

CRUSADER CONNECTION

Spring 2017

Vol. 10 No. 1

A publication dedicated to the Marian/Mater Dei Catholic High School Community

www.materdeicatholic.org



MDCHS Scholar-Athletes Face Promising Futures pp 10-11



**40TH ANNUAL CRUSADER
GOLF TOURNAMENT
SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND, 2017
1:00 PM - SHOTGUN START**

EASTLAKE COUNTRY CLUB
2375 Clubhouse Drive, Chula Vista, CA 91915

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 11:00 AM..... Registration/Check-in
- 11:00 AM..... Driving Range Open
- 11:30 AM..... Taco Feast
- 12:45 AM..... Man your carts
- 1:00 PMShotgun Start
- 5:30 PM Cocktails/Raffle/Draw Down
- 6:00 PMDinner and Awards Ceremony

Register online at:

mdchs-2017-golf-tournament.eventbrite.com

Title

Sponsor:





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A special thank you to those who made an important contribution to this publication by giving input and proofing the articles.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JOHN REY AND PRINCIPAL GEORGE MILKE



As we head into 2017, the 67th year of Marian/Mater Dei, and the ten-year anniversary of life on the Mater Dei campus, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your continued support of our school. This year of transition, growth and change is serving to strengthen the foundation of our organization, as we look toward the future of our school, for many more years to come.

It is you, our phenomenal students, alumni, parents and supporters who are the very core of this school. Without you there is no Mater Dei. It is because of you that we are continually working to bring the best in our classrooms, on the field, and in the community, where we aim to serve, as we are called to do as Catholics.

As we move forward to build a lasting school we will continue to develop our best practices and define the organizational practices we need to continue to make the Crusader name one you can be proud to share.

Thank you, Crusader family. Everything we do is for you.



FOOTBALL KEEPS HIS SPIRITS HIGH AS HE BATTLES ILLNESS

MDJDA KINDERGARTEN STUDENT MARCO TORRES

Not long after Marco Torres started Kindergarten at Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy, his teacher, Faina Salter, noticed he was absent more often than the other students in her class.



“His parents had taken him to the doctor several times out of concern, but, at first, were told that he was just feeling ill. It took several visits before the doctors realized that he had something more serious.”

Eventually diagnosed with leukemia, Marco began what will be a long journey to battle the disease; one that meant he was unable to be in the classroom with his teacher and friends.

“Still we found a way to have him with us,” Salter explained. “With just a little bit of technology, and some coordinating between us and his family, we were able to have Marco join our class in the mornings via FaceTime.”

On the mornings that Marco was able to participate, Salter would prop up an iPad on the table in front of the seat where he would normally sit with his classmates.

Through the app he could see what was happening via video chat, and still join in his class without being exposed to the germs that were so dangerous for him during his treatment.

“When we heard what was happening with Marco,” said Mater Dei President, John Rey, “We all wanted to do something to lift his spirits.”

Rey is familiar with the fears of having a child undergo serious medical issues. One of his own three children, oldest daughter, Breanna, has had several surgeries and hospitalizations since birth.

“We wanted Marco to have a day where



he just got to do something he enjoyed. When we found out he loved football, the high school football team wanted him to be their guest of honor at their last practice before the CIF San Diego Section Football Championship game against Olympian.”

As his family watched from the sidelines—including his grandfather, former San Diego and Chula Vista Chief of Police, David Bejarano—Marco was able to go



on the field to learn some moves from the team. He was presented with a special Crusader jacket and a football signed by all of the players. He even got to meet with his kindergarten classmates and teachers, Mrs. Salter and Mrs. Moncayo for a brief visit.

“Marco is a champion Junior Crusader,” said MDJDA Principal Susana Martinez. “His teachers, Mrs. Salter and Mrs. Moncayo, believe strongly in all their students, supporting them unconditionally. No matter what challenges they face, our teachers understand the power of personal connection and caring.”

When MDCHS football coach Andrew Balelo heard that one of Marco’s favorite players was future Hall of Fame Tight End, Jason Witten of the Dallas Cowboys, he wanted to do something more. He made some phone calls to try to reach the owner of the Dallas Cowboys. He wanted to see if he could get a special gift for Marco that could be put under the tree for Christmas.

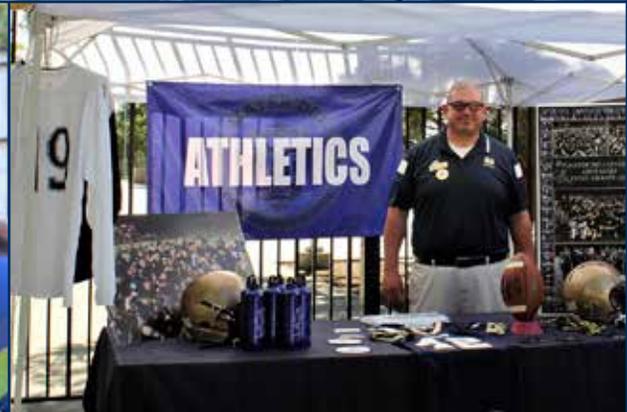
“Coach Balelo made his calls,” said Rey. “A couple of days after Christmas, I received a picture of Marco holding a Dallas Cowboys helmet personally autographed by Jason Witten that had been brought to him by Santa.”

When a child is dealing with an illness, prayer, joy and love are some of the only things we can do to comfort them. We ask all of you to keep Marco in your prayers as he works toward continued healing.





Dedicated Faculty, Staff, Parents, and Students are a Winning Combination



2016-17 GOALS: SUPPORT, SUCCESS, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



The goals set in August 2016 by Mater Dei Catholic High School were clear:

- Meet every student’s academic success by offering cutting-edge opportunities for talented students, having specialized instruction for those with learning differences; providing enriched tutoring for any student who desires it, and extending extra support for all of our English language learners;
- Revamp our financial assistance program so more families are able to afford the quality education at Mater Dei;
- Ensure that Catholic service to others is a high priority on campus; and
- Create an atmosphere of excitement and enthusiasm for education

By December 2016, the Leadership Team—Principal George Milke, President John Rey, as well as administrative and faculty members, Frank Stingo, Marissa Meda, Noel Leon, Michelle Brooks, Katie Olson, Anamaria Anthony, and Roy Vasquez—could see that the planning and effort of the students, staff, and faculty was succeeding. It was an early Christmas present for President John Rey.

“I’m excited. We have so many systems in place now to support, challenge and nurture all of our students,” Rey shared

on the final day before Christmas break. “That is what makes us unique. We have the expectation of greatness for those in Honors and AP courses, but we also pull out all the stops for students with learning or language challenges so they can find academic success. We want all of our students to shine.”

“Our faculty and staff is committed to Mater Dei. They are always striving to offer more. Combine that with our dedicated students and parents, and we have a solid formula for greatness.” –John Rey

These support systems include the Counseling Department, which is key in helping every student reach the goal of going to a four-year university; the Language Academy, which offers even more comprehensive support for English Language Learners, the new Aquinas Center, (implemented in August 2016) which teaches students with learning differences new techniques and methods for studying, and the Cupertino Program, which offers free before and after school tutoring for any student who requests it.

“Our faculty and staff are excited to have these multiple support systems in place,” said Rey, “and I’m excited to continue finding ways to improve.”

When Rey assumed the school Presidency in August he’d already been working with Marian/Mater Dei since 2001. He knew the school had a beautiful campus, solid academic and athletic programs, terrific teachers and a dedicated principal with George Milke, already in place. However, Rey was inspired by the philosophies he’d read in a book called “Good to Great,” by author Jim Collins, which discusses how the leaders of companies that go from “good to great” make sure the people in the organization are supported and utilized in the best way possible.

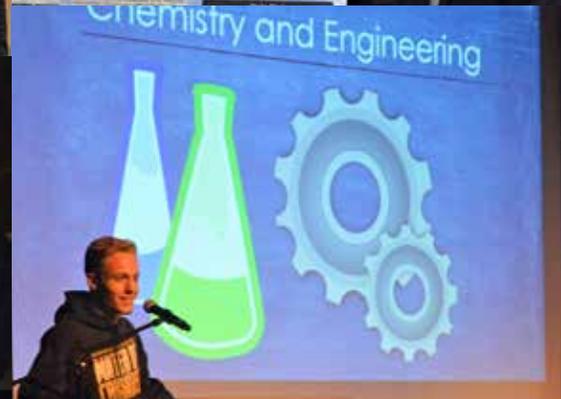
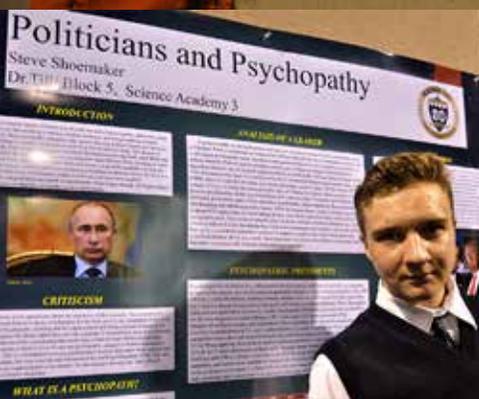
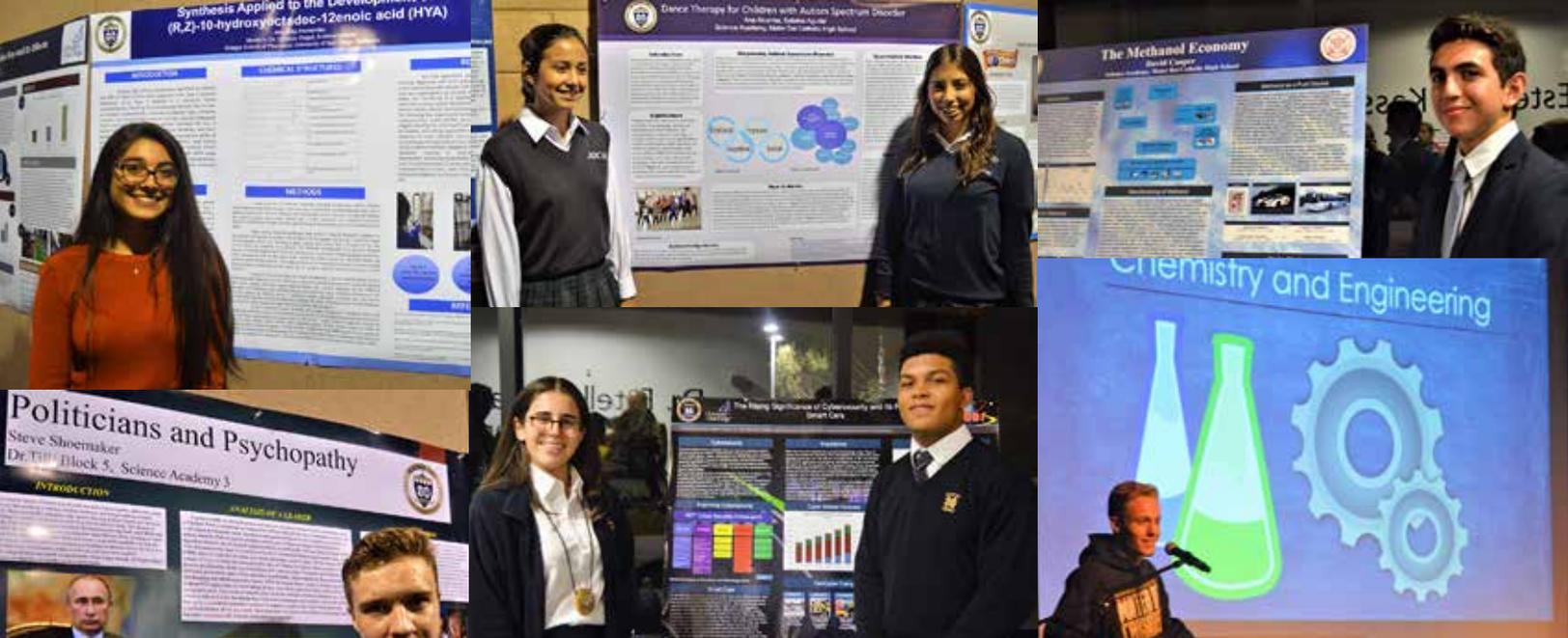
To initiate the conversation with the faculty and staff, Rey offered a copy of “Good to Great” to every employee during one of his first meetings as President, and encouraged everyone to present suggestions for how they could be best utilized in their roles.

“For example, our long-time receptionist, Denise Rodriguez, had been attending college while working,” he explained. “She was a great first face to greet our parents, but after completing a Bachelor’s degree, and being nearly done with a Master’s degree, she was capable of more. With her insights on how to engage parents, she’s now doing a tremendous job as our Coordinator of Major Events, and continues to be an asset to the school.”

The good-to-great philosophy means having self-motivated, and excited employees. Eager employees create the kind of good energy that students and parents can feel when they’re on campus. Director of Admissions, Roy Vasquez has made it his priority to have every family that comes on campus feel that same excitement.

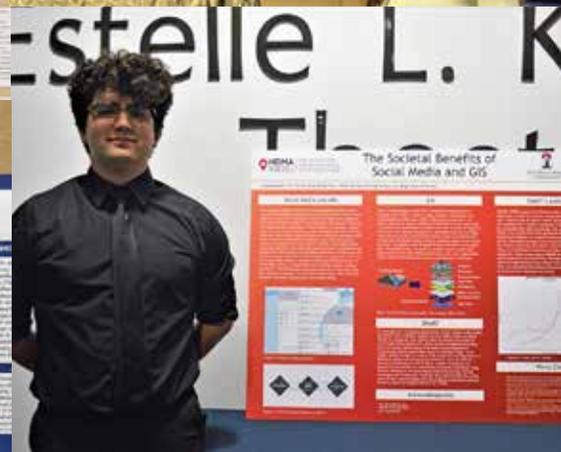
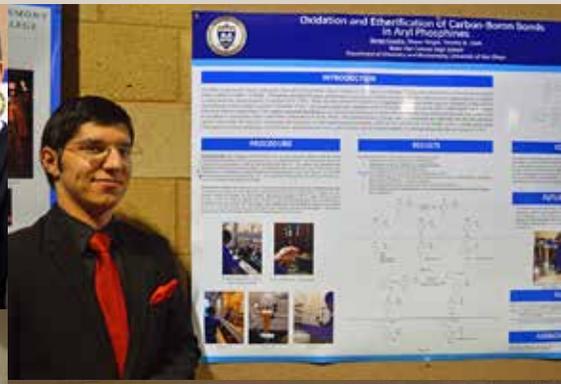
An important part of that experience are the students who volunteer their time to meet with prospective families at the Open House, to share their first-person perspective on academics, athletics, and co-curricular activities.

“At our Open House families get to meet every team member and connect one-on-one,” explains Mr. Vasquez. “Our attention to each families is second to none and we are here to serve.”



ANNUAL SCIENCE ACADEMY STEAM NIGHT AT MATER DEI

The 2016 Science Academy STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Night, held on October 27th, was the largest STEAM event held on Mater Dei's campus to date. Senior Science Academy members created college-level posters, and presented findings on their own scientific research to the public.





JP Gonzalez looks at the plant grown in an aeroponic system created by Science Academy students Carson Gorney and Hanna Taglinao (pictured below). Taglinao says her goal is to use science to learn real-world ways to help others.

SCIENCE ACADEMY TEACHER J.P. GONZALEZ BRINGS COLLEGE CHEMISTRY TO MATER DEI

Starting in the 2017-2018 school year, some fortunate Mater Dei students will be eligible to take a college Chemistry course on campus, another opportunity to earn college credits before graduation.

This new class is a step up from the Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry course currently offered at Mater Dei, which offers students an introduction to college-level material, and the possibility of college credit if they score between 3-5 on the exam. Every student who passes the new course will receive a genuine transferrable Chemistry credit from Cuyamaca College.

To be eligible to teach this authorized college course in his Mater Dei classroom, Science Academy teacher, J.P. Gonzalez, ended up on an unexpected journey, one that started on Cuyamaca's campus.

Unlike the AP course, which was specifically created for high school students, teaching a college level course meant new requirements for Gonzalez

to meet—ones that required dedication, flexibility and a good sense of humor.

"I have a Master's degree, but was required to enroll in the undergrad Chemistry course as a student. I got an "A", by the way," he joked.



Jokes aside, Cuyamaca takes its role in Gonzalez's future teaching a college course at Mater Dei seriously. As a student he had to shadow the Chemistry professor to learn best practices for the course, and this spring he has to actually teach the course on the campus to enrolled Cuyamaca college students.

"After all of that, the college will evaluate me," Gonzalez says. "Only if they feel I am prepared will they let me teach the course at MDCHS."

Dr. Suzanne Till, Director of the Science Academy at Mater Dei, would expect no less from her colleague. "He is dedicated. He is only doing this because he knows how much it will benefit our students."

After all, having Mater Dei students earn credits while gaining the confidence that they can to do college-level work in Chemistry, is huge. The benefit is that schools will see these students as already prepared to make the transition to being an undergrad in a science field. It also gives students a better chance to be accepted into the college major of their choice.

"My long-term vision is to have Mater Dei's name be synonymous with the best and most inclusive opportunities in science for a diverse group of high school students," Gonzales shared enthusiastically. "And this is just the beginning."



CRUSADER WATER POLO: A PLAYER'S PERSPECTIVE

One late summer afternoon back in 2014, I nervously ventured out to the Mater Dei Aquatic Center to meet the coach of the so-called "Aqua Crusaders"—a Mr. Guy Souza, whom I had never seen nor talked to before. In fact, it was my first day of high school, and to say I was "nervous" is probably an understatement.

Not only had I been on campus just two times before that day, I had also come from a middle school far outside of the South Bay community, and was a complete stranger to my peers and everyone else around me. As I walked onto that pool deck, I had no idea what I was getting myself into.

It's safe to say that (clumsily) jumping into the pool that day was one of the best decisions I have made in my high school career. Fast forward two and a half years later, and I have now been a proud member of the Men's Water Polo team at Mater Dei for three seasons, as well as the Mater Dei Swim team for two, coming on three.

The fruits of that choice have been ever-apparent since day one, with the creation of strong friendships and a unique camaraderie with my teammates, an improvement in my physical wellness and mental clarity, and an acute appreciation for the ways in which dedication and teamwork pay off. Just this past November, we won the Mesa League Title in Division II for the first time in school history after more than four months of focused work, serving to increase those effects tenfold.

When I reflect back on that first practice, I distinctly remember hearing that "water polo is the hardest sport you will ever play." It is true that my journey, which is still far from over, has not come without difficulty.

There have been countless times that I have had to make sacrifices to honor my commitment, and even times when I have questioned that commitment, my abilities, and my value to the team as a whole. And, the more I think about it, the more I realize that I will be deeply saddened when the seniors I've spent the last three years with graduate in just a few short months. These challenges, however, have taught me that perseverance pays great dividends, so I look forward to my final chapter at Mater Dei.

For now, I would just like to say 'thank you' to all of those who have been part of this journey with me, and for allowing me to be a part of their journeys too.



Brandon Moore is one of Mater Dei's scholar-athletes. President of his class and an outstanding student, he is also a member of the 2016 Mesa League championship Crusaders Water Polo team. Since Spring 2015, he has been a contributing writer to the Crusader Connection. This page contains his contributions to this issue.

ANALYTICAL WRITING PROGRAM (AWP) MODEL DEVELOPED AT MATER DEI

Almost ten years ago, Mater Dei Catholic English teacher Ms. Kristen Willich set out to create a new model for high school-level academic writing based on the needs of college-bound students, a demographic that suffered in the first decade of the 2000s from low levels of confidence and skill in writing cohesive scholarly papers.

Using Mater Dei as a 'testing ground,' Willich designed a new framework for writing, Analytical Writing Program (AWP), which is unique from other essay structures in that it explicitly identifies the characteristics of scholarly writing in a traditional five-paragraph essay, with those characteristics increasing in complexity with each sequential grade level.

After the AWP was implemented throughout the English department, Willich used student

and faculty responses over the course of the trial period to prove its effectiveness in contrast to more traditional academic writing styles, earning her a PhD in Philosophy.

Ever since the AWP was implemented in Mater Dei English classes, it has remained the sole format for academic writing, it was also adapted for use in other departments to further strengthen writing skills.

Many Mater Dei students appreciate the ease of structuring an AWP, given that the appropriate sentence structures and order are clearly spelled out by the AWP framework. Junior Jonas Bongulto attests to this, saying that "The AWP format is easy to use and makes me more organized and effective as a writer."

From a personal standpoint, I too can vouch for the AWP's streamlining effect—

before I came to Mater Dei, I struggled with the conciseness of my papers, but I have found that the AWP framework teaches me to focus on proving the thesis statement of the essay in the most efficient way possible.

Although, Willich, now Dr. Olsen, relocated and left Mater Dei this year, the AWP format is here to stay, thanks to the generous license she has granted to educational institutions throughout the United States to use and teach the framework.

This is not to say, however, that she will not be missed. Junior Zoe Manalo reflected on her fond memories of her English 2 Honors class with Dr. Olsen last year, saying that she "was an excellent teacher who not only guided us in improving our writing, but empowered us to do so independently, and taught us to love both our work and ourselves."

EGGER FAMILY HONORED AT STADIUM DEDICATION



On November 4, 2016, the day of the Egger Stadium Dedication, the word of the day was "legacy." As the family members of Robert and Emma Egger made their way to the welcome reception in Mater Dei's Marian Heritage Hall, the football team was suiting up in throwback Marian uniforms that they would wear to play against Olympian. The team's 28-7 win that night was the icing on the cake. The heart of the night was being able to honor the Egger family.

"Having the stadium named after the Egger family is long overdue," said Principal George Milke, when asked to reflect on the naming of Mater Dei's athletic stadium. "Without Robert and Emma Egger's initial

donation there would not have been a Marian High, and without a Marian, there would be no Mater Dei."

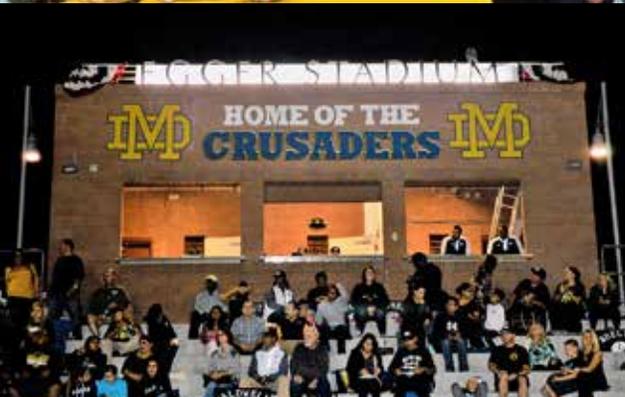
Immigrants from Switzerland, the Eggers were devoted Catholics. Robert Egger was a smart, but unpretentious, businessman who owned a Dairy farm, and plots of land near Imperial Beach, where the original school campus was built. It is likely that this community and family-oriented couple might have never imagined, but would be proud of, how their contributions in San Diego county have made their name well-known.

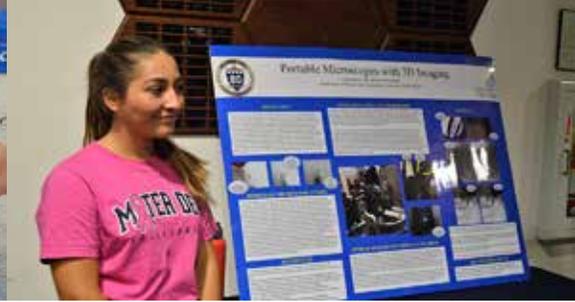
For Milke, who graduated from Marian High in 1972, and went on to play professional baseball before becoming an educator,

having the athletic stadium named after the family responsible for the origin of his own high school was especially gratifying.

"When the football team wanted to come and shake hands, one by one, with each of the family members of Mr. and Mrs. Egger, I got a little emotional," he said with a laugh. "It was really something to see the line of players wearing those Marian jerseys. They really understood the magnitude of the legacy that family has left us."

David Egger, grandson of the couple spoke at the event about his grandparent's legacy. The family also received their own framed Marian football jersey, designated with the number 1, to commemorate the event.





SCHOLAR-ATHLETES STRIVE TOWARD A PROMISING FUTURE

While only a tiny percentage of college players will ever go on to play professionally, an offer of an athletic scholarship for a high school student can be life-changing. However, no matter how good an athlete is, if he or she is unprepared for college-level academics, they will have a challenging time succeeding. Mater Dei's number one priority is to prepare students for college, and the elite group known as scholar-athletes excel both in academics and athletics.

It is a dream of many high school athletes to be recruited to play college-level athletics. This year at Mater Dei, scholarship offers have been rolling in, especially to many of the school's football players, who have been watched by top colleges from all over the country as they won the CIF State Championship in Division IV in 2015, then in 2016, ending up in the Division II CIF State Championships this December.

Senior CJ Verdell has played a big role in the recent success of the Crusader football team. He was recruited from colleges across the country, and signed with the University of Oregon for a full scholarship. He has been featured in television and local magazines as one to watch. In December, he joined a short list of outstanding high school football players who have been awarded the

Silver Pigskin Award through KUSI news.

Quarterback Christopher Jones got noticed for his talent after his dazzling performance in last year's CIF title win. He has several football scholarship offers and signed with Seton Hill University for a full ride. Continuing to play football in college is a path that his coach, John Joyner, feels could lead to a career in playing or coaching. "He's a leader on the field," says Joyner. "He could even be a head coach one day." Joyner's football team has the most athletes with scholarship offers. (Joyner is pictured on front cover far right back row)

But seniors Verdell and Jones are far from being the only outstanding MDCHS athletes to have been offered scholarships. In fact, Mater Dei has many younger players on the radar of colleges, such as Lexi Sosa and Alyssa Garcia. Only sophomores, both of these Lady Crusaders softball players showed such early athletic talent, they had over 20 college offers each by the time they started high school at Mater Dei. Both have verbally committed to UCLA, and are looking forward to a future as Bruins.

Students must meet stringent academic requirements to be part of Mater Dei's Science Academy, or to make Honors. Football teammates Kyle Moses, Quentin Frazier, Chris Jones, and Elijah Shelton

continue to meet these requirements. "Kyle, Quentin, and Chris are in the Science Academy. They are exactly the kind of students colleges love to have—impressive athletes who are also excelling in tough coursework," says Dr. Suzanne Till, director of the Science Academy.

Teammates Frazier, Moses, and Shelton have all received full scholarships to prestigious schools. Frazier will be attending West Point Academy, Moses—Brown University, and Shelton—Cal Polytechnic San Luis Obispo.

Jovan Bayless is another outstanding football player who received a full scholarship and will attend Ferris State University.

Many high school athletes have dreams of getting athletic scholarships, however, to be eligible these students need to do more than show ability on the field. College coaches have only a limited number of athletic scholarships, so often look for student athletes who are worthy to play college sports, but can earn an academic scholarship. Regardless, even the most elite athletes have to meet university's academic requirements.

Crusader wrestler Aaron Mateo Olmos is ranked first in his 160-pound weight class, and recently earned the Outstanding Wrestler Award at the El Cajon Invitational and a place in the CA State Championship



WEST POINT ACADEMY
Full Scholarship

Quentin Frazier

High school was a great experience that gave me incredible opportunities. I was able to grow as a person, and I accomplished a lot, both academically and athletically. I'm looking forward to seeing what the future looks like for me, and my peers. Mater Dei helped to prepare us for it.



Alyssa Garcia

I'm a sophomore, but came in as a freshman already committed to UCLA. This can make you feel a lot of pressure, like there is a target on your back. But, it's exciting too, and luckily my family is very supportive. My parents told me "just do you." Just do my very best, and not worry about other people's expectations.

meet. He is also a member of Mater Dei's Academy of Science and an outstanding student who recently completed college-level research on cyber security.

Last year, as a junior, he was ineligible to compete due to a technicality—the year when most college scouts do heavy recruiting. This may have delayed scholarship offers, however, Olmos' academics, combined with his determination for success, has now led to a number of offers that he is considering.

His classmate, Jenna Kruse, is another outstanding scholar-athlete. Her Academy

of Science internship at USD working in Biophysics, combined with the well roundedness of her high school career—playing water polo, maintaining her role as ASB President, and being the 2016 Homecoming Queen, will play a big role in assuring she will have her choice of colleges.

It is a goal at Mater Dei, to encourage and give opportunities for distinction to all of our students, and, in this article, we have highlighted only a few of the many exceptional students who are just as deserving. The continued evolution of

the school means each year there are even more opportunities offered to our students, something that Principal George Milke is excited about.

“We’ve had great students and athletes come through Marian and Mater Dei over the years,” he said. “However, having our athletes leave here as true scholars is really the thing that makes us most proud.”

With our scholar-athletes having multiple school and scholarship offers, we have included below the colleges/universities for those that had made a final decision at the printing of this issue.



CJ Verdell

I had a lot of fun in high school and am happy to see that all of my friends and I are headed to college. I'm ready to play football and to major in business management and communications. I know we are all going to be doing big things in the future. That's what I'm looking forward to most.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
Full Scholarship



Kyle Moses

I interned in Marine biology at USD this year, but am going into college undeclared. I'm going to play a season of football and do my general education classes while I decide what major I really want to go for. I'm looking forward to what comes next, but I'm really going to miss my friends.

BROWN UNIVERSITY
Full Scholarship



Eli Shelton

I came from another private school, but had an easier time adjusting to school because of sports. I already knew some of my teammates, which made transferring schools less difficult. But Mater Dei was the right choice. I have some amazing college offers, and am ready to take on what's next.

CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO
Full Scholarship



Chris Jones

It seems like it has been a slow process for me, preparing to transition from high school to college, but what has made it easier is all the support I've gotten. My parents, my coaches, my teachers, and my friends have all been there. That has meant the most to me.

SETON HILL UNIVERSITY
Full Scholarship



Jenna Kruse

I'm not going to college for athletics, I'm going to major in business. However, playing sports at Mater Dei has made a huge difference in preparing me for college, especially in time management and concentration. I know I'm more focused because of it.



Jovan Bayless

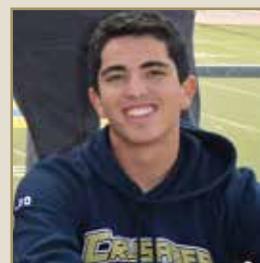
I want to go into sports medicine, and am looking forward to meeting new people and having new experiences in college. I'm excited to be taking this next big step, and to see where the future leads.

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY
Full Scholarship



José Olazábal

Golf teaches integrity, how to make good decisions, and how to manage your time wisely. These are all things I want to take with me as I move on to college. I plan to continue to play golf also. I will have opportunities both in college and out to continue to play.



Sergio Villafranco

Baseball is all about learning to work collaboratively with others and to adjust when making transitions. I had to overcome some obstacles during my time at Mater Dei, and playing ball helped. Going to college will be another transition, but I'm confident I'll be ready for it.



Ben Brown

I'm a junior, so I have another year to prepare for college, but I am definitely going to a school where I can play water polo. My dream school would be Pepperdine, but I'll have to see if that's what the future holds. For right now I'm on the team here at Mater Dei and learning new techniques playing water polo at the club level to prepare me for that move.



Aaron Mateo Olmos

Coming to Mater Dei as a transfer student, I couldn't wrestle last season because of CIF rules. So I had to readjust. I'm in Science Academy and even though Dr. Till is hard on me, I've learned a lot from her. I also kept competing outside of school and going up in my division. Now I have offers to some great schools and feel good knowing I'm ready both academically and athletically.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
\$27,000 Scholarship

ACADEMIC HONORS

First Honors - Grade Point Average of 3.8 and above

SENIORS

Francisco Acosta	Sergio Cuadra	Alexa Garcia	Zongyu (Eddie) Huang	Aaron Olmos
Leonardo Aguilar-Lopez	Tayra Curumilla	Paola Garcia-Carrera	Teresa Huynh	Sofia Papadakis
Ana Alcantar	Alexis Diaz-Garibaldi	Javier Gomez	Roberto Jimenez	Andres Romero
Micah Apatan	Myles Domingo	Alberto Gomez-Flores	Jenna Kruse	Elijah Shelton
Ana Astiazaran	Mary Kathleen Donivan	Miguel Guerrero-Medrano	Kevin Li Zhang	Steven Shoemaker
Hazel Barajas	Ruben Duran	Austin Habib	Fernanda Lutteroth	Madelyn Tassiello
Ezekiel Campos	Jorge Escasan	Sicheng (Elroy) He	Roy Emmanuel Medina	Sergio Villafranco
Eduardo Charvel	Cassandra Esparza-Villarreal	Brigid Healy	Emily Miller	Juan Pablo Villegas
Hyeju (Joy) Cho	Ana Patricia Felix-Ibarra	Amorette Hernandez	Anthony Nguyen	Peyton Zizzi
David Cooper		Chelsie Hernandez	Malia Noble	

JUNIORS

Elena Arnold	Edward Hagerty	Enrique Marcilla	Oscar Prado	Elena Valdes
Uriel Beristain	Pablo Hernandez	Fernando Margain	Johana Rachlin	Jordan Wesson
Jonas Philip Bongulto	Aislin Hilgeman	Emily Miranda	Enrique Ramirez	Madison (O'Hara) Wickham
Ricardo Cardoza	Natalia Jimenez	Brandon Moore	Samantha Ruiz	Luoyu (Roy) Yang
Nicholas Dell'Acqua	Vanessa Leon	Rosalind Moore	Alessandra Salas	Daniel Zora
Roman Flores	Cynthia Leon	Joshua Narezo	Manuella Sobol	
Dimitri Gianousopoulos	Zoe Manalo	Eduardo Navarro Gomez	Jorge Tagle	

SOPHOMORES

Jasmine Riannah Adamos	Natalie Chavarria	Ryan Gapski	Spencer Kacijancic	Armando Peniche
Fernando Alcocer	Jameson Coolidge	Adrian Garcia Marmolejo	Rodrigo Lamas	John Rodinec
Karlos Bautista	Enrique Corona	Maria Garcia-Estreyer	Andrew Landin	Isabel Roji
Talejah Baxter	Arturo Corral	Cesar Gomez	Alfred Lopez	Nicholas Salisbury
Alejandro Borboa-Pimentel	Ryan Cu	Jonathan Emmanuel Gomez	Leslie Masaway	Jackson Salvestrini
Tristan Brown	Edward De Leon	Itzell Gonzalez-Rubio	Isabella Molina	Paul Samson
Adriana Cacho	Isabella Delgado	Jalyse Hanson	David Monjaraz	Phoebe San Pedro
Karen Campos	Vincent Dobrawa	Alana Hurd	Alexia Morales	Arleth Santana
Ana Cardenas	Enrique Esparza-Villarreal	Sophia Jordan	AnaPaula Munoz Constantino	Christian Silva
Adrian Carretero	John Estrada	Sophia Jorge	Eduardo Nunez	Kathryn Zwick
Madeline Castillo	Julia Marie Estrada	Edria Kabiling		

FRESHMEN

Frances Nicole Alfonso	Daniella Campuzano	Elia Garibaldi-Guerrero	Preston Munoz	Fernanda Serrano-Reyes
Kailey Araki	Christine Carey	Oscar Gracias	Sabino Muro	Linda Solares Bolaños
Aaliyah Balagtas	Daniela Dalton	Joseph Hagerty	Jordan Norman	Mackenzie Tassiello
Jade Barajas	Kaylee Dundee	Ezekiel Isidro	Samantha Peter	Eric Trus
Joany Bayron	Sarah Fieck	Nigel Aidan Jorge	Alena Ramirez	Alejandra Zepeda
Evan Besker	Samantha Firsht	Brianna Keller	Mary Grace Reilly	
Jeremiah Bishop	Gabriela Fonseca Luna	Reagan Koster	Hector Reyes	
Timothy-Ewart Boyd	Andrea Garibaldi-Guerrero	Kyler Mamou	Sarah Salisbury	
Alexi Brown	Isabella Garibaldi-Guerrero	Hennessy Martinez	Joseph Sandoval	

can you get a SCHOLARSHIP?

TUITION ASSISTANCE AT MATER DEI IS STREAMLINED FOR FAMILIES

Mater Dei has a firm commitment to offering financial aid to families. We offer academic and merit scholarships, as well as need-based funding to Mater Dei students. Historically, between 50-60% of our students receive financial aid of some sort. Last year 80% of those who applied for aid were approved for it.

This year Mater Dei has improved and streamlined how students will receive aid during their time at Mater Dei. In the past each family had to reapply for tuition assistance each year, now any student who applies for and receives a financial award will receive that award each year until graduation, as long as minimum grade point averages, and behavioral expectations are met. What's more, each award will be based on a percentage, which means that if tuition increases, the student's award will also increase by the same percentage.

We encourage all families with financial need to look at our Tuition Assistance Program. This program awards aid to families who might otherwise not be able to afford full tuition. Students must take the entrance exam at Mater Dei Catholic High School in January, and be accepted



to be considered for this aid. Each award is made on a case-by-case basis, however over 80% of those who applied for tuition assistance in 2016 received it.

We also urge incoming Freshman to try to qualify for one of our many scholarships. For Presidential, Principal and Merit scholarships, students must take the High School Placement Test (HSPT) at Mater Dei to be eligible. The opportunities for scholarships are:

Presidential Scholarships cover 100% of tuition (for 4 years) for all students who place in the 99th Percentile Nationally on the High School Placement Test (HSPT).

Principal Scholarships cover 75% of tuition (for 4 years) for all students who

place in the 95-98th Percentile Nationally on the High School Placement Test (HSPT).

Merit Scholarships cover 50% of tuition for the top 10 incoming 9th grade students who test in the 94th - 90th Percentile Nationally on the HSPT.

In addition to our scholarships and tuition assistance options, Mater Dei also has several other scholarships that can help with student tuition, including the:

- 🏆 Milke Family Scholarship
- 🏆 Dr. Estelle L. Kassebaum Memorial Scholarship Program
- 🏆 John Pappas Memorial Scholarship
- 🏆 Richard G. Balelo Sr. Memorial Scholarship Program
- 🏆 Mary Ruis Memorial Scholarship
- 🏆 Pay It Forward Scholarship
- 🏆 Bishop Flores Scholars

You can get more information on all of our financial aid and scholarships by visiting us online at materdeicatholic.org. Parents may also contact our Registrar, Margarita Hernandez, by phone at 619-423-2121 ext. 128, or by email at mhernandez@materdeicatholic.org



Campus Ministry: *On Fire for their Faith*

"At a time when there is a lot of discord in the world, Bishop Brom talked about how we pass along the pain a lot of times and instead we should pass along love. This message of offering our love really impacted a lot of campus ministers. We incorporated that message into our junior retreat theme of reconciliation." Chris Schnitzius



MATER DEI JOURNALISM STUDENTS MEET AND LEARN FROM PROFESSIONAL REPORTERS



When teacher Carissa Peck officially integrated video-based MDTV into the journalism curriculum this year, she decided that teaching about journalism wasn't going to be enough.

"I wanted the classroom to become a workspace," said Peck. "I got two standing desks, so students can stand or sit with a bar stool, and I got bigger chairs and clipboards that will allow students to be a little more flexible with how they create."



Peck's students are not only using their flexible workstations to learn about the practice of print journalism, they're also discovering how to set up a video news studio. The student-run news does everything from planning the online paper to filming MDTV episodes, with the help of Steve Smith, the educational technologist for Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy.

"We've also had professional guest speakers come in to class, so students could learn from people actually working in the field," said Peck.

The first guest speaker of the school year was Hoa Sanchez, a freelance reporter, who has written articles for news organizations such as KPBS, AOL, ABC News San Diego, Reuters and SignOnSanDiego.com. Sanchez had a message for the students, to be dedicated to the craft of journalism. She encouraged the class to follow the standards for good reporting.

In September Ariel Wesler, from ABC's 10News in San Diego, came to talk about Broadcast Journalism as a career. Wesler works at the anchor desk as cohost of "The Now San Diego," which offers an hour of big or breaking news stories of interest in the county. Wesler wanted students to remember his philosophy on reporting. "I never forget that I'm not covering stories," he told them, "I'm covering people."



In October, Emmy Award-winning Joe Little, a television news reporter with ABC's 10 News in San Diego, talked to

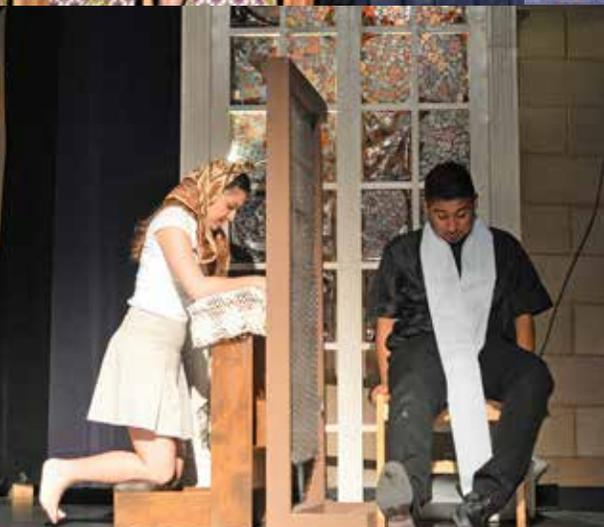
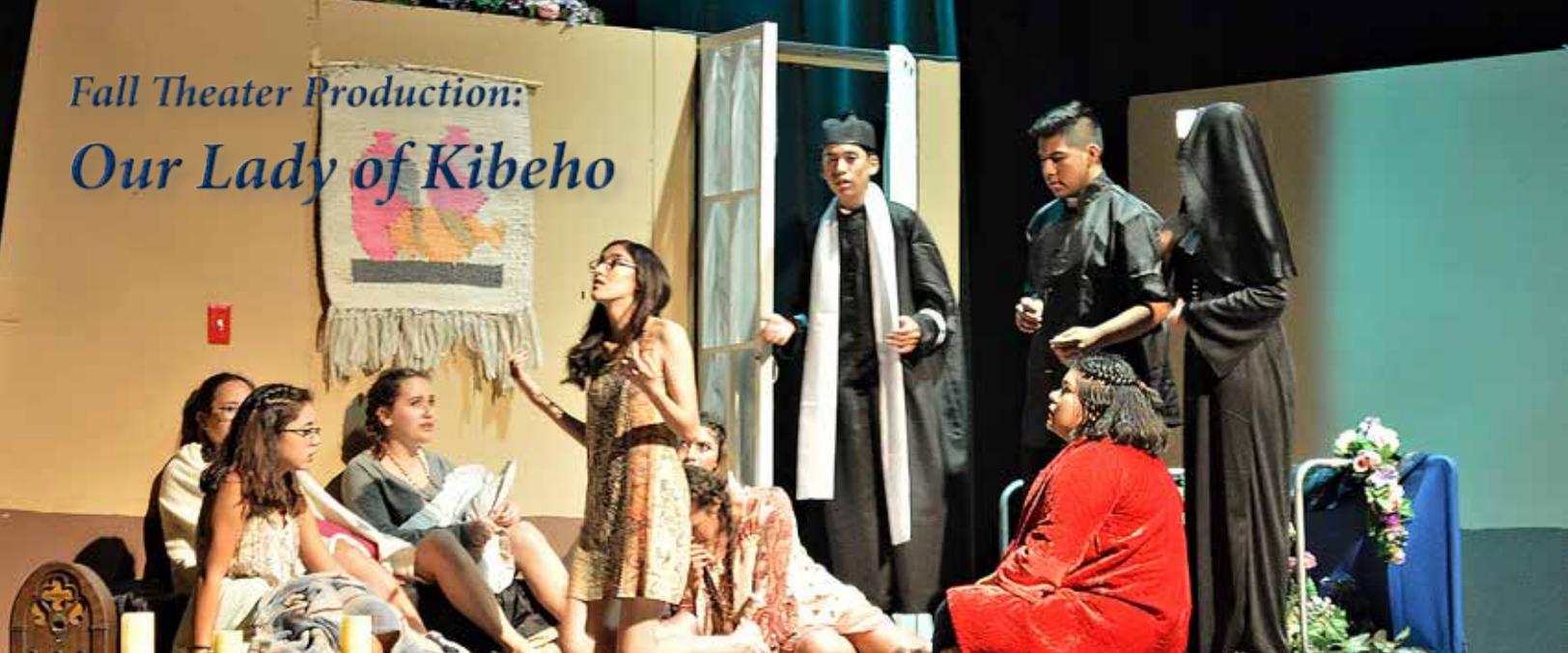
the class about visual news gathering in the 21st century. As a journalist he often uses small, mobile equipment to do on-the-scene solo reporting. He offered students a valuable gift—a critique of one of their MDTV episodes. Little let the group know what they were doing well, and what they could do to make their episodes better. The students were very appreciative of the time he took to offer advice!



In January, there was an extra special visit from Lorena Troncoso. Troncoso is an MDCHS graduate who currently works as a sports reporter for Univision. She came to share her story about her road from Mater Dei to her career in journalism today. The students found her visit energetic, funny and inspiring. In her story, they could see how their own futures might unfold.

Being able to interact with professional reporters is another opportunity for our students to find mentorship on the Mater Dei campus. You can find out how our school reporters are progressing by keeping up with the latest school news at newspaper.materdeicatholic.org.

Fall Theater Production: Our Lady of Kibeho



Mater Dei Catholic High School couldn't be further away from Rwanda, but the actors and actresses transformed the stage into that country during the play, "Our Lady of Kibeho," written by Katori Hall. The powerful true story of faith centers on three teenage girls at Kibeho College, a Catholic high school in the African country who begin to see apparitions of the Virgin Mary.

The "Trinity" (Visionaries):

Alphonsine Mumureke.....Cassie Esparza
Anathalie Mukamazimpaka Liana Malunes
Marie-Claire Mukangango Victoria Ramos

Religious Characters:

Father TuyishimeGlenn Quiroga
Sister Evangelique..... Erika Curiel
Bishop Gahamanyi.....Marco Manzano
Father Flavia..... Adrian Soriano

Others:

Nkango / Anathalie's father Timothy Boyd
EmmanuelJorge Ortiz
Girl #1 Stephanie Otte
Girl #2 Grace Bayron
Girl #3 Mikaela Macia
Girl #4 Alena Ramirez
Villager #1 Erik Martinez
Villager #2 / blind man Andrew Cray
Villager #3 / wife of blind man Amy Parra-Gonzalez
Villager #4 Joseph Sandoval
Villager #5 / wife of Nkango..... Ashlin Olson
Villager #6 Angelica Ugale
BBC Reporter Sophia Jordan
Cameraman..... Miguel Moreno



TEN YEARS ON THE MATER DEI CAMPUS

HONORING THOSE WHO HELPED THE CRUSADER LEGACY GROW FROM MARIAN TO MATER DEI



Twelve years ago, Mater Dei Catholic High School was but a twinkle in the eye of Dr. Estelle Kassebaum, the enthusiastic educator and school administrator who was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the current Mater Dei Catholic High School. As the Principal and Director of Development of Marian Catholic High School in Imperial Beach from 1995 to 2005, Kassebaum worked to improve Marian by renovating buildings, adding classrooms, updating the school's technology and curriculum, reviving the Alumni Association, creating a solid Parent Volunteerism Program, and raising student enrollment to an all time high.

When she became President of Marian in 2005, Kassebaum secured over 50 million dollars (thanks to the generous donation from the ALSAM Foundation), to help open what the San Diego Diocese renamed as "Mater Dei Catholic High School", a new school campus in east Chula Vista that could better serve the needs of students in both South Bay and neighboring Tijuana. Kassebaum called her beloved Marian Catholic, "Our Blessed Mother's Campus," and she saw Mater Dei in the same way. The move to a brand new, state-of-the art campus meant the Crusader legacy would not just live on, but grow even greater in the years to come. It was all about serving the needs of the students.

Yet, the name change and move of the campus from Imperial Beach to Chula Vista was a tough pill for many former Marian Crusaders to swallow. They wanted their walls and school building, and the memories they created on their campus to stay intact. They had their own history there. The Imperial Beach campus was built in 1960 on twenty acres of land that had been generously donated by local Catholic philanthropists, Emma and Robert Egger. It was founded by Bishop Charles F. Buddy, as

the first coeducational Catholic high school in the Diocese of San Diego.

The Diocese, however, was focused solely on the ministry of bringing Catholic Education to students. They saw the move from the older and smaller campus, to a newer campus with better facilities, as an act of devotion to Our Blessed Mother. It took a lot of vision for them to move to the Otay Ranch area of Chula Vista, CA. The area was just being developed then, and was far more barren then than it is today. Those involved in the project had faith that the move would pay off.

Unfortunately, Dr. Kassebaum passed away unexpectedly on January 24, 2006, over a year before Mater Dei Catholic High School opened in Fall 2007. Though she never got to see the campus she worked so hard to create, you can find her photo hanging on the wall of the Dr. Estelle Kassebaum Theater, named in her honor. As she watches over the school, she can certainly be proud of the legacy being created here.

Yes, Marian was renamed Mater Dei by the San Diego Diocese, but, though the location of the campus was changed, the Crusader traditions have remained the foundation of the school. The Marian Chapel, located in the center of Mater Dei's campus, was named in honor of the former school. This fall, the athletic stadium at Mater Dei was also dedicated in tradition, as "Egger Stadium," in honor of Emma and Robert Egger, donors of the original land for Marian's Imperial Beach campus.

Graduates from Marian should be proud to visit Mater Dei as alumni. The campus is saturated with Marian's history. The Crusader Hall of Fame, which recognizes outstanding alumni athletes, and banners and trophies from Marian days are housed in the gymnasium. Last year, the main hall

in Mater Dei's DePaul Center—the main administrative building—was christened as Marian Heritage Hall, the name encouraged by current principal, class of '72 Marian graduate, George Milke.

As stated by Fr. Pedro Rivera at the dedication of Marian Heritage Hall, "In Her early years, Our Mother was called Marian. After she gave birth to Jesus, she became Mater Dei, Latin for Mother of God," Milke says. "I love the metaphor of the names given to the schools. Marian was the young version of our school, and Mater Dei is the evolution. It's easy to reflect on that here in Marian Heritage Hall."

The hall contains photos, old text books, newspaper clippings, uniforms, and other memorabilia from Marian, including one long pew from Marian's chapel which was saved from demolition by Mater Dei employees when Marian's campus in Imperial Beach was being demolished.

The current legacy of Mater Dei is that it is has become an internationally recognized school that is deeply committed to diversity, service, and academic excellence for all students. These are the things that all of the people who invested in Marian/Mater Dei strived for. Through all of the changes, the goals have remained the same. We look forward to continuing the Crusader legacy for many years to come.

A CALL TO ALUMNI

Mater Dei encourages Marian and Mater Dei alumni to come back to speak to and mentor students about careers, education, service, and religion. We are grateful to the many alumni that have returned to share their time and expertise, from politicians, such as current Chula Vista mayor, Mary Salas, clergy, such as Fr. Bernardo Lara, to business people and professional athletes.

CRUSADER HALL OF FAME

2016 INDUCTION CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTS

During the week of Homecoming, Mater Dei hosts its Crusader Hall of Fame Induction, which honors and recognizes graduates, faculty and coaches, and teams who have been outstanding representatives of Marian Catholic and Mater Dei Catholic High Schools while participating in high school athletics at MCHS/MDCHS, on into University or College and in their respective careers. The 2016 Induction Ceremony was held on October 13, 2016.



Nikki Myers '06

Nikki was a force to be reckoned with, playing three sports at Marian Catholic High School. She lettered four years in soccer and guided the Crusaders to four CIF quarterfinal appearances and a pair of South Bay League titles. She lettered one year in softball (CIF Semifinals) and two years in track where she competed on the 4x100 meter relay team, which twice set the school-record with times of 53.34 and 51.92.

Soccer was the sport Nikki excelled at. Her squad went a combined 33-7-3 in 2005 and 2006. Nikki was a four-time first-team all-league pick and three-time All-CIF selection. She was twice named the South Bay League Player of the Year and ranked third all-time in San Diego CIF history with 136 career goals. Nikki set the school-record for hat tricks, tallying

27 in 2002, setting and then tying it with 32 in 2003 and 2004, before shattering it with 45 in 2005. Also established a single-match record for goals (5). Nikki led San Diego County in scoring during her junior and senior seasons and was named to the Union Tribune's all-academic team during her final two seasons.

In 2007 Nikki played in 16 games as a reserve for Long Beach State, ranking fourth on the team with four goals and compiling nine points. She scored twice in her collegiate debut against Cal State Bakersfield and tallied her third goal at nationally-ranked Clemson, then scored against Middle Tennessee on the first day of the Sooner Classic in Oklahoma. In 2009 Nikki played in 12 games for Long Beach State and made her first career start at Loyola Marymount.



Inducted in Absentia

Francisco Issmael Mailo Salas '01 was also inducted into the 2016 Hall of Fame but was unable to be present due to a scheduling conflict. At Marian, Mailo was an All-League Player three times and the Harbor League player of the year in 1999. He led his team to CIF twice and was named All CIF player three times.

He holds a career record for home runs, 51, for the state of California, and a single season record in section, and state levels of 21. He was also named Small School All State twice, in 2000 and 2001.

Mailo was signed by the Chicago Cubs, out of Marian on June 22, 2001. Since then he has played for a variety of Minor League teams, most recently Pericos De Puebla at third base.



Friday Night Lights

After 10 years of playing at other schools on Friday nights or having to play on Saturdays, Marian High School in the fall of 1973 installed lights in Egger Stadium. It was a tremendous effort by many parents (aka "The Booster Club") to get those lights shining on our Crusaders.

The game was a hard fought game vs. our rivals in Imperial Beach, Mar Vista Mariners. When the final whistle blew, the game ended in a 14-14 tie. The Booster Club in honor of the first game under lights, dedicated the game ball to Allen Silva, quarterback and class of 1973 for his efforts in the game. Those lights shined brightly on so many great football and soccer teams. All Crusaders from 1973 to 2007 will be forever grateful to our Booster Club for turning that "light switch on!"

During the Hall of Fame Ceremony 2016, Allan Silva '73, gave his precious football to Mater Dei. It will be housed in the trophy case to be seen by many generations of Crusaders to come. The Crusader Alumni Association thanks him for his gift.

Marian "Dads" *Dr. David Bajo, Ben Bernardy, Robert Burr, Marvin Finch, Jim Gates, John Gracio, Jerry Judge, Glenn Kelley, Arch Krejci, Chuck Perkins, Len Prager, Al Silva, Walt Wilga*

The above-named individuals were part of the "Dads" of Marian Catholic High School students. For decades, these fathers of Crusader students-athletes put their heart and soul in assisting Marian Catholic in providing a quality athletic program. Their devotion, time, talent and efforts in assisting Marian Catholic proved invaluable.

Marian's Dads were instrumental with: installing the lights on the football field,

insuring that the bleachers were painted and safe, assuring the score boards worked, constructing the the press box, assisting with electrical and phone operations, constructing the weight room, assisting at bingo, manning the barbecue at the football games, conducting the annual physicals for our athletes and so many other tasks.

Marian's Dads were the heart and backbone of Marian for decades. They

epitomized what Catholic Education stands for, a devotion and sacrifice for others so they may enjoy the fruits of your labor and yes, they did have a "little fun" along the way!

We know we may have missed some Dads for this venerable roster and we apologize, but are eternally grateful for all those that were "Dads" members and to the important contributions they made to our school and campus.



ASPIRING FILMMAKER JUNIOR MIGUEL MORENO

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN MEXICO AND MATER DEI ONE VIDEO AT A TIME

If you've crossed the USA/Mexico border at San Ysidro lately, you may have noticed a video billboard that plays ads as people wait to cross the border. Aspiring student filmmaker Miguel Moreno, Director of MDTV student news, created one of those advertisements for Mater Dei Catholic High School.

Moreno, with his attentive nature, comes across as more mature than his years. Only a junior at Mater Dei, he is often seen carrying his video equipment across campus to film student activities. This summer he created his first video seen by the entire student body, for the Fall Sports Rally. The video caught the eye of the administration, as they recognized his impressive ability.

"Miguel is amazing," MDTV mentor Steve Smith is eager to give praise. "His films are great because he really studies and is passionate about what makes videos engaging. In fact, for the ad at the Mexican border, he revised the video about fifteen times to make sure the administration would view it as professionally done."

A Tijuana native, Moreno is thrilled to be able to share his love for Mater Dei with other students from across the



border. "The basis of my work probably comes from living both here in Chula Vista and in Playas de Tijuana." He knows many parents in Tijuana desire the kind of education their children will get at a school like Mater Dei, where students not only receive a high-quality education, but are also encouraged to pursue their natural talents.

Moreno is currently working on his own movie called "The Last Knock," which is about the last man on earth. It explores the sociological behavior between people, specifically how human interaction is important for survival. He plans to keep working on filmmaking as he pursues his interest in sociology in college.

You can see more of Miguel Moreno's work on your way across the US/Mexico border at San Ysidro, or catch his talent with that of the rest of the MDTV Mater Dei News Team at www.youtube.com/user/materdeicatholic.

MATER DEI'S TOWN HALL MEETING WITH PARENTS LEADS TO CHANGES ON CAMPUS

The Mater Dei Town Hall Meeting held October 18, 2016 gave the administration food for thought to over two issues that were of concern to parents. First, the amount of homework being given to students was addressed, and second, the lack of late afternoon and evening hours at the Mater Dei Library was discussed.

To examine these issues, administration and faculty reviewed the policies and decided to make some formal changes.

In regards to the amount of homework given, all teachers agreed to eliminate homework that would normally be given over Christmas break, and to individually reevaluate the amount of homework given in their respective classes when it is time for Easter Break in April, giving no work that is not absolutely necessary.

At the Mater Dei Library, hours have now been extended until 5:30 PM, on a trial basis, from Monday-Thursday. The school

will be analyzing how many students use the library during these times to decide if this change will be permanent. We will keep students and parents aware of any changes, in a timely manner, and hope the change is helpful to those who utilize it.

We thank all parents who participated in the Town Hall, and ask all parents to attend meetings when possible. Only with your help can we continue to reevaluate policies that may need to be changed!



2016 HOMECOMING: A WEEK OF FUN AND A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS



Don't Miss the Fun at Prom!



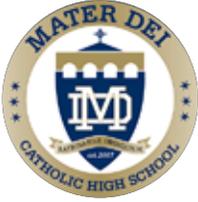
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MDCHS PROM 2017**

APRIL 29TH 2017

S6M-11PM

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For more information
contact Ms. Leon



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MDCHS ADMISSION TEST DATES 2017



MARCH 23, APRIL 27, MAY 18, JUNE 22
8:00AM - 12:00PM

For information or to schedule a school tour, call Mr. Roy Vasquez, Director of Admissions
at (619) 423-2121 x106 or email: rvasquez@materdeicatholic.org