La Salle Review

Fall 2026



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Summer Camp at La Salle
Young Alumni Run for City Council

PHOTOGRAPH BY MAX DEGGENDORFER ’26
AP Studio Art, 2026

“My art attempts to capture my experience in nature, the emotive environments that are striking, powerful, and spiritual. The images are moody, atmospheric, and awe inspiring which is what I am trying to convey.”



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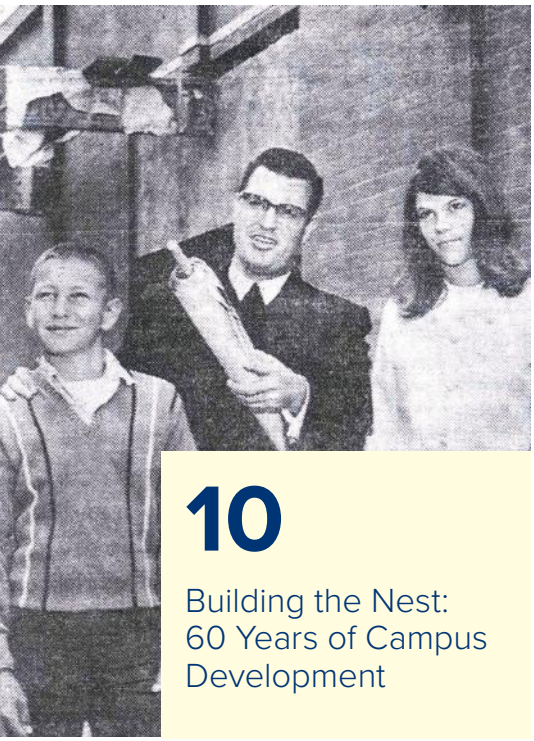
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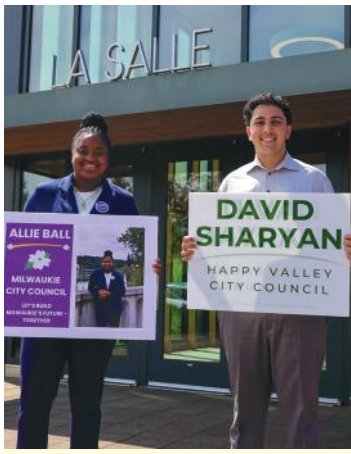
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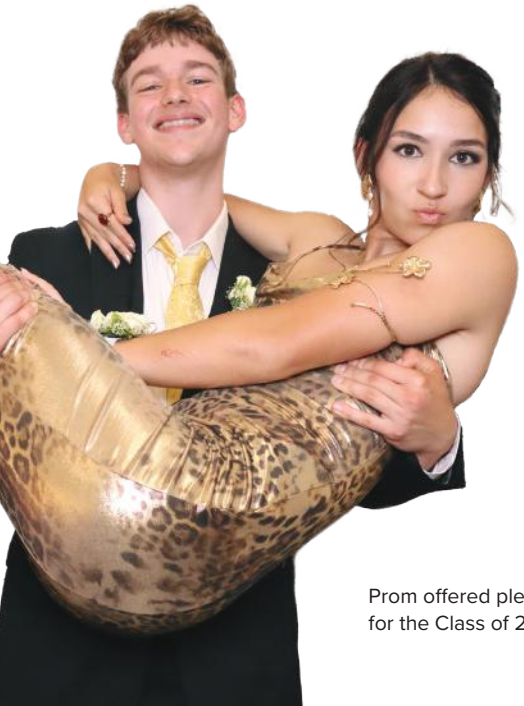
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Prom offered plenty of photo ops for the Class of 2026.

EDITOR Lilly Grey Rudge

ART DIRECTOR Sarah Liebler

CONTRIBUTORS Andrea Burns '97, Drew Coleman, Greg Kozawa

DESIGNER Melissa Delzio

COVER Students perform in *Little Shop of Horrors*; Photo by Drew Coleman

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"Ruined for Life!"

AS A NATIVE MIDWESTERNER (I grew up in Flint, Michigan), I'm often asked what drew me to Oregon. And while the list is long—including the mountains, ocean, access to nature, wonderful people, lack of humidity, and lack of mosquitos!—the true answer has very little to do with geography or weather. I first came out to Oregon back in 1992 to participate in a year of service with a Catholic service organization called JVC Northwest. I was stationed in Bend, Oregon and worked as a volunteer first grade tutor at the Warm Springs Indian Reservation and as a youth minister at St. Francis Parish in Bend.

There has never been a year in which I learned so much about the world around me, what God might be calling me to do, and who I was. I'm not sure how much I contributed, but I have to say I gained far more than I was ever hoping for. It was on Warm Springs where I caught the bug for education and at St. Francis where I began to claim my faith as my own. The affectionately ironic and unofficial motto of JVC is "Ruined for Life," describing how thoroughly the program changes participants' worldviews. In my experience, that is exactly what happened. But then again, that is the beauty of service and part of what makes La Salle such a special place. Our students learn early and often the incredible impact service has on their own lives and learning. Far from mere banners hanging in our main hall, students start to embody the call to respect all persons, see God's presence, push their limits, value everyone, and overcome injustice when they participate in the countless service opportunities La Salle has to offer.

Our own unofficial motto is "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve." Society is sending our young people a very different message about what they should be doing with their education and lives. Sadly, Gen Z is inundated with messages about how they need to focus solely on themselves, how to make a million dollars, and how to view others as commodities and stepping stones. But not here at La Salle. Here our students see daily examples of staff, alumni, parents, and fellow students who are filled with joy because of what they give, not what they take. From things as simple as a campus clean-up or feeding the hungry at Blanchet House (see page 26), to intense week-long service immersions at the De La Salle Blackfeet Indian Reservation or El Otro Lado, to running for local city council (see page 16).

Service is in our DNA and our students get a taste of the impact that it can have on their own lives far sooner and deeper than most. Not from a mindset of haves and have-nots, but rather through the lens of seeing God's presence and dignity in all those around them. It's no wonder visitors to campus comment so frequently about the respect our students show one another. I believe it has a lot to do with the culture of service that defines what it means to be Lasallian.

—John Huelskamp, President

From the Nest

CAMPUS NEWS AND UPDATES



Precision Castparts supports outstanding students

Nathan and Suzy received their scholarships at the 2026 Senior Awards Ceremony, where they were honored among their peers.

THIS PAST SPRING, Suzy Valdivia ’26 and Nathan Orozco ’26 were celebrated as the recipients of the 2026 Precision Castparts Corp. Scholarship, which provided them with a full-ride to pursue their dreams at either the University of Oregon or Oregon State University. Suzy has chosen to study marine biology at OSU, while Nathan is attending U of O to study business.

Through a unique and longstanding partnership with La Salle, Precision Castparts Corp. (PCC) has generously supported the Lasallian mission since 1998, providing at least 16 scholarships to La Salle students each year through the San Miguel Scholars program. The comprehensive PCC College Scholarship, offered since 2003, covers tuition, room and board, books, and a paid summer internship at PCC, giving recipients a leg-up as they pursue their chosen profession.

TOPSoccer Coaches of the Year

THE OREGON YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION has named Johnny Liebler ’27 and Tomas Siquina Ontiveros ’27 as their 2025-26 TOPSoccer Co-Coaches of the Year. TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a national recreational sports program, providing children and adults with intellectual, emotional, or physical disabilities an opportunity to play soccer in a structured environment that is safe, fun, supportive, and inclusive. This award recognizes Johnny and Tomas’ work as co-coaches for the Eastside Timbers TOPSoccer program and their commitment to service and their community.

Johnny (pictured) accepted the award on his and Tomas’ behalf at the 2026 OYSA Annual Awards Ceremony.



Oregon Youth Soccer Association

City of stars

There was a city of stars shining just for us at Prom in May. Themed "La La Land," the dance was held at the Exchange Ballroom, bringing the movie magic to life with beautiful decor and Old Hollywood glamour.





Courtesy of Ben Barker '27



Ben's films are available to watch for free on YouTube.

Filmmaker in action

STUDENT FILMMAKER BEN BARKER '27 brought home a top honor from the Texas Film Festival this spring. His short film, "Men of Tenebrae," received the award for Best Action Film, singling it out among a variety of national and international submissions.

Shot in two days with a $0 budget, the film stars fellow La Salle students Emmett Hoelscher '27, Neil Kress '27, and Oliver Bogya '27. Described by FilmFestivalCircuit.com as a film that "builds suspense through tight spaces and calculated movement, delivering a gritty home defense thriller that echoes the contained intensity of modern action films," the 16-minute thriller keeps audiences guessing until the very end. This film festival debut promises to be the first of many for Ben, who plans to pursue a career in filmmaking and cinematography, bringing his action-packed ideas to bigger and bigger screens.



Courtesy of Alison Moran '26

Ali volunteered at the Wichita Center throughout high school, which provides North Clackamas School District families with access to food, clothing, housing, dental care and after school programs.

Student puts "Service Above Self"

IN DIRECT REFLECTION OF HER LASALLIAN MINDSET, Ali Moran '26 was honored as the Clackamas Rotary Club's Student of the Year. This award recognizes Ali's commitment to exemplifying "Service Above Self," the principal value of Rotary International, as demonstrated through her weekly volunteer shifts at the Wichita Center for Family and Community.

"I just kept going, even though I didn't need the service hours," Ali told the *The La Salle Falconer*. "It was just something I enjoyed so much."

Now attending Creighton University, a Jesuit institution located in Omaha, Nebraska, Ali continues to commit herself to service by studying political science, Spanish, and pre-law, with the goal of pursuing a career in immigration law.

Honoring our roots

Below: Meklit wore the traditional dress of Ethiopia: the Habesha Kemis.



ESTABLISHED IN 2023, LA SALLE'S ANNUAL ROOTS FESTIVAL has become a cornerstone of the school year, dedicating five days to celebrate the diverse cultural roots that make up our community. Mario Garza, Director of Equity and Inclusion, described the annual festival as a "celebration of culture on our campus," inspired by the importance of providing dedicated time to honor the cultural identities that have come together to make our school, and our country, what it is today.

This year, over 20 students showcased their cultural backgrounds during the annual Roots Walk; an opportunity for participating students to represent their heritage through national dress from around the world, ranging from Mexico, to Vietnam, to India, and Ethiopia.

Kyra Nguyen '26 and Meklit Wondwossen '26 took part in this year's Roots Walk, wearing the national garments of Vietnam and Ethiopia. Kyra, who wore a traditional Vietnamese Áo Dài, popular during Lunar New Year, weddings, and formal events, described the celebration as "a beautiful event."

"Its a way that so many different cultures come together to show off," she said. "And honestly, it's kind of fun to put yourself out there in front of a crowd."

Meklit, who wore an Ethiopian Habesha Kemis intended for special events, also felt it was important to represent her roots alongside her friends and peers, calling it one of her "favorite weeks of the school year."





Evan (left) and Declan (right) celebrate their status as the inaugural Roots Week cornhole champions.

Cornhole cultivates community

HEADING INTO THE ROOTS FESTIVAL'S FOURTH YEAR, students and staff began brainstorming events to celebrate the diverse regional roots of our community. This led to the inclusion of a week-long Cornhole Tournament, which is believed to have its roots among the Sauk people indigenous to the modern-day midwest.

"America is so broad. There's a lot of regional culture in this country," Director of Diversity and Equity Mario Garza explained. "What happens in the Midwest is definitely different from what happens [on the West Coast]. What happens in the South is certainly different...There are various cuisines and things in different [regions] and I think those are important to recognize as well."

With dozens of teams participating throughout the week, the tournament culminated in a nail-biting final game between the top two duos: Jack London '27 and Ryder London '28 versus Declan O'Brien '26 and Evan Hamlin '27. After a hard fought match, Declan and Evan came away victorious, proudly lifting their trophy as the first ever Roots Week cornhole champions.

Class of 2026: by the numbers



THE CLASS OF 2026 HAVE SOARED BEYOND THE NEST. 161 seniors graduated last June, with **77** attending out of state schools and **74** heading to various colleges in Oregon. They were awarded over **$15 MILLION** in scholarships, with some taking as many as **38** college credits with them as they begin their higher education. **9** Falcon athletes are continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level, while a handful of Falcon artists are attending some of the most prestigious art and design schools in the country, including Parsons School of Design and the Cooper Union. **17** students headed to Oregon State, while **18** made their way to the University of Oregon. The University of Portland and Gonzaga were also popular choices, gaining **10** and **11** Falcons, respectively. Beyond these academic achievements, the Class of 2026 also collectively provided over **12,000** hours of service during their time at La Salle, truly demonstrating our motto: "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve."



Falcons flock to Portugal



IN JULY, a group of La Salle students and educators spent eight days exploring the cities and sights of Portugal. From the coasts of Porto, to the medieval walled town of Óbidos, to the capital city of Lisbon, students were immersed in the country's beauty, culture, and history.

The group's itinerary included a tour of Porto's UNESCO World Heritage Sites, a day trip to Sagres to explore the Lighthouse of Cabo de São Vicente, climbing the Torre dos Clérigos tower, and a tour of Lisbon's historic medieval quarter.







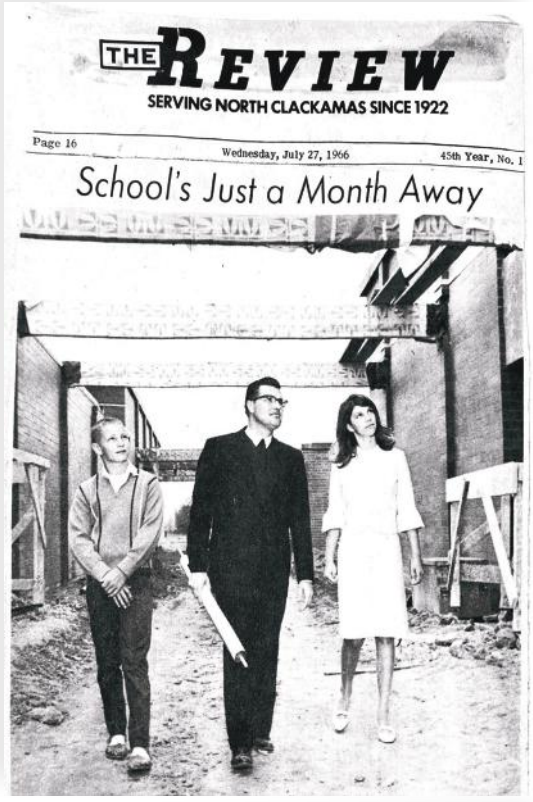
Spirit store grand opening

La Salle swag has a brand new home. The Falcon Fan Store is officially up and running after its grand opening at this year's Falcon Fan Tailgate. The store, located in the La Salle Center, will open for select athletic events. Stay tuned as the store expands its hours throughout the year.



Building the N

60 Years of Campus Development


THE REVIEW
SERVING NORTH CLACKAMAS SINCE 1922
Page 16 Wednesday, July 27, 1966 45th Year, No. 1
School's Just a Month Away

The North Clackamas Review


Journal 7-30-66

The Oregon Journal

Rita Kester '70 and David Rust '70 look through La Salle's campus blueprints with their future Principal, Br. Richard Emery, FSC.


OCT 65

The ground breaking of La Salle was attended by Archbishop Robert J. Dwyer and Bishop Edward D. Howard, who also presided over the school's solemn blessing and dedication.

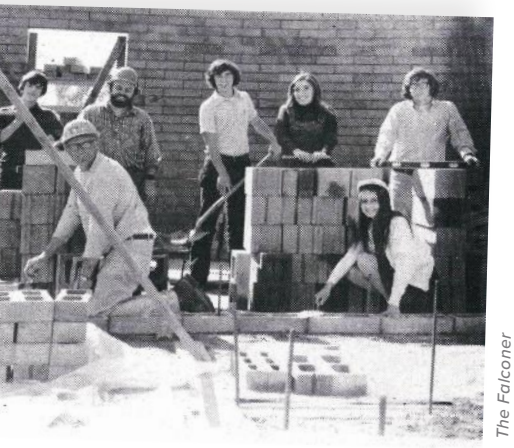
Nest

In celebration of La Salle's 60th anniversary, we are looking back at the people and places that define our Lasallian community, starting with our very own campus.



The North Clackamas Review

School construction also included a residence for the Christian Brothers who would live and teach on campus.



The Falconer

La Salle students pose with construction workers during the completion of the athletic facilities in 1973.

"LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL BEGINS THE INFOLDING of its own history at a time when history itself has turned and opens for man a new world. Whether it be the domain of religion, the sciences, in social and economic relationships, or in personal fulfillment, man has entered a new era of opportunity and challenge. The La Salle school commits itself to the developing role of the Christian community in this new world, the direction of which has been given to us by the recent Council held in Rome." *—Excerpt from La Salle's Statement of Philosophy, presented at the Solemn Blessing and Dedication of La Salle High School on May 7, 1967*

Finding a Home

In July, 1966, La Salle Milwaukie's inaugural scholarship students first laid eyes on the construction site that would become their high school. Led by their future principal, Brother Richard Emery, FSC, student Rita Kester '70 and David Rust '70 toured the open-air hallways of La Salle, the summer sky still visible through the exposed roof beams. In a few short months, they and 118 of their peers would enter the (mostly) completed school as La Salle Milwaukie's first class, kicking-off a legacy of faith, service, and excellence that has lasted 60 years.

La Salle Milwaukie's construction was first conceptualized in 1962, when the Brothers of the Christian Schools agreed to partner with Portland Archbishop Edward D. Howard to open a new Catholic high school for boys. Despite this initial vision, planning commenced and the choice was made to establish La Salle as a co-educational institution, which would employ nuns from the Sisters of Saint Mary to educate female students. With its foundation, La Salle Milwaukie would be the first active Lasallian school in the state of Oregon since the Portland-based Christian Brothers Business College, which operated from 1886 until 1922.

KEY DATES

October 1965: La Salle Breaks Ground

May 1967: La Salle High School Dedication Ceremony

On September 8, 1966, La Salle Milwaukie opened its doors.

Welcome to the Nest

On September 8, 1966, La Salle Milwaukie opened its doors. The school's first day was accented by the sound of an old-fashioned hand-operated bell system, rung by La Salle's vice principal, Br. Paul La Salle, FSC, due to the pending completion of the electronic bell system.

Inspired by the architecture and layout of fellow Lasallian schools in California, La Salle Milwaukie was originally designed with an outdoor concourse running through the center of campus. Yet due to the challenges of Pacific Northwest weather conditions, the concourse was converted into an indoor main hallway, much to the joy of students.

Plans for the school also included a residence for the 24 Christian Brothers who lived and taught on campus until 1970. Known as the La Salle Center, this structure still remains on campus today, now housing the Business, Advancement, Communications, and HR departments, as well as the Office of the President.


THE OREGON JOURNAL, THURSDAY, SEPT. 8, 1966 5M

The Oregon Journal

Br. John Achin, FSC and Sister Margaret help students select their textbooks on the first day of school.

Looking to the future

Since its ground breaking in 1965, La Salle Milwaukie has expanded and updated its campus in multiple meaningful ways. From a brand new entryway, library, and athletics center, to a significantly upgraded theater, main hallway, and cafeteria, La Salle's campus has continued to grow with our Flock.

Looking to the future, there is much in store for the continued improvement of our Nest, as we continue to hold gratitude for the original architects of our Lasallian community. ◆

The school's first day was accented by the sound of an old-fashioned hand-operated bell system, rung by La Salle's vice principal Br. Paul La Salle, FSC.



Br. John Achin, FSC welcomes students to the main office on the first day of school.



Learn more about six decades of Falcon history by reading "60 stories for 60 years," a collection of stories that highlights the people, places, and moments that have defined La Salle's journey.



Summer Camp at La Salle

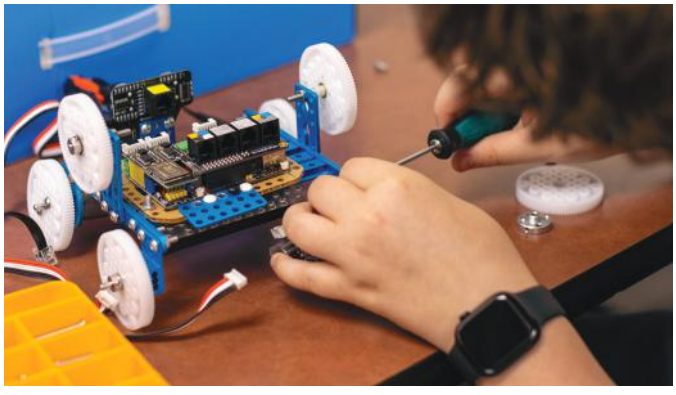


Every summer, La Salle welcomes over 200 1st–8th grade campers each week for camps in journalism, art, cooking, dance, basketball, soccer, and more. These offerings are made possible thanks to our amazing student counselors, who volunteer part of their summertime to support our camps and serve as role models for the next generation of Falcons.
















SUMMER CAMP
LA SALLE


SUMMER CAMP


LA SALLE

Leave to Serve

Young Alumni Run for City Council

Two Falcons bring their commitment to service to the campaign trail.

GROWING UP IN THE TOWNS of Milwaukie and Happy Valley, respectively, local city council candidates Allie Ball '23 and David Sharyan '26 are both looking to give back to the communities who raised them. "After 16 years of living in the Hector Campbell neighborhood and calling Milwaukie home, I have witnessed our community come together when people are in need of support, but I have also seen areas where we can do better," Ball said. "That contrast is a big part of why I am running."

Sharyan's goals as a candidate are twofold. "My motivation to run for City Council was keeping our city safe, but I also know that we must continue to invest in our infrastructure so that Happy Valley can continue to grow responsibly," he said. "If elected, I will work to ensure our city remains a safe and desirable community with excellent infrastructure and public services."

As two young alumni, Ball and Sharyan are prioritizing their candidacies alongside their continued education. Ball, who is a senior studying political science and global studies at the University of Oregon, is graduating a semester early to ensure she can invest her time in city council.

"People actually do see [my age] as an advantage because they know I'm graduating early," Ball said. "They know I have the time, and they know that city council is my 110% commitment, even though it's only a part-time job."

Sharyan is entering his freshman year at Lewis and Clark College, yet he is no stranger to balancing school work and his responsibilities as a civil servant, having served on the Happy Valley Youth Council throughout high school. "For as long as I can remember, I have been working with the city. I think I was the only 14 year old who would sit in on budget committee meetings," Sharyan said with a chuckle. "On Wednesday mornings we have [Happy Valley] Municipal Court and I think I was the only 14 year old who sat and listened. The first time I went there, the judge was like, 'Do you have a case here?'"

For both candidates, their youth is not a detriment, but an asset.

"I have a lot of younger friends who are excited to go door knock and support," Sharyan explained. "I feel like I bring a unique perspective. A lot of people...have moved



to Happy Valley, but I've been born and raised here and seeing how far our city has grown, and seeing where it can grow, is very impactful."

"It might be a young perspective," he continued, "but it's also a unique new perspective...I hope being young will help encourage other young people that it's never too early to start."

Ball also developed an early interest in politics and public service. "I grew up in a very service-oriented family, a super political family. I started watching debates in the news at eight," she said. "I was also a Girl Scout for 10 plus years, so that's really where I get all of my service drive."

A particularly formative moment for Ball occurred in 2020, when she had the opportunity to speak at the City of Milwaukie's Black Lives Matter rally. "It was my first time public speaking, and it was in front of 2,000 people. It was at that moment where I realized that I need to be a part of long-term substantial change."

Heading to college with this mission in mind, Ball was ready to make a difference. Then the unimaginable happened: In the fall of 2023, Ball was on campus for the mass shooting at Morgan State University, in which 5 people were injured.

"That experience showed me just how important safety, connection, and community care is," Ball said. "Like many people in my generation, we have grown up seeing and feeling the consequences of policies that don't adequately protect and support our communities. It has also strengthened my belief that the government should be proactive and be a resource, not another barrier."

Taking this mindset with her, Ball transferred to the University of Oregon and began working with organizations like the ACLU of Oregon and the Women's Foundation of Oregon, where she was able to "see how impactful policy decisions are on people's lives and how



Courtesy of David Sharyan '26



The role of government as a vital resource for local communities is something both Ball and Sharyan deeply believe in.

> **"...99% of people don't have bad intentions, so you know when they have a differing opinion, everyone has the same end goal, which is the best outcome for our city."**
>
> **—DAVID SHARYAN**

it's crucial to advocate for the people who are most often overlooked."

The role of government as a vital resource for local communities is something both Ball and Sharyan deeply believe in. This means listening to the concerns of their constituents and approaching these conversations with an open mind.

"When I'm on the campaign trail knocking on doors, what I love most is actually talking with people who I disagree with, just hearing where they're coming from," Sharyan said. "Because 99% of people don't have bad intentions, so you know when they have a differing opinion, everyone has the same end goal, which is the best outcome for our city. There are just different ways of getting there, and I want to listen and understand."

Both Falcon alumni cited their Lasallian education as a key training ground to encounter and embrace diverse perspectives.

"The diverse perspectives at La Salle really challenged me in my own beliefs and my own assumptions, and made me take a step back and realize that it's important for me to listen to people who might have different opinions than me and to actually try to understand," Ball reflected.

"I built those skills of engaging with and not attacking people. Asking questions about ideas," Sharyan agreed. "I feel like they did a really good job at La Salle teaching students how to interact with people with different viewpoints."

The non-partisan nature of city council ensures that both candidates will put these skills to good use.

At the end of the day, it's about local issues," Sharyan said. "Your roads, your houses, your neighborhoods; keeping those safe. So, when you get into the disagreement politics of constantly fighting partisan battles, it's no good for city politics."

"If I were to be elected, I want to focus on practical solutions that have a big impact," Ball said. "That includes, confronting our city's financial challenges and advocating for a more transparent budget; making our streets, sidewalks, and public transit safer and more accessible; strengthening our local economy by supporting our small businesses; building truly affordable housing through local partnerships with organizations and non-profits; and creating more opportunities for young people to participate in politics."

Sharyan and Ball were quick to credit a handful of Falcon educators with preparing them to take this next step in their careers, such as AP Government teacher Alex Lanagan, former Speech and Debate coach Michael Doran, and Innovation and Design teacher Carie Coleman.

"I'm super proud to be a Falcon, through and through. I tell people I have yet to take a college class as hard as a class at La Salle," Ball reflected. "And the amount of support that I've had from the Class of 2023 as I'm going into this race has been amazing, and the faculty and the staff that have kept in touch has also been really great."

Looking to their futures, both alumni are open and excited for where their commitment to civil service may take them.

"I do really love international diplomacy, and so I definitely could see myself being a diplomat or a Foreign Service officer, but you never know," Ball said. "Politics could take you to so many different places. It could take you to a seat on the state level, or at the national level. It could also take you behind the scenes. You could end up being a lobbyist, or you could be a policy writer, and so I'm definitely being very open-minded about that."

"For me, [my future] is in God's hands, wherever he decides to take me," Sharyan said. "If it is continuing to serve Happy Valley, that will be my dream...hopefully I will be led in the right direction, and hopefully I can continue to serve my community because from 5 to 10 years, to the end of my lifetime, my dream is to serve. So if I can continue to serve till the day I die, that is good enough for me." ◆

This article was written prior to the general elections for both Happy Valley City Council and Milwaukie City Council, which were held November 3, 2026.

Meet Mr. Dan Marcantuono

Religion, English, and creative writing teacher Dan Marcantuono reflects on his role as an educator and the importance of supporting students as they stretch themselves and explore their creativity.





Esmé Ryznar '26

What inspired you to become a teacher? What were the steps that led you to La Salle?

I was pursuing my MFA in creative writing and in order to receive my stipend, I had to teach a class. I had no previous desire to teach and had never envisioned it for myself. I was thrown into a classroom in my first week with little preparation, and I was pleasantly surprised that I loved it. Perhaps my favorite parts of being alive are thinking and hearing what others think, and teaching means I get to help others share in my joy for them. I love getting to know students, learning about them and from them, and helping them stretch their thinking toward freedom and justice.

Is there a unit or lesson in one of your religion courses that you especially enjoy facilitating?

In the junior religion class, students are asked to construct an imaginary society with a value system they invent. We all have a lot of fun imagining societies that value silliness, or laziness, for example, above all else. It encourages students to see the strengths and the flaws in our existing value systems and to ask, why do we value what we value? Students are always inventing new, absurd combinations that lead to insights and laughter.

As the teacher of La Salle's newly revived creative writing elective, what are your goals for the class in the coming year? What do students have to look forward to?

My goal for the creative writing class is to create an environment in which students feel comfortable exercising their imagination, experimenting with style and content, and sharing with their classmates. We all have creative potential within, but the immense stress of school and grades can make us forget or prevent us from ever knowing it's there. I'm hoping this will be a space free of that stress, where kids are unafraid and can do the work that matters to them. Students can look forward to encountering mind-blowing stories, poems, and essays, being empowered to try new things and follow their intuition, and getting one-on-one help with all of their writing, from me and their peers. And we will have at least one visiting author!

Outside of school, how do you enjoy spending your free time?

I spend my free time reading. All other free time I spend feels a little less free than when I'm reading a good book. Though I also love writing fiction, watching films, going on walks with my corgi Phoebe, and recently, I'm finally learning to cook and I'm actually enjoying it!

Is there a book or author that you think everyone should read?

If it's only one, I'd have to say One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez; this book changed my brain and my heart forever. It redefined how I understand time, death, love, and what a book can be.

If you could deliver a TED-Talk on any topic, what would it be and why?

If I had to deliver a serious TED-Talk on any topic, I would stay in my wheelhouse with literature and choose metafiction, stories that know they're stories or comment on the act of storytelling somehow, which is a personal fascination of mine. If I were allowed to choose a silly topic, I would choose marinara sauce, which has to be one of the greatest accomplishments in human history. ◆

Angelina Lopez ’24 Finds Her Voice at Portland State University

BY HARPER COLEMAN ’26, *THE FALCONER*

Angelina Lopez is only a sophomore in college, but she already knows exactly where she’s headed. Majoring in music education at Portland State University (PSU), she’s taken a focus in choral studies, with the goal of becoming a choir teacher.

HER AMBITION, SHE SAID, CAN LARGELY BE TRACED BACK TO ONE PERSON: choir and guitar teacher Mr. Otto Wild. Watching him work with students shaped her vision for what kind of educator she wants to be, Lopez explained.

“He really did impact me, as a student of his and as a future educator, seeing how he taught,” she said. “I love seeing a student blossom in their voice … I saw Mr. Wild [guide students towards that] all the time.”

Current students may remember Lopez as M’Lynn Eatenton in *Steel Magnolias,* the title character in *Prometheus*, or simply as a friendly face in the halls. While she made her mark on the La Salle stage, her experiences in theater and choir also helped shape her passions, she said.

“That feeling I get when I’m singing in the choir … it’s very cheesy, but I do feel like I’m floating sometimes, especially when it’s on the strongest point,” Lopez said. “You can see on their faces, everyone’s super into it. I love that.”

For Lopez, that ardor goes beyond the craft. She wants to give her future students what music has given her: a sense of belonging and a refuge from their own lives.

“Especially right now, when everything’s so complicated and there’s so much hurt and stress, music is always something that you can hold on to, and that will be comforting,” Lopez said. “I’d love to be a teacher who can inspire others to feel that connectedness with each other.”

Lopez already sees that sense of connectedness in her own choir at PSU. Lopez is a member of the Thorn Choir—the soprano and treble division of PSU’s Briar Choir—which draws students from across the university, many of whom are not music majors at all.

“You don’t have to be a music major to be in choir,” Lopez said. “You don’t have to be a theater major to do theater—you can just go and experience it.”

But that open, welcoming environment also comes with its own pressures for Lopez. Many of her musically-oriented classes require students to perform for an audience of their teachers and peers, which at times leads Lopez to compare herself with others.



Rudy Lopez

"That feeling I get when I'm singing in the choir … it's very cheesy, but I do feel like I'm floating sometimes, especially when it's on the strongest point." —ANGELINA LOPEZ

"There's a feeling of, 'I'm not good enough to study music,' when it really isn't true," Lopez said. "It's not about that—it's about yourself and how well you're going and how well you're growing."

The feeling is made worse, she explained, by the fact that most people who choose to major in music are already musicians. Everyone's starting line is different, she said —depending on home experience, personal practice, and what their high school was able to offer, some classmates may be further along.

At first, Lopez was frustrated to be behind her peers in that sense, but her perspective shifted as she reflected on her time at La Salle. The choir and theater programs here are small, but that makes them closer, she said.

"I got to experience a choir where it was just us," Lopez said. "I feel like that actually was good for me … as I'm going to be a music teacher, I know what it's like to be in a school where the funding for music isn't that much, or where the school is smaller, and how to navigate around that, like how Mr. Wild did and Mr. Shelton."

La Salle's academic rigor proved an asset as well. Though the content of her university courses—sight-reading, ear training, and choir ensemble, among others—bears little resemblance to most of what she studied at La Salle, Lopez said the workload felt familiar.

"La Salle is more work than other high schools," she said. "I have friends that did not do as much as we did, but that's what you get when you go to a college prep school. I feel like it really did prepare me for the amount of work I was going to do."

The coursework itself, though, was a different thrill for Lopez.

"When I first went to PSU, it was like, 'Oh my gosh, I'm studying what I want to do,' which was super cool to experience," she said. "Like, 'I'm just playing piano, and I'm in class right now.' It was so weird, but it was also fun."

Last term, the Briar Choir had the opportunity to sing Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana"—a scenic cantata about the circle of life and the wheel of fortune—with the Oregon Symphony at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, colloquially referred to as the Schnitz.

"It was awesome to be able to be at the Schnitz and be on stage," Lopez said. "There's some people who have sung there before, and it's like whatever. But for me, I've never seen that before."

More recently, she performed in the PSU concert "Bloom," where she sang what she currently considers her favorite choral piece: "To See the Sky," a song about loss. The experience only reaffirmed her dream of teaching choir.

"It's just a beautiful song, with a bunch of beautiful chords in it," Lopez said. "I want to be able to be in front of a choir and hear that chord in front of me and be able to guide them to success." ◆

This article has been abridged for brevity, Read Harper's full profile piece here.

Boys volleyball has first OSAA-sanctioned season

BOYS VOLLEYBALL BEGAN ITS FIRST SEASON as an OSAA-sanctioned sport in the spring of 2026. It is the first activity to be officially sanctioned through the OSAA's emerging activities process, which "allows the growth of meaningful interscholastic participation opportunities for students in athletics and activities," according to the OSAA.

Boys volleyball has seen the highest growth among boys sports nationally in the past five years, according to the American Volleyball Coaches' Association. Sixty-eight Oregon high school teams competed during the 2024-25 school year, including La Salle's club team which was started in 2023 by alumni athlete Tyler Smith '24. Smith was attending La Salle while playing volleyball for Clackamas High School, which won the 2023 OSAA state championship.

"It didn't feel as good because I wasn't playing for my high school," Smith told *The Falconer*. "I was like, 'Might as well start a team, talk to [Athletic Director] Mr. Chris George, and play for La Salle.'"

Smith did just that, leading La Salle boys volleyball to play two club seasons, culminating in their third place finish in 2025. Heading into their inaugural sanctioned season, the team were prepped to play against teams at both the 5A and 6A level thanks to Coach Denis Zhukov, who has been with the program since their very first season. "He is just so knowledgeable about the sport," team captain Evan O'Neil '26 said. "He played at the Olympic level and pro throughout the world, so he just has a lot of knowledge to pass on."

After finishing their season with an impressive 11-5 record and making it to the state quarter finals, the future of the team looks promising, with seasoned players ready to welcome new recruits. "It's an awesome sport. It's not only for girls," Aero Rahimi '27 said, encouraging all interested students to attend tryouts this spring. "Even if you want to just try it, it's very low commitment, so we would love to have you next year."





Souter Photography



Equestrian team gallops to victory

THE 2025-26 LA SALLE EQUESTRIAN TEAM MADE THEIR FLOCK PROUD, returning as district champions and taking third place in the state competition in Redmond, Oregon. Ava Offerdall '27, Addie Offerdall '26, and Ashlynn Thomas '29 (pictured above, left to right) competed with their horses Flint, Rocky, and Lucy in both team and individual events, bringing home a trophy that serves as a testament to the trust each pair has built, in and out of the arena.



Jen Fulton

Baseball and softball players earn accolades

ELEANOR SIMPSON '26 AND DECLAN O'BRIEN '26 have both been recognized for their outstanding spring seasons. Eleanor was named the Oregon 5A Softball Player of the Year, while Declan was honored as Northwest Oregon Conference Pitcher of the Year. Both student athletes have bright futures, with Declan continuing his education at Gonzaga University, while Eleanor is playing softball at Santa Clara University.

Boys tennis swings state three-peat

SPECTATORS WATCHED WITH BATED BREATH as La Salle's varsity boys tennis team battled to win their third consecutive state title at Tualatin Hills Tennis Center. The team had three separate entries in this year's OSAA State Championships: doubles partners Lucas Wong '28 and Nolan Wong '27, and singles players River Nichols '26 and Kaiden Harris '27.

With the team trailing Crescent Valley by half a point in the team race, it was up to Kaiden to earn the remaining points necessary to clinch another state title. Kaiden, who won the 5A individual state title as a freshman in 2024, was aware of this pressure as he stepped onto the court against Canby senior Dmitrii Ganovichev, who he had lost to twice in the regular season.

"Going into it 0-2 against him, and having that pressure of if I win this my team wins, it was pretty tough" Kaiden told *OSAAtoday*. "...I was just thinking about myself instead of my results affecting other people."

Keeping a cool head, Kaiden was able to take the match with a 7-3 tiebreaker win. "I feel like the thing I learned was keeping composure," he said of his state matches. "He's a very tricky player, very good player. I knew the crowd would be there so I was trying to tell myself to focus on the court."

The team's victory was also aided by Lucas and Nolan Wong, who made it all the way to the semifinals and won the third place match to rack up more points for the Falcons.

"Everything was heart-pounding, it was nervousness, anxiousness, all that," said Quyen Wong, the father of Nolan and uncle of Lucas. "I was pacing and probably got 80,000 steps today."

At the end of the day, La Salle boys tennis achieved a team three-peat with 13 points, while Kaiden won his second boys singles state championship title, earning another set of accolades for an unstoppable program.



Drew Coleman



Little Shop delivers horrifying hilarity

PLANT LOVERS, BEWARE! La Salle theater's spring production of *Little Shop of Horrors* served as a warning for any owners of a 6-foot-five-inch venus fly trap (with an impressive vocal belt).

Starring Akil Pinney '28 as meek floral assistant Seymour Krelborn, the musical introduced audience members to a new breed of plant, which Seymour names "Audrey II," after his coworker crush. The R&B-singing carnivore promises Seymour fame and fortune, as long as he aids its man-eating diet. While this arrangement works at first, the odd couple's relationship begins to sour as Seymour discovers Audrey II's out of this world origins and intent toward global domination. One of the longest-running Off-Broadway shows, this charmingly tongue-in-cheek comedy created by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken (Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty And The Beast*, and *Aladdin*) has devoured the hearts of theatre goers for over 30 years, with La Salle audiences being no exception.



An exciting feature of this year's musical was the use of a giant puppet to represent the avid antagonist, Audrey II. Zoey Ferreira '26 had a unique job as Audrey II's puppeteer, due to her limited ability to communicate with the other actors while on stage.

"First I have to hear the music, so I'm cued in with my voice, and then I have to cue in Zoey so she knows when to move the plant," Molly McKinlay '26, the voice of Audrey II, told *The Falconer*. "So it's a whole sequence of events—really hard to get the timing down."



Despite these challenges, the cast and crew of *Little Shop of Horrors* left audiences delighted by the show's horrifyingly hilarious premise and the stellar performances by our thespians.

Love seeing Falcon theater? **Mark your calendars for our annual Winter One Act Festival, running January 30–February 1, 2027.**◆

Courtesy of Ryan Gabbart



Falcons perform in district honor band

THREE TALENTED LA SALLE BAND MEMBERS had the honor of performing in the prestigious 2026 OMEA District 13 Honor Band, hosted at Nelson High School.

Eleanor Barnard '29, Evan Brotherton '28, and Patrick McGowan '28 were invited to play in the concert band consisting of the best student musicians from our district and conducted by Lars Campbell, Director of Instrumental Music at Clackamas Community College. The players completed two days of intensive rehearsals and instrument-specific sectionals before finally performing their new repertoire for a packed audience.

AP Art Gallery

Take a peek at a few pieces created by our 2025-26 AP Studio Art students.



Painting by Danica Glazier '26



Ceramics by Jackson Hays '26



Photograph by Max Deggendorffer '26

SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

Cheryl Lisac Belozer ’73 offers unwavering support



ALUMNA CHERYL LISAC BELOZER IS KNOWN throughout the La Salle community for her unfailing generosity and commitment to the Backpack Buddies program, which provides meals and snacks for the students at Lot Whitcomb Elementary School. Her consistent support supplements the bi-monthly donations made by Falcon students and families, ensuring that no Lot Whitcomb student goes without. Cheryl has supported the Backpack Buddies program since 2021, delivering snacks twice a month to a school where she herself volunteered as a La Salle student with the Head Start program during the summer of 1973— a meaningful continuation of a tradition of service that began during her own high school years.

Beyond her dedication to Lot Whitcomb, Belozer has also given back to La Salle student athletes through the Andy Belozer Athletic Achievement Fund. Established in 2008 in loving memory of her son, Andy—who had a deep love for all sports—the fund was created to support the growth and exploration of the student-athlete. Its mission is to help students better understand their natural athletic abilities while learning the values of accountability, leadership, teamwork, discipline, and self-confidence.

Since its founding, the Andy Belozer Fund has provided over $40,000 in aid to more than 240 La Salle student athletes, helping to offset athletic participation fees. In the 2025-26 school year alone, the fund supported 27 students across 10 different sports, ensuring continued access to athletics in Andy’s name. La Salle is deeply grateful for Cheryl for her enduring service and leadership, inspiring other alumni and community members to give back.

Alumni are invited to join Cheryl and current Falcons in supporting Backpack Buddies by providing donations of snacks and meals to Lot Whitcomb Elementary students to ensure they have the nourishment they need to learn and thrive. Together, Falcons can make a lasting difference—one backpack at a time. Donations can also be made to the Andy Belozer Athletic Achievement Fund in support of student athletes at ***lsprep.org/give.***



Freshman Day of Service



OUR NEWEST FALCONS began making an impact from their first moment on campus, thanks to their participation in this year's Freshman Day of Service. The Class of 2030 spent a sunny August morning beautifying campus and preparing sack lunches for Blanchet House. Vice Principal for Student Life Justin Clapp began the day with the following prayer:

"We pray for a heart of service. Help us to see the needs of those around us and to respond with generosity and compassion. May we be willing to serve others selflessly, following your example of love and kindness. Thank you for the opportunities to serve. Help us to embrace them with joy and dedication. Guide us to serve not for recognition or reward, but out of a genuine desire to help and support others. Help us to find ways to serve in our daily lives, making a positive difference in the lives of those we encounter. May our service be a reflection of your love, bringing hope and comfort to those in need."

We are grateful to this year's freshman class for their enthusiasm and commitment to giving back, and for fully embracing what it means to be Lasallian.



"Guide us to serve not for recognition or reward, but out of a genuine desire to help and support others.



Celebrating our Benefactors and Community Champions

THE ANNUAL BENEFACTOR RECEPTION, held in June at Waverley Country Club, honored those who are among the school's most faithful and generous donors. This reception honors anyone who gave $1,500 or more during the fiscal year in support of our school and mission. Also invited are those who have given $50,000 or more during their lifetime, as well as members of the La Salle Legacy Society and benefactors with a named endowed fund in the La Salle Foundation. In addition to honoring our benefactor community, the event also served to kick-off La Salle's 60th anniversary celebration.

Highlights of the evening included Principal Alanna O'Brien recognizing 2025-26 Lasallian Educator of the Year Amy Gantt, the State of the School address delivered by President John Huelskamp, and performances by four La Salle student musicians: Haylee Nguyen '27, Keira Olson '27, Isaiah Engelen '27, and Axel Ruiz '28.







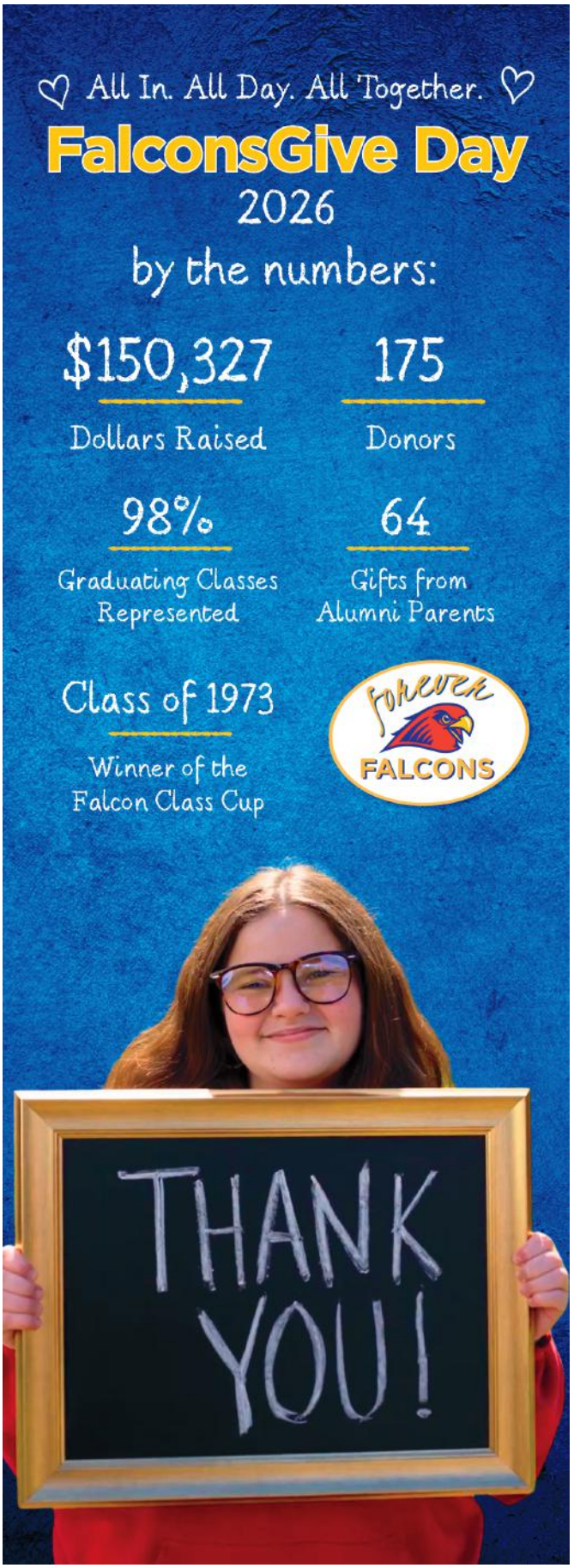




A special congratulations to our 2025-26 Community Champions: Gerry O'Brien, Michelle Smith, Jessica Huwiler (not pictured), and Cheryl Lisac Belozer '73 (not pictured), who were honored at this year's reception. This annual award (formerly known as Volunteers of the Year) recognizes dedicated members of our community who devote their time and skills to create a positive impact, promote unity, and enhance the La Salle experience for our students. Each of these Champions truly demonstrate exemplary commitment to our Lasallian community and service to others.

We are so grateful to our generous benefactors and volunteers for joining us at this year's reception, and for all they do to contribute to our Lasallian community.







Kira showcases her skills as a member of the Santa Clara University Dance Team. Courtesy of Kira Caldwell '25.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Kira Caldwell '25 takes a leap of faith

When Kira Caldwell took the leap and auditioned for the Santa Clara University Dance Team, she had no idea of the incredible freshman season that awaited her. From performing live at March Madness to being named SCU Dance Team's 2025-26 Rookie of the Year, Caldwell's passion, dedication, and mindset have set her up for success, both on and off the dance floor.

A LIFELONG PERFORMER, Caldwell grew up in the world of competitive dance; competing with and eventually teaching for Portland's Studio One Dance Academy, and performing with La Salle's dance team from 2021-2022. The transition from competitive training to performing at the collegiate level offered a new set of challenges and opportunities for Caldwell, allowing her to expand her skills and mindset.

"Switching from competitively training and dancing to performing at basketball games and school events has definitely been a change for me," she said. "There's a different focus and motivation when it comes to dancing in front of a crowd for solely entertainment purposes."

Alongside her passion for performance, Caldwell flexes her creative muscles through the avenue of choreography. "I've had many opportunities [this year] to improve as an instructor and choreographer," she reflected. "Teaching my teammates a routine of mine brings me so much joy."

Another highlight of the season was SCU's performance in the WCC Men's Basketball Tournament, leading the Broncos to make their first March Madness appearance in 30 years. In their role as sideline and halftime entertainers, the dance team traveled to St. Louis for the first round of the NCAA Tournament, an experience which Caldwell called "unbelievable, especially since it was only my first year with the team."

> **"I've had many opportunities [this year] to improve as an instructor and choreographer. Teaching my teammates a routine of mine brings me so much joy."**
>
> —KIRA CALDWELL

When asked about her hopes for the year ahead, Caldwell was quick to highlight the importance of maintaining the team's positive attitude and culture.

"I'm happy and excited to set a good example for these incoming rookies," she said. "And I'm hoping our team dynamic can stay so positive and so fun."◆



Red and blue, on the green

Our Falcon community had a blast at the 29th annual La Salle Golf Tournament on July 10. It was a perfect Oregon summer day for alumni, parents, and friends to connect, enjoy the beautiful surroundings, and play golf. Hosted by the Alumni Association, the tournament raised over $37,000 in support of their mission to fund scholarships, tuition assistance, student programming, and campus development.

Special thanks to our Eagle Sponsor: Space Age Fuel, Jim '77 and Linda Pliska, and congratulations to our first place finishers in the men's and co-ed divisions.



Drew Coleman



DECEMBER 5, 2026

60th Annual Yulefest & Wine Tasting



Ring in the holidays with La Salle

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND GET INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT for our 60th Annual Yulefest & Wine Tasting, held on December 5, 2026. One of the oldest La Salle traditions, Yulefest has been celebrated every year since the school opened in 1966. Originally a small gathering of parents and Brothers enjoying Christian Brothers' wines, it has grown into an incredible event of wine tasting, dinner, dancing, and festive decor, sponsored by the Alumni Association. Tickets are on sale now, so start dusting off your dancing shoes, ugliest Christmas sweater, and appetite for holiday delights. We can't wait to see you there!

Scan here to buy your tickets.
Sales end on November 20.



In Memoriam

Rosalyn Albornoz-Lopez
Coach Ray Baker
Miguel Biteng
Gary Bullock
Ralph Carter
Albert Chek
Michael Crow '93
John Draper '74
David Hill '79
John Luccio
Br. Dan Morgan, FSC '75
Thomas Morgan
Gene Neely
Shawna Page Newell
Walter Schuette
Marilyn Sirianni
Stanley Strong
Fr. John Vogl
Luke Wardwell '26
Sr. Marian Watkins, SNJM

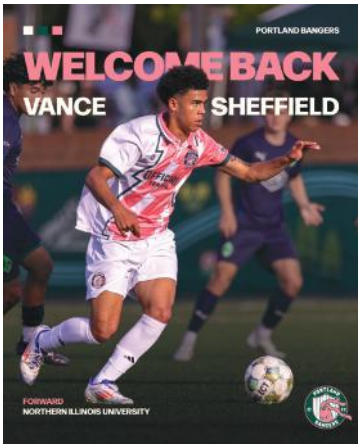
Please remember in your prayers the families and loved ones of these La Salle community members who have passed away. We invite you to send news of community members who have passed to alumni@lsprep.org.

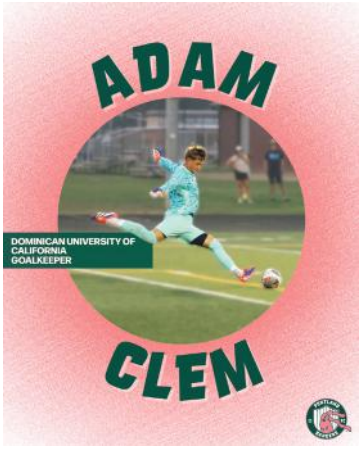


Scan here to see photos from the event.

Celebrating our Golden Falcons: Class of 1976

ON MAY 14, WE WELCOMED THE TIGHT-KNIT CLASS OF 1976 back to campus for a school-sponsored celebration of their 50th reunion. The day began with a Mass led by Fr. James Antonio, SJ, followed by tours guided by current seniors, and concluding with our annual Golden Falcon Luncheon, where our Falcons received their golden diplomas and pins. We were so grateful to celebrate this incredible class and their continued connection to our Flock, 50 years later.





Portland Bangers FC

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Falcons join Bangers FC

THE PORTLAND BANGERS HAD TWO FALCONS ON THE PITCH this summer, with Vance Sheffield '25 and Adam Clem '25 bringing their talents to Portland's semi-professional soccer team. This was Sheffield's second year as a Portland Banger. He is a current sophomore at Northern Illinois University and was named the 2024 –2025 Gatorade High School Player of the Year in Oregon for Boys Soccer. A sophomore goalkeeper at the Dominican University of California, this was Clem's first season with the USL League Two team.

Highlights of the season include Sheffield scoring the first goal since the team's move to Lents Park, and the introduction of official Portland Bangers trading cards, on which both Falcons are featured.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Q&A with Violet Sheehan ’24

Falcon alumna and current George Washington University student Violet Sheehan shares her experience interning for Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley.



Courtesy of Violet Sheehan ’24

What inspired you to apply for an internship in Senator Merkley’s office? How does it fit into your professional development and future career goals?

I applied to intern in Senator Merkley’s office because I wanted to connect my Oregon roots with my passion for public service and politics. Staying connected to my home state and the communities that shaped me has always been important, and this internship allowed me to contribute to work that directly impacts Oregonians. I also had the chance to work alongside an incredible team of people who have dedicated their careers to representing Oregon at the national level, which was quite a privilege. Going into the internship, I knew I wanted to pursue a career in law because I’m passionate about advocating for others and ensuring their voices are heard. At the time, though, I didn’t see politics as part of my career path. This experience changed that perspective. I gained a deeper appreciation for the many people working behind the scenes to make the government function effectively and serve the public. While my long-term goal is still to become a lawyer, I now hope to spend time working on Capitol Hill before attending law school so I can continue learning how policy is shaped and how meaningful change happens.

What were your responsibilities as an intern, and what were some of your largest takeaways from the experience?

Each intern was assigned to at least two legislative teams. I worked on the Judiciary Team and the Environmental Team, where I spent five months writing memos for the Senator and conducting research used in hearings. I also worked on the Communications Team and the Organizing/Scheduling Team. On the communications side, I prepared a daily brief of major news articles mentioning the Senator and articles relevant to Oregon and national policy. On the scheduling team, I assisted the Chief Scheduler in organizing the Senator’s daily tasks and helped staff him for meetings with Oregonians. The most impactful day of my internship was spending a full day shadowing the Senator, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and seeing what an average day looks like from his perspective. Walking among legislators and senior staff as a college sophomore gave me a glimpse of what life could look like if I pursue a career in politics.

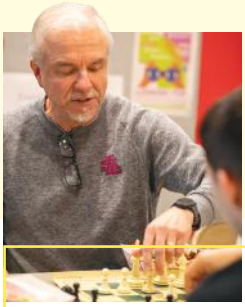
Looking back, how did your time as a Falcon prepare you for this internship experience?

I absolutely believe my time at La Salle prepared me for this internship. Working with the Faith, Service, and Community team and participating in the leadership class for two years taught me to get involved in my community and use my voice to make a positive impact. Those lessons have stayed with me, and I’ve continued advocating and building community at my university through our TV station, radio station, and freshmen orientation team. I also credit Mr. Larson and Mr. Krantz for strengthening my love of writing and giving me tools to grow as a writer. Writing was a major part of my internship, almost everything I produced was reviewed by multiple staff members and often by the Senator himself. Finally, my time in Mr. Lanaghan’s AP Government class played a huge role in sparking my excitement for politics. He made learning fun and reminded me how much joy I find in discussing government and public policy. Overall, the stamina, curiosity, and sense of community La Salle instilled in me have helped me thrive in a fast-paced college environment and feel prepared for my future career. ◆

“Working with the Faith, Service, and Community team and participating in the leadership class for two years taught me to get involved in my community and use my voice to make a positive impact.” —VIOLET SHEEHAN

WE ASKED

Who is your favorite Lasallian educator?



Students and alumni share their favorite teachers and the impact they had on their lives. Answer the question below for a chance to be included in the next edition!

"My favorite teacher is Mr. Wild. He was my freshman year religion teacher and he really convinced me to join choir, and that brought me out of my shell at La Salle because I realized how much passion I had in music."

—HAYLEE NGUYEN '27



"My favorite teacher is Ms. Moran because she always asks me how I am doing."

—RYAN LENGKEEK '27

"My favorite teacher is Mr. Shelburn. Although sometimes he's a little bit too smart and I don't really understand what we are doing in his class, I always look forward to the next lesson."

—KYRA NGUYEN '26



"I was able to take both Ms. Coleman's Introduction to Design Thinking and Advanced Design Thinking classes. It was there that I learned many of the graphic design skills that I use to this day...But more importantly, she helped bring out a creative side in me that I didn't know I had."

—ALLIE BALL '23

NEXT ISSUE

What is your favorite La Salle tradition?

Help us celebrate our 60th anniversary by sharing your favorite La Salle tradition! From morning prayer, to Yulefest, to St. La Salle Day, to Journey, consider what events and rituals defined your time as a Falcon. Share your answer for a chance to be included in the next edition of the *La Salle Review*!

"Spirit Rocks La Salle!"

by Brenda Connolly, *The Falconer*
published November 3, 1978

"**CURIOUS STUDENTS WERE CAPTURED IN SUSPENSE**, when a new mascot was recently rolled into the La Salle gym. A sheet was lifted to reveal a mystery that shocked the faculty and student body. Most assuredly, no one was dreaming. The great Falcon finally proved its uniqueness and laid a rock.

Interviewing the bird I asked, 'Why a rock?' Falcon held his beak up high and proudly replied, 'Falcon fans will cheer forever with an avalanche of enthusiasm as struggling opponents hit rock bottom. My friends,' he continued,'an egg would crack under pressure. For this purpose I have given birth to an uncrushable stone.'"

Accipiter Yearbook, 1979



LA SALLE
CATHOLIC COLLEGE PREPARATORY
11999 SE Fuller Road • Milwaukie, OR 97222



Mark your calendar

November 6–8 and 13–15
Fall Play: The Play That Goes Wrong

November 1–30
Month of Remembrance

December 5
Yulefest

December 16
Winter Music Concert

January 30
Steak & Seafood

January 30– February 1
Winter One Acts

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