried out during a series of plant collection field trips to a public, 425-acre open space park in Vacaville during the 2018-2019 school year. The project was designed to engage students in original scientific study, to broaden their college study interests, and to inform them about local plants and ecosystems. The research is a collaboration between SPSV, the Solano County Flora Project, and the Center for Plant Diversity in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of California, Davis.

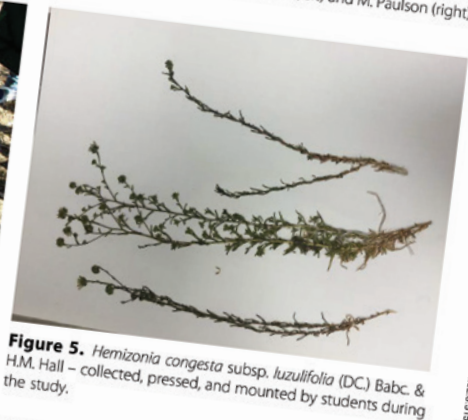
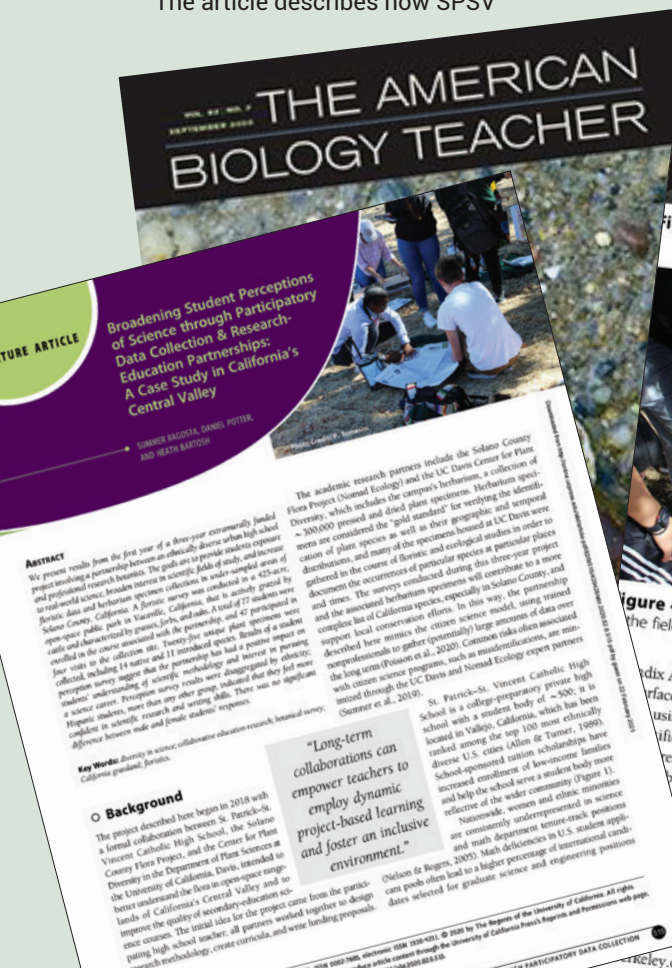
The article describes how SPSV

students are given the opportunity to experience science exploration in real life. Students capture data to help botanists and ecologists broaden their understanding of local plant communities over time. This research is still ongoing, and currently in its third year at SPSV. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has curtailed survey field trips during the fall 2020 semester, students have been learning about floristics study sampling methods and data analysis, with hopes to collect and press more botanical vouchers in spring 2021.

Participant survey responses showed that students have already been positively impacted by the formal partnership with UC Davis and Solano Flora Project in several ways. First, exposure to professional scientific methods may help students be better prepared for college level courses.

Even if they are not a STEM major, most students will be required to take some form of natural science to meet university graduation requirements, so it helps to enter classes with confidence and be comfortable with proper scientific techniques and writing skills. Also, by participating in this study, SPSV students are forced to go beyond their academic comfort zones and gain a more in-depth understanding of science topics.

This collaborative program at SPSV gives students exposure to hands-on ecology experiences. Being able to work with and study plants, alongside trained botanists, has the potential to widen career and college choice interests of current and future participants. Plus, getting out of the classroom to study the botanical world with friends and teachers actually sounds like a lot of fun!



Species in California
five
terrestrial invasive
five
terrestrial

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	12	6	10	5	1		
2	9	13	9	6	7		
3	13	12	9	4	2		
4	13	10	7	5	3		
5	7	10	9	6	12		

ions of an ethnically diverse has contributed to knowledge understanding of vegetation with potential implications

important part of adjacent urban diversity, wildlife habitat, opportunities. Partnerships that information on species conservation, and provide primary floristic data provided need open spaces in the Central However, invasive species continue to outcompete and left unmanaged. that participating students, on education program to have scientific understanding, and the likelihood of pursuing a scientific expressed in with the station in the partnership project Flora Project, has improved my projects. Students also tended of skills after participating in the high number of students who

Within each plot, students described vegetation and surface features as a qualitative narrative and collected plant collection. The standard method for voucher specimen collection requires that the specimen be placed in a plant press (plotters and ventilators) in the field so that it can be preserved as a museum-quality specimen. To estimate diversity of species at the site, every different plant species was collected (with fertile stems) and dried using a professional plant press. Plant specimens were identified using a dissecting microscope (Figure 4) and dried using a professional plant press.

collection to measure project impact. Survey participation was voluntary and students were given the option to remain anonymous. Students' perceptions of program impact were equal, we used a two-sample Student's t-test assuming equal variance (an F-test for variance was performed on the total survey data set, grouped by gender).

Results

A total of 25 different species were identified and deposited in the UC Davis Herbarium and the Jepson Herbarium.

IN MEMORY

*In prayerful remembrance of alumni
who have gone to their rest*

*"They are certain now of their own eternal happiness and are full of solicitude for our salvation.
To see, to embrace them—what joy both for them and us!"*

—St. Cyprian

Evelyn Berg Danner '40
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Albert Legault '44
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*Your gift to St. Patrick-St. Vincent Catholic
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one in support of the school community.
Please consider making a donation as a
way to remember someone special.*

Jaime Kim Left a Legacy at SPSV

BY COLEEN MARTIN

As we entered the school year, I found myself reflecting on the summer that had passed and all its blessings—a new class of graduates with the determination to pursue their dreams, those in our community who lived our motto of *Arise Today* and pursued social justice with peaceful actions taken on behalf of the powerless, and of course the continued health of our students. But many of you may not be aware that we also said goodbye to a beloved member of our community.

On June 16, Jaime Kim, our development director, lost her second battle with breast cancer. Jaime worked for a variety of Catholic non-profit and religious organizations, including St.



Anthony's Dining Hall and St. Vincent de Paul before coming to serve here at SPSV. She worked diligently to help us rebrand the school, share our brightest moments through stories in *The Bridge*, and most importantly connect personally with alumni, parents, and friends of the school in an effort to build us up and strengthen our fundraising campaigns. She was able to spearhead

two major improvements on campus, the MakerSpace/Robotics Lab remodel and our New Outdoor Amphitheater in partnership with Sustainable Solano and the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael. She secured the funds, worked with the architects, and was an integral part of the teams that created these new spaces for our students and community to enjoy for years to come. We are forever changed by Jaime's service to our community. Please join me in keeping the repose of the soul of Jaime Kim in your prayers, along with her husband Caleb and her son Evander.

Erin Jacobs, our marketing and communications associate, has stepped into the role of director of development and communications to continue Jaime's effort of evangelizing our students' success and appealing to those who may support us financially.



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Your gift to the SPSV Fund is a way of demonstrating your faith in our community when we've had to set aside events that do not fit with today's safety rules. We miss the annual gatherings that bring out the best in our community and help you feel connected with the school's mission today. Use the envelope enclosed in this issue to make an investment in SPSV today. Your gift is a lifeline for families struggling to commit to tuition costs but is no less worthy of your support. spsv.org/give



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