The Paw Print, in its 25th consecutive year of publication, is the monthly student-run newspaper of the Upper School. While the paper is distributed free at school, some members of the Poly community prefer to receive issues by mail. Subscription cost is $50 for 10 issues ($40 for Poly alumni). To order a subscription to the The Paw Print, simply email thepawprint@polytechnic.org.

On the cover:
As part of this year’s Diversity Day, Lower and Middle School students painted images on stones that represented a particular aspect of their family background, ancestry, or culture. The painted stones were placed in Wendy’s Garden as a reflection of the diversity of Poly’s student population. Pictured are Middle School students showing some of the final products.

On the right:
Lower School students participate in traditional Mexican dances taught by Villa Parke instructors as part of this year’s Diversity Day activities.

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Letter from the Head of School

Harvard scholar and Pulitzer Prize winning historian Oscar Handlin wrote, “Once I thought to write a history of the immigrants in America. Then I discovered that the immigrants were American history.” At this year’s Diversity Day, which had as its theme “Identity and Immigration,” our students learned about our country’s history through the telling of personal journeys. The day’s activities were framed by two dramatic keynote speakers: one a Palestinian-American raised in New York City and the other, a Korean-American raised in Southern California.

The stories of parents, teachers, staff, and students punctuated the day’s activities, as we learned about each other and from each other.

And there is so much to learn from the diversity within our community, represented by having two languages spoken in more than 20% of our homes. The languages include: Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, Danish, Farsi, German, Greek, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Punjabi, and Spanish.

Historically, Poly has long had an interest understanding the world beyond our campus. Grace Henley, the school’s longest serving head of school, served through WWI and WWII. Between the wars, Miss Henley attended an international conference in England and returned committed to global education. Following the path set more than 75 years ago, Poly’s travel programs have in recent years taken students to China, France, Argentina, Peru, and Cuba. On each of these trips students have been able to use the language skills they study at Poly and to participate in community outreach. Whether the students are playing a pick-up baseball game in Havana, learning the tango in Argentina, or tutoring students at a cochlear implant school in Beijing, they are making connections and learning to appreciate the similarities and differences that they share with other cultures.

Storytelling brings history to life. Turn the pages of this issue to “travel” to Spain, China, Armenia, and Mexico, and the former USSR, as some of the members of the Poly community tell their stories and share how their experiences have shaped who they are and the paths they’ve followed in their lives.

—Deborah E. Reed, Head of School
All of us have taken different paths on our way to becoming part of the Poly family. Our family thought that our daily “Journey to Poly” from way over in Glendale was quite a trip, but as you will read in this edition of the Oak Tree Times, many of the members of the Poly community—faculty, staff, students, parents, and alumni—have come from much greater distances to join our community.

We often think of Poly as a local private school, representing Pasadena and the San Gabriel Valley. But Poly strives to be much more than that—we thrive on the diversity of backgrounds and experiences that so enrich our school and, in fact, make Poly what it is today. And our reputation is also not just local—Poly is widely recognized as one of the premier private schools in the United States. So when families find themselves uprooted due to their own choice or through necessary relocation and they land in our area, Poly is often at the top of their list.

I write this note as Poly wraps up another school year. At such a time, it is inevitable that one reflects on his or her experiences and looks forward to another year. Our family’s experience at Poly has lasted 18 years so far, and our children have benefitted greatly from the intersections of their journeys and those of their friends who came from distant places. It is a great destination—one that is getting better all the time.

—Chris Poole, President, Board of Trustees

“We thrive on the diversity of backgrounds and experiences that so enrich our school and, in fact, make Poly what it is today.”
I was born during the late ’60s in Málaga, Spain. My birth coincided with the start of an interesting period in Spanish history, and growing up, I lived through the transition from fascism to democracy and the era referred to in Spanish as *el destape*. *El destape* is translated as “the unveiling” and refers to a cultural and political revival exemplified by the emergence of new cinema, literature, the return of liberal laws, and a social liberation. I grew up during this time, and I experienced many of the events that occurred both personally and through the experiences of my family and friends.

During the late ’60s and early ’70s, my father and his brothers were top lawyers in Málaga. My father was the mayor of Málaga, his brother was the attorney general, and other relatives held positions in the government as well. The younger generation of my family, however, was ready for change and challenged the ideology of their parents. My cousin Salva and
Diversity Day 2012:
Immigration and Identity

By Carmie Rodriguez, Assistant Head of School for Academic Affairs

All one has to do is wander through Poly classrooms to know that we are blessed with a student and adult community that is rich in diversity of backgrounds. To more fully understand and appreciate those backgrounds and how they influence our identities, the topic of Immigration and Identity was chosen as the focus of our second all-school Diversity Day held this past March.

Poly students, faculty, and staff spent the day listening to stories of those who have come to the United States, as well as telling their own stories and how their families came to this country. Resources from our larger community helped students and adults reflect on the relationship between origin and identity and what it means to be part of a country of immigrants.

In the Lower School, students participated in an Ellis Island simulation at the start of the day, which gave them a sense of the excitement and challenges of arriving in a new country. In their mixed-grade “families,” they spent the rest of the day hearing stories of immigrants and participating in art forms from other countries that have now become part of the American culture.

In the Middle School, students researched groups that have become the major population groups in Los Angeles—tracing their roots, their reasons for coming, and the discrimination they may have faced. They heard voices describing the immigrant experience in the form of a parent panel discussion and through literature. Lunchtime in advisory groups allowed them the opportunity to share and talk about the food associated with their backgrounds.

The Upper School began the day with a spoken word poem by senior Kelsey Kawana. Students selected two workshops focusing on immigration that were offered by Poly faculty, students, and parents, as well as community resources. In the afternoon, the focus turned to identity, with students leading affinity groups or participating in a workshop that explored identity through an artistic medium. Two keynote speakers, Helie Lee, a Korean-American, and Najla Said, an Arab-American, addressed their personal stories as hyphenated Americans.

At the end of the day, students and adults alike left school knowing a little bit more about their peers and colleagues, the places from which they have come, and their journey to Poly, as well as the struggles and joys that are part of the immigrant experience.

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brother Alfonso were leaders of the university movements to oust the Franco regime and participated in the democratization of Spain. My mother was also an inspiration to me. She held liberal beliefs and thought that women should be entitled to an education and be economically independent. She encouraged me to pursue my law degree and to join the family law firm.

After finishing law school, my parents suggested I study abroad, and I decided to go to San Diego to further my education. My only intention was to learn English, but while studying, I met my future husband. Upon returning to Málaga, I was torn between getting married and leaving my family, friends, and culture. As you might have guessed, I decided to move to the USA. This choice was not without challenges because after living here for a short time, I realized that my Spanish law degree was not viable in the States and I would need to start my education over again. Despite the challenges of pursuing a degree in a foreign language, I attended the University of California at San Diego, where I graduated Summa Cum Laude and was the valedictorian of Warren College. After receiving a bachelor’s Continued on next page
degree, I continued my education, receiving a master’s degree and a doctorate in Spanish literature from UCSD.

Throughout my career, I have been involved in community outreach programs. While attending law school in Málaga, I volunteered with the Instituto de la Mujer, a nationwide women’s organization that began in the early ‘80s, when the socialist government came to power. There I provided legal counsel to women without means, coordinated events to promote gender equality, and worked to improve women’s participation in politics. During my years at UCSD, I led a mentoring program that encouraged underprivileged Latino high school girls to pursue a college education. After I moved to Pasadena, I became involved with Mothers Club, where I taught a series of workshops to assist mothers with the process of transitioning their children to kindergarten. At Poly, my Spanish II and III classes participated with me in the “adopt a family” program that Mothers Club hosts every December.

These activities have provided me with a strong understanding of students and people from diverse academic, socioeconomic, and ethnic backgrounds. Cultural and linguistic diversity has shaped my personal and academic trajectory. My research interest has been directed toward exploring how categories of gender, race, and class are constructed and how they function in a transatlantic scenario. My book, *Entre dos orillas: voces del exilio consuareño en España 1975-2002* (2012) explores the role of exiled Latin American authors in the democratization and cultural transformation of Spain during the ‘80s. Likewise, my article “La transformación de España al ritmo de Salsa” (Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies) deals with the cultural and political impact of Latin American immigration on 21st-century Spain. While at UCSD, I also had the opportunity to design and teach several literature courses on the subject of historical and intellectual migrations.

In teaching Spanish language and literature, I encourage students to approach their studies from a multicultural perspective that recognizes the different forms of Spanish language, literature, and culture. I emphasize the importance of learning Spanish within a historical and cultural context, as well as an integral component of societal dynamics. This year at Poly, I have incorporated in my Spanish III class curriculum “La República,” a Spanish TV show without subtitles. The plot takes place in the 1930s, a time when Spain was experiencing political and cultural turmoil during the emergence of the Second Republic. After providing the historical and political context needed for class discussion, I asked the students to analyze the episodes. In the beginning, the students were intimidated by what they thought would be a difficult assignment. I used my own personal story of struggle to show them that no goal is too high to achieve if they are willing to try. The students have since fallen in love with “La República” and have become very confident with the assignments. They are able to understand a show written for native speakers and to analyze it at a college level.

**“Cultural and linguistic diversity has shaped my personal and academic trajectory.”**

In the summers, when I return to Málaga and I walk the streets I have known for all my life, I often think about how much I have changed since I moved away. I can see that I have become a stronger person, someone who does not give up in the face of adversity. I have learned to accept the unfamiliar as a valuable tool that has helped me develop a more flexible perspective of myself and the broader community. Now I smile when I think back at the *malagueña* who never could have imagined that someday she would have a son named Pablo who would speak English, Spanish, and Hebrew, and who would one day say: “Mommy, look what Santa brought me for Chanukah!”
Leon Lin, Class of 2012

I was born on July 26, 1994, in a small hospital in Shantou, China. The day I was born—a stormy wet Tuesday—my grandmother rode her bike 12 miles to deliver a basket of fruit to the doctors to thank them for the successful delivery. Along the way, my grandmother crashed due to the unstable road conditions, picked herself off the ground, quickly recovered the fruit basket to prevent it from being stolen, and rushed bleeding to the hospital to make sure the doctors received the gift.

This account has been repeated to me thousands of times and remains one of the most vivid stories within my mind. Shantou, the town in which I grew up, exists today as a tiny port on coast of southeastern China. Forgotten by time and destroyed by a mass of corrupt government officials, the city lies decaying—a frozen statue of a city that has never progressed since the ’80s. Its citizens are victims of a corrupt political system where any money produced through tax collections and development funds is split between the top-ranking officials and pocketed, leaving almost nothing for the rest of the city to survive on.

My family was one of those victims. My grandparents on both sides of my family were all faculty at schools—my grandparents on my father’s side were teachers, while my grandfather on my mother’s side was the president of a local college, a very prestigious position for 1960 China. They lived comfortably for the time, being one of the first families in town to own a car. Unfortunately, only a decade after my mother was born, my grandfather was taken away to a labor camp in rural China, along with all the other educated men in my town. This event is known today as the Cultural Revolution. My grandfather was beaten, abused, starved, and tortured by Chairman Mao’s regime to purify China of all its “old roots.” Yet despite the horrors that were inflicted upon my grandfather, he is still to this day respectful toward Mao for the Chairman’s unification of China.

My father’s family, on the other hand, was extremely poor. My grandparents, my father, and my aunt all lived in a one-room apartment, and my father was forced to find work on the streets when he was only 16. Having had little education, he began as a smuggler for goods including fake watches, bags, and clothes—bartering prices and trading pirated material. It was then that my dad discovered his passion for the world of business, a passion that would eventually lead him to create his company in 1988.

It was only through his work that my father was able to lift all of us out of the city in 1998, four years after I was born. He had no desires for his family, especially for his son, to live and grow in a dying city, so he sent my mother, my uncle (my mother’s brother), and me to America. As for himself, he knew that he had no English skills and as such, could only do the most menial of labors in the United States, so he chose to remain in Beijing to develop his company and to build on his passion. He promised to visit every month or so and with that, my uncle, mother, and I immigrated to the United States.

My father would remain more of a distant friend than a parent for the first 13 years of my life. He would return, as promised, every month or two, stay for a couple of days, then fly back. Growing up without him was a unique experience. Most of the time, my uncle took his place and guided me through the milestones in a boy’s life: soccer games, parent teacher conferences, driving me to my first date, and simply being there whenever I needed any masculine advice. It was only after my father’s company began to expand toward international borders, as well as the birth of my baby sister, Isabelle, in 2008, that he began to come home more frequently and stay longer. Having to rediscover the bond that should have been there from the beginning between my father and I was one of the hardest yet most rewarding experiences in my life, and he has become one of the most influential role models in my life.

If I had to list all the things that have influenced the path I have chosen to walk, the top two would be my family and Poly. In my six years at Poly, I have experienced events that most Shantou citizens could never even dream of. The beautiful campus alone is something that one never sees in Shantou: green and open air, teeming with opportunities and friendly people willing to help you every step of the way. Add to that the extremely talented student body with musicians who have played with the LA Phil, artists who also break CIF basketball records, poets who have performed at the White House, and athletes who can play everything from water polo to golf, and the experience goes from surreal to simply unbelievable.

It’s a place that is difficult to find anywhere, be it in China, the US, or the entire world. As I head off to college next year, I know that despite all the stumbles I have made in these last 18 years, Poly and Shantou have changed me for the better, shown me how to live my life to the fullest, and taught me to take each opportunity that I can get.
When the USSR was breaking up in ’92, it was a turbulent time. People tried to remain happy despite the long bread lines and general economic mayhem. I remember some talks about moving to America for a better life. Around that time, my Uncle Vigen sent me a Disney coupon with Mickey Mouse’s picture on it. Since I loved Disney and would cry whenever my mom would return Alice in Wonderland to the VHS rental house, my uncle promised I could find Disneyland in America because he knew it would be hard for me to leave my homeland.

Soon after, I experienced what would become one of my most vivid memories—being woken up in the middle of the night surrounded by a lot of commotion. My mom was packing a suitcase, my nearly newborn sister was asleep, and it was very cold. They told me the time to go to Disneyland had come! But after 20 hours and finding myself in another dismal airport, I started crying. Initially, we found shelter with people whom our family helped during the Armenian Genocide almost a century ago.

The difficulties my family faced are just like any other family immigrating to the US, but my parents sheltered me from our struggles. Although we had to walk miles just to rent a vacuum cleaner, I was still the first kid on the block to get a Super Nintendo (I let everybody come over and play, but I played first since it was my system after all).

I was fortunate enough to be 8 years old when we moved, so learning English was not too tough. However, we still spoke Armenian and Russian in our household so as not to forget our mother tongues. Sometimes, I had no idea what people were saying when they used slang, which made me a “funny guy.” I was actually very not funny, just English-stupid at times (though not anymore!).

Though my parents never pushed me toward any specific discipline, they did highly value education and encouraged me to always do my best. When I was in sixth grade, they discovered Poly and quickly began to prepare me for its rigorous admissions process and exceptional schooling. I applied but didn’t get accepted at that time. A year later, I reapplied and was admitted in seventh grade (I guess Mr. [Lyle] Hatridge saw something in me).

After six years of Poly, with amazing teachers and amazing friends with whom I am still very close, I kept the tradition alive with the four years of controlled insanity at UCI...my hair grew very long. So I ended up across the street at Caltech. Come visit and you might see me and some of my mementos from my days at Poly, including a treasured pair of red shorts I took from Galen Hall, but that’s another story.
I was born in Madrid during the last throes of Franco’s dictatorship. I can remember policemen giving tickets to couples kissing on the street. I can remember long hours of playing with other children in parks without adult supervision and feeling completely safe. I can remember the combination of fear and excitement on my relatives’ faces during the chaotic transition to democracy. Two of the three loves of my life began to emerge during this period. My most valued possession was a model of NASA’s lunar module that I built in school. During our frequent childhood Cold War games of Russians versus Americans, I always found myself fighting for the Red-White-and-Blue.

In 1980, the Spanish economy was in shambles. My mother and I immigrated to Mexico City in search of better opportunities. Leaving my lunar module behind was hard, as was leaving many close childhood friends. But even at that young age, I knew there was no other option. My most vivid memory from this period is the tenacity and ambition with which my mother managed to build a career in one of the most unlikely professions for a woman at that time: manager of an industrial construction group. Although she was often the only woman in the building, to my mother’s credit, I never noticed. As is the case for the children of all hardworking immigrants, these experiences shaped my character and sensibilities for the rest of my life. It taught me that one must succeed at any cost.

The best way to describe how different my high school experience was from that of Poly is to reminisce about my 11th grade chemistry teacher. He was a former Mexican luchador (he showed us the mask!) with an enormous taste for carajillo (coffee spiked with brandy). His profound ignorance of the subject that he was entrusted to teach us about is epitomized by this unforgettable quote: “What is mass? Mass is like a kilogram of tortillas.” More details about the structure of matter had to wait until Caltech.

One might wonder how someone goes from luchador-teachers to being an undergraduate at Caltech. Sometimes I do, too. In fact, I am tempted to agree with my daughter, Morgan, who, when she was younger, believed in fairies. But there is a simpler explanation: I was lucky that there are universities in the US that are willing to give scholarships to foreign students who are good at math and physics (even if their Spanglish relies too heavily on the Spanish).

During the first few months at Caltech, I was in a permanent state of shock and awe about the talent and preparation of my peers, about the brilliance of my professors, about the fact that someone was willing to pay me to study here—and about how far behind I was. But the immigrant ethos paid off, and I eventually managed to catch up enough to become a Ph.D. student at Harvard (a school that is much less fond of the Spanglish), after which I returned to Pasadena and Caltech, where I now teach as an associate professor of economics.

Coming to Caltech ultimately led me to three great loves in my life: my wife and children, my science, and the United States of America. In retrospect, I think that I began to feel American the day I got off the plane at LAX.
Instead, I interacted with the students by using rudimentary hand gestures, yet we still established a mutual understanding. The little boy helped me to understand that having an official language based on simple body language—a language that everyone understands—could strengthen intercultural communication and understanding all over the world.

During this transformative visit to the Cochlear School, I reflected on my independent study of American Sign Language (ASL). Even if I had learned how to sign fluently, I realized that ASL is not taught in China, and I would have wasted my time trying to use ASL with any of the children. Instead, I interacted with the students by using rudimentary hand gestures, yet we still established a mutual understanding. The little boy helped me to understand that having an official language based on simple body language—a language that everyone understands—could strengthen intercultural communication and understanding all over the world.

Transcending boundaries

We respect the dignity and worth of all human beings, their thoughts, their feelings, and their individuality.
—From the Poly Credo (Adopted 1986)

Respecting others has long been a part of the Poly ethos. But respecting others requires an understanding of others. In 2006, on the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, a task force was created to establish a global awareness program in each school division at Poly. The task force concluded: An understanding of the world calls for a willingness to learn through study, to reach out and communicate with one another in interaction, and to realize that we can help shape the future by service. In response, Poly’s Global Initiatives Program (GIP) was born.

GIP coordinator and Upper School history teacher Rick Caragher explains that the program’s primary goals, especially the trips abroad, are to encourage students to learn about various cultures and to take risks by transcending boundaries. Previous destinations have included Argentina, China, and France. Caragher and Upper School Spanish teacher Ann Diederich recently led 18 students on a trip to Cuba. The group was warmly welcomed. “It’s interesting to see the embargo’s effect on Cubans,” Caragher said. “They look beyond political issues; they love American people.”

In a digital age, Caragher explains that it’s the face-to-face experiences that offer the biggest impact: “On these trips, we see sights. We also visited five schools on the China trip and three schools on the Cuba trip. In France, students stay with families for two weeks. It’s the personal interactions that make the difference.” He reflected on a day when Poly students on the Cuba trip volunteered to paint a community center, only to be repaid with dancing and singing by the children who spend their time there. The Poly students and the children then formed impromptu groups where they interacted in Spanish until it was time to part ways. “It was great to see how quickly they connected...they shared giggles, smiles, and intense interest,” Caragher explained. “They were just glowing when we got back on the bus...they connected here,” he said, as he pointed to his heart.

Upper School English teacher Grace Hamilton and Upper School History teacher Jose Melgoza traveled with a dozen students to Peru in June, where they visited a small village in the Andes during their annual potato harvest. Three boys raced ahead as the Poly group and villagers hiked to a stone ring about two miles away. “When we got there,” recounts Hamilton, “the head
Simon Janashia attended Poly for a year in 1989-90 as an AFS exchange student from the then-USSR. He recently returned to campus and visited with faculty member Rick Caragher, who asked him to reflect on his time at Poly.

I came to Poly when I was 14. Even though I was here just for a year, this was a major challenge. I had to live far away from my family and friends. I had to communicate in a language that was foreign and had to understand the culture, which I knew mainly from fiction.

The first person I met at Poly was Mr. [Greg] Feldmeth. When I told him I was interested in computer programming, he told me, “Take a computer home and have a good use of it.” This was my first positive surprise about the way life was at Poly—there were many more still to come.

I carry with me the memories of the journey to Yosemite that Mr. Caragher organized for me. The memory of Mr. [Bill] Pickering running on top of our class table and jumping through glass doors to illustrate a poem is still vivid. I have driven the road to Poly from Altadena in my imagination many times.

Since my time at Poly, the country where I was raised—the Soviet Union—disappeared. The Republic of Georgia, where I live now, has become independent again. My family and I have experienced lawlessness, wars, and economic collapse, but at the same time have seen a life full of new beginnings and hopes.

Observing Mr. Pickering, Mr. Caragher, Mr. Feldmeth, and others, I knew that this was a profession that makes one’s life as full and rewarding. I became a teacher. Ten years later, I came back to US to study education at Harvard. Back at home, I was one of the founding teachers of the American Academy in Tbilisi, and later was invited by the government of Georgia to lead the education reform project for several years. Now I am educating future teachers and education administrators at Ilia State University in Tbilisi.

Poly served as an example and a model for education, where the building of a character and competencies is achieved by the culture of the school. I was glad to return this year and to show Poly to my two sons, who know now where their father got his first inspiration to become a teacher.
Librarians tend to see the world from an interdisciplinary perspective, and Upper School Librarian Aquita Winslow is no exception. Since her arrival at Poly last year, she has undertaken an array of tasks that read like a (somewhat unusual) guide to life at the school: Learn the curriculum of each academic department. Study when and how students are accessing new media. Monitor Library traffic patterns and report back to architects. Explore the school archives.

Her efforts center around a librarian's dream project: building a new library from the ground up. "I've been a librarian for 17 years," she explains, "and this is a once-in-a-lifetime challenge. It's such an exciting time to be thinking about what makes a great library and how to balance the diversity of roles a modern library needs to play."

At the same time, Aquita has been busy helping individual students on a daily basis. "It's so rewarding to work with Poly students," she says. "They are motivated to engage with the ambitious curriculum we have here and are constantly coming in with interesting research questions. My job is to make sure they learn to focus those questions and hone the research skills they will need to excel in college."

Over the last nine months, Aquita has been working with Head of School Debbie Reed and Upper School faculty to define how the new library can best support Poly's energetic intellectual culture. Ultimately, the facility must welcome the entire school community.
“Library activities have diversified,” Aquita explains. “A library is no longer just for quiet study. We need to be thinking about collaborative group projects, spaces where we can teach information literacy, and technology access to all kinds of media, as well as community activities and meetings. If we are going to build a library that meets the modern needs of our students, it must be a larger, more flexible, and technology-friendly space.”

The new library is scheduled to open with the start of school in August. Meanwhile, Aquita is already looking ahead to what comes next: an innovative information literacy program, more online resources that connect to specific classes and academic departments, and archival displays about Poly history. Her ideas are almost as exhaustive as the proverbial card catalog ... or a Google search.
THE NEXT 100 YEARS CAMPAIGN UPDATE

A Family Tree Grows at Poly

Cara ‘89, Giancarlo ‘92, Maria, and Joe DiMassa

When the DiMassa family gathers, Poly stories abound. Their multi-generational involvement began when Cara ‘89 and Giancarlo ‘92 each enrolled in the Middle School, and now the siblings are both parents of Poly students. At the head of the clan, grandparents Maria and Joe have led the way in contributing to the school as a family.

“We see the same commitment to both learning and social responsibility in our grandchildren’s Poly experience that has stood our children in such great stead,” Maria says. The DiMassas believe that the values Poly teaches will extend through many future generations of children. Having operated Summerkids, their day camp in the local foothills, for more than 30 years, the family cares deeply about child development.

Cara points out that Poly has continued to evolve since her days as a student. “We are so heartened by the great advancements the school has made ... it is more diverse, more developmental, and it educates each child as an individual from kindergarten on,” she observes. Cara and Giancarlo especially cherish the opportunity to watch their own kids play together in new North Campus spaces.

Looking ahead, Giancarlo is pleased with the growth in the Upper School where he was inspired to become a physician. “We are most excited about the new science-math-library building on the high school campus,” he says. “It will bring Poly students to the forefront of science education and help alumni to be innovators in the new century.”

Like their Middle School counterparts (right), Upper School students will soon have access to expanded laboratory classrooms and cutting edge equipment in the new science-math-library building that is nearing completion on Cornell Road. With science enrollments at an all-time high, the new facility will help expand and diversify a distinguished program that is currently restricted due to lack of space.
The Business of Ideas

Serial entrepreneur John Suh ’88 has a keen facility for online business development. The long list of companies he has helped to navigate the Internet market is evidence of his ability to engage with people and ideas—a focus John says he developed at Poly.

“In the long haul, Poly’s biggest impact is in shaping character and instilling a strong sense of community,” John asserts. “Our class was so diverse and vibrant, it taught you to listen and learn from your peers.” That education was distinguished by a faculty that espoused critical thought and a class of fellow students who have been loyal to each other and the school beyond graduation. At Harvard for both his undergraduate and MBA degrees, John found the quality of his Poly preparation served him particularly well.

John is now CEO of LegalZoom, which helps small businesses and families with their legal needs. He has supported Poly through The Next 100 Years campaign because he believes that his gift will have a clear and lasting impact. “I know the school will always press forward while remaining true to its core values,” he says.

Join With Others Who Believe In Poly

As of today, we have $14 million left to raise, including $11 million for the South Campus construction project. We are well within striking distance of our total goal of $93 million.

19 generous leaders have stepped forward so far with construction commitments of $1 million or more. We need additional gifts like these to carry us over the finish line.

The top 91 donors, each with commitments of $100,000 or more, are responsible for more than 80 percent of the total raised to date.

Last year 2,021 donors contributed $2.58 million to Poly’s Annual Fund, with gifts ranging from $5 to $55,000. Poly has received groundswell support like this during every year of the campaign!
Support in return

Sharon Wolcott

Sharon Wolcott sent her three daughters (Jennifer ’81, Justine ’83, and Alexandra ’89) to Poly decades ago and is now a proud Poly grandparent. It is a full circle that gives her much pleasure. “Each of my daughters is unique, and I could always be sure Poly had the best interest of my child in mind. Now Poly has really stepped into our lives again,” Sharon says fondly.

The care that faculty and administrators have put into the Wolcott family’s experience helped inspire a recent planned gift to Poly. To Sharon, including Poly in her estate plan was a natural choice because of the lifelong impact the school community has had on her. Attending the first Oak Tree Society Luncheon this past winter, Sharon was happily surprised by how many familiar faces surrounded her—and she looks forward to celebrating those connections well into the future.

For more information, visit us online at www.polytechnic.org/plannedgiving.

The Oak Tree Society
A celebration of long-term support

Nearly 120 members of the Oak Tree Society gathered for an inaugural luncheon this past January in honor of their 20 or more years of giving to Poly.

The Oak Tree Society has been created to honor the diverse group of supporters who have given to Poly for 20 years or more. Members include alumni, parents of alumni, faculty, and staff—in all, more than 500 families or individuals whose lives have woven through the school over the years.

This past January, the inaugural Oak Tree Society gathering brought together many of those who have expressed their commitment to the school’s mission and values through their sustained generosity. Nearly 120 people attended the Saturday luncheon and toured the campus to see the many recent changes while reminiscing about their own Poly experiences.

For more information, visit us online at www.polytechnic.org/plannedgiving.

The Grace Henley Society
Making plans for Poly’s future

The Grace Henley Society—named in honor of Poly’s beloved second principal who served from 1915 to 1946—includes all those who have thoughtfully provided for the school in their wills or other estate plans. A gift to Poly through the Grace Henley Society 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 information on planned giving options, visit Poly’s website at www.polytechnic.org/plannedgiving or contact Major Gifts Officer Julie Sperling at 626-396-6341 or jsperling@polytechnic.org.
Commencement 2012

On a warm June day beneath the trademark white tent, Polytechnic School graduated its 50th Upper School class. Following the faculty members who instructed them over the years, the 91 members of the Class of 2012 processed to the stage, where they were welcomed by Head of School Debbie Reed, and the invocation was offered by Hale Integrity Prize recipient Isabel Sunshine.

Addressing his peers and guests, senior class president Robert Lantry used the term “kinship” to describe the sense of community the Class of 2012 has sought to create during their years at Poly, and he presented the class gift—a scholarship established to enable students to attend the various international trips offered at Poly each year.

Senior Kelsey Kawana, a member of Poly’s slam poetry team, read a poem titled “In My Life,” which was followed by a song of the same name performed by classmates Brittany Beljak, Kelly Burdge, Jeffrey Chau, Eleanor Debreu, Tonis Flores-Ramirez, Eric Lifland, Hassaan Shahawy, Isabel Sunshine, and Allan Wu.

Chosen by members of the Class of 2012, former US Secretary of Commerce John Bryson was this year’s commencement speaker. A parent of four Poly alumnae and a former Board member (as was his wife, Louise), Secretary Bryson recognized that times have changed over the years: “The pace of change now seems infinitely faster, and the challenges you face seem infinitely broader. But the good news, I believe, is that the opportunities you will have are infinitely greater.” He spoke fondly of his years as a member of the Poly community, and he left students with this message:

“Your teachers, your staff, your parents, and your classmates … have changed you for the better and for good. Remember the lessons they’ve taught you and the values they’ve instilled in you, including the importance of diversity, curiosity, and service. And as you do that, I’m confident that both you and our nation will continue to grow and to thrive in the years ahead.”

Describing the graduating seniors as a class in which boundaries between groups have always been blurred, Upper School Director Jamie Neilson noted: “For those accustomed to thinking of high school as a kind of adolescent anthroplogy exhibit—brains indoors, athletes outdoors, theatre kids before and behind the lights, and student government types holding decorous meetings—the Class of 2012 may be a disappointment. Poets are golfers; dancers are linguists; fencers are puzzle and video game enthusiasts; hole guards help set policy; and of course, basketball players are whatever they decide to be on a given day.”

Seniors were then awarded their diplomas by Debbie Reed and Board of Trustees-President Chris Poole, followed by Faculty Appreciation Award recipient Eric Strom, who gave the benediction. The graduates then joined their families in celebration on Babcock Field.

In his address, Dr. Neilson quoted a student, who aptly summed up the Class of 2012:

“This is the class that sought to bond as people, rather than leave as students.”
Six times during the past school year, by way of the Alumni Association’s PolyConnect program, Poly alumni have returned to campus to share their professional experience with Upper School students over pizza lunch. The informal gatherings are among the program’s efforts to link current students with alumni. Lunchtime speakers from fields including health and medicine, entertainment, marketing, art, and science have offered a brief history of their path since leaving Poly, along with a snapshot of their typical workday.

At the March lunch, David Gross ’04 (pictured lower right) explained his work as a lead simulation engineer at eSolar. “You can give an elevator pitch about your work to anyone,” David says, “but it is so much more rewarding to really take the time to talk with students who are interested in your path.” He also enjoyed responding to the students’ particular interests, from college life and fields of study to travel programs and career choices.

Lori MacPherson ’85, (pictured left) executive vice president of global product management at The Walt Disney Studios, visited in February. “I had an amazing time coming back to Poly and connecting with current students,” she says. “Once I got over my initial shock that it was no longer the ’80s and that I was quite a bit older than my lunch companions, my ego was boosted by their enthusiasm and interest in my life since Poly.” Lori was impressed by the large turnout of Upper School students who listened raptly and asked intelligent questions about the entertainment industry and its future. “The whole experience left me energized and incredibly proud of the caliber of student and person being developed and supported at Poly.”

Other guests this year included Jay Katsuyama ’86, senior director of technology at Universal Music Group, psychologist Alison Edwards Laster, Ph.D. ’88, orthopedic surgeon Todd Dietrick, MD ’90, and designer Ini Archibong ’01.

If you are a Poly alum and are interested in participating in a PolyConnect lunch or would like to learn about other volunteer opportunities through the program, please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@polytechnic.org.
Local and Regional Events for Alumni, Parents, and Friends

Throughout the year, Poly alumni participated in a variety of events on campus and across the country. Look for news of upcoming events in the monthly alumni e-newsletter or on the Poly website.

Current parent Michael Silver and alumnus John Hervey ’88 were among the many volunteers who came together in March to volunteer at local organizations as part of Community Service Day.

Scott Wilson ’82, Erica and Derek Phillips ’85, Brian Venerable ’83, and Richard Mayne ’82 at the rooftop bar Perch in Downtown Los Angeles in April. Guests caught up with classmates and friends, while enduring chilly winds and enjoying magnificent views of the city.

Loyal volunteers Aliya Haque Coher ’95 and Kim Wycoff Bickell ’93 at the spring phone-a-thons.

Angie Wong ’91 and Anne Quismorio ’91 spending “An Afternoon at the Movies with Poly.” In November, the Alumni Association hosted a special screening of “The Descendants” at the Arclight Pasadena. John Horn ’87 led a Q&A with Poly parent Matthew Lillard, who starred in the film.

Nancy Young ’70 and David Whiting ’75 at the Seattle Reception in March. Poly also held a reception in San Francisco this spring.
Young Alumni Events and Reunions

During the winter, Poly offers young alumni several opportunities to get together and catch up on their post-graduation lives. In December, the 5- and 10-Year Reunions brought together alumni from the Classes of 2002 and 2007. Parents of reunion alumni gathered for a special reception before the class dinners.

Caroline Lisi, Bebe La Grua, Claire Drolen, Sean Hollihan, and Caroline Lehman, all Class of 2011, gather in Erdman Court at the Alumni in College BBQ.

Kourtney Rudcliff ’05, Larkin Brogan ’05, Jessica Damasco ’06, and Kevin Herman ’06 at the Young Alumni Holiday Mixer.

Cindy Lam ’02, Nareen Hindoyan ’02, and Courtney Churukian ’02 at their 10-Year Reunion.

Greg Feldmeth and Justin Worland 10 at the Alumni in College BBQ.

Stevan Cablayan ’06, Alex Krueger-Wyman ’05, Alexandra Wiley ’05, Pra Chandrasoma ’05, and Scott Chacon ’05 enjoy margaritas and each other’s company at the Young Alumni Holiday Mixer, the annual Poly fiesta for young alums at Mijares.

Carlin McCarthy, Julia Wong, Valerie Coachman-Moore, and Carol Pomerantz at the 5- and 10-Year Reunion reception.

Salim Moore ’07, Josh Moore ’07, and Alex Coogan ’07 at their 5-Year Reunion.

Cindy Lam ’02, Nareen Hindoyan ’02, and Courtney Churukian ’02 at their 10-Year Reunion.
Reunions

Poly’s 2012 Reunions by the numbers

101 – Alumni from the Classes of 2002 and 2007 attended the 5- and 10-Year Reunions in December 2011
445 – Alumni and guests returned to visit campus during Reunion Weekend, May 11 and 12
‘62 – Poly’s first class to graduate from high school, celebrating their 50th reunion (before 1962, Poly only went through Middle School)
‘42 – Oldest reunion class represented at Reunion Weekend activities
‘92 – Class with the highest attendance at the Reunion Weekend dinners
39% – Class of 1992’s Annual Fund participation rate, which won them the Stork Award
$55,209 – Raised by the Class of 1987, earning them the Gosney Award for the greatest total given to the Annual Fund
$178,000+ – Contributed to the Annual Fund by the reunion classes of 2012
7 – Separate class dinners held on Saturday, May 12
58 – Alumni who graduated from Poly 50 or more years ago and celebrated at the 50-Year Club Dinner on Friday

Class of 1992’s 20th Reunion Committee Jim Halferty, Sarah Schoellkopf, Amanda Edwards-Shuckhart, and Giancarlo DiMassa
Kathy Fong Bain ’87, Carol Kommerstad-Reiche ’87, Ray and Jeannie Khoe Chung ’87, Sarah and Vadim Gurvits ’87

Members of the Class of 1962 reminisce at the 50-Year Club Dinner.

Greg Feldmeth leading a tour group through one of the newly constructed Middle School science labs on the North Campus.

Sisters Wendy Palmer ’67 and Beth Palmer Rudiger ’82 with their mother, Lois Palmer, enjoy the Alumni Family Picnic.
Melanie Seidner ’87, Tina Cocumelli, and Mariana Robles-Dalany and Matt Dalany ’82 catch up at the reunion reception.
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.

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1939–1949

Elizabeth D. Barnhart ’39 I am forever grateful for Miss Schneble, Mrs. Adams, and the general atmosphere of Poly, fostering a continuing pursuit of knowledge and understanding. Life is good, and I am grateful for the seven years I spent at Poly. ● Jamie Wood ’44, (second from left) visiting California from New York City in early November 2011, invited classmates Judy Kimball Bergman ’44 (and husband Gunnar, who took the picture), Ken Colborn ’44, and Priscilla Dunn Flynn ’44 for lunch in Santa Barbara for a mini-Poly reunion. They had a wonderful time sharing childhood memories and catching up on recent activities and adventures.

● Meggie Weston Smith ’47 My warm good wishes to everyone in the 50-Year Club, especially Stanley Cochran ’47, Ted Williamson ’47, and Linda Pauling Kamb ’47. My biography of my father, Beating the Odds: The Life and Times of E.A. Milne, will be published later this year. In it, I write about Theodore and Miriam Dunham, who with kindness and great generosity cared for me during the war. This included my happy year at Poly from 1941 to 1942. ● Anne V. Bullock-Webster ’49 I have been friends with Sallye Taylor Stephenson ’49 for more than 70 years. Amazing that we are alive and well!

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1950–1959

Susan G. Taylor ’50 Wonderful trip to Costa Rica in January. ● Marilyn M. Newell ’51 I am so grateful for the marvelous education I received from Poly—fifth through ninth grade—and that was as far as you went! ● Daniel L. Crotty ’51 Even in retirement, I keep active on the board of a Ventura County water company and the problems facing Southern California. Delta smelt for lunch, anyone? ● Susan W. Champion ’52 We lost Chuck’s daughter, Carolyn, to cancer in June 2011. Attended grandson Dan’s wedding in Chicago in August. Usual jaunts to our San Juan Island home in the summer. ● Pete Young ’53 I made a two-week trip to England in early March, primarily to attend performances of Benefactors, Copenhagen, and Democracy at the Crucible Theatres in Sheffield, during their month-long Michael Frayn Season. Frayn’s work has long been a research interest of mine. Of course I had to see some other theatre while in London. To quote Samuel Johnson, “A man who is tired of London is tired of life.” Cheers!

● Pieter S. Myers ’54 I have reconnected with Dorr Eddy ’54, who turns out to be a distant cousin. ● Sarah M. Keller ’55 Two more grandchildren, Georgina and Donovan, were born three weeks apart in 2011, which makes eight. ● Elizabeth W. Boone Hogen ’55 I will retire from being head of school at Resurrection Episcopal Day School in June and enjoy living in England and attending coursework at the Woolf Institute at Cambridge University. ● Edward Wolcott ’56 Willa and I are enjoying our granddaughter, Roya, who is now 5.

● Barbara B. Whitesides ’56 Our son George, his wife, and our grandson now live in Pasadena! ● Glen C. Gustafson ’57 I am now fulfilling a lifetime goal of becoming a sailor—buying a “Catalina 22” from a friend here on Catalina Island! An educational note: failed cursive in the third grade, but the printing of block letters was excellent for the career of a college teacher! ● Women from the Class of ’57 got together for lunch one Sunday afternoon at Sandra Hixon Sarnoff’s house in Culver City.

Attending were Sally Grant Holland (left), Jill Bennett Polsby (center), Sandra (right), Mary Test (front left), and Margaret Rhodes (front right), as well as Betsy Crockett (who took the picture).

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1960–1969

Elizabeth Jones ’65 Continuing to work in divorce mediation and collaborative family law. Grandmother to four granddaughters! ● Bruce G. Nickerson ’68 Working as head of pulmonary at CHOC Children’s in Orange County and loving life in Seal Beach. ● Janice L. Feinstein ’69 I have retired from practicing law and have joyfully returned to practicing piano.

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1970–1979

Lucille A. Leong ’72 Completed my two-year term as president of the medical staff at City of Hope Medical Center at
the end of 2011 and was honored to lead such committed and talented cancer physicians. ● Richmond S. Spaulding ’72 I am now operating the Skeleton Key Folk Music Center in Big Bear Lake. All Poly grads should stop by! ● Debbie K. Donahue ’73 The big news from Texas is that my middle daughter is getting married this year. My oldest lives nearby, and I love seeing my two grandchildren. My youngest will graduate from high school next year. Life is busy and full! ● Lance H. Rosedale ’74 I still remember Coach Yastemski and the old gymnasium, which was a converted barn. ● Nancy K. Chulay ’77 I helped out fellow Poly alumna Mary King Sikora ’76 with the TEDxCaltech project this year. Loved working at Caltech, and TED was fascinating to be involved with. ● Benjamin Chulay ’70 is currently editing “The Lying Game” TV series for ABC Family and is the announcer for various Poly Varsity sports. Son Schafer ’10 is a sophomore at the University of Arizona, and daughter Kate ’13 is a junior at Poly. ● Carolyn S. Kyne ’77 35th reunion? Wow, I am not that old, am I? Thanks for the call, Lou Fleming ’77.

1990–1999

Ryan Katsuyama ’90 was named coach of the year by Pasadena Star-News for the 2011 fall season after leaving a successful boys water polo season at Poly. ● Pratima Gupta ’92 I returned from a month-long volunteer mission with Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières to South Sudan, where I was the only surgically trained doctor for more than 400 miles. While intense and challenging, this experience was one of the most rewarding of my life, and I continue to learn from it. One of the most touching moments is captured in this photo. A couple, who had a stillborn with their previous child, named their daughter Nhom-Achot Pratima, in honor of me delivering a healthy baby girl via Cesarean section. Currently, we live in San Francisco in a Victorian house with a guest room, so please come and visit. ● Anna Christy Stepp ’94 honored Barbara Cook by singing “Glitter and Be Gay” from Bernstein’s Candide at the 2011 Kennedy Center Honors in December. ● David E. Richardson ’95 was named as a recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the highest honor given by the U.S. government to outstanding scientists and engineers in the early stages of their careers. David is a fishery dynamics researcher at the National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Narragansett, RI. ● Shahin T. Chandrasoma ’95 Is it sad to finish schooling after your 15-year high school reunion? Probably. World, here I come. ● Anna Andresian ’96 was one of two winners of the 2011 American Philological Association Pre-Collegiate Teaching Award. She currently teaches at Regis Jesuit High School in Aurora, Colo. ● Sarah Bartlett Wilson ’96 lives in Washington, D.C., where she is a writing specialist at Trinity Washington University. With her husband, Matt, she also runs Faction of Fools Theatre Company, which recently won a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Company. ● Lily M. Horng ’98 I am working at a small hospital on a Navajo reservation in Arizona. Last weekend, I went hiking in Arches National Park, Utah. It reminded me of our class trip to Zion, Utah! Thanks, Poly! ● Anuj Gupta ’98 I married the love of my life, Aparna Garg, in Houston on 11.11.11! We first met in Arcadia in 1990, and our families have been close since. We had a traditional four-day Indian celebration, and many Poly alums joined in the fun, including my sisters, Neelima Gupta Doshi ’89 and Pratima Gupta ’92; friends and former classmates, Michael Rosenthal, Eric Kwok, Kentaro Suzuki, Kevin Wu, Vicki Chan, and Vinay Kumar (all ’98); and Anu Shrivastava Shah ’92. We live in Washington, D.C., where I work as associate staff secretary to President Obama, and Aparna works at the American Constitution Society.

1980–1989

Sage Breslin ’82 I’ve continued to write for Chicken Soup for the Soul and have two Chicken Soup books out in 2012. My private practice has remained strong, and I have spent more time providing transformational therapies in the retreat setting. Finally, our production company, The Grazlin Group, has several screenplays being shopped! I’ve figured out that I love promoting inspiration and hope in any format I can. ● Jacqueline B. Herman ’84 Still enjoying Swiss life in Geneva after eight years! Our oldest child just started high school at the International School. How time flies!
Class Notes

- Robb B. Rutledge ’98 is currently a senior research associate at University College London. - Erika von Tieh ’99 has been named co-anchor of the CBS morning news in Philadelphia, the fourth largest news market in the United States. - Holly Lyn Trujillo ’99 has been teaching third grade at St. Pancratius School in Lakewood and received a master’s degree in literacy education from Loyola Marymount University in May. She is engaged to Greg Rioux.

2000–2011

Steven R. Schneider ’02 Living in Tucson with my wife, Karen Stern, who has finished her fourth year of medical school at the University of Arizona, where I recently finished my second year of law school. We were married in Scottsdale in March. - Steve Huffman ’04 After graduating from Vanderbilt, Steve was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy and began pursuing his lifelong dream of being a Naval aviator. Over the next 2½ years, he completed intensive training in flight school to earn his Wings of Gold. He is now enjoying living in Virginia Beach, Va., where he flies F/A-18 Super Hornets. He is engaged and is looking forward to his September wedding in Nashville, Tenn. - Francesco Dandekar ’05 is enjoying his second year at UCSD medical school. In February, a study he co-authored as an undergraduate at USC was released. The study found that the left hemisphere of the brain, thought to be the rational, logical side, actually plays a critical role in creative thinking. - Melissa Tanner ’05, a Caltech graduate student, received funding from the Keck Institute for Space Studies to help develop instruments for an extreme terrain rover called Axel, which could one day be used to explore the moon, Mars, or an asteroid. - Larkin K. Brogan ’05 is studying for a master’s degree in architecture at Berkeley. - Jennifer Huffman ’06 After working in Washington, D.C. for a year, Jennifer has returned to Germany (pictured in Heidelberg), where she studied abroad in college. She was accepted into the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals, a government-sponsored fellowship program. She has an internship in Berlin at the Bundestag (the German equivalent of our House of Representatives). - Kate Seaver ’06 is starting her second year at McKinsey & Company in Manhattan. - Ethan Dubin ’07 was featured in TimeOut Chicago’s “Performer of the Week” column in recognition of his role in Sixty Miles to Silver Lake at Collaboration Theatre in Chicago. - Rosemary LaGrua ’07 is doing freelance fashion design and production in Los Angeles. - Mariel Huerler ’08, who recently graduated from Brown University, is a recipient of a U.S. Student Fulbright award. She won an English Teaching Assistantship award and will be in Argentina. - Kaylin Marcotte ’08 joined IBM in their global consulting group and is based in Manhattan after graduating from Barnard College in May. - Nicholas J. Espinoza ’09 In addition to my political science studies at Fordham, I’ve interned at the National Committee on American Foreign Policy. Working for a foreign policy think-tank has certainly exposed me to some great minds. Here is a photo with NYPD Commissioner Raymond Kelly. This summer I am interning with the Hudson Institute. - Gillian Feldmeth ’09 is one of seven Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy undergraduates to receive a summer research grant from the Office of the Provost. Gillian, who is studying social policy, will spend the summer pursuing a project exploring post-abortive care options for women in Buenos Aires, including the ways women learn of services and the social barriers to medical treatment. - Kevin Geier ’09 has a new album out on iTunes. Last in Thought features Kevin on guitar, keyboards, bass, and musical glasses. Julian Albinski-Euler ’11 plays drums on many of the tracks. - Ben Samuels ’09, former sports editor of The Paw Print, was named president of The Harvard Crimson. - Rose Dicovitsky ’10 and Matthew Diephuis ’10, both studying at Dartmouth College, spent the winter quarter at the University of Sydney in Australia. - Bobby Samuels ’10 spoke this past March with Poly’s New Media Psychology and Application class on the changes in print newspapers precipitated by the proliferation of social media. Past editor of The Paw Print, Samuels serves as the sports chair for The Harvard Crimson. - Julia Brown ’10 is enjoying Duke. She is a member of Delta Gamma sorority and plays intramural co-ed volleyball. - Elizabeth D. Malchione ’11 I very much enjoyed my first year at Yale and will be interning at the non-profit Fundación DARA in Madrid this summer.
In Memoriam

Poly publishes obituaries as space allows when we receive notice that an alumnus or alumna has died. If you 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 June 2012.

Mary Belford Nevins ‘29
March 22, 2012, Portola Valley, California
Born in Pasadena, Mary spent most of her formative years in Pasadena and the San Francisco Bay area. She graduated from Stanford University. She married J. Phillip Nevins in 1942, and they settled in Pasadena. Mary was active in the Pasadena Junior League and the Pasadena Day Nursery, where she served for many years on the board of directors. In 1993, she relocated to the Sequoia Retirement Community in Portola Valley. She was preceded in death by her husband and her sister, Jane Belford Nisbet ‘31.

Eugene Henry Hoffman ‘34
December 17, 2011, Pasadena, California
Eugene was born in 1918 in Bisbee, Arizona. His family moved to California, first to their avocado ranch in Rancho Santa Fe, then to San Marino, where Eugene attended Poly. After Poly, Eugene attended the Cate School and the Lawrenceville School. He graduated from Harvard in 1941 with a naval officer’s commission and volunteered for active service in October 1941. Subsequently stationed in Hawaii, Eugene was one of the original members of the Navy’s Underwater Demolition Team, the pre-cursor to today’s SEALs. Upon completion of his service, he worked as an accountant in New York. From 1946 to 1960, he was treasurer and executive officer for the family-owned Howard Paper Mills in Cincinnati, Ohio. He relocated to California, where he started his own company, Henry’s Metal Polishing. Eugene and his wife, Valerie, were strong supporters of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Carleton Byron Swift, Jr. ‘34
January 24, 2012, Washington, D.C.
Born on July 4, 1919, in Portland, Ore., Carleton spent his early years in Pasadena. He graduated from Harvard College in 1941. He worked briefly for Swift and Co., his family’s meatpacking business, and then joined the Navy, where he was an attached commander for PT boats in the South Pacific. In 1944, he joined the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and worked in the China Theater, then subsequently in intelligence services in Washington, D.C., the Middle East, East Asia, and Europe. He retired in 1974. He was married three times, to Mary Davidson, Frances Patterson, and Patricia Waring. He is survived by his sisters, Josephine Boyer ‘36, Harriet Holdsworth ‘39, and Lila Monell. He rowed crew and loved sailing, tinkering, and making things. He was also a Ham Radio pioneer. He was a trustee of the Washington Gallery of Modern Art and Corcoran Gallery of Art.

Helen K. Ouerbacker ‘35
May 7, 2011, New York, New York
Helen was born in Louisville and graduated in 1938 from Miss Hall’s School in Pittsfield, Mass. She was a member of the Junior League of New York City and worked for James Foundation and Lighthouse for the Blind. She is survived by her nephew, William Perry, Jr. ‘72, and niece, Cynthia Rosedale ‘69.

Anne O’Malley Wilson ‘36
February 26, 2012, Pasadena, California
Born in Los Angeles in 1921, Anne attended Poly, The Katherine Branson School, and Vassar. In 1945, she married Dr. John C. Wilson, Jr. After a tour of duty, they settled in Pasadena to raise four children, John ‘64, Stuart ’67, Theresa ’69, and Michael ’74. After her husband’s untimely death, Anne turned to assisting others through her work at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, eventually as a member of the board of directors.

David L. Parke ’37
November 8, 2011, Spring Hill, Florida

Robert Brydolf ’38
January 1, 2011, Duarte, California

Maxwell S. Keith ’39
March 6, 2012, Templeton, California
Maxwell was born in Pasadena in 1924. After serving in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II, he graduated from Princeton University in 1946 with a degree in economics. He attended Loyola Law School and passed the bar in 1953. He worked as a deputy district attorney for several years before entering private practice. In 1970, he was appointed to serve as the defense attorney for two members of the Manson family who went to prison for their roles in the 1969 Tate-LaBianca murders. In 1994, Keith was honored with the Joseph Rosen Justice Award of the Los Angeles Criminal Courts Bar Association. He retired in 1995. He is survived by his wife, Alison Cronkrite Keith ‘44; daughters Elizabeth ‘70, Alison Keith Stirling ‘72, Hilary ‘72, and Adelaide Muro; sons Gordon ‘77 and Alexander; eight grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Hugo Scherer Higbie ’42
April 14, 2012, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan
Hugo attended Poly from 1935 to 1939. He graduated from the Taft School in Connecticut and Williams College in Massachusetts. He entered the real estate business in 1948 and sold real estate for more than 62 years. In 1967, Hugh founded the Higbie Realty Company. He served as treasurer and president of the Grosse Pointe Brokers Association and was a founding member of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors. Hugh served on the boards of the Episcopcal Church Foundation, University Liggett School, Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation, Henry Ford Cottage, and the Grosse Pointe Farms Beautification Commission. He was a member of the Christ Church Grosse Pointe Vestry, and he and his wife Marian (“Slim”) were 30-year members of the Christ Church chorale and sang in the Berkshire Choral Festival in Sheffield, Mass., for more than a decade. Hugh’s wife, whom he married in 1954, died in 2007. He is survived by his children and five grandchildren.

William G. Corey ’45
February 18, 2012, Arcadia, California
William was born in La Jolla and was raised in Altadena. After Poly, he attended the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, N.M., for high school, where he learned to fly. He attended the University of California, Berkeley. In 1959, he graduated from the USC Medical School, where he later served on the faculty, and received post-graduate training in internal medicine and hepatology until 1963. William began his private practice of internal medicine in Pasadena. In 1982, he was president of the medical staff of Huntington Memorial Hospital. He was the director of clinical investigation at the HMRI Liver Center. He served as the medical advisor and trustee to the Eileen and Kenneth Norris Foundation, as well as was a member of the board of the USC Norris Cancer Center. He was a trustee to the McKenzie Foundation, which provides grants to medical and pre-med students. He was also a board member for the Sheriff Air Rescue 5 Foundation and flew with the Los Angeles County Sheriffs as a volunteer doctor on disaster response teams for 21 years. William is survived by his wife of 44 years, Janice Corey; his children, Michelle Corey Hoherd ’72, Linda “Boo” Corey DeWitt ’76, Carrie O’Donnell Grime, and Matthew Allan O’Donnell; six grandchildren, a great-grandson, and his sisters, Virginia Lance, Mary Lownes, Sally Corey Karste ‘50, and Annie Haynes.
Coburn Haskell ’40
February 1, 2012, Yuba City, California
C obe was born in Tucson, Ariz., in 1924. He spent the first 10 years of his life on his parents’ ranch outside Tucson before moving to Pasadena. He graduated from Pol y and then Catalina Island School for Boys in 1943. At the age of 18 during WWII, Cob enlisted in the Naval Seabees. He was stationed on Guam for most of the time and then on Okinawa. He received an honorable discharge in 1946. Returning to California, Cob en earned a degree in animal husbandry from UC Davis. In 1949, he established the Haskell Stock Farm. In 1970, Cob en sold his ranches and devoted his working hours to managing his investments. He was an expert sailor and loved fly-fishing and hunting. He served on and was chair of the board of directors of Rideout Memorial Hospital and was a member of the Marysville Rotary Club. Cob e served on the Cal Aggie Foundation board at UC Davis. He also served on the local boards of the Boy Scouts of America, United Way, and Yuba College LVN and RN program. Cob en is survived by his wife of 36 years, Geraldine “Gerry” Haskell; brothers, Schuyler ’44 and Mark; sister, Mary Haskell Walker; sons, Alexander and Eric ’69; and his stepsons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brother, Melville H. Haskell, Jr. ’45.

John P. Scholl ’45
December 11, 2011, Sherman Oaks, California

Claire Gustafson ’48
May 5, 2012, Huntington Beach, California
Claire passed away at home on the evening of the Super Moon and Cinco de Mayo. Born and raised in Pasadena, Claire attended Poly, South Pasadena High School, and Scripps. A lifetime teacher, Claire taught in Alta Loma and the Palm Springs area. She is survived by her daughters, Sue Phelps and Pam Skinner; brothers, Robert K. Gustafson ’46, twin Donald M. Gustafson ’48, and Glen C. Gustafson ’57; and three grandchildren.

Carl Barker Hind ’49
September 11, 2011, Julian, California

Frederick “Fritz” Griffin ’50
January 11, 2012, Pasadena, California

Clo tild e "Coco" Freeman McDougall ’50
December 13, 2011, Bellevue, Washington
Born in 1936 in Seattle, Coco spent her early years in Medina, Wash., and attended Pol y from 1947 to 1950. She attended Helen Bush School and graduated from Stanford University with a degree in child psychology. In Seattle, Coco worked as a travel agent and then as a systems analyst for IBM. She met her hus-

band, Bruce, on a blind date in 1964; they married and moved to Vancouver, Canada, where they lived for 13 years and raised two children. In 1977, the family relocated to Bellevue. Coco began jogging and practicing yoga in the early 1970s and became a devotee of health food. She was active in several organizations, including the Bellevue Arts Museum and Belle Arte Chamber Music. She loved hiking in the Cascades and spending time in the San Juan Islands. Coco’s creative passion for the last 30 years was her garden, a woodland arboretum. Coco is survived by her husband, children, and grandchildren. She also is survived by three siblings, Sarah Stelter ’49, Kemper Freeman, Jr. ’56, and Elizabeth Freeman ’57.

Clay Francis Lindus ’52
June 5, 2012, Monte cito, California
Clay died peacefully at his home after a long illness. He was born in San Francisco in 1937. He attended Poly and was a graduate of The Hill School in Pottstown, Penn. He received his bachelor’s degree from Stanford University in 1959 and served as an officer in the US Navy shortly thereafter. In 1964, he married “the love of my life,” Nancy Jo Sweeney, and together they raised two children, Scott ’84 and Stephanie ’86. Clay enjoyed a 35-year career at Mobil Oil Corporation, which included moves to Washington D.C. and London. He retired in 1995 and put down roots in Santa Barbara with Nancy Jo. In 2001, Nancy Jo died after a long battle with cancer; Clay’s devotion was steadfast and he remained at her side until the very end. Clay is survived by his son and daughter; his brother, Harry Robinson Hamlin; and his brother and sister-in-law, Ronald and Wendy Pini, along with five beloved grandchildren. He is also survived by his best friend and constant companion, his dog Lisel, who now lives with his son Scott’s family.

Jeffrey Chandler ’57
April 15, 2012, Rancho Santa Fe, California
Jeff passed away at his home after a lengthy battle with prostate cancer. He was born in Los Angeles in 1942. He was the grandson of Harry Chandler of the Los Angeles Times, and Jeff served on the paper’s board of directors. Jeff attended Poly and then USC. As a child, he developed a lifelong love of sailing on Balboa Island. In 1995, he competed in the Transpac race from San Pedro to Hawaii. In 1971, Chandler married Charlotte Nilsson, and in 1975, they moved to San Diego County. Jeff purchased radio stations and established Tri-Cities Broadcasting, selling them in 1997. He also served as president and chief executive of Chandler Ranch Co., one of the largest avocado growers in California. He is survived by his wife; daughter, Kristina; and two brothers, Bruce ’51 and Stephen ’62.

Teresa Healy ’64
March 17, 2012, Seattle, Washington
Terry died quietly at home. She was born in San Diego in 1946 and graduated from Pol y in 1964. After graduating from Swarthmore College, Terry, in her words, “stopped by Seattle, en route from college to Canada, and somehow never got any further.” In 1985, she earned her master’s degree in public administration from the University of Washington. She was the widow of Harry McAndrew, who died in March 2011. She worked as a publicist and grant writer for arts organizations, including Bathhouse Theatre and Kirkland Performing Arts Center. She also worked as an aide to former Seattle Mayor Charles Royer. Terry supported civic institutions, such as the Woodland Park Zoo, Pike Place Market, and the Seattle Public Library. Terry owned and operated a cafe in the 1990s. She was an artist and avid Scrabble player, and she created crossword puzzles.

David Gray Hamlin ’67
December 20, 2011, Redondo Beach, California
David was born in 1949 in Pasadena. One of two sons of noted aeronautical engineer Chauncey J. Hamlin Jr., David attended Pol y and graduated from USC in 1972. David began his career as a CPA at Price Waterhouse and thereafter became the controller of Universal Pictures. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to start his own business in the late ’80s and he went on to be CFO of several high-tech start-up companies throughout the rest of his career.

Sandra Stream Miller ’67
November 30, 2011, Beverly Hills, California
Sandra passed away peacefully at her home after a brief illness. Sandra was born in 1949 in Pasadena. She later attended Newcomb College at Tulane and lived in New Orleans before eventually returning to Los Angeles. Sandra had many diverse business interests, including real estate development, timber, oil and gas, cattle, agriculture, and wetland mitigation. Sandra twice battled and beat breast cancer. She generously gave her time and resources to cancer research efforts, and she served on the board of directors for the Tower Cancer Research Foundation. She was an active historic preservationist and was involved in the restoration and management of Evergreen Plantation. She was a compassionate animal lover and rescued several abused dogs. Sandra is survived by her mother, Matilda Gray Stream, Jr., and brother, Harold H. Stream III ’66. She was preceded in death by her father and by her brother, Gray Stream ’71.
Margaret Marie Logan Oettinger ’69  
February 2, 2011, Lincoln, Nebraska  
Jacqueline “Jax” Elizabeth Ann Arcaris ’90  
February 8, 2012, Denver, Colorado  
Jax died peacefully at her home, surrounded by family and friends. She was born in 1971 in Los Angeles. At Poly, Jacqueline received the headmaster’s award for the student who best embodied the qualities of the school. She was president of the Girl’s Service League her senior year. Jacqueline attended Purdue University and studied civil engineering. She was actively involved in the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), serving as student chapter president for two years. After graduating in 1995, Jacqueline began working in the oil industry, spending four years in the oil fields of Texas and Louisiana. In 2000, she moved to Colorado, where she met her husband, Britton. They were married in 2005. As a civil engineer, Jacqueline focused on water resources planning, environmental engineering, and project management. She became a licensed professional engineer in the state of Colorado in 2008. Throughout her career, Jacqueline continued to be a leader in the ASCE, holding several leadership roles, and in the Purdue Club of Colorado, of which she was treasurer. She helped establish the Colorado ASCE younger members group and served as its president. Some of her favorite activities included telemark and alpine skiing, hiking and backpacking, soccer, volleyball, yoga, gardening, and traveling. She also loved mountain and rock climbing and had climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. She was a National Ski Patrol volunteer at Loveland Ski Area. She is survived by her husband, Richard Britton Thomas; mother, Susan Lio Arcaris; brother, George Joseph Arcaris III ’86; sister-in-law, Christine; and three nieces.  

Jacqueline Quesada ’98  
December 16, 2011, San Louis Obispo, California  

Brandon Toh ’93  
March 17, 2012, La Cañada, California  
Brandon was born and raised in the Pasadena area. He was a musician and music industry professional and also worked intensively in the mental health field. Brandon attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he majored in molecular cell biology. In 1996, he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and completed his junior year before returning home to continue therapy. Back home, he studied at Musicians Institute in Hollywood, earning a certificate. He then returned to Cal to complete his degree. While there, he volunteered at the Alameda Suicide Hotline and continued to pursue music. He returned to Southern California and began to volunteer at the Suicide Prevention Center at Didi Hirsch Mental Health in Culver City, becoming an on-staff counselor and supervisor. At the same time, he built a professional career in music. He was a sound editor and sound designer at rOom, a media studio in Venice, and also ran his own studio. He did sound design and editing, mixing, and composition for advertisements, short films, and videos, including the Grammy-nominated video of “When You Were Young” by The Killers. He also wrote and recorded his own music. In the fall of 2010, he began a low-residence master’s program at Pacifica Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara to train for licensure in counseling. He had begun an internship program at Pasadena Mental Health Center. He was the brother of Shauna Toh ’90.  

Katherine Kane Schultz ’91  
November 15, 2012, Castaic, California  
Katherine died of Lupus surrounded by family. She was the sister of Poly alumnus Everett Kane ’88.  

Jacqueline Quesada ’98  
December 16, 2011, San Louis Obispo, California
I remember feeling much more nervous than usual. Like most athletes, I was accustomed to the standard anxiety that often precedes games, but this was different. Our team was set to take the court for an all-school assembly in a game against the high school basketball team of Trinity College from Perth, Australia. For every player on our squad, the number of people who would fill the stands would easily comprise the largest crowd that any of us had ever played in front of to date. And even throughout my entire basketball career at Poly, this was the only time I played in a game in which every classmate and friend, and most of my teachers, would be watching the team’s every move. While I later grew to cherish big moments like this, as a sophomore lacking much Varsity experience, I could not help but shudder at how many eyes would be upon us.

Making this game happen was a testament to the vision of the school and our head coach, Brad Hall. Coach Hall had always been supportive of Poly’s Global Initiatives Program, headed first by recently retired history teacher Roger Ipswitch, who also moonlighted as the announcer for the football, basketball, and baseball teams, and currently by history teacher Rick Caragher, who was our basketball team’s assistant coach. When Trinity’s coaches contacted Coach Hall about playing against Poly as a part of their US tour, Coach Hall thought a game would fit in nicely with the goals of the Global Initiatives Program. He organized the assembly, which also included a halftime show from the TNT Dunk Squad. I still have a clear memory of one of the dunkers launching himself off a trampoline, front flipping over his two partners, slamming a ball through the hoop, and celebrating his feat by dancing with our cheerleaders.

The game itself is still somewhat of a blur. I recall that once we scored that first basket, the crowd erupted, and a lot of our nervousness dissipated. We ended up winning by a comfortable margin, as we outlasted a jet-lagged Trinity team. We later discovered they had just recently stepped off their flight, which had taken the better part of an entire day.

Two years later, during my senior year, Trinity returned to Poly as part of what has now become a tradition. (In addition to these two games, Trinity traveled back to Poly this past winter for a third time.) This year, the contest was different than the first. It was not as much of a public...
spectacle in that there would be no halftime show, and the entire school was not in attendance. But for me, this meeting was more meaningful in terms of the connections that I made with some of the Trinity players.

Of course, this was a game the entire team looked forward to playing. It was rare that we faced teams outside of the San Gabriel Valley, much less from another continent. This second time, we had a more experienced squad than when I was sophomore, and we handily beat Trinity without having to rely on our opponents’ tired legs. Unlike the first visit, however, the two teams met up for a post-game dinner. While these two games themselves are some of the most memorable ones of my high school career, what impacted me most from Trinity College’s visits was this dinner.

About an hour after the contest had finished, our team and Trinity’s team reconvened at one of every Poly student’s favorite food joints: Burger Continental. The restaurant is well known among students for its “Poly Special,” a two-dollar meal that includes a soda, cheeseburger, and fries. Because of Burger Continental’s popularity, our team agreed that dinner at this spot would give the Australians an appropriate taste of a typical Poly experience.

The two teams were encouraged to intermingle, and I remember eating at a table with three of the Australian players, along with my friend and teammate Marcos Stubrin, Poly’s exchange student from Sante Fe, Argentina. Admittedly, the meal began with some nervous small talk and awkward silences. But that soon changed, and we all realized we had a lot in common. For at least the next hour, the five of us spent the dinner laughing and joking about each other’s accents, sharing stories about our various classic high school problems, learning about funny Australian phrases (“how ya goin’?” means “how’s it going?”), and arguing about which team we thought was the best in the NBA that year.

When I reflect back on all this, I am thankful for how Poly helps its students understand and become part of a world where international boundaries matter less and less; this is exactly what I realized in my conversations that night. I recall how I sat there at Burger Continental with three Australians who literally lived on the opposite side of the globe and an Argentinian who barely spoke English before he came to the US and whose presence on our team was just another example of Poly opening conceptual doors for its students. Once the five of us started talking, it was like none of these discernible differences even mattered or separated us at all.

If there’s one thing that stands out from my time spent with the Australians from Trinity College, it’s this: While we differed in many superficial aspects, we really were just five teenage basketball players—who were grateful to Poly and our coaches for making this experience possible.
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