the paw print

Want to be in the know about life at Poly from an Upper School student’s perspective? Now you don’t have to wait for the monthly issues to reach the Poly website (www.polytechnic.org/polypublications), the newsstand, or your mailbox. The Paw Print is now available online (www.polypawprint.com) with a redesigned website, as well as its own app for Android phones and iPhones! You can also get updates on Twitter: twitter.com/PolyPawPrint for news updates and twitter.com/#!/pawprintsports for sports updates! Kudos to seniors Connor McKnight (online editor and app developer) and Hayden Betts and Anna Wohl, editors in chief!

On the cover: Second-graders race tricycles around the newly installed bike path near the Lower School classes on the North Campus. The bike path was created using a variety of surfaces—including rubber, wood, concrete, and even sand that spills over from the nearby integrated sandbox—to provide different sensations as students enjoy the playground.

On the right: Middle School students gather in between classes in a courtyard just outside the new Munger Building. The Munger and Booth buildings are the first two-story buildings on the North Campus.
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**From the Head of School**

From the Board

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Architecture matters—it matters every day to our students and faculty, to the program, and to the quality of life that we have at Poly. Since the day we first opened our doors in 1907, our students and teachers have benefited from the architecture that defines Poly. Whether it is the airy and light-filled classrooms, the overhangs that offer protection from the winter rains or the summer sun, or the open courtyards and greenbelts, the environment at Poly has been created to take full advantage of the California weather and has enhanced Poly’s ability to extend learning beyond the walls of the classroom.

Our North Campus classrooms and Gosney Hall are the work of forward-looking and talented architects. As a parent, Myron Hunt understood the school’s philosophy and worked with Miss Pease, former Poly headmistress, to ensure that the designs responded to the school’s open-air philosophy, making the courtyards and patios extensions of the classrooms. On the South Campus, coincidentally, in 1907, the Haaga House was constructed. In 1958, it became the signature building and, coupled with the sweeping lawns and signature trees, established a residential feel for our high school.

Architecture matters, for it reflects our history and provides a sense of place for our alumni of all generations. The elegant simplicity of the original design inspired Kevin O’Brien, then the principal architect at HMC, and his work integrates our historic and new structures on the North Campus so well that numbers of people, including alumni, often ask which are the new buildings and which are historical.

The environment in which students learn matters—a theme of The Third Teacher, the authors of which believe that students’ learning experiences are shaped by “adults, their peers, and ultimately by places...[they] are united in the conviction that environment is our children’s third teacher.” The book emphasizes the “link between learning and environment.” Surely the fact that students are surrounded by landscaping that includes primarily native plants and that appeals to the senses ensures that they will grow up appreciating their environment and being aware of its role in their daily lives.

The blending of the historic and the new speaks to Poly’s respect for the past and our commitment to the future. Architecture creates the flow on campus and encourages interaction, both important to the spirit of community that we value and foster at Poly.

—Deborah E. Reed, Head of School
I
n 2007, Poly celebrated the centennial of its founding, a milestone in the school’s rich history and one during which we highlighted not only our traditions but also our significant growth. We took the occasion of our anniversary to focus on the opportunities for Poly’s future and were emboldened to develop campus plans that the Board believed would secure the school for the next century. Take a look around the next time you are on campus—the Lower and Middle Schools have been completely rebuilt and restored, and the Upper School is well on its way to having a state-of-the-art academic building that includes science labs, math classrooms, and a spacious new library. With the completion of the renovations and new facilities on the North Campus and construction on the South Campus, we have touched every corner of the campus, enhancing the school’s facilities and supporting the program.

One important constant in the midst of all of this change is Poly’s commitment to high academic standards and the primacy we place on inclusiveness, community, and service to others—these values are at the foundation of all that we do. Poly made it through our first hundred years by maintaining all of these strengths, while also ensuring that we have a sound financial base to ensure long-term stability and staying power.

It is most appropriate then, as we enter the final stages of our construction projects and The Next 100 Years campaign, that we focus our attention on making sure that Poly remains just as strong for at least another hundred years. Significant changes in the demographics of our local community, uncertainty in a global economy, and a challenging employment market mean that Poly will need to have the vision and foresight to adapt to and deal with these trends.

To that end, the Board of Trustees has formed three new task forces to study and make recommendations with regard to diversity, financial sustainability, and the evolution of our academic program and physical plant. These task forces, made up of trustees, school staff, and others in the Poly community, will be working throughout this year to present recommendations to the Board on how we should adapt to our rapidly changing world. I have full confidence that this will lead us to the actions that will ensure that Poly will thrive through its second century and beyond.

—Chris Poole, President, Board of Trustees
Authors of a Campus Design: Hunt, Grey, and Kaufmann

In April of 1907, the Throop Polytechnic Institute decided to focus on secondary education and closed its elementary grades. Parents and faculty joined together to establish a new elementary school at the corner of California and Catalina. Architect Myron Hunt was among parents devoted to the formation of the new Polytechnic Elementary School.

Following much success in a Chicago architectural practice, Hunt had brought his family west for the sake of his wife Harriet’s health and found a home among many other midwesterners in Pasadena. One compatriot was architect Elmer Grey, with whom Hunt rode horses on Sunday mornings and formed a prolific partnership. The two designed some of the city’s most cherished landmarks, including the Henry E. Huntington Residence and Library, the Rose Bowl, and the Pasadena Central Public Library—and both left their mark individually on homes, hotels, colleges, theaters, and churches across Southern California.

In 1905, The Architectural Record foreshadowed the partners’ influence: “Both Mr. Hunt and Mr. Grey stand for the attempt to naturalize in this country the best traditions of European architecture. Mr. Grey, for instance, believes that a very genuine American style is in the process of making, but that as yet it is only in its infancy.”

Central to that style, whether the design was American Craftsman or Beaux Arts, was the focus on harmony with nature and emphasis on local climate and conditions. No written notes remain from the design process for Poly’s original buildings, but evidence of these architectural features abound on the campus that was once a four-acre orange grove. Each classroom had ample windows in at least two walls, wide breezeways connected the indoors to natural courtyards, and materials echoed the region’s bungalow homes.

As the student body and programs at Polytechnic Elementary School grew, building needs did as well. Gordon Kaufmann, another notable Southern California architect of the era, contributed plans for a row of buildings bordering California Boulevard at the corner of Catalina Avenue. Through his work for Poly in the late 1920s and ‘30s, elements of Mediterranean design widespread in the region fit gracefully into the school campus. Tile roofs, thick columns, and wood beams blended well with the colonnades and courtyards.

Kaufmann’s rich contributions to other institutions include the original campus plan for Scripps College in Claremont, a group of dormitories and the Athenaeum at Caltech, and the downtown headquarters of the Los Angeles Times. His later work was primarily in the Art Deco style embodied in the Times building. Like Hunt and Grey, Kaufmann left a mark on Poly that would ultimately speak of a unique California style—the temperate outdoor climate and natural beauty figure prominently in each structure.

“Myron Hunt, Elmer Grey, and Gordon Kaufmann established the template that HMC was looking to extend with the new additions to the Polytechnic School Campus.”

Kyle Peterson, Poly’s project manager at HMC Architects

To echo the existing Kaufmann style of buildings bordering the Lower School campus along California Boulevard, architects incorporated similar features—thick columns, wood beams, and tile roofs—when designing the new adjacent classrooms.
When design works well, form and function seem to come across effortlessly. Certainly great effort went into planning and building Polytechnic School’s campus, from original drawings by renowned architect Myron Hunt to this summer’s completed North Campus additions and renovations. For more than 100 years, the perennial common experience of Poly as a physical place has been one of ease and harmony with the natural surroundings. These aesthetic and practical elements have endured across generations and helped both to shape and express Poly’s identity as a school.

Nearing the culmination of a 10-year campus development plan that enhances programming potential for Poly’s second century of education, the school has grown into a deliberate and thoughtful mix of historic and new buildings. All elements of the campus reflect consideration of how children learn best; equally important in the architecture and its daily inspiration of school life is the array of outdoor spaces large and small.

The original school buildings completed in 1907 were unique in their day, when schools were generally multi-story, box-shaped structures with interior hallways and fixed classroom space. Myron Hunt and Elmer Grey’s design brought sunlight and fresh air to every room, and a residential quality was established in the grouping of one-story bungalow buildings around courtyards. (See sidebar on the historic architects.)

“When I walked on to the south end of the ‘Historic H’ for the first time, what struck me was the light. The hallways and the new space in between were bathed in light, which had not shone through before, and you could feel the breeze throughout. My very next thought was that this is what Hunt had in mind when he designed Poly.”

—Ruth Zeronian Edwards '83

Poly’s earliest structures have informed recent additions to the North Campus, and Head of School Debbie Reed notes that collaboration among parents, educators, and architects is evident in the original features of campus as it is in new construction. “I have to imagine Poly’s founding principal, Miss Pease, played a role in the design process,” Reed offers. “The open-air feel, the human scale in the series of cottages where children can sense their boundaries but enjoy flexibility within them…those ideas take into account the ages of the students on campus and the best environment for their learning.”

The breezeways provide shelter and broad visibility all at once; teachers can allow their students’ movement in and out of classrooms but maintain visual contact with multiple areas. As highlighted in “The Great Outdoors” on page 9, a constant component of a Poly education from its first years through today has been the regular use of outside space for instructive time as well as play.

Those essential tenets of Poly’s architecture—firmly rooted in the school’s history—have helped maintain a collective focus during the lengthy process of expanding campus facilities. While preparing to celebrate the school’s centennial in 2007, the Poly Board of Trustees, administrators, and faculty began investigating ways the school site could better address current and long-term program goals. “Among all constituencies, there was nearly universal agreement about what the ‘Poly feel’ is,” school CFO Keith Huyssoon says. The strengths of the original design allowed planners to concentrate on the educational needs that spurred growth. They determined the classroom, laboratory, library, and community-space improvements that would keep Poly abreast of advances in all areas of education and secured city approval for a campus-wide master plan.

On the North Campus, where new designs by HMC Architects and renovations of Poly’s oldest school buildings are now complete, cohesive meaning comes through the architecture. The plan completed the campus with the addition of the Booth and Munger buildings, moved the renovated Hunt-designed Dining Commons to the center.
of campus, and added a new kindergarten building that echoes the Kaufmann designs at the northeast corner of campus bordering California Boulevard. In order to accomplish these substantial additions, creative site planning helped maximize space use on four levels—a two-level underground parking garage and above it, the first two-story academic and office building on the North Campus.

“The challenge in introducing two stories on the North Campus was to maintain the human scale of the campus,” Huyssoon explains. “The design facing Wilson incorporates plenty of open space in the main entry up to the second floor, and the library deck at the center of campus brings visual and practical variation to the upper level.”

The qualities of Craftsman-style architecture so prominent in the Booth and Munger buildings also tie them seamlessly into the residential feel of Poly’s campus. Gable roofs, wood siding, balcony spaces, and many windows are among the elements fitting the school’s Pasadena neighborhood. Reactions to the significant addition have affirmed that attention to detail as the school community has filled the campus with daily life. “I’ve been struck in the new entry courtyard by how familiar it feels, as if that space could have been original to the campus,” commented Trustee Alan Steinbrecher, who has chaired the Buildings and Facilities Committee of the Board throughout the master planning and construction.

Indeed, the most significant result of the campus improvement effort could be that connection between the past and present that fully realizes Poly’s potential. Well after the design process was underway, drawings uncovered in the archives indicated that school leaders many decades ago had considered a master plan quite similar to the new footprint of campus buildings today.

A complete reorganization of classroom use now brings teachers and their school-division colleagues into close proximity with each other and their administrators, where limited space once had them peppered around campus. While the Lower School is concentrated on the north half of campus and the Middle School borders the athletic field, they come together in community spaces such as Gosney Hall, the Dining Commons, and the historic courtyard. In only its first fall of use, the completed North Campus is full of the learning and activity that only good design could inspire.

“The new campus retains cherished spaces like Gosney, while adding 21st-century technology upgrades like smart boards and playground updates, such as the tricycle loop and the rock wall. I can’t wait for my nephews, nieces, and kids to play on those new playgrounds at the next Alumni Family Picnic!”

Aliya Haque Coher ’95

A complete reorganization of classroom use now brings teachers and their school-division colleagues into close proximity with each other and their administrators, where limited space once had them peppered around campus. While the Lower School is concentrated on the north half of campus and the Middle School borders the athletic field, they come together in community spaces such as Gosney Hall, the Dining Commons, and the historic courtyard. In only its first fall of use, the completed North Campus is full of the learning and activity that only good design could inspire.

Faculty members seated at tables helped maintain order in the lunchroom in 1924. The Dining Commons, which has housed the Health Office and classrooms for nearly 40 years, has been restored to its original use.

A second grade class burns off energy on the new courtyard that was created when the Flagler Learning Center and the Lower and Middle School Library were razed. It is once again possible to view the South Campus from the playground just outside of Gosney.
“Not only do the new North Campus buildings make me proud of Poly as an alumnus, but it makes me proud of our community and leadership. The fact that we could envision such a tremendous enhancement to our curricular needs, raise the funds for it, and implement the changes in a smooth transition speaks volumes about the capabilities of the school’s leaders, staff, and community.”

—Saeed Jaffer ’89

“I’m especially excited about how the new campus has been reorganized. The younger kids now have their own fabulous area in which to play and develop in an age appropriate setting, and the older students have their special spaces to share with their friends and classmates. And yet, somehow, it all works together in a wonderfully cohesive and intuitive way and, most importantly to me as an alumnus, still feels like the campus I attended 42 years ago.” —Rod A. Guerra, Jr. ’74

“The past recycled in new North Campus Library

When alumnus and current parent Peter Matthiessen ’77, a general contractor and wood designer, noticed demolition in progress on one of Poly’s old classroom buildings at California and Wilson, his impulse was reclamation and creation. With a project in mind, Peter turned to his wife, Lisa Fay Matthiessen ’78, who has generously lent her engineering expertise to Poly’s sustainability efforts. Lisa contacted Morley Builders, who gave Peter I-beam sections from the roof and some old 8 by 8 posts from the breezeway.

“What I got from the site was a little bent and mangled, but it was really cool material,” Peter says of his inspiration to create a new piece of furniture out of the old classroom structure he remembers inhabiting as a kid.

By trimming down and refinishing the wood, Peter designed and built a table surface from the posts which was supported by the steel I-beams. He made sure the old pin and nail holes from Poly bulletins posted over the years would remain visible. The finished product—a hefty and durable table—is a focal point in the new North Campus Library’s first-floor seating area. For Peter, the table was a labor of love, and it serves as a visible connection between Poly’s past and future.

“After hoping for more space for Middle Schoolers for over 20 years... my heart skipped more than a few beats and my eyes filled with tears of joy upon seeing the new historic courtyard for the first time! A dream come true!”

Carmie Rodriguez, assistant head of school for academic affairs.
An Innovative Campus

Design ideas bring Poly into a new century

For the North Campus improvements to have a lasting positive impact on each Poly experience, master planning and its execution called for ingenuity on many levels. Site use and the construction process, placement of technology infrastructure, and even decorative choices all required creative collaboration by dedicated members of Poly’s community. The result is an overall campus design that affords students and teachers richer opportunities than ever before.

A decisive moment in the early imaginations of a new Poly campus occurred during Charles Munger’s visit with Head of School Debbie Reed a few years ago, when he took a pen to the existing campus map. A school grandparent and visionary leader in business and philanthropic endeavors, Munger pointed out that a linear drop-off and pick-up path along Wilson Avenue would open up significant space on the east half of the campus. That reconceived element of daily school life offered great potential to the rest of the project.

Reducing impact on the environment also has been a key innovation goal for the campus enhancement. Significant leadership by Tom Marble and Lisa Fay Matthiessen, both architects and class of ’78 alumni, has helped form the sustainability vision for the project. They helped the Poly Board and administrators navigate the challenging process of determining which environmentally friendly options would be sensible for the school and its budget.

All of HMC Architects’ plans incorporated cost-effective and earth-friendly specifications in the new and renovated buildings. While the campus project stands to receive high LEED honors (for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) based on points for meeting or exceeding U.S. EPA Green Building standards, the educational value and fiscal responsibility of the sustainable design options were paramount. The HMC project manager overseeing Poly’s expansion says the school now has myriad sustainable and practical design features, from recycled and local content in many finishes to energy-efficient mechanical systems.

“The school has managed to find a way to embrace the legacy and history of the institution while progressing into the future on functionality and institutional design. What stands out most is the preservation and augmentation of the remarkable architecture that was originally in place.”

— Larry Perkins ’95

Located directly above the parking garage, the Booth Building is adjacent to the restored Dining Commons which was moved during to construction to its current location.
The Great Outdoors

“As many classes as are practicable will be conducted outdoors.”
Principal Grace Henley, during the influenza epidemic of 1919

The Poly campus incorporates outdoor spaces throughout—courtyards large and small, playgrounds and grassy knolls, patios and decks. From the first conception of the school in 1907, teachers and administrators recognized the benefits of giving children access to the world beyond their classroom walls for both physical health and intellectual versatility.

School leaders today have upheld Poly’s original design commitment to orient buildings around natural space. By providing parking below ground, streamlining the North Campus drop-off and pick-up lanes along Wilson Avenue, and moving historic buildings to new sites on campus, Poly’s new architectural plans opened up an additional 10,000 square feet of green space for daily use.

In Poly’s earliest days, teachers often moved their classes outside to work in the many courtyards and open areas.

Today, teachers still embrace the opportunity that Poly’s architecture offers to extend their classes beyond the four walls of their rooms.
Graciela Aranovich
Graciela Aranovich joined the Poly community in September 1984, when she was hired to teach Middle School Spanish. Graciela managed to bring a bit of Argentina to the classroom and the campus. While at Poly, she was affectionately known as “Señora” and was admired for her lovely sense of humor and overall sassy style. “She found a population perfectly matched for a teacher who knew day in and day out that she was teaching more than just Spanish,” Reed recounts. “She could teach life lessons to students who were in the midst of asking the very questions she liked to answer.”

Vicki Duwe
Vicki Duwe came to Poly in September 2002 as a second grade teacher. Prior to joining the Poly community, Vicki had enjoyed 29 years of successful and dedicated teaching to children with special needs in addition to general education within the primary grades for the Pasadena Unified School District. “The order that she creates in her classroom is one that has at its center her professional convictions and her personal values,” said Reed. “How fortunate are we that she came to Poly to cap off her teaching career.”

Gretchen Gantner
Gretchen Gantner has been part of the Poly community since 1969, when she was hired by Willis Stork, Poly’s headmaster at the time, who had received a recommendation from the headmaster at the Potomac School in McLean, VA, where Gretchen had taught first grade. The recommendation was so outstanding that an offer was made without a personal introduction. Firm and fair, Gretchen ran a classroom where rules were clear and where there was laughter every day. “Generations of students have benefitted from her knowledge, passion, creativity and love for teaching,” reflected Head of School Debbie Reed.

Jenny Lewark
Jenny Lewark began her career at Poly in September 1985 as a second grade teacher. She later became the faculty support/resource coordinator, eventually settled into the role of reading teacher/resource coordinator. “Teaching is a calling, a summons from within, and Jenny has lived her professional life responding to this call,” Reed said. “She clearly loved spending her day with children, and they took joy in their learning.”

Jody Stefansson
After joining Poly in July 1989, Jody Stefansson, the consummate librarian, relished reading and research and sharing her breadth of interests and knowledge that enabled her to assist students and faculty. In addition to her work in the library, Jody taught history, served on the Technology Committee, and provided learning support for students. An early adopter of technology, Jody oversaw the development of databases that enable scholarly research in all fields. “Just like the curator in an art museum, a librarian puts together a collection,” Reed said. “And in the hands of someone like Jody, the print and electronic media collection is an art form, one unique to the institution and the curator/librarian.”
New Faculty

Jenine Almahdi, who teaches second grade, comes to Poly from The Advent School in Boston, where she taught first grade for three years. Jenine attended Wesleyan University, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology and French studies; then moved on to Lesley University, where she obtained a master’s degree in elementary education.

Poly alum Michael Babcock ’76 is now a member of the Upper School Visual Arts Department, where he teaches Intermediate/Advanced Film Production. Michael has worked in the film, television, and music industries since 1981. Michael received a degree in film studies from San Francisco State University. An avid golfer, he has been the head coach for the Poly Varsity golf team for the past three years.

Maite Bernath, previously a long-term substitute teacher for Poly’s Upper School Spanish, now teaches Upper and Middle School Spanish. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego, her master’s degree from the University of California, San Diego, and attended law school in Spain.

First grade teacher Russell (Rusty) Buchanan, recently moved to California from Miami, where he taught first grade for 10 years, most recently at Sunset Elementary. Rusty attended the University of South Florida and earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education.

Shing-Yi (Mimi) Chiu, Middle School Mandarin teacher, comes to Poly from the Albuquerque Institute for Math and Science. She is originally from Taiwan and earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the Chinese Culture University and a master’s degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she obtained her degree in teaching learning and teacher education with an ESL concentration.

Fifth grade teacher Michelle Garcia recently taught fifth grade at Highland Oaks Elementary School in Arcadia. During her time at Highland Oaks, Michelle implemented a cooperative learning environment with innovative lessons utilizing technology and differentiated instruction. Michelle also taught fourth grade for Cleveland Elementary School in Pasadena, where she developed the writing preparation for the CST fourth grade exam. Michelle earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration and a master’s degree in elementary education from Loyola Marymount University.

Dodie Gregg, who teaches fourth grade, was a faculty member of the Highland Oaks School since 1996. Dodie has experience teaching in grades K-5 and was appointed “Teacher on Special Assignment” (TOSA) and in that role represented Highland Oaks School at district meetings to select and develop appropriate research-based intervention materials and strategies. She received her bachelor’s degree in English literature from Occidental College and obtained her master’s degree in teaching from Grand Canyon University.
Middle School math fellow **Michael Grier** attended Pomona College, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and psychology. He was also a member of the track and field team at Pomona College, where he competed in all of the jumping events and has been a first-team, all-conference member for the past two years.

Middle School math and science teacher **Heba Hathout** earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Princeton University and is in the process of obtaining her master’s degree in math from Harvard. Heba is the recipient of many scholastic awards, including the USAA National Science Merit Award. She was also part of the U.S. Rowing Junior Women’s National Team in 2004.

**Joanne Hwang**, who is teaching second grade, comes to Poly from the Santa Clarita International Charter School where she taught fifth grade. Joanne earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania in American history and obtained her master’s degree from Stanford University in education. Joanne has also received comprehensive training in Daily 5 literacy curriculum that allows students to develop habits that lead to independent literacy.

**Heather Jolly** joined Poly this year as an assistant kindergarten teacher. She recently taught at St. Matthew’s Parish School in Pacific Palisades as a first grade teacher. Heather earned a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education and a teaching credential from Concordia University in Irvine. She is in the process of obtaining her reading specialist credential from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

Kindergarten teacher **Jennifer Pletting** taught kindergarten last year at Poly as a long-term substitute. She has an undergraduate degree from San Diego State University and received her credential and master’s degree in administration from Cal State Los Angeles.

**Jack Prater**, who teaches Upper School math, was most recently a senior engineer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Jack was responsible for the design, development, testing, and implementation of space-qualified telecommunication systems and science instruments for JPL’s unmanned deep space probes. Jack earned his bachelor’s degree in physics from Caltech and his master’s degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Southern California. Jack has been the head coach of boys and girls JV volleyball at Poly since 2005.

Middle School English fellow **Erica Puccetti** is a graduate from University of Southern California, where she earned bachelor’s degrees in both business administration and English literature. Erica is conversant in Spanish and enjoys such sports as lacrosse, basketball, and volleyball.

Eighth grade biology teacher **Erin Smedley** comes to Poly from Liberty Union High School in Oakley, CA, where she taught high school biology. Erin earned her bachelor’s degree in kinesiology from Sonoma State University and obtained her credential from Saint Mary’s College of California Moraga. She has a love for athletics and has coached both track and field and volleyball; she is currently coaching one of Poly’s Middle School girls volleyball teams. Erin also loves to cook and is teaching eighth-graders cooking in one of their block periods.

Upper School librarian **Aquitia Winslow** is very familiar with the independent school world; she comes to us from the Crossroads School in Santa Monica and served as the head librarian at the Sequoyah School here in Pasadena. Aquita has a bachelor’s degree in legal studies and philosophy from the University of California, Santa Cruz; a master’s degree in library science from Simmons College in Boston, MA; and a J.D. from Loyola Law School.
New Staff

Gary Almonte, who joined Facilities and Operations, attended Los Angeles Trade Tech and East Los Angeles Community College. Gary’s work experience includes food service, general maintenance, and customer service.

Oscar Cervantes, who joined Facilities and Operations, attended Los Angeles Trade Tech and most recently worked at Methodist Hospital.

Communications Officer Michelle Feynman graduated from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. She comes to Poly from Curtis School in Los Angeles. Michelle has edited two books about her father and is currently working on another.

Events Coordinator Laura Fleming has served as past chair of the Lower School Parent Organization and still serves as a liaison between the head of school’s office and the entire Parent Organization leadership. Laura earned her bachelor’s degree in German language and literature from the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

Taylor Reid, assistant to the Upper School director, earned a bachelor’s degree in media studies from Emerson College. Since 2005, she has been working in the film industry, primarily as a casting agent. She was most recently an outreach director at Cast It and was responsible for managing and editing all marketing materials, including blog posts and Twitter feeds. She is an accomplished writer and to date has published two books.

Thomas Sale, admissions administrative assistant, comes to Poly with experience in college admissions and development at Woodbury University, where he earned his bachelor’s degree and is currently working toward a master’s degree in organizational leadership.

As an alumna, Amanda Edwards-Shuckhart ’92, Poly’s development communications officer, is very familiar with Poly, both from her years as a student here and as a contributing writer for Poly’s centennial book. Amanda earned a bachelor’s degree in politics and public policy analysis from Pomona College in Claremont.

New Board Members

Melany Hunt is the vice provost at Caltech, as well as a professor of mechanical engineering specializing in transport and mechanics in multiphase systems. She received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, in 1983, and her master’s and doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley. Immediately upon receiving her Ph.D, Melanie began at Caltech as an assistant professor in 1988, was promoted to associate professor in 1995 and professor in 2001. She has been involved in a range of Caltech committees looking at student life, academics, undergraduate admissions, diversity, and child care. Her daughter Madelyn is a sophomore at Poly; daughter Claire graduated last year.

Larry Perkins ’95 joins the Poly Board of Trustees for a two-year term as the president of the Alumni Board. He is currently the senior managing director at Conway MacKenzie, Inc. Prior to his current position, Larry was the founder/president of El Molino Advisors. He received a bachelor’s degree in business and administration with an emphasis on finance from the University of Southern California. While at Poly, Larry served as the Associated Student Body president.

Jorge Castro is the CEO of Lombardia Capital Partners, LLC. and serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the New America Alliance Institute, an organization of the nation’s most prominent Latino business leaders. For 12 years, Jorge served as a member of the Board of Trustees at Milton Academy, including serving on the investment committee for the school’s $150 million endowment. He graduated magna cum laude from Princeton University and was a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University. His son, Dominic, is a third-grader at Poly.
Fresh Perspective

In facilities and curriculum, Poly is expanding student access to the arts.

This semester, 15 Upper School students have ventured into new academic territory at Polytechnic School. Led by Arnor Bieltvedt, chair of the Visual Arts Department, these students comprise Poly’s first-ever Advanced Placement class in studio art.

“This course has been a dream of mine for quite some time,” Bieltvedt explains. “At Poly, we believe very strongly that the arts are no different than any other academic discipline. We want our students not only to master technique, but also to possess an intellectual context for their work. We want them to be able to discuss art on a personal level and also on a formal level.”

Most of all, Bieltvedt wanted a venue in which passionate art students could focus deeply and amass a significant body of work. The new AP class will provide such a venue, as students work toward the rigorous portfolio requirements for the national AP evaluation in the spring. The course requires a strong foundation in basic skills, and extensive critique sessions mimic those of a college environment.

The introduction of AP Studio Art is just one example of Poly’s current drive to expand student access to both the visual and the performing arts. Over the past decade, eager student participation has stretched Poly’s arts facilities
to the edge of capacity. Through The Next 100 Years campaign, Poly is working to increase and improve the spaces where students can express their abundant creativity.

“We want our arts to provide breadth, so that students can experiment,” explains Cynthia Crass, chair of the Performing Arts Department. “We also want to offer depth, so that individual students can pursue very high levels of achievement. This means offering a wide range of courses. We believe the arts offer all students a unique perspective on risk-taking, collaboration, and what motivates us as human beings. We want every student to be able to take advantage of that learning process.”

Poly’s performing arts program is overflowing with opportunities for students to express their creativity. The final phase of The Next 100 Years campaign will increase rehearsal and performance space on the South Campus.

Even as Poly celebrates the new North Campus, a second, equally dramatic transformation is now underway at the Upper School. A new science-math-library building is taking shape on Cornell Road, to be followed by an expansion of Poly’s visual and performing arts facilities. Together, these construction projects represent Poly’s firm commitment to sustain its historic standards of excellence well into the 21st century. The new facilities will enhance scientific inquiry, mathematics preparation for college and beyond, the practice of myriad creative arts, and effective library research in the information age.

Early donors have already contributed more than $3.5 million toward the South Campus construction costs of $15 million. We now seek key leadership donors who can help put us over the finish line by December 31, 2012. To join with others who believe in Poly, please contact Diane Binney, director of development, at 626-396-6331 or dbinney@polytechnic.org; or Beth Kopley, campaign director, at 626-396-6342 or bkopley@polytechnic.org.

The final phase of The Next 100 Years campaign is now underway.
Change Agent

Poly’s new science-math-library building, now under construction, will spark improvements in all directions.

From the beginning of The Next 100 Years campaign, Poly’s very highest priority has been the construction projects now underway on the South Campus. The new science-math-library building that is taking shape on Cornell Road will pave the way for Poly to reinvigorate its facilities to support scientific inquiry, the arts, mathematics, and effective library research in the information age.

With seven new laboratory classrooms, the new facility will ensure that all Upper School science classes have access to state-of-the-art facilities. It will bring the Math and Science Departments together under one roof to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration. On the top floor, a more flexible, dynamic new library will support the ambitious Upper School curriculum with more room for online access, research instruction, and collaborative student work.

Once complete, the science-math-library building will allow Poly to make key expansions in its visual and performing arts facilities. Ultimately, the structure is at the heart of a transformation that will enhance every aspect of learning on the South Campus.

“As we look ahead at the next 50 or 60 years, we know our students are going to need to be flexible, ambitious problem-solvers. They will need strong math and science literacy, right-brain creativity, and the ability to command massive amounts of ever-evolving information. The South Campus construction will enable Poly students to keep pace in all these areas.”

— Jamie Neilson, Upper School director

Rendering of the Upper School’s new science-math-library building from Cornell Road
Vacated visual arts space in Garland will become two new rehearsal studios for the Performing Arts Department. One will be a dance studio; the other will also double as an intimate performance space, ideal for independent student work.

The new science-math-library building will provide seven new laboratory classrooms and will ensure that all Upper School science classes have access to lab space and cutting-edge equipment. The building will bring the Math and Science Departments together under one roof to foster interdisciplinary collaboration.

In *Contemporary Ethical Issues* (a senior elective), students explore controversial topics such as the death penalty. Ultimately, they must transform substantial independent research into an original, persuasive position on their chosen subject. Poly teachers and librarians work in tandem to support this kind of advanced coursework.

How Can You Help?

This is a pivotal moment for Polytechnic School. We need the support of the entire Poly community to achieve the final goals of *The Next 100 Years* campaign. In particular, we are seeking generous construction gifts for the new science-math-library building and other projects that will transform the South Campus. If you would like more information about how you can assist in this historic effort, please contact Diane Binney, director of development, at 626-396-6331 or dbinney@polytechnic.org; or Beth Kopley, campaign director, at 626-396-6342 or bkopley@polytechnic.org.
Leaving a Legacy

The Grace Henley Society recognizes members of the community who have thoughtfully provided for Polytechnic School through a will or other estate plan. A planned gift to Poly becomes part of the school’s endowment, helping to ensure that the programs and values that have made Poly great in the past will continue for years to come.

Naming Poly in your will or trust is an easy way to make a difference. It does not affect your current cash flow or assets, and it is easy to revise if your circumstances change. Best of all, the choice to include Polytechnic School as a beneficiary of your estate brings the satisfaction of leaving a legacy that will outlast you.

We hope you will talk with your attorney to make arrangements for a bequest to Poly. You can give a specific dollar amount, a particular asset, or a percentage of your estate after distributions and costs. Please let us know whenever you have completed a plan to include Polytechnic School in your estate so that we can thank you for your generosity and welcome you to the Grace Henley Society, our planned giving circle.

Through The Next 100 Years campaign, Poly is reinvigorating its entire academic facility from kindergarten through the Upper School. Your bequest intention before December 2012 can count toward this landmark endeavor!

For more information about planned giving, please contact Major Gifts Officer Julie Sperling at 626-396-6341 or jsperling@polytechnic.org.

Giving From Day One

Jordan Wallens ’90 and Idoya Urrutia

One of the great testaments to Poly’s emphasis on service is generous alumni support. Jordan Wallens has given to the school in many ways since his graduation in 1990, beginning with steady Annual Fund contributions from his first semester in college. Together with his wife, Idoya Urrutia, Jordan has also planned for a bequest to Poly from their estate.

“It was an easy choice from the first time I heard about planned giving,” Jordan says. “The way I look at it, I was raised by Poly…and my wife has always been so impressed by her encounters with the school.”

Jordan and Idoya partly credit their professional associations with some of Poly’s leading supporters as inspiration to give, thanks to his previous position—and Idoya’s current job—at The Capital Group. The couple also have plenty of opportunities to witness Poly’s progress through their niece and nephew, the children of Nicole Wallens Logan ’86. Their family’s particular bond with Poly has also grown through memorials to their brother, Blake Wallens ’88, who died in the 2001 World Trade Center attacks. Each connection reinforces Poly’s impact on character and intellect. Jordan and Idoya are pleased to be part of the school’s future.

For more information, visit us online at www.polytechnic.org/plannedgiving.
Westside Alumni Happy Hour

On July 20, Poly alumni ranging from the classes of 1965 to 2008 gathered at Sonoma Wine Garden in Santa Monica for a mid-summer happy hour.

Alumni Board Appreciation Dinner

Outgoing Alumni Board president Alison Edwards Lastor ’88 with incoming president Larry Perkins ’95

On Sept. 14, Poly’s Alumni Association welcomed new board members and recognized departing members and alumni volunteers at the annual dinner.

Newest Members of the Polytechnic School Alumni Association

Class of 2011

Ninety-one members of the class filed 896 college applications and are attending 49 different colleges and universities across North America (one alumna ventured up to British Columbia).

Alumni Soccer Match

The boys soccer alumni game was revived this year with a summer game on July 5. A spirited group of alumni from the classes of 1998 to 2011 competed against Varsity and JV players in a 75-minute game that gave students an opportunity to play a full-sided summer game and alumni a chance to prove they still have it.

Ted Henigson ’88, Ari Wiseman ’93, and Gretchen Smits Adkins ’54

More than 50 guests gathered at the home of Sigrid Burton ’69 and Max Brennan in October to re-connect with Poly and each other. A broad cross-section of Poly alumni, parents of alumni, and even a current Poly grandparent shared an enjoyable evening together and listened to school updates from Debbie Reed and Carmie Rodriguez.

Upcoming Events

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For more information on Poly alumni events, please visit www.polytechnic.org/alumni or email the Alumni Office at alumni@polytechnic.org.

To get the latest news and updates, find us at www.facebook.com/poly and follow us on Twitter @PolyAlumni.
Q&A with Josh Brody ’90

The Polytechnic School Distinguished Alumni Award is given annually to an alumna or alumnus whose life and work embodies Poly’s mission and philosophy of integrity, intellect, compassion, service to others, and respect for the world beyond. This spring, the Polytechnic School Alumni Board unanimously named Josh Brody ’90 as its Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. Currently serving as director of Sequoyah School in Pasadena, Josh founded a series of educational initiatives in Nepal centered upon making education more relevant to the languages, livelihoods, and cultures of people living in remote, high mountain areas and improving education for women and girls in those areas. If that weren’t enough, Josh also gained fame and notoriety in Nepal as a bona fide pop star. Singing alongside Nepalese artist Khem Raj Gurung, music videos from the duo’s folk/pop album became some of the most popular in the country. On Friday evening, Nov. 11, Josh attended a dinner in his honor and officially accepted the award. Below, Josh reflects on his remarkable journey.

Poly: What first sparked your interest in Nepal?
Josh Brody: My father was an ophthalmologist who both maintained a clinical practice in a low-income area of South Chicago and was dedicated to performing eye surgery outside this country where people didn’t have adequate access to health care. He’d travelled extensively, but more than anything had always wanted to go to Nepal. He’d read books about the country, and when I was young, I’d hear long descriptions of the geographic and biological diversity of Nepal—“from the Gangetic plains of the Terai up through the alpine peaks of the Himalayas!” Until college, the extent of my Nepal experience was my dad’s descriptions.

In college, I majored in anthropology with a focus on Buddhist and Hindu society. A professor encouraged me to attend a just-launched study abroad program in Nepal. I jumped at the chance to both pursue a primary academic interest and to finally see the incredible jungle and alpine landscapes from my dad’s books.

While being among the program’s first batch of students sounded exciting, there was a lot that still needed to be put into place. I soon realized that the program wasn’t quite what I thought it would be, but if I stopped moping I could still get a lot out of the experience. I met some guys my age from the local bazaar who shared my passions for basketball and folk songs. My height advantage led to some great success on the courts. Spending evenings playing guitar and singing led to some good Nepali language skills and a significant repertoire of Nepali folk songs.

P: In your opinion, what about the education system in Nepal was flawed? Why and how did you feel you could make a difference?
JB: After college, I returned to Nepal to run an elementary school in Khandbari, the headquarters of a remote hill district. At the time, Khandbari was a two-day walk from the nearest road. During the years I spent there, I became close with some people from the Bhot Khol region, a five-day walk beyond Khandbari, near the border between Nepal and China. It had been closed to foreigners for decades. The people from the area, known as the Singsawa Bhotias, came to the bazaar to buy and sell goods. I grew particularly close with a teacher from the area, Chhongduk Bhote. We often talked about education and development for high mountain areas.

At the same time, a large national park and conservation area began development in Bhot Khol. This was a well-funded international project whose planning emphasized local participation. However, according to Chhongduk, local people were having difficulties engaging in the process. The majority couldn’t read or write and had limited experience with large development or state bureaucracies. I helped Chhongduk apply for funding to organize adult literacy classes in which they could discuss the policies of the national park and provide feedback. Through this process, we realized that meaningful education would be critical for the people of the Bhot Khol to successfully navigate the rapid changes happening around them. This style of education would be in contrast to what was offered at the time, which wasn’t relevant to their lives, livelihoods, language, or culture. This disconnect resulted in very low attendance and little learning.
Through my work with Chhongduk, I recognized that I could facilitate an influx of resources and a change in policies that could help make education more meaningful for people in remote mountain areas who’d historically been left out of mainstream Nepali society.

P: How did your musical partnership with Khem Raj Gurung come about? What led to your duo finding such success?

JB: Khem Raj and I worked at the same school in eastern Nepal. We quickly recognized each other’s passion for Nepali song and dance. When I wasn’t talking education with Chhongduk, I was usually with Khem Raj learning songs and dances or making up new ones. We had so much fun that we began to perform at small school and community programs. Then we received invitations to bigger venues.

Khem Raj thought the best way to pursue his own singing career would be to make an album with a tall, goofy white guy, something that hadn’t been done before. I was game, and we began recording. The difficulty was, however, that I was in Nepal to work on education in remote areas, not record songs in studios in Kathmandu. While the recording of our album dragged on, Khem Raj released his own solo effort. It became the bestselling album in the country.

By the time our album and music videos came out, my path to Nepali folk/pop stardom had been paved. One of the most surprising things about being famous in a foreign country is that it has lasted. I go back each summer to Nepal. We quickly recognized each other’s passion for Nepali song and dance. When I wasn’t talking education with Chhongduk, I was usually with Khem Raj learning songs and dances or making up new ones. We had so much fun that we began to perform at small school and community programs. Then we received invitations to bigger venues.

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P: What is it like to be “famous” in a foreign country?

JB: One of the most surprising things about being famous in Nepal is that it has lasted. I go back each summer, expecting that the novelty of my singing career will have worn off. So far, each time I arrive, the murmurs start with the security personnel as I enter the airport and then taxi drivers waiting outside start yelling, “Hey Lambu Dai! Hey Gundrukai Dai!” (“Hey tall brother! Hey brother with the curly hair like fermented greens!”—names I’m called in my songs).

Because my songs were steeped in village culture and reflected Nepali humor, people seemed honored that I’d made such an effort to learn about their language and culture. They’d often want to come up just to congratulate me and talk. That was the best part of being famous there—making a taxi driver happy just by getting in his cab or by just walking down the street or sitting in a public square having the opportunity to meet and speak with all sorts of people.

P: What was your motivation in returning to Pasadena and leading an independent school?

JB: Family circumstances brought me back from Nepal. My dad had become ill, and I needed to be home to care for him. As I considered what to do upon my return, the opportunity came up to be the director of Sequoyah, a school I had attended when I was young. As I thought about it, the idea of leading a school community became exciting. I’d have the opportunity to help shape a school culture in which children could grow and learn in a setting of idealism, optimism, and creativity. In Nepal, we worked together to create environments where children and families found school to be meaningful to their lives. While Pasadena is a very different context from Nepal, I’m still working to create an environment in which the learning that takes place is similarly meaningful and engaging.

P: Were there aspects of your Poly education that inspired you to spend a life serving others?

JB: When I told my grandmother of the alumni award, she was proud but also bemused. She said that in her experience, these things were usually given to people a bit older and more established (she has yet to get her head around the fact that I’m almost 40). She added that she does think I have a lot of wisdom for my age. While there are certainly things I didn’t take advantage of during my time at Poly, I did have the wisdom to take advantage of the wonderful mentors available to me. I always felt that Mike Babcock had special encouragement for me. I think Mike’s gift was to make everyone feel that way. Mike would tell me, although I never quite believed him, that Poly needed me as much as I needed it. After graduating, I returned to Poly to work in the early years of the Skills Enrichment Program and learned from Carmie Rodriguez what it means to create and lead innovative educational programming that supports underserved students. I’ve had countless conversations about education and diversity within independent schools with Grace Hamilton, my former English teacher and later the director of the Upper School. Head of School Debbie Reed has generously shared her experience in school governance with me—the follies and successes, always making me feel like I had some wisdom to offer her in return. Perhaps most of all, I have benefitted from relationships with my fellow Poly alums. There are so many talented Poly alumni—I am certainly humbled to be singled out in this way. Friends from Poly have helped me with everything from raising funds for the education project in Nepal to editing papers in graduate school to serving as officers and trustees on boards of organizations I have led. I have benefitted from their example of what it is to both idealistically and pragmatically serve others.
Class Notes

Class Notes Editorial Policy:
The editorial staff gives preference to those Class Notes that come from primary sources. We reserve the right to edit class notes (primarily because of space considerations, occasionally for clarity). We do not have the resources to fact check Class Note entries, therefore, we cannot be liable for inaccurate or false information that may inadvertently find its way into a Class Note. We thank you for your understanding.

To submit a Class Note, send an email to classnotes@polytechnic.org.

1926–1959

William Delpeh '51 I have fond memories of you all, especially Mike Scofield ’51, Bill Garland ’51, and Coach Frank Hamilton. Jane Miller Chai ’53 recently spent a month in South Korea. She lectured on the resources and commodities of Central Asia at Seoul National University in the Economics Department. Her Korean friends remarked she experienced more of Korea’s palaces, temples, and ancient villages than most Koreans. Cynthia Nash Hummel ’56 Travel has taken my husband and me to 111 countries. Dave and our two sons love skiing. I try to keep my German alive by visiting friends there every February. Carolann Robey Ford ’58 To continue a new tradition, I took my 12-year-old grandson, Ethan, on a two-week safari to Tanzania in July. He thoroughly enjoyed the trip and stole my camera to take 600+ pictures. His father, Chris, and I had spent two weeks on safari in Kenya and three weeks in South Africa way back in 1988 when my son was 10. Once again, I was elected to the California State Board of American Association of University Women, now as a liaison between the Board of Directors and all Southern California branches.

Poly Alumnus Awarded Nobel Prize

Bruce Beutler, M.D. ’75, who was awarded the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, discovered receptor proteins that can recognize such microorganisms and activate innate immunity, the first step in the body’s immune response. Bruce is a professor and director of the Center for the Genetics of Host Defense at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. In addition, he serves as a professor and chairman of the Department of Genetics at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla.

Poly Alumna Recognized in TIME Magazine

Rebecca Eaton ’65 is celebrating her 25th year as executive producer of PBS’ iconic drama series “Masterpiece.” Under Rebecca’s leadership, “Masterpiece” has broken records in viewing and awards during its 40th season. In May, PBS presented Rebecca with its highest honor, the “Be More” Award, noting her commitment to the highest standards of excellence and artistic expression for public broadcasting. She was named one of TIME magazine’s 100 Most Influential People of 2011 and is featured in the January 2012 issue of Vanity Fair.

Since taking over the helm of the PBS series “Masterpiece Theatre” and “Mystery!” in 1985, Rebecca has been responsible for such shows as “Prime Suspect,” “Bleak House,” “The Complete Jane Austen,” and recent hits “Sherlock” and “Downtown Abbey.” She has received 20 Primetime Emmy Awards, 11 Peabody Awards, a Golden Globe, and two Academy Award nominations for the Masterpiece co-production, “Mrs. Brown.” In 2008, she oversaw the highly successful launch of the revamped “Masterpiece,” with new scheduling, new hosts, and a new look. The series has attracted the next generation of drama fans, while increasing the size of the core audience.
**1960–1969**

**Donald Graff ’62** On July 1, after 34 years and nine months, I retired as vicar of the Free Church of St. John (Episcopal) in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia. This summer, Betty and I flew to Hawaii with our grandson, Bryce. My son, Evan, was with us for most of July and is now in Manila, teaching at Faith Academy. My daughter, Megan, has finished her contract with the Canadian International School in Singapore and began teaching at the School of St. Jude in Tanzania this summer. I am looking forward to our 50th class reunion in May. I hope we have a good turnout. ● **John “Jay” Culver ’64** My daughter recently turned 35, and two weeks later I hit 88. Life is satisfying with new things to try and/or trip over. Still attempting to be creative in writing and with my popsicle stick dioramas of urban landmarks. I continue to work at the Marmot Research Institute in Durango, Colo., and perform local volunteer activities. (john.culver3@gmail.com) ● **Gifford Myers ’66** My daughter, **Katie Myers ’09,** is well into her junior year at Northwestern, working in film and television. Son **Willie ’07** is working in Vietnam. Just a “few” years ago, I was working with Quakers and Conscientious Objectors attempting to dissuade guys from going to Vietnam. Ironic, eh? Terry ’63’s “kids” are in Thailand, Laos, and Guatemala. Niece Emily is working in Spain, and I am in Altadena? I’m into my 32nd year teaching sculpture at UC Irvine with no pardon in sight. When first hired, I assured my pal Joe, “You won’t catch me teaching in five years.” Don’t believe the fear-mongering, sensationalist media: Baja, Mexico is safe, although their economy and lives have been tragically decimated by the lack of visitors. I go every three weeks, often to help friends and have never had a problem. I still want to find **Sandy Miller ’67** and Adam Wright ’66, who wrote absolutely the most hilarious piece some years back. Best wishes to John Manley and Vivian Young. Good night moon. ● **Cassandra Phillips ’68** I co-authored Plastic Ocean: How a Sea Captain’s Chance Discovery Launched a Determined Quest to Save the Oceans published in late October from Avery/Penguin. The sea captain and my co-author is Charles Moore, the activist-scientist who “discovered” and studied the Great North Pacific Garbage Patch. The book covers the oceans’ regrettable pollution by plastic trash, and it delves into plastic itself, a problematic material in many ways, as well as our culture’s throwaway ethos. (www.plasticoceanthebook.com)

**1970–1979**

**Nicholas Rodriguez ’70** is presently serving as the chief assistant city attorney for the City of Pasadena and for the Rose Bowl Operating Company. My daughter, **Elisa ’01,** is working for Goldman Sachs and was married in May to George Cunningham, who among other things is a proud Poly assistant football coach. My son, **Nicky ’04,** is a third year at Columbia Law School. My wife, Patricia, and I could not be more excited to start a new adventure with our daughter and Poly kindergartener, **Jaden ’24,** and to be a continued part of this wonderful institution and of the Poly family. ● **Nelson Holdo ’77** A lot to report in the last couple of years! Married the love of my life, Meshell Sohl, four years ago and was blessed with a fabulous stepdaughter, Samantha, who is in her freshman year at Mayfield Senior School. Closed the jewelry store that I founded 20 years ago and took a position as president of America’s first jeweler (1810), Black, Starr & Frost. Commuting to Newport Beach every day but still living in San Marino. ● **Brian Berdan ’79** Another film, another year goes by. Just wrapping up a Ghost Rider/Nic Cage sequel—my second time shooting in Romania. Learning all kinds of visual effects tricks and 3D, too! Now back to Seattle for another wet winter at home.

**1980–1989**

**Edward Hon ’80** We celebrated two graduations this year and soon will be empty-nesters! Keone graduated from MIT with two bachelor’s degrees and two master’s degrees (English and finance) and has started work in Chicago at an investment bank. Kimo graduated from high school and will attend Yale and live in my residential college, Timothy Dwight. Photo is of Keone (21) and Kimo (17). ● **Steven McCoy-Thompson ’80** In January, I became the director of a wonderful global non-profit called Business for Social Responsibility, which provides sustainability services to large companies (www.bsr.org), and completed a great tour of our offices in China, France, and elsewhere. My son is at American University, and my daughter will leave for college in a year—what a shock! My wife, Meri, recently started at a non-profit that builds school programs for children in Afghanistan (www.trustin-education.org), so we’re actively preparing...
Class Notes

to be empty-nesters, which will be all too soon. Hope all is well with everyone! ● Lauren Fitzpatrick Middleton ’87
My daughter and I both started new phases in our lives on the same day. I started working in the Connecticut College Annual Fund Office in September, and Jenny started kindergarten. We’re both settling into our new routines and loving all of it. I got the chance to visit with Michele Moscarello Merritt ’87 and her family this summer, as they were back east touring colleges for her son Ryan and visiting family. How strange that she and I are only two weeks apart in age, yet she is getting ready to send her child to college, and mine is just starting elementary school. I hope all is well with all the other ’87s out there. It’s been great to keep up with classmates through Facebook, too.

1990–1999

Nicholas Techentin ’93 and his wife, Katya, joyfully celebrated the birth of their baby girl, Elayne Jade Techentin, on June 3, in Santa Monica. ● Heather Tindall Readhead ’94 and Adam Readhead ’94 have relocated back to Los Angeles. Heather has started a preventive medicine year with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and Adam started his doctorate in public health at UCLA this fall. ● David Richardson ’95 has been named a recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) by President Obama. The award is the highest honor given by the U.S. government to scientists and engineers in the early stages of their independent research careers. Richardson received the award for developing a new method for calculating spawning stock biomass, a critical factor in the fish stock assessments used by fisheries managers to set sustainable levels for fishing. ● Marian Lee Dicus ’96
In April, I started a new job at Gilt Groupe (www.gilt.com) to help re-launch their home business, which went live at the end of October. On Aug. 26, Scott and I welcomed into the world Catherine Elizabeth Dicus. Cate weighed in at 7.8 lbs and 20.75 inches long and had the distinct pleasure of being born while NYC was preparing for Hurricane Irene. Luckily, we were safely ensconced in the hospital and missed all the hurricane hoopla.

2000–2010

Kristin Burdge ’00 completed her master’s degree in social work with a four-month stint in Amman, Jordan, with the World Health Organization this past spring. Now, she’s working with youth on probation in Washington, D.C. ● Stewart Dorsey ’02 married Karla Mei Robertson on July 3, in Calistoga, Calif., after almost eight years of dating. After sharing a wall their freshman year at college, the two traveled longer and longer distances to see each other—from crossing campus to crossing the San Francisco Bay, to crossing the country this past year while Stewart worked on a master’s degree at Columbia University. Now they’re happily settled into a house in Woodside, Calif., and Stewart began teaching at The San Francisco School this fall. There were many Poly friends at the wedding, including Katie Anawalt ’02, Dana Heatherton ’02, Matt Robbins ’02 and Will Rosenthal ’02. Former Poly trustee and class of 2002 parent Rev. Catharine Grier Carlson presided over the ceremony. ● Katherine Hardy ’02, married Spencer Lynch on Sept. 24 in Camden, Me. The couple met at Duke. ● In June, Jim Kennedy ’72 and Elizabeth Dooley ’03 participated in AIDS/LifeCycle 2011, a seven-day, 545-mile ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles to raise money and awareness for AIDS/HIV treatment and prevention programs. They met at one of the many rest stops along the route and after a bit of conversation realized they had something in common—Poly! It was the second time that each of them had participated in the ride. ● Vahe Gabuchian ’03, who is working on a doctorate in aeronautics at Caltech, directed “The Ph.D. Movie,” a 64-minute film about the tribulations of graduate school life, based on the comic strip by Jorge Cham, “Piled Higher and Deeper.” (www.phdcomics.com) ● Adam Feldmeth ’04’s work was featured in the fall 2011 issue of X-TRA Contemporary Art Quarterly (www.x-traonline.org). His article, “The Demagnetized Compass,” features excerpts from a lecture he gave at California Institute of the Arts in January. ● Laura Reardon ’04 received a master’s degree in teaching from USC.
and has worked as a substitute teacher of Italian at Granada Hills Charter High School. She also has been volunteering at Glendale Unified’s elementary school Italian immersion program.

Kate Woods ’04 Forrest Perkins, a college classmate at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and I finally had our wedding celebration on the Virginia V, a historic vessel that operates in Lake Union and Lake Washington in Seattle. Tracy Wu ’04 and Jason Naga ’04 were in attendance. We called the party a celebration since we have been married since Aug. 3, 2010, when we went to the courthouse in Gretna, La., during my deployment for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill cleanup. We live in Ann Arbor, Mich., where I am in school for a master’s degree in naval architecture and marine engineering for the Coast Guard. I’ll be here for two years, so if anybody finds themselves in the area, give me a call!

Case Hathaway-Zepeda ’05 The past two years I’ve been working many odd jobs in New Hampshire and Vermont and teaching metalsmithing and digital photography, while also having my video work in several shows in New York City, Texas, and New Hampshire. This past summer, I finished my first sprint triathlon in Burlington, Vt., and had an awesome time! I moved to Boston and am now pursuing an MFA at the School at the Museum of Fine Arts.

Clare Sayas ’07 graduated cum laude at USC and is now working at Edelman in San Mateo. Rosemary LaGrua ’07 graduated in June from Rhode Island School of Design with a bachelor of fine arts degree in apparel design. Cameron Nutt ’07 is working for a year in Rwanda under the direction of The Minister of Health for Rwanda.

Hannah Withers ’07 is interning full time at NPR/WBEZ-Chicago Public Media’s “Wait Wait... Don’t Tell Me!” and at NPR’s “How To Do Everything,” which is produced by Blythe Haaga ’01.

Frances Power ’08 I’m writing my thesis for my East Asian Studies major at Occidental College and started the karate club this semester. After graduation this May, I’m hopefully going to China for a couple of years.

Miranda Wakimoto ’08 In July, I got an opportunity to play rugby with the U20 Women’s National Team. The Nations Cup was hosted in Santa Barbara, against the teams from England, South Africa, and Canada. USA took second behind England.

Daniel Reardon ’09 is a member of Yale’s a cappella group, Out of the Blue, that released a new album this year (www.yaleootb.com).

Felicitas Lenz ’09, a junior at Northwestern University, won the German Junior National Championships on platform diving and represented Germany and Northwestern University at the World University Games in Shenzhen, competing on 10-meter and placing 10th on the 3-meter event.

Cosima Lenz ’10, a sophomore at Northwestern University, finished eighth at the Senior USA National Championships on platform diving at UCLA in August and qualified for the Olympic Trials.

Molly Thornton ’10, Matthew Diephuis ’10, and Rose Dicovitsky ’10, the three members of the class of 2010 who attend Dartmouth, gathered for dinner with their families during the college freshman Parents Weekend in April.

(Mr. to right: Molly Thornton ’10, Matthew Diephuis ’10, and Rose Dicovitsky ’10)

Alexandra Paul ’10 spent the summer in Madrid with the Duke in Spain program. She finished her summer in Boston at Massachusetts General Hospital interning in the Global Health Department.

Bobby Samuels ’10 and Alex Ostroff ’10 were in first grade at Poly, and they told each other that when Bobby was at Harvard and Alex was at Brown, they would meet up one day and go to a Red Sox game together. Some 13 years later, they kept their promise. This photo was taken at Fenway Park in September.

Aubrey Walker ’11 was selected as one of the 1,000 Gates Millennium Scholars based on his strong leadership, community service, and academic achievements. His accomplishment is especially notable in context of the more than 23,000 students who applied, making this year’s the largest and most competitive group of candidates in the program’s history.
In Memoriam

Poly publishes obituaries as space allows when we receive notice that an alumnus or alumna has died. If we have neglected to list someone, please send us biographical information, which we will print in a subsequent issue. We extend our condolences to the families and friends of those listed below and hope this section assists those who wish to honor their Poly classmates and friends. Please note: Listings include those received through October 2011.

Helen Gillette Chapin ’26
April 22, 2011, Rancho Santa Fe, California
Helen, who was Poly’s second oldest living alumna at the time of her death, passed away peacefully at home at the age of 100 with her family by her side. Born in 1911 in Chicago, she moved with her family to Pasadena and attended Poly. She took up ballet at the age of 19 and danced in various presentations over the years with the Collenever Ballet group. As a member of MGM’s Goldwyn Girls, she performed in the movie “Merry Widow” (1934) and “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” (1935). In 1940, she married Charlie A. Chapin. After WWII, they settled in Rancho Santa Fe, where they raised their three children. Helen was predeceased by Charlie in 1998 after 58 years of marriage and by their son Kent in 1993. She was a longtime member of the Village Presbyterian Church, the RSF Book Club, Garden Club, San Diego Yacht Club, and DAR. Helen, who will be remembered for her zest for life and ready smile, leaves behind her children Carol and Chip, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Margaret Wold Armstrong ’31
May 3, 2011, Clinton, Washington
Margaret died peacefully a few days after a fall at home. She was born Nov. 27, 1916, in Pasadena and attended UC Berkeley. She was married to Foster Markoff from 1939 to 1954 and to Breckinridge Armstrong from 1954 to 1959. In 1959, Margaret began a career in arts administration with the incipient arts and lectures program at UC Santa Barbara, which started with a program budget of $5,000. When she retired as manager 21 years later, the program had a budget of half a million dollars and was the third largest program in the UC system. Margaret was a founding member of the Western Alliance of the National Association of College and University Concert Managers and a founding member of the Santa Barbara Arts Council. After her retirement, she served on the board of the Santa Barbara League of Women Voters and the board of the Carpentaria Valley Association. She also did volunteer work for the Altrusa Club and the Braille Institute in Santa Barbara. She took a number of adult education classes in the arts, literature, and creative writing. In 1989, she moved to Whidbey Island, where she served as a volunteer driver for Senior Services of Island County and as a member of the Friends of the Langley Library and Friends of the Clinton Library. Her creative interests included piano, poetry, leather work, watercolor painting, drawing, pottery, and lapidary. She loved working in the yard, nature, and animals. She was an avid reader and self-taught in many subjects. She was also a donor to many organizations. She was a loving, kind, and generous person to her family and friends. She is survived by her son and daughter, three grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

James Humphrey Torrey ’32
December 28, 2010, Bloomfield, Connecticut
Jim was born on Oct. 10, 1917, in Wilkes-Barre, Penn. His family moved to Pasadena in 1925. After Poly, he graduated from South Pasadena High School in 1936 and then from Yale University in 1940 with a bachelor’s degree in economic science. Two years later, Jim married his longtime sweetheart, Hetty Bixby, who died in 2006 after 64 happy years of marriage. Upon graduating, Jim joined the Naval Reserves, where he helped to train women military personnel (Waves) at Smith College. He served actively in both WWII and the Korean War, retiring from military service in 1954 with the rank of lieutenant commander. Jim spent his post-war business career at Connecticut General Life Insurance Company, and later CIGNA, until his retirement in 1977, serving as chief investment officer and finally executive vice president of CIGNA and serving on the board of directors from 1964 to 1985. Jim used his financial skills to support his community by serving on boards and finance committees of a wide array of organizations, including Pennsylvania Central Railroad, Hartford Hospital, Trinity College, The University of Hartford, the Greater Hartford Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center, and the Hartford Tennis Club. Jim was instrumental in envisioning and creating Duncaster, a full-service senior living facility in Bloomfield, Conn., that has become a model for other such facilities around the country. Jim lived at Duncaster for 13 years and often fished in the Duncaster Pond. In 2008, he married Lilly Biscoe. Jim was a fine athlete, once ranked number one in junior tennis doubles in California and lettering in both football and basketball. Jim was predeceased by Charlie in 1998 after 58 years of marriage and by their son Kent in 1993. She was a longtime member of the Village Presbyterian Church, the RSF Book Club, Garden Club, San Diego Yacht Club, and DAR. Helen, who will be remembered for her zest for life and ready smile, leaves behind her children Carol and Chip, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Reginald G. Spear ’39
October 7, 2011, Pasadena, California
Reg was born in 1924 in Pasadena, where he lived until his death. He was an engineer, industrial designer, and entrepreneur. His inventions made significant advances in the fields of optics, aeronautics, natural gas, and semiconductor technology. He received his first patent in 1936 at the age of 12 for a recoil dog leash. At the outbreak of WWII, Reg enlisted in the Army at the age of 18 and ultimately joined the Office of Strategic Services. He was a veteran of 17 intelligence missions into China, Philippines, Okinawa, Peleliu, and Angaur, and he was combat wounded twice. Reg was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He was a partner with the CIA Museum in ensuring that the areas in which he was involved, such as early CIA overhead reconnaissance history, are preserved for future generations. Reg’s many patented inventions include the aircraft rocket launcher for the Sidewinder and HYAR rockets, the optics for the IRIS camera used on the Corona satellite, U2 and SR71 aircraft, the Tioga process for natural gas, oil, and natural gas tanker loading docks, and the first amorphous solar cells. Reg is survived by his wife, Robin Knight Spear ’42, two children, Gordon and Robin; and grandchildren, Ryan, Jordan, David, and Dana.
Margaret Hoover Brigham '40  
February 14, 2011, West Chester, Pennsylvania  
Margaret died at home at the age of 84. Born in Boston, she was the oldest granddaughter of President Herbert Hoover. She grew up in San Marino and Sierra Madre, and had lived in West Chester since 1957. Margaret earned a bachelor's degree from Wellesley College. She loved to play the piano and was a member of the Birmingham Friends Meeting in West Chester, where she was a soloist at the Christmas Sing for many years. Margaret also sang with the Greenlea Chorale and was a former member of the choir of Church of the Advent in Kennett Square. She served on the board of directors of the Chester County Library and as an advisory board member of Good Fellowship Ambulance Company. She also was founder of the Chester County Emergency Services. Margaret raised and raced thoroughbred horses for the past 40 years. In addition to her husband, Richard T. Brigham, she is survived by her three daughters, two sons, three grandsons, and her great-granddaughter. She was preceded in death by her brother, Herbert “Pete” Hoover III, and sister, Joan Hoover Vowles ’45.

Mary Palmer Gerry ’43  
July 13, 2011, Pasadena, California  
After a long illness, Mary passed away peacefully at home with family beside her. Born in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1928, Mary attended Mayfield School, Poly, Anoia, Finch College, USC, and Cal State Los Angeles. She was an administrative assistant in several prominent law firms and later returned to Mayfield as a secretary, where she also taught classes in history and business. Mary traveled widely and her interests included gardening, cooking, bridge, horseback riding, French, needlepoint, and yoga. An avid horseracing fan, she was part owner of a thoroughbred named General Reward. She was predeceased by her husband, Vance B. Gerry, and is survived by her sister, Polly Palmer Nicoll ’45, and many nieces and nephews.

William Russell Palmer ’50  
September 14, 2011, Deerfield Beach, Florida  
Russell died peacefully at the age of 75. Born in Altadena, Russell attended Poly, Flintridge Preparatory School, and Pasadena City College. His never-ending love of motorsports began when he worked at Don Blair’s Speed Shop in the 1950s. He later moved to New York and became actively engaged in technical publishing. Russell died as chairman of the board for Diesel and Gas Turbine Publications. He was a world traveler and an avid motor-racing enthusiast. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends throughout the world. He will be sadly missed by his wife, Lynda, with whom he shared 23 wonderful years, along with his sister, Polly Palmer Nicoll ’45; daughter, Elaine Kazakoff; step-daughter, Danielle Kushins; grandchildren, Nathan and Susan Whitley; and great-granddaughter, Isabelle Whitley. He is also survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends. Russell was preceded in death by his sisters, Mona Hoffmann and Mary Palmer Gerry ’43, and daughter, Margaret Palmer.

Richard Steadman Hambleton, Jr. ’66  
July 20, 2011, Ventura, California  
Rick died peacefully at home at the age of 63. Rick was born in Pasadena in 1948. After graduating from Poly, he attended Colorado College and graduated from the University of Southern California with a bachelor's degree in political science. Rick worked for W. E. Hutton & Co. and graduated from New York Institute of Finance. He joined Hoffman, Vance & Worthington in 1976, becoming a partner of the firm in 1979. He valued his long associations with the Agricultural Leadership Program, Ventura County Taxpayers’ Association, Ventura Maritime Foundation, Fales Advisory Committee of the U. S. Naval Academy, Ventura Port District, Ventura Pacific Citrus Co-op, and Santa Barbara Bank and Trust. He crewed on five Transpacific Yacht Club races to Tahiti and Hawaii, eagerly looking forward to the annual Rancheros Visitadores and Rancheros Adolfo treks, and relished his time aboard Kairos. Rick is survived by his wife of 39 years, Carol, their two children, and five grandchildren. Additionally, Rick leaves his sister, Dorinda Bishop ’67; brother, Robert Hambleton ’72; sister-in-law, Kathy Enright; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Nathan John Nouskajian ’97  
July 18, 2011, Pasadena, California  
Nathan was a Pasadena native, born at Huntington Memorial Hospital on June 24, 1979. He attended Polytechinic School from kindergarten through 12th grade and was an all-CIF quarterback. He was recruited to USC on a golf scholarship and graduated in 2001. He was employed by Sotheby’s. He married Emily Vessey in 2009. Nathan was the loving son of John and Marianne and brother of Natalie ’00.

FACULTY

Clara Cid  
August 8, 2011, Pasadena, California  
Longtime faculty member Clara Cid passed away at home after a struggle with cancer. She was surrounded by her sister, Carmen, mother, Carmelina, and her two nieces. Señora Cid had taught Spanish at Poly since 1985, and was dearly loved and respected by her students and colleagues. The Class of 2011 recently presented her with a teaching award of which she was very proud. Devoted to her students and Poly, during her time out of the classroom over the past year, she asked each of her visitors about her students. At the end of the school year, she poured over the most recent yearbook and insisted on receiving her students’ Advanced Placement test scores. She will be greatly missed by the Poly community.

Johannes “Jan” Cornelis Hageman  
July 2, 2011, San Diego, California  
Jan passed away peacefully at the age of 91 with his family with him. He was born on Aug. 20, 1917, in Amsterdam, the oldest of four siblings. He was drafted into the army in 1939, one year before World War II began in Holland. At the age of 22, he was promoted to sergeant. In 1942, he married Mary Hageman; they were married 64 years when she passed away. After the war, Jan was drafted again to go to Indonesia, leaving his wife and three very young children behind; he was only able to speak to them once by phone before returning three years later. In 1951, Jan accepted a position as a teacher in Curacoa, a Caribbean island off the coast of Venezuela. Jan, Mary, and their four children lived there for 10 years. In 1961, Jan and Mary moved to California. After studying to receive his master’s degree in mathematics, he began teaching at Poly and was the head of the Math Department for many years. For 20 years, Jan and Mary were very active in the Christian Reformed Church in Arcadia where Jan also served as a choir director. After retirement, Jan and Mary moved to San Diego. They became active in the Tierrasanta Lutheran Church. Jan was a supporter of its preschool, the choir, and many other projects. He was knowledgeable about history and geography, spoke many languages, loved music, and played the organ. He was also able to fix anything and ready to help anyone. Jan loved people and was very interested in their stories. Jan always mentioned how thankful he was to God for all his blessings in his life. He was loved by many and leaves behind his brother and sister; sons, John and Frank; daughter, Marianne; daughter-in-law, Johanna; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife and son Jack.
Cross Country Completes Special Assignment

By Leslie Carmell

On the surface, cross country might be regarded as a sport of personal bests rather than one that requires its members to work together. Poly coach Rick Caragher, however, disagrees and this summer engaged the Navy SEALs to talk to his athletes about the importance of teamwork and leadership. What started as a daunting day for some resulted in the athletes taking away from the experience lifelong lessons that they can apply to all aspects of their lives.

As part of their awareness outreach program, Chief Petty Officer Rob Stella, accompanied by a fellow Navy SEAL and five SEAL candidates, loaded up their vehicle with the tools of the trade (including rubber life rafts, 300-lb. wood logs, and tires the size of a small car) and made their way north from San Diego to the Poly campus. Beginning with classroom sessions, the SEALs discussed with students the arduous program they endure in their military training, and helped the students put things into perspective: “We are not there to just beat them down—we want to teach them techniques that we have applied to our lives and that have made the SEALs successful,” explained Chief Stella. “What works for us works for them—in their academics, athletics, and professional lives.”

“Chief Stella and the SEALs emphasized the importance of preparation,” Coach Rick Caragher said. “He shared that on every single mission, nothing ever goes exactly as planned. The key is to prepare for surprises, stress, imposing demands, and more. This pertains not only to racing (there are always surprises), but also to how we plan our lives.”

After the classroom sessions, the SEALs took it outside and let the student-athletes see it all come to life. “We talk to them about getting out of their comfort zone and pushing themselves for their teammates,” Chief Stella said. This concept hit home with athletes like Michael Caughron, a junior on the team: “Success requires each member of the team to be constantly working together—it really helped us as a team.” Teammate Olivia Hudnut, a senior, agreed: “I valued Chief Stella’s emphasis on mental preparedness and trusting the team. Our team has grown so close this year. We have succeeded beyond many of our goals.”

While Chief Stella insists you don’t have to be cruel to be effective, he did manage to put some pressure on the student-athletes, adding a bit of adversity to their exercises: “Students get a crash course in mental toughness, and we show them the techniques that we use. We talk a lot about teamwork and leadership. The best way I have found to get them to understand it is to show them exactly what we do with our guys here. We level the playing field. If you are a fast runner or incredible swimmer, you will be no better than anyone else. We humble them, then we make them depend on each other to work and succeed as a team. It doesn’t matter if you’re the strongest person on the team. You’re dependent on the rest of the team—it’s not about being the MVP.”

Coach Caragher was grateful for the impact of this
message on his team: “Chief Stella emphasized that if one member of a mission fails, then the mission fails. He taught us that we all need to do our parts and we all need to look out for each other.”

“Cross country is a team sport,” Michael explained, “You run as an individual, but your scores are added up as a team.” “The most important thing you can give to a teammate is unwavering support,” Olivia added. “I feel like our team has been able to embrace this concept and keep the energy positive even through challenging situations.”

While the physical tasks were grueling, building mental toughness was far more challenging. Chief Stella spoke to the students about setting goals they can achieve rather than feeling overwhelmed and throwing in the towel. He used the analogy of eating an elephant one bite at a time and breaking down what might appear to be a monumental task into manageable steps.

The student-athletes also learned about the importance of effective leadership. “Like in the SEALs, you have a responsibility to earn your place on that team each and every day,” Chief Stella explained. “As soon as you stop learning, you stop leading. The only easy day was yesterday.”

“The extraordinary individual discipline and tremendous team support that makes up this cross country team was magnified on the day with the SEALs,” reflected Jessica Berger, assistant coach. “We walked away with a greater appreciation for the value of teamwork, taking responsibility for ourselves, and being accountable for our teammates.” Olivia also shared: “I had never expected to get through a day like that and feel better afterward, but I was overcome with so much pride in my team and my own effort that it was hard to keep from smiling.”

This summer, Polytechnic School installed a new sign on the baseball field displaying its official name, Ochari D’Aiello Baseball Field, in memory of the former Poly student whose life ended too soon in 1992. Due to construction, the original signage was removed, presenting the school and Athletics Department with the opportunity to reconsider the sign. The new, spirited version, centered behind the backstop, honors Ochari at the place where he played the sport he loved.

A superb athlete and thriving student, Ochari D’Aiello ’94 entered Poly in kindergarten and was admired by his classmates, parents, and teachers for his bright personality and deep care for others. In 1992, Ochari’s parents Charon and David D’Aiello-Sandoval established a scholarship in their son’s name, which has provided tuition assistance for Poly students for nearly two decades.

We look forward to another spectacular baseball season for Poly on the Ochari D’Aiello Baseball Field.
Inside this issue:

A PASADENA GEM
The architecture at Poly has always been a significant part of its rich history, but also a very important part of the learning environment that is created for its students. Learn more about how architects honored that history when designing the new North Campus buildings, courtyards, and play areas.
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DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS
Educator, school director, and a pop star in Nepal, Josh Brody ’90 was recently honored with this year’s Distinguished Alumni Award.
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CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS SEAL THEIR FATE
When a team of Navy SEALs recently paid a visit to Poly’s cross country team, the athletes got a crash course in teamwork and leadership that propelled them to the CIF finals (the first time in a decade for the girls).
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