

# Full Circle

CASTILLEJA SCHOOL MAGAZINE • SPRING 2019

*Better Together*







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GATOR GATHERING. Nanci Kauffman<sup>HA</sup> shows her school spirit in apparel featuring Castilleja's new athletic "C." Go Gators!



## WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

### “What are you willing to forego in pursuit of your ambitions and desires?”

To deepen the social and emotional development of our community, in recent years I have chosen a theme for students and faculty to reflect on during the school year. This year, I even invited parents and guardians to join us in our exploration of our newest theme: Thrive!

To me, thriving is about discovering and cultivating the right set of circumstances to continually be the best possible version of myself at a given point in time. It is neither about achieving perfection nor about avoiding difficult situations. In fact, thriving entails facing and making a series of choices and decisions. The decisions we do not make are as important as the ones we do. I see thriving as a journey of growth, rather than simply a destination or a state of being.

In this issue of Full Circle, we highlight what thriving looks like both at Castilleja and beyond the Circle. At a time when we are saturated with mixed messages about success, happiness, and meaning, I am thrilled to share inspiring stories about members of our community who have unequivocally pursued their authentic version of thriving, and who are helping others do the same.

As we celebrate together the achievements of our diverse community, let us also remember to choose self-care, whether it is in the form of rest, play, meditation, or exercise. I invite you to join me in modeling for Castilleja's next generation how we integrate our accomplishments, our challenges, and our sacrifices, as we pursue meaningful and fulfilling lives.

In gratitude,

*Nanci Z. Kauffman*



### THRIVE MOMENT

“I thrive when I have the chance to spend quality time with our students. I especially enjoy my annual tradition of guest lecturing in our Psychology elective.”

— Nanci Kauffman<sup>HA</sup>



# TAKE A JOURNEY THROUGH THIS ISSUE ...



21 VISUAL ARTS



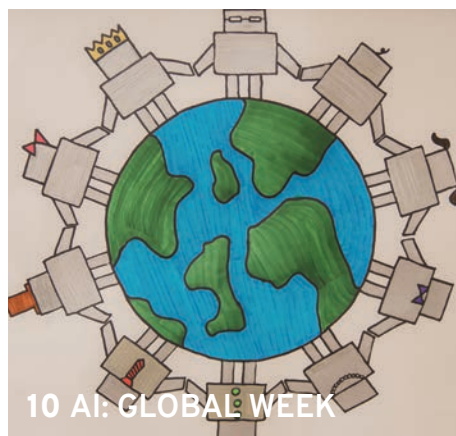
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# MAKING CONNECTIONS IN ACADEMICS

MAPPING INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING  
ACROSS THE CIRCLE AND BEYOND



## ART / GLOBAL OUTREACH

Ms. Sara Kerr's seventh-grade art class connected with the Memory Project, an organization that invites young artists to create original portraits based on photos of children who face challenges. The Castilleja students painted watercolors of girls from Syria and sent them to the girls as gifts.

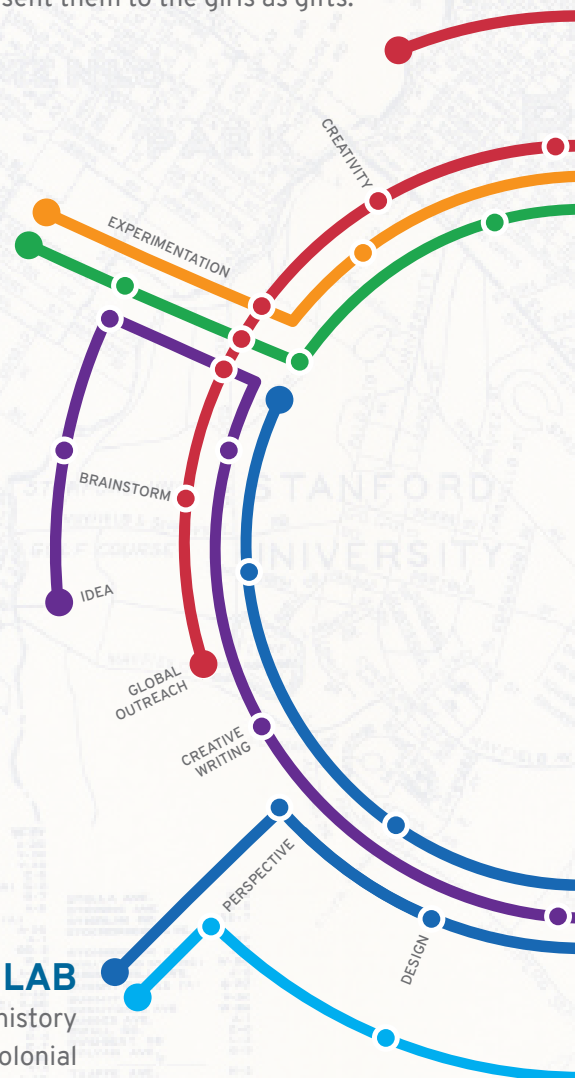
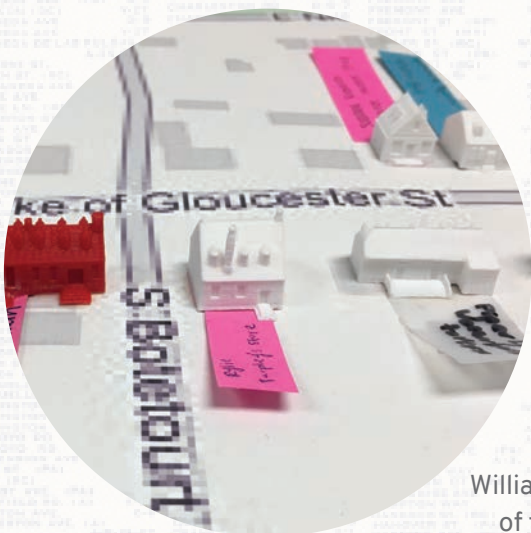
## CONNECTIONS BOARD

Dr. Christy Story<sup>HA</sup> keeps a board with Post-Its for students to write connections that they make between topics they cover in her ninth-grade Cultures & Civilizations class and absolutely everything else—the news, a physics lab, a song from the radio. When they fill the whole board with connections, they get a cake! "This is my attempt to reward historical thinking. I am a history geek, so I think my content is everywhere, but I wanted them to see the value of C&C too."



## HISTORY / MATH / BOURN IDEA LAB

Dr. Heather Pang's '84<sup>HA</sup> eighth-grade history students reconstruct the significant buildings in colonial Williamsburg to examine the architecture and social structure of the 18th-century city. In math with Ms. Carolyn Steele<sup>HA</sup>, students develop and test mathematical strategies they can utilize in the project using buildings on campus. Dr. Pang then brings the students to the Bourn Lab, where with Ms. Elaine Park's help, they apply those strategies to create 3-D models using Tinkercad. Bringing the project to the real world, they visit the actual buildings on their trip to Washington DC!





**At Castilleja, learning is about making connections.** Students create paths between their own thinking and the real world, different cultures, their teachers' insights, new subjects, other students, the past, and back to themselves in new ways. Each girl is on a journey, creating a map of her own learning that is unique to her experience and perspective. Teachers model making connections and then follow the students' lead as they make connections of their own.

## FRENCH / LIBRARY

Mme. Christiane Repellin<sup>HA</sup>'s French AT students examine current events through the lens of major works by important 20th Century French authors. Then, in partnership with Library Director **Ms. Jole Seroff**, the students analyze book cover design, highlighting various covers of the same book across different countries, discussing the function of a cover as a marketing device, and then evaluating symbolic and aesthetic decisions involved in cover design. Finally, each student creates her own cover for one of the texts, fully considering all of the choices involved in the process. Having completed this project, they never judge a book by its cover again!



## ENGLISH / GLOBAL INVESTIGATOR TRIP

Ms. Laura Hansen '08 and Dr. Jennifer Raterman work with juniors on writing profiles in English class. First they interview and write about Castilleja sixth graders. Then they do the same with someone in the community whose life or background interests them. In the final step in this process, they apply what they have learned about observing and recording to compose a reflective personal essay about their Global Investigator trip. This project connects the curriculum throughout the year, but also connects the girls across divisions.



## CASTICONGRESS

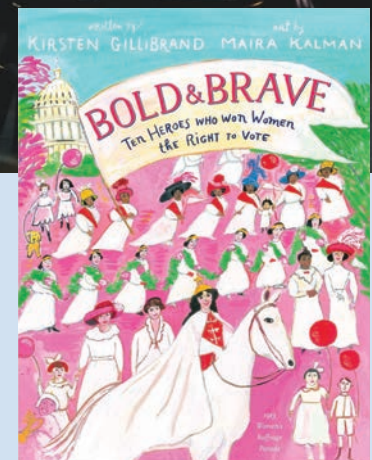
Sophomores work with Ms. Christine Loui to experience creating policy change in a microcosm by proposing ideas, drafting legislation, and presenting to the school administration. At various stages, students gather input from stakeholders, which illustrates how actual policies are created. "The thing I want students to take away is that policy change is an ongoing and collaborative process that relies on feedback and flexibility from multiple perspectives."







Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Nanci Kauffman<sup>HA</sup>



## BOLD AND BRAVE

# Storytime with a Senator

SENATOR KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND SHARES STORIES OF 10 BOLD AND BRAVE HEROES WHO WON WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE

You probably know something about Kirsten Gillibrand already. Vocal Democrat. Junior Senator from New York. Appointed by President Obama when Hillary Clinton became Secretary of State. Now that Senator Gillibrand is a presidential candidate, you may see her in the news enough to feel like you've heard it all.

Castilleja girls could tell you more.

Just weeks before Senator Gillibrand entered the 2020 race, she was sitting on the stage in the Chapel Theater, talking with Nanci Kauffman<sup>HA</sup> about her new children's book, *Bold and Brave*, *Ten Heroes Who Won Women the Right to Vote*, which memorializes ten women who devoted their lives—in one way or another—to winning women the right to vote.

Even with the 100th anniversary of the 21st Amendment almost upon us, the profiles felt relevant to the conversations we are having on campus today, each telling an exciting chapter in an empowering story, but Ms. Kauffman<sup>HA</sup> wondered aloud, "Who was number eleven?"

The room fell silent, and the conversation suddenly felt more intimate; Castilleja students care deeply about the outsiders.

The Senator paused, then the story tumbled out. Victoria Woodhull—the first woman to run for President, to speak in front of Congress, to open an investment bank, to start a newspaper. She was a force, so why wasn't she in the book? Senator Gillibrand's fast-paced storytelling slowed, "I couldn't tell the story to younger girls."

**"Inform yourself about the suffering of others, empathize, and be a leader." – KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND**

Frustrated that women lost their property rights and financial security when they married, Woodhull ran on the "free love" platform. She was a self-professed medium who talked to spirits, and after publishing news of the adulterous affair of a prominent minister, she was imprisoned on obscenity charges. In short, she led a complicated life.

While Senator Gillibrand revealed the details of Victoria Woodhull's story, she also revealed something important about herself: she had struggled with leaving this story out. Like Castilleja girls, she cares deeply about the outsiders.

With that revelation, she invited the girls to join her in the very weighty work deciding which stories get told and how to honor history's complicated characters. In the end, though, her advice to Castilleja girls who want to make a difference in the world remained very simple: "Inform yourself about the suffering of others, empathize, and be a leader."

**MEET THE HEROES** who won women the right to vote in Kirsten Gillibrand's book for children, *Bold and Brave*—and stay tuned for Castilleja's events in 2020 celebrating the 100th year anniversary of women's suffrage.



# Sister Suffragist

NANCY TATE '66 INVITES US TO CELEBRATE THE 2020 CENTENNIAL OF PASSAGE OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT THAT SECURED WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

Nancy Tate '66 knows what a privilege it is to vote. When she graduated from Castilleja, it would be another five years before 18 year-olds earned the right to vote through the 1971 passage of the 26th Amendment. By then, Nancy had earned a degree in political science from Stanford and made a bold leap to leave her home state of California for Washington D.C. As a Casti girl, she was confident she had the skills required because of the excellent education she received: "It was in the atmosphere. It is implicit you have value, we're going to give you skills, you're going to be able to do something with them."

**And do something, she did!** Nancy devoted her career to both the government and nonprofit sectors, and from 2000–2015, she served as executive director of the National League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan grassroots organization focused on educating voters about issues and candidates, registering people to vote, and fighting voter suppression efforts. As Tate says, "the League is not limited to voting issues or women—but the name has great brand recognition and we're sticking with it!"

These days, Nancy's focus is on efforts to commemorate the 2020 centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote. She serves as co-chair of the 2020 Women's Vote Centennial Initiative and on the board of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. This work in the Centennial celebrations is a natural progression from her time with the League, which was founded in 1920—six months before final passage of the 19th Amendment—and is the only national organization started by the suffragists that is still in operation today.



Suffragist Lucy Burns, co-founder of National Women's Party

## THRIVE MOMENT

"The strong analytical and writing skills I developed at Castilleja have greatly benefited me throughout my career. It may be that my preference for facts and analysis in decision making—and therefore the appeal of the League's approach to issues—stems from my Castilleja training. In short, attending such an academically rigorous all-girls school has enabled me to thrive."

— NANCY TATE '66



Nancy Tate '66, Executive Director of League of Women Voters, 2000-2015

On the eve of this 100th anniversary, Nancy reflects on the significance of this celebration and those aspects of an earlier historical period that still resonate today. For one, voting rights are hard-earned; the 19th Amendment was passed after a 72-year campaign by several generations, and she says, "getting the vote was a fight down to the last minute. Literally." The amendment only won by one vote when a young legislator in Tennessee switched to support it at his mother's urging! Another parallel to 1920 is the constant work required of citizens to defend and expand voting rights. Nancy explains, "it didn't just roll out in some smooth way, the evolution of the perfect democracy," and there is much to be done. Still, she is proud of the work the League continues to do, emphasizing "you can never give up ensuring that everyone's voice is heard in our democracy."

The Centennial also provides an opportunity for learning and sharing the personal, local, state, and national stories that led to the 19th Amendment's passage. In researching Castilleja's own connection to the suffragist movement, Nancy learned that Miss Lockey voted in the 1912 elections—the first time she was eligible—after women in California won the vote through a state ballot initiative in 1911, nearly a decade before those rights were guaranteed to women nationally.

Learn more at [www.2020centennial.org](http://www.2020centennial.org)



# Mindful AI

THE PROMISES AND CHALLENGES OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



## About Face

JOY BUOLAMWINI, FOUNDER OF ALGORITHMIC JUSTICE LEAGUE, OPENS STUDENTS' EYES TO BIAS IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mesmerizing students with her spoken word poetry and research on the implicit biases of facial recognition software, Joy Buolamwini began her Global Week talk sharing the first verse of her poem, "AI, Ain't I a Woman?"

*My heart smiles as I bask in their legacies,  
Knowing their lives have altered many destinies.  
In her eyes I see my mother's poise.  
In her face I glimpse my auntie's grace.  
In this case of déjà vu.  
a 19th century question comes into view.  
In a time when Sojourner Truth asks,  
"Ain't I a woman?"*

Ms. Buolamwini authored the groundbreaking research study, "Gender Shades" and founded the Algorithmic Justice League. A collective gasp was heard throughout the Chapel Theater as Ms. Buolamwini showed facial recognition

results identifying Sojourner Truth as a man.

Facial recognition software is becoming more prevalent in our society, and Ms. Buolamwini explained its flaws due to the bias toward "pale and male" faces in the underlying data sets. Her research found that facial recognition is least accurate on darker skinned females. "The issues we're seeing in Artificial Intelligence reflect a much longer history of ignoring women of color." Ms. Buolamwini's research has played a major role in forcing companies to modify their facial recognition algorithms.

Nanci Kauffman<sup>HA</sup> encapsulated what many in the audience felt after hearing Ms. Buolamwini, "My takeaway from today is that a young woman with passion and energy and creativity can have an enormous impact on the future."

## WHY AI?

**"This week is about designing our best future using what we know about human creativity, the development of societies over time, big data, and new technologies."**

— STACEY KERTSMAN,  
Castilleja's Dean of Equity  
Education & Social Impact



## Data for Good

**DJ PATIL**, FORMER CHIEF DATA SCIENTIST FOR THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION, USES DATA TO IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVES

**"To see science and storytelling come together is very inspiring,"** Tsuki Carlson '21 said as she thanked Mr. Patil, who energized the students with tales of technology and data science helping individuals in big and small ways. DJ Patil, former Chief Data Scientist for the Obama administration, advised the girls to think about what it means to ask technology to benefit everyone.

**"A technology is neither radical nor revolutionary unless it benefits every single person."** – DJ PATIL

Having led the Police Data Initiative and Precision Medicine Initiative under President Obama, Mr. Patil shared stories and images of justice being reinstated to the mentally ill, incarcerated, terminally ill, drug addicted, disabled, and more—guided by the principle that we must "responsibly unleash the power of data to benefit all Americans." For example, he described precision medicine tools that were developed after a woman with Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer wrote President Obama and asked, "What are you doing to help me?"

DJ Patil closed with some parting advice. He explained that we need more storytellers in our country, that reporters who share the stories of the afflicted can bring justice. He then offered his own five Cs in deploying data science: Consent, Clarity, Consistency & Trust, Control & Transparency, and Consequences.



**KEEPING IT REAL** (Top Left) DJ Patil illustrates the intersection of data and empathy with real examples of using data to solve problems faced by real people. (Bottom Left) Tess Posner, CEO at AI4All, actively works to ensure a more inclusive, diverse, and responsible AI field including launching a new open learning platform. Naturally, the curious young leaders of Castilleja had questions.

**"We really need non-engineers to help untangle some of the problems that AI is facing today. It is a field that will impact all parts of our lives, so we need to have so many different disciplines engaged in the creation of AI. The more people we have involved, the closer we come to more responsible, more ethical, more inclusive AI."**

– KATHLEEN KENEALY '15



**GROUP THINK** On the first day of Global Week, Carissa Carter, Director of Teaching and Learning from the d.School at Stanford, facilitated a design challenge utilizing human-centered design-thinking principles. Small groups were asked to design an experience with a particular person in mind—and then scale that experience to thousands.



# The Dean Machine

**Victoria Dean '13** is a PhD student in Robotics at Carnegie Mellon University and sat on the Alumnae Panel during Global Week.

**Jeff Dean P '13 '15**, a Google Senior Fellow and SVP at Google Research and Machine Intelligence, was the opening speaker during Global Week. He is a leader and visionary in Artificial Intelligence.

We spoke to Jeff and Victoria about their shared interests in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. Excerpts are below:

**CASTILLEJA** Victoria, was there a particular moment when you realized robotics was what you wanted to pursue?

**VICTORIA** I joined Gatorbotics freshman year at Castilleja because I loved math and science. This was where I fell in love with programming, engineering, and robotics. I think I was excited not just by what I was able to get working but also by what I wasn't. It was later at MIT that I realized Machine Learning was the answer to some of our challenges in Gatorbotics.

**CASTILLEJA** Jeff, what do you think is the most promising application of AI currently or in the future?

**JEFF** There are so many areas! The potential for AI to make better healthcare decisions that keep billions of people healthier is amazing. And the ability to have autonomous vehicles and robots that can operate in real-world environments will be transformative. AI also creates the potential for people who don't speak the same language to fluidly communicate in real-time. AI gives the potential for amazing creative tools for humans to unlock our greatest visions and ideas.



**CASTILLEJA** What advice do you both have for Castilleja students or recent grads interested in Artificial Intelligence?

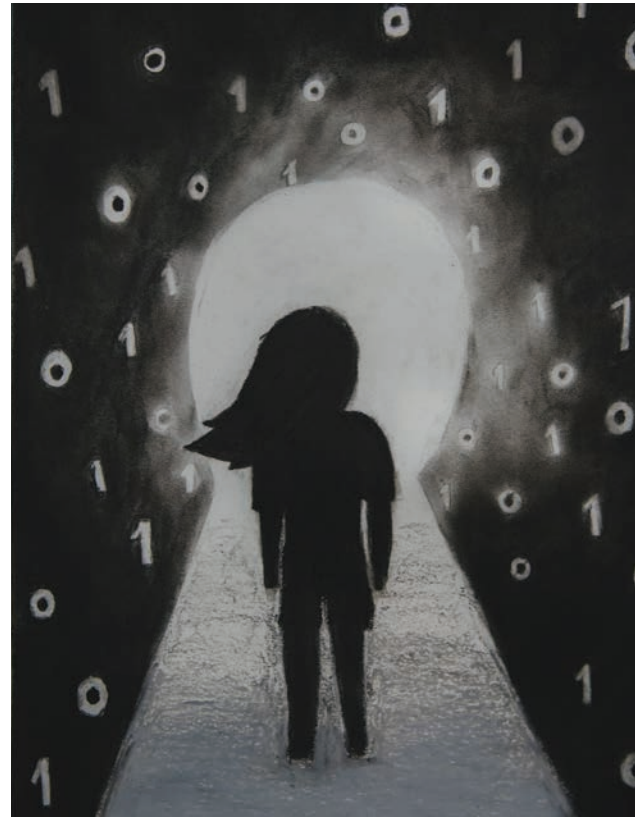
**VICTORIA** There is such a shortage of high quality researchers and engineers in AI and robotics. For current Castilleja students, I'd tell them to join Gatorbotics. The skills you learn are not just for people who want to be engineers; you also learn problem-solving skills, and leadership.

**JEFF** Take a programming class and learn about Machine Learning even if you don't go into Machine Learning as a career, because it's going to touch many fields of endeavor. It's a way to think about problem-solving that is breaking more complicated things down into simpler tasks. Who knows, if you take a programming class, you may love it. Life is long, you should try a lot of different things, even if it's out of your comfort zone.



**MEETING OF THE MINDS** (Left) Jeff Dean P'13, P'15, Google Senior Fellow, gave the Global Week opening address. (Right) Hosted by Anjelika Deogirikar Grossman '00, the Castilleja Global Week alumnae panel featured women working in AI, including Ayesha Bajwa '14, Victoria Dean '13, Kathleen Kenealy '15, and Shivani Nishar '16.

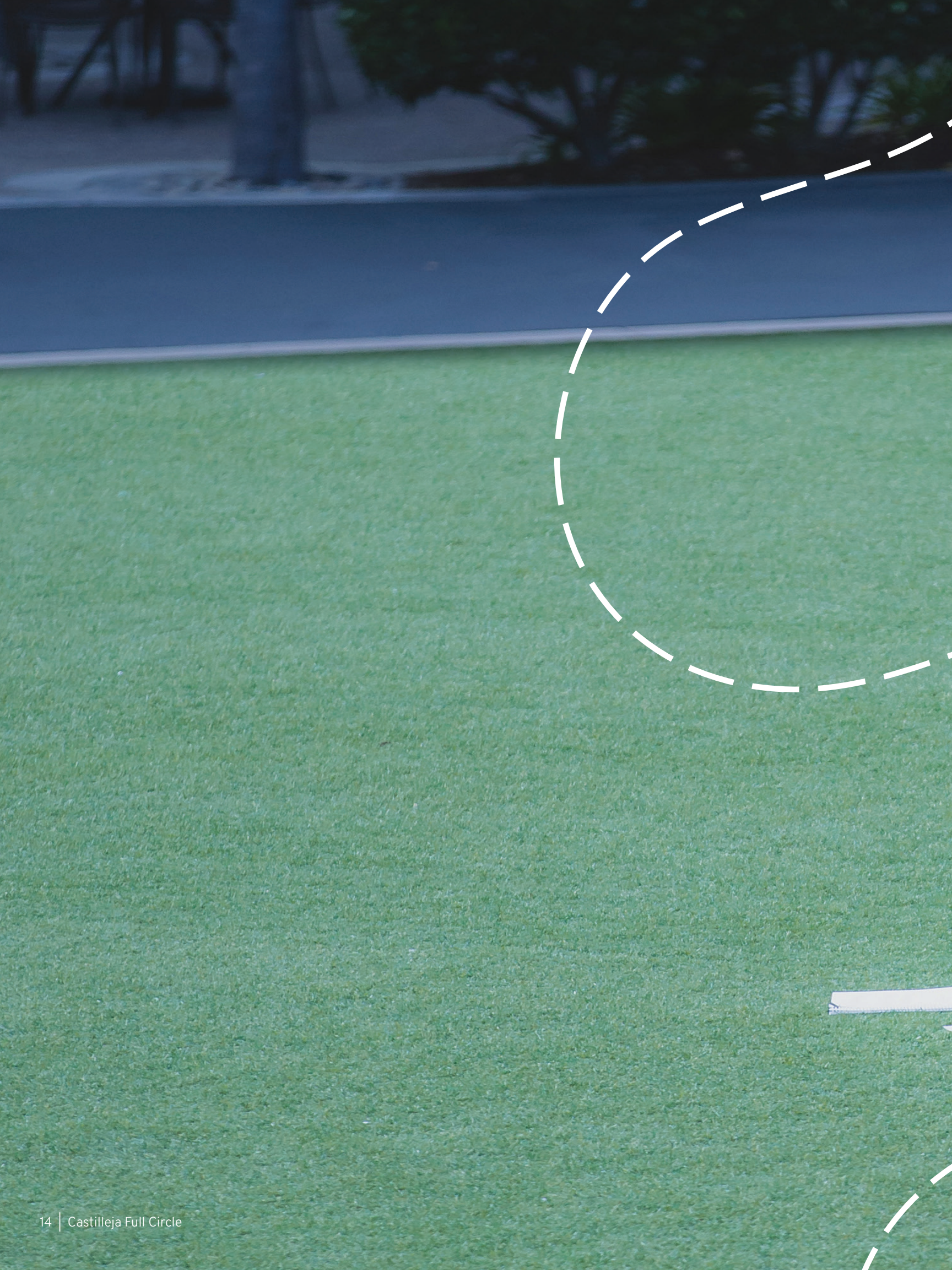




## *Nothing Art-ificial* AI FROM A CREATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Throughout Global Week 2019, speakers, artists, and panelists shared their knowledge and experience, conveying the tremendous opportunities for AI and Machine Learning to change the world while also cautioning about the biases caused by lack of diversity in both the underlying data and people designing the algorithms. Students spent the week exploring the issue in depth by grade level—writing poems, creating art, and ultimately exploring how they can use “AI for Good,” today and in the future.







YOU  
ARE  
HERE





# The History of the 5Cs



WRITTEN BY CASTILLEJA HISTORIAN HEATHER PANG '84<sup>HA</sup>

**IT BEGAN WITH A PIN.** On the first day of school each year, Founder and Head of School **Mary Lockey** spoke to students about Castilleja traditions and history. She spoke of the school pin, the one we still give to students today. Miss Lockey explained the C on the pin this way:

*“On the day when the first pins came—[we decided] that the C on the Castilleja pins should stand for more than just the word “Castilleja.” Early in school history, we tried to see what five things the C on the pin could stand for and incidentally what five things Castilleja girls could stand for.”*

She followed this explanation with lists of “splendid” words that start with C. The list did not stay the same year to year, and it often included more than five words. It always ended with Character.

In the 1940s and 1950s, Head of School **Margarita Espinosa** continued to explain the splendid Cs with a variety of words. For example, at a pin ceremony in the 1950s, Miss Espinosa said of the pins, “It is the great desire of Castilleja that its girls may always have pride in their school and may feel that at all times they hold its honor in their hands. So with this little ceremony we pin on the school insignia as a symbol of what we wish Castilleja to stand for, Courtesy, Charity, Self-Control, Moral Courage, Conscience, and fine womanly Character.”

As the school grew, this tradition of changing 5Cs became less flexible, and it was during the 1960s that today’s 5Cs became codified in admission viewbooks and Founder’s Day speeches. Since the time of Miss Espinosa’s headship, the 5Cs have not changed, and suggestions of additional or alternate Cs have been humorous or creative, but not serious attempts to change—as if Miss Lockey had carved them in stone in 1907. In fact, they evolved over time, and settled into a fixed form as an homage to our founder and as a set of guiding principles.

**Mary Lockey would be proud of the creativity and innovation Castilleja shows today.** She might be surprised that we have not continued to reconsider the words that embody the character of a Castilleja student. She in fact recognized the dynamic nature of a school community by reimagining the Cs every year.

“My favorite C is Courage because I feel that Castilleja is known for empowering women to better their education, and it takes courage to know that you are good enough and strong enough to allow yourself to do great things.”

— STACY ABONCE '21

## CONSIDER THESE Cs:

### MARY LOCKEY’S OTHER Cs

Consideration  
Cooperation  
Cheerfulness  
Clothes (for proper occasions)  
Control (of self)  
Citizenship  
Carefulness in Speech  
Concentration

### 21ST CENTURY ADDITIONS?

Confidence  
Compassion  
Caring  
Collaboration  
Community  
Creativity  
Civility  
Citizenship  
Civic-Mindedness





GLOBAL WEEK GUEST JOY BUOLAMWINI STANDS WITH MEMBERS OF CASTILLEJA'S BLACK STUDENT UNION

"Sometimes the affinity group is a safe place to have difficult conversations, and sometimes it's just a place where all the jokes make sense."

— TEVAH GEVELBER '20

## Someone Like Me

STUDENT-FOUNDED IN 2017, AFFINITY GROUPS GIVE STUDENTS A PLACE TO CALL THEIR OWN

Castilleja was founded as an affinity group, a place where girls became stronger and more confident by being with other girls. Over 100 years later, a Castilleja girl took that perspective to the Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC) and in 2016, joined a different affinity group. Sofia Khu '18 felt immediately at ease when she met up with Southeast Asian-identifying students. "I had never been in a place where everyone looked like me, where people had similar experiences. I felt understood in ways I had never experienced before. It became a really powerful space."

After returning to school, Sofia reflected, "I felt lonely for that space. I wanted to recreate it, not just for myself but for other people, too." She checked with her friends and found many of them were also interested in starting affinity groups on campus. And so, Sofia began working closely with Stacey Kertsman, Dean of Equity Education and Social Impact.

Only two years later, there are ten affinity groups at Castilleja with over 100 students participating. The groups, proposed by student leaders, encourage interaction among people

who claim membership to a community based on specific personal identifiers. This allows people who share an identity that is often the minority to spend time as the majority, which becomes a very powerful and affirming experience. Brenda Villa, the Equity Education Coordinator, is the ACE Center advisor for student leaders. The ACE Center also serves as a resource for parents and guardians interested in creating affinity groups.

Ms. Villa, Ms. Kertsman and Sofia all share the same hope for affinity groups as they continue to develop and grow at Castilleja. As Sofia imagined, "It would be great to see a culture of intersection. Groups could work together to host activities for the whole school, developing allies and deepening awareness of the interconnectedness of different identities. Ultimately, it comes down to the idea that having the space to look inward can give you the strength to reach outward in new, often more meaningful ways."

To learn more about affinity groups, please email Brenda Villa at [bvilla@castilleja.org](mailto:bvilla@castilleja.org).

"Having affinity groups is really important because they allow your culture to be acknowledged and give you the opportunity to share integral parts of your life with your classmates."

— REBECCA MAK '19

### AFFINITY GROUPS 2018-19

Women of Color  
Latinx  
Filipinx  
Christian  
Chinese+  
Black Student Union  
Jewish Student Association  
Mixed Asian Race Students  
Southeast Asian  
Questioning, Queer, and Here!



# Support Report

## MANY VOICES FOR MANY QUESTIONS

Social and Emotional Learning is woven into every class at Castilleja, but there are also dedicated times and spaces where skills that support student wellness are overtly taught through conversation, role-playing, reflection, and reassurance.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISORIES

“In Middle School Advisory students learn more about themselves—are they an introvert? An extrovert? An ambivert? What do they need to do to relax, recharge, and rejuvenate? By knowing themselves, students learn what they need to thrive.”

TIFFANY  
CRIST-STUDLEY  
Faculty Member,  
Science, Dean of  
Middle School Life



### UPPER SCHOOL ADVISORIES

“In Upper School Advisory, students have time to build deeper connections with classmates. In addition, they practice strategies for having difficult conversations, managing stress, building resilience, and maintaining a positive and a growth mindset.”

HELEN SHANKS<sup>HA</sup>  
Faculty Member,  
Visual & Performing  
Arts, Junior Class Dean



### STUDENT WELLNESS

“In all our work, we focus on what it means to be female in our culture and that pleasing others should not overtake what is right for an individual’s needs. Whenever a student prioritizes her need for balance, we see that as a victory!”

TERESE BRENNAN-  
MARQUEZ  
Director of Counseling  
and Student Wellness



### FITNESS & WELLNESS

“In Wellness, the students examine what makes some life skills hard, like being vulnerable, creating sustainable habits, being open-minded. We discuss the value of building authenticity starting now so they embrace their teenage years as real and authentic, not just transactional years for a greater experience elsewhere.”

LEA PENCE  
Faculty Member,  
Fitness and Wellness



### PEER ADVISORS

“Freshmen have Peer Advisors (PAs), near peers they can look up to. When students apply to become PAs, we often read touching reflections about the role their PAs played in helping them during their freshman year.”

KIM BAGNOLA<sup>HA</sup>  
Faculty Member,  
Mathematics,  
Dean of Upper School  
Student Life





# 20 Questions with Andy Lichtblau

Get to know Andy Lichtblau, Castilleja's Learning Specialist and Head Coach for Varsity Soccer.



**1 Why Castilleja?** I wanted to return to direct work with students and families, and the community and educational values at Castilleja really align with my own. I was also excited for the challenge of building something new in an established school.

**2 Biggest difference between Castilleja and other schools?** Castilleja's program focuses on the whole student with intention and emphasis on social and emotional learning. The school culture offers intellectual curiosity and compassion, and that's the kind of setting where teachers and students succeed.

**3 Anything the same?** Schools everywhere are trying to offer a broader range of assessment tools—not just tests.

**4 Typical day?** No such thing. Every day is different, which is part of what I love about my job. I'm always working with students and teachers in one way or

another, but there's a lot of variety and flexibility.

**5 Favorite free time pastime?** Soccer, going to the gym, racquet sports, running, cooking. This makes it sounds like I have a lot of free time, but I'm pretty busy with my two young daughters.

**6 What's the last book you read?** *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio.

**7 Would you recommend it?** Absolutely. A few sixth graders recommended it to me, and I read it overnight. I love reading Young Adult books because they keep the student perspective fresh in my mind, and I can talk with students about reading. Also, *Wonder* is just a really good book with different points of view and excellent lessons about friendship.

**8 What perspective do you bring to Castilleja?** I see the sometimes-hidden strengths of diverse learners.

"I had influential teachers who helped me as a student with a learning difference, and they really shaped my thinking about my future. I'm also driven by the social justice questions in education—removing barriers, challenging assumptions, and advocating for different types of learners."  
— ANDY LICHTBLAU

**9 What do you appreciate about Castilleja?** The student culture: hard-working, passionate, compassionate, diverse, community-minded.

**10 Personal learning style?** Deep thinker. I prefer exploring my thoughts internally over discussing my ideas out loud.

**11 Favorite organizational strategy?** I have a lot of favorites, so I'll explain my newest one: matching my activities to my mental alertness patterns (peak: analytical and decision-making in the mornings; trough: emailing and other administrative tasks; recovery: taking restorative breaks).

**12 Who is your hero?** My mom. She was my moral and ethical compass. Even though she passed away ten years ago, I still ask myself what she would do or want me to do when I have to make a tough decision.

**13 What are you most proud of?** My wife and two daughters. On a daily basis, they inspire me, make me happy, expand my perspective, ground me, and make me feel thankful.

**14 What made you start coaching?** Love of the sport and a different way to teach life lessons.

**15 What do you enjoy most about it?** The range of emotions experienced by the girls and myself, and the camaraderie of competition.

**16 Thoughts on losing?** It's when we learn just how strong and resilient we are.

**17 Thoughts on thriving?** Our ability to thrive is malleable. Taking the time to monitor and reflect on our well-being and adjust accordingly is a critical life-skill. We have to take care of ourselves and recognize when to change course.

**18 Future plans?** Raise a family, read, travel, and eat.

**19 What do you hope to accomplish next at Castilleja?** Castilleja already values the importance of cognitive diversity—and how it strengthens a community. I'd like to further support that culture and continue to broaden the faculty's ability to help students realize their true potential in the classroom.

**20 Favorite Castilleja lunch?** Noodle bar.



# Speaking from the Art

**ANGÉLICA ORTIZ ANGUIANO '11** FOUND HER VOICE IN **DEBORAH TRILLING'S<sup>HA</sup>** ART ROOM—AND NOW SHE'S HELPING YOUNG ARTISTS FIND THEIRS

"You're telling a story about yourself, so think about what you want to say," **Angélica Ortiz Anguiano '11** reminds a fourth grader who's working on a self-portrait in her art class. He immediately begins sketching a frame of interlocking rectangles. As his neighbor leans over to inspect, the boy explains, "Legos." The neighbor nods knowingly.

**Some students stand while they paint, a few hum, most chat quietly.** Then at one table, five students work in silence. "I keep them together," Angélica explains. "They don't want to talk yet. They just want to draw."

**Angélica understands.** When she arrived at Castilleja, she was just as quiet. Although she grew up only a few miles from campus in East Palo Alto, she'd never heard of Castilleja until her fourth-grade teacher helped her apply. "I was coming from a really different kind of school, and art and Spanish, which I spoke at home, were the only classes where I felt at ease. In the beginning, I even pretended I hadn't finished assignments to avoid talking."

Seeing Angélica move so easily around her classroom now, it's hard to imagine her that guarded. She says she owes this transformation to Castilleja—and to one teacher, in particular: **Deborah Trilling<sup>HA</sup>**. "Ms. Trilling<sup>HA</sup> helped me find my voice in artwork, and that helped me trust my speaking voice. Her art room is where I first felt true confidence. Then with the support of all my teachers, I turned that outward and became confident in other classes too."

**In college, as Angélica explored other disciplines, art remained central to her life.** "Finding a passion that gave me so much strength at a young age helped me make decisions that were right for me later." Despite her family's concerns about whether it was practical, Angélica majored in art, and when she became an assistant for one of her professors, she discovered her life's other guiding passion, teaching.

"My Castilleja teachers shaped me as a teacher," she says. "They were extremely observant about who we were as learners and people. They asked the questions we needed to think about, encouraged us to follow our own leads, and knew to push us at just the right time."



**"Ms. Trilling<sup>HA</sup> helped me find my voice in artwork, and that helped me trust my speaking voice."**

They also taught me how to reach students who don't naturally gravitate to art."

The fourth graders keep working on their self-portraits, light pencil lines dividing their faces with the eyes and nose and mouth on different levels. "Ms. Trilling<sup>HA</sup> first taught me these portrait proportions," Angélica says.

**Ms. Trilling<sup>HA</sup> learned them from another teacher,** who learned them from another teacher going back until someone learned them from DaVinci.

**Gifted teachers reach back in time,** and Angélica proves that they reach forward as well. "I want to help my students find their voices and trust themselves," she says. "I know they can."



# Brave Art

WITH DEBORAH TRILLING<sup>HA</sup>

Drawing and Painting, Advanced Visual Art, AP Studio Art

"In my classes I try to help students to get their hands, heads, and hearts to work in unison. To do this, students' fears and negative judgements are left at the door.

**To learn to draw is to learn to see, and that kind of vision requires giving up boundaries.**

But to do so can be intimidating and even, for some, produce anxiety. Therefore, student growth will only happen in an environment of total trust. Students must trust themselves, one another, the objects in the room, and me. The path to achievement in my class is twofold: learning the academic skills to communicate—learning to draw—but also recognizing that one has a unique voice that must be accessed in order to speak the languages of art."



**TOP BILLING FOR TRILLING** "Ms. Trilling has encouraged me and helped me learn and grow and explore art in a way that doesn't make it just a hobby but more of a passion. I use art to relieve stress and as a creative outlet, but without Ms. Trilling, my art wouldn't be very interesting to look at or fun to make. I don't just enjoy doing art now, I'm also proud of my art." – KAYLA DRAZAN '20

**TAKE NOTE** "Journal pages are places to explore and test ideas; they are not precious or final. Students journal to access their own creative process and set their own agenda for their unique artistic journey." – DEBORAH TRILLING<sup>HA</sup>



A page from the journal of Deborah Trilling<sup>HA</sup>





FACE TO FACE

(Top Left) Portrait by Francesca DiBona '19

(Top Right) Self by Naira Mirza '19

(Bottom) Simone in Blue by Scarlett Akeley '19



# Building Confidence

SEÑOR JEFF MAYFIELD, SPANISH TEACHER, BRINGS HIS OWN BRAND OF “SALSA ESPECIAL” TO THE CLASSROOM, THE COURT, THE STAGE, AND MORE.

When a student walks in,” Jeff Mayfield explains, “if she says, ‘Hello,’ I know she’s ready to learn. If she doesn’t, I know I need to help her get there.”

It seems like a simple binary system: hello = ready to learn, no hello = not quite ready yet.

On a recent Friday morning, we collected data. Thirteen girls entered Room 205 between 10:09 and 10:15am. Only three said, “Hello.” These findings seem discouraging until we remember that Mr. Mayfield teaches Spanish. The other ten said, “Hola.” It’s not binary; it’s bilingual. Of course, there’s more than one way to say, “Hello,” in Mr. Mayfield’s world.

**THIS GIVES US A NEW QUESTION TO STUDY:** What does Mr. Mayfield do to help all his students arrive ready to learn?

Many educational researchers—with more formalized methods than our own—are testing the relationship between compassion and learning, specifically whether students learn better from teachers they care about, teachers who share different sides of themselves in other realms—like advising and coaching. Could that be at work here?

**MAN WITH MANY HATS.** Mr. Mayfield is best known as a Spanish teacher, but he also coaches Upper School varsity volleyball, is a ninth-grade advisor, chaperoned Global Investigators trips, and advises the Black Student Union. In these roles, Mr. Mayfield engages earnestly, determined to have an impact. His reach is wide, and his voice—literally—is heard by all when he performs in the Jackson Thrive, the staff acapella group. If anyone can prove that teachers who share themselves in different realms help their students learn more effectively, it’s Mr. Mayfield.



But at the end of this data collection session, Mr. Mayfield mentions a detail that may cast doubt on our conclusion:

**“No matter what I’m doing—teaching or coaching or advising—I’m always working on the same thing. I want the girls to recognize their own talents and believe in their own potential for success before it happens.”**

So is he really showing his students different sides of himself, or is he simply being the same reassuring person over and over until his students develop the crucial self-confidence to feel ready for learning?

**THE FATHER FACTOR.** Then he offers something that throws every good research team into a tailspin, personal experience: “Being a dad to a daughter has really changed my mindset as a teacher; it has made me more committed to helping all the daughters.”

## THRIVE MOMENT

“Professional development is one of the many things at Castilleja that I do here to help me thrive.

Going to the **People of Color Conference** was transformative.

It gave me a new sense of commitment and made me want to help support all students of color at Castilleja. We don’t all have the same lives, but we still understand each other.

That affinity has power.”

— JEFF MAYFIELD

**Maybe the oldest theory about good teaching**, the one where the teacher cares about the students so the students learn more effectively, could be true in the end.

As we review our results and try to choose which theory explains Mr. Mayfield’s success, we arrive at something often said at Castilleja, “Yes, and.”





## HIGH MAINTENANCE

# The Magic Makers

OUR MAINTENANCE STAFF IS SOLID GOLD

**BEHIND THE MAGIC.** “We take care of the entire campus from a physical standpoint: the buildings, grounds, landscape, security, repairs, cleanliness, traffic, and transportation,” says **Dan Chapman<sup>HA</sup>**, Head of the Maintenance Department. Always on the move and with smiles on their faces, Dan and his team of ten also infuse themselves in campus life in different ways. **Vince Dailey<sup>HA</sup>** coaches three seasons a year. **Evan McClain** coaches softball and **Mace McGinn** coaches basketball. **Kenny Cox** likes to get involved by announcing at basketball games.

A self-proclaimed tinkerer who can fix pretty much anything on campus, Dan is a coach of a different nature. “I’m training these younger guys on how to fix things. I let them go out there and I tell them to call me when they get stuck, and I’ll walk them through it.”

Family runs deep in this department. Dan’s son **Brandon Chapman** joined this year, as did

**Daniel Puga**, whose father **Arturo Puga<sup>HA</sup>** retired last year. Daniel’s uncle, **Paulo Puga<sup>HA</sup>**, has been at Castilleja for more than twenty years. Evan’s sister **Megan McClain ’10** is an alumna, as is **Adriana Valdivias ’10**, the niece of both **Aurora Chavez<sup>HA</sup>** and **Teodora Valdivias Soto**. **Teodora** and **Teresa Martinez** are the newest members of the Maintenance Team.

**“This campus works so well because we have great people. If someone is in need, people just come out of the woodwork to help.”**

— DAN CHAPMAN<sup>HA</sup>

Vince calls through on the walkie-talkie about a delivery, and Dan asks, “Kenny, you got it?” just as Evan pipes in saying he will flag in the delivery truck. Dan smiles and says, “Alright guys, chatterboxes,” with a chuckle.

### MAINTENANCE STAFF

Dan Chapman<sup>HA</sup>  
Brandon Chapman  
Aurora Chavez<sup>HA</sup>  
Kenny Cox  
Vince Dailey<sup>HA</sup>  
Teresa Martinez  
Evan McClain  
Mace McGinn  
Daniel Puga  
Paulo Puga<sup>HA</sup>  
Teodora Valdivias Soto



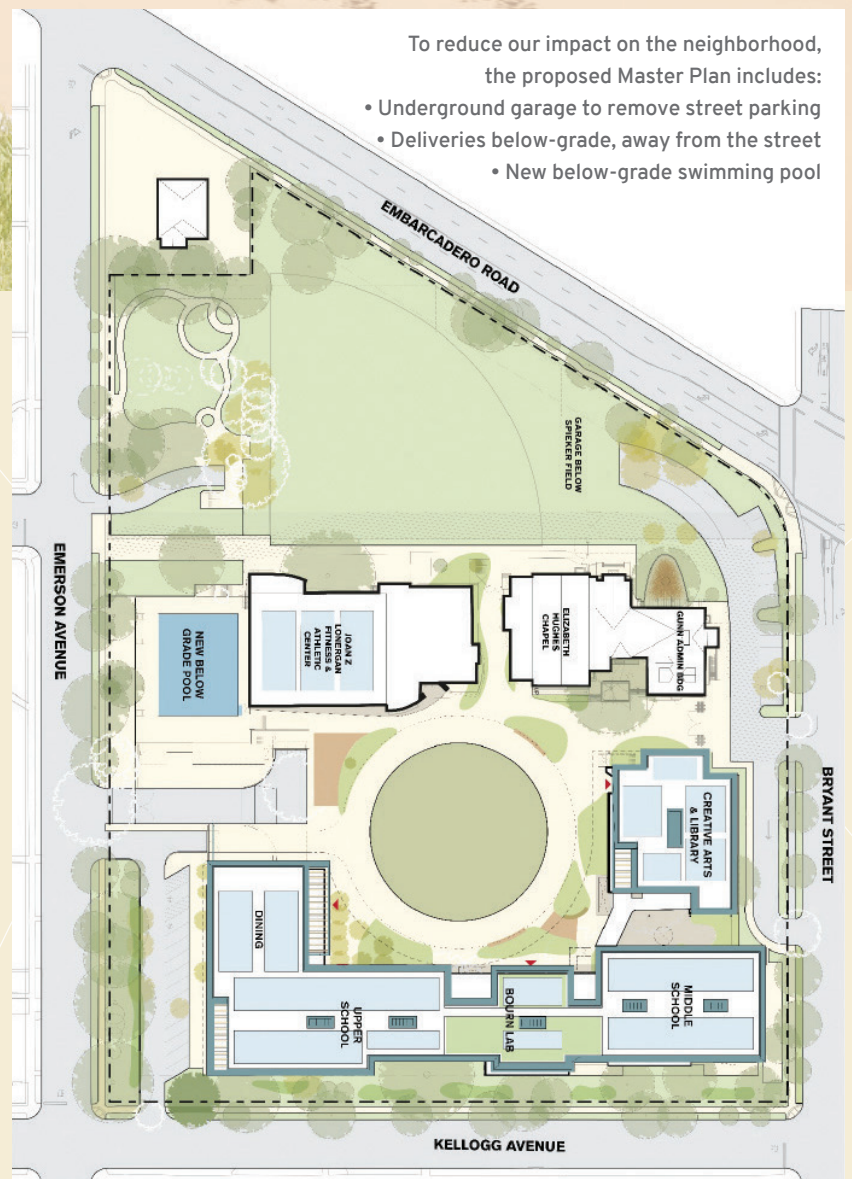
# Castilleja Reimagined

THE CIRCLE REMAINS THE SOUL OF OUR CAMPUS IN OUR PROPOSED NEW MASTER PLAN



## Architects with WRNS Studio are guided by a vision for:

- Vibrant spaces that inspire **creativity**, **collaboration**, and a **sense of curiosity**
- A single building that enables better **student-adult connections** with more opportunity for interdisciplinary work
- Flexible learning spaces that support the **innovative teaching** that is the hallmark of a Castilleja education
- A distinct **Middle School** with its own identity while preserving engaged interaction with Upper School students
- An **Upper School** hub that provides a sense of place and opportunities for informal gatherings
- An exciting **intersection of light**, landscaping, controlled acoustics, and superb air quality that **promotes health** while delivering an improved teaching and learning environment
- A campus that teaches **sustainability** through responsible, visible choices in building materials and systems
- Strong connection between indoor and **outdoor spaces** that enhance instructional options



To reduce our impact on the neighborhood, the proposed Master Plan includes:

- Underground garage to remove street parking
- Deliveries below-grade, away from the street
- New below-grade swimming pool





SAFETY FIRST. **Jessie Surface** cares for student athlete **Anna DeVitis '20** to ensure she's ready for the next game.

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PUT ME IN, COACH

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# Mind and Body

JESSIE SURFACE, DIRECTOR OF SPORTS PERFORMANCE, HELPS KEEP THINGS POSITIVE

“Being able to connect with the girls on multiple levels as I support them in overcoming injuries hits home for me,” explains **Jessie Surface**, Director of Sports Performance, Head Athletic Trainer, and Director of Health Services. Equal parts teacher, coach, and healer, Ms. Surface has her own history of sports injuries and rehabilitation, so she knows how important it is to create a warm, welcoming space—physically and emotionally—for the girls while they recover and regain strength.

**COME ON IN.** Walking into the sports performance facility after 2:30 pm, you’ll often find Ms. Surface engaged with athletes and non-athletes alike. Her positive demeanor makes it easy for the girls to unwind after the school day while she guides them through rehabilitation and/or strength training exercises plans. “I want their time with me to be fun, even if they are working through an injury or an intense workout. I try to create an environment

they look forward to coming to, and can let go of everything else on their minds.”

Since Ms. Surface joined Castilleja eight years ago, she has built a robust sports performance program, even successfully encouraging coaches to integrate strength, prehabilitation, and mobility exercises into practices. Her impact also extends beyond coaches and student-athletes.

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**“There’s some excitement around the sports performance program. I get kids coming in who realize strength and conditioning can be helpful for them, not just in their sport, but in life. They often ask me how to improve in different areas.”**

— JESSIE SURFACE

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**CAN-DO ATTITUDE.** Ms. Surface employs a variety of mental imagery and breathing techniques with the girls. “We focus a lot on the things that they CAN do, because often times they unilaterally focus on their injuries or what they can’t do,” she explains in a gentle tone. “I try to shift their mindset to think about ways in which they can make positive strides, like strengthening another body part, or finding a different activity to do in the meantime.”

With Ms. Surface’s supportive guidance in rehabilitation, the girls begin by setting and meeting small goals. As their confidence grows in the sports performance facility, it starts to spread to other parts of their lives. “I really enjoy seeing them reach their potential, whether that is returning to play after an injury, setting a new personal record in the weight room, finishing the season better than they started, or making a run in the playoffs. Their success makes me happy!”



**LATER GATOR.** At Castilleja, happy smiles and camaraderie match the intensity of competition—and there is always a supportive, skilled, and committed coach standing by with strategic advice or a high-five.



In 2018, the Castilleja Athletic department released a new, official “C” and Gator mascot to strengthen their presence in competition and to build cohesion across sports and with the school itself.





OFF BROADWAY

# BEAUTY & THE BEAST



MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL — BEAUTY AND THE BEAST



# Très Bien Ensemble

**ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE** An integral part of the Castilleja experience, the Performing Arts enrich the cultural life of our community. With numerous opportunities to develop abilities and pursue passions, students tirelessly work together to bring their best collective work to the stage. With a deep commitment to each production, they learn to be creators, collaborators, leaders, and risk takers.



ANNUAL DANCE SHOW — ARTS WITH A HEART



MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA WINTER CONCERT



6TH GRADE CHORAL CLASS WINTER CONCERT



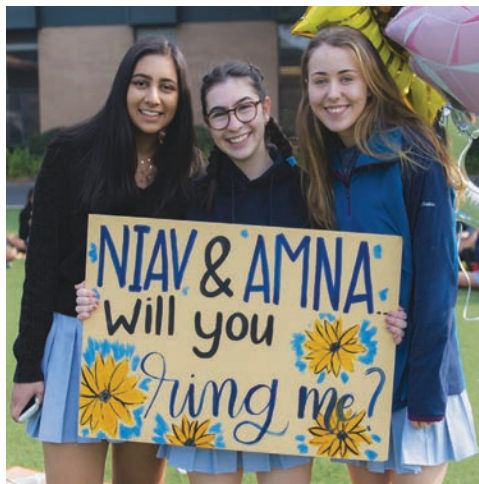
VISUAL PERFORMING ARTS WINTER ASSEMBLY



UPPER SCHOOL PLAY — ALMOST, MAINE



## HOW WE THRIVE





JOIN US ONLINE:



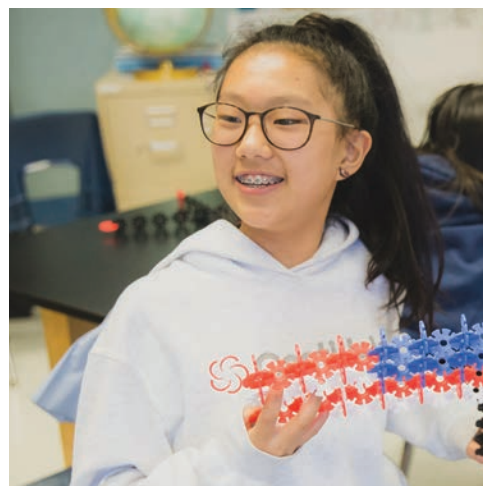
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THE CLASS OF 2019

*The Next Wanderers*

**THE RED CARPET** Seniors, draped in red, race across the Circle to greet the freshman class at the annual Tie Ceremony.

**DRIVE BY**

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL – SENIORS DRIVE THE CIRCLE



**PEOPLE FIRST** “Leadership means listening to my peers, constantly taking action to advocate for others, and prioritizing the community. It is the ability to open oneself up to all different perspectives and to find ways to bring students closer to one another. Leadership also involves creating a safe space in which every person is encouraged to be who they really are.” **THRIVE MOMENT** “Given the immense resources that Castilleja offers, thriving is using the opportunities to pursue all my interests in-depth rather than choosing among them.”

— ALYSSA SALES '19, ASB PRESIDENT

**SOARING**

The scarlet leaf flies,  
scratching against  
the pavement  
dry, crisp, and ready.

JAS GANEV '19



**TAKES THE CAKE** Birthday by RIONA YOSHIDA '19



the dangers of taking people places  
if you bring them to your favorite places  
show them the nooks and crannies  
unveil the hidden gems, the vulnerable cracks  
of your world  
they will become a part of those places  
long after they're gone  
their smell, their smile will linger  
pervading endlessly into what was once yours  
**MAKEE ANDERSON '19**



**CONFI-DANCE** Senior Executive Producers Anika Adzich and Juliana St Goar turned Arts with a Heart into an invitation to JUST BE YOU. The show, directed by Georgi Shea<sup>HA</sup>, benefited *The Body Positive*.



**SIGNED & SEALED** Antarah Chopra will attend Grinnell for Soccer, Claire Pisani will attend Brown for Water Polo, Niki Srivastava will attend Williams for squash, and Taylor DeGroff will play lacrosse at Princeton.



**KICKIN' IT** The Castilleja soccer team celebrates senior Kate Sands.

#### TABLE TALK

"Although it may seem small in the grand scheme of things, sitting down for dinner each night alongside my family was my priority....Meals with my family became synonymous with my comfort as they lay the opportunity for me to take a breath away from homework and engage in heated debates with my brothers about who discovered a song first or if hot dogs are in fact sandwiches."

— SOLINE BOUSSARD '19, SENIOR SPEECH EXCERPT



**COURT SIDE** Senior Night celebrates graduating tennis players Soline Boussard, Taylor DeGroff, Priya Bhanot, Jacqueline Hillman, and Sophia Nesamoney.



**RUN ALONG** The Castilleja track team celebrates seniors Angie Wang, Lauren Traum, Riona Yoshida, and Lia Spencer.





# Postcards from the Edge

EXPLORING THE GAP YEAR OPTION

## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Gap years are becoming an increasingly popular choice for Castilleja graduates. Approximately 10% of each senior class opts for a year or semester break before college—to work, travel, volunteer—and it’s often a combination of these.

According to **Gabi McColgan, Director of College Counseling:**

“A gap year or semester is an outstanding opportunity for students to hit pause on the traditional academic schedule and design how they spend their time before heading to college. For some students, their gap is the first time they have felt the freedom to do what they *want* to do rather than what they believe they *should* do. Whether working full time, traveling, or engaging in focused service work, Castilleja gappers arrive at college more excited to begin college studies, more mature and ready to live independently, more tuned in to what they value, and with a better sense of who they want to be in the world.”

**Go ahead, pack your bags like the recent alumnae on the following page, and start your journey!**

**To: Castilleja**

**1310 Bryant Street**

**Palo Alto, CA**

**94301**





**ARUSHI GUPTA '18** and **PAULINE BROMBERG '18** working with RAICES at the US-Mexico border in San Antonio, Texas.



**KATIE JO SHUMAN '17**

I took a gap year to experience a challenge that lay outside the academic realm, and to simply relax and partake in the various things I loved. My year started with a loose plan to work at Anthropologie and stay close to home. Working in retail for almost 8 months gave me the opportunity to expand my social skills and meet amazing mentors and friends, all while reinvigorating my passion for academia. I took two family vacations with my parents, filled with quality time, and in April, stayed with my godmother in Cleveland, volunteering at the food bank where she works. My gap year challenged me to fill extensive periods of time with meaningful opportunities and I learned to feel proud of taking the path less traveled in the name of health and self-care. When I walked into Kenyon this past August, I was far more confident, resilient, and prepared for college than I would've been the previous fall. Between Castilleja and my real world experiences, I have built a robust set of skills that enable me to thrive in the face of difficulty and unfamiliarity, something I will be forever grateful for.



### **ARUSHI GUPTA '18**

In the fall, I lived in a small town in Florida for three months to intern for a congressional campaign. Then, I spent two months living at home and working. In January, **Pauline Bromberg '18** and I went to San Antonio for a month to volunteer for an immigrants' rights nonprofit. For the next six weeks, we'll be backpacking through Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia. I'm going to end my year with three months in Shanghai, working and trying to improve my Mandarin. I've attached a photo of me and Pauline with the nonprofit staff in San Antonio. <<<

### **PAULINE BROMBERG '18**

I initially spent five months working multiple jobs to fund my gap year activities. Then, I spent two months volunteering at the Mariposa Foundation in the Dominican Republic, where I taught martial arts and piano. With **Arushi Gupta '18** and **Riya Berry '18**, I spent a month at the US-Mexico border volunteering with RAICES, a non-profit providing free legal services to immigrants. I collected data from asylum-seeking families recently released from detention, and gave "Know Your Rights" presentations to families. It was an eye-opening experience on the American immigration system and the numerous obstacles put in front of families seeking asylum. Soon, Arushi and I will embark on a six-week backpacking trip throughout Southeast Asia. To top off my gap year, I will spend three months working in Paris, France, in retail. I could not be happier that I took a gap year.



### **VALERIE HAMMER '17**

In the fall of 2017, I worked as a restaurant hostess, saving up for the rest of the year. **Jenna Kotcher '17** and I then spent a month in Spain, hiking the Camino de Santiago! In January and February, I lived with a family in Strasbourg, France, as an *au pair*, taking care of four kids during the week and exploring the area on the weekends (putting my Casti French to good use!). In the spring, I interned with the Human Rights Foundation, and helped them prepare for and execute the 2018 Oslo Freedom Forum, a convention of global human rights activists. Summer found me in Yosemite where I worked as a camp counselor! I started college in fall 2018 with lots of treasured experiences. Above is a photo of me and Jenna at our final destination: Santiago de Compostela.

### **AURELIA (RAY RAY) BALKANSKI '18**

I spent the first half of my gap year traveling! Some of the places I went to include Bulgaria, Paris, and Antarctica. In Bulgaria, I taught English at my grandfather's school, in Paris I helped out at a jewelry shop during fashion week, and in Antarctica, I went skiing/snowboarding with my amazing mom. Photo at left. <<<



# The Alumnae Spirit



## ALUMNAE EVENT CALENDAR

### FALL 2019

#### REUNION WEEKEND

OCTOBER 11-12, 2019

Alumnae with graduation years ending with “4” or “9” please join us for your milestone year festivities.

#### CAPA EVENT

OCTOBER 22, 2019

Alumnae parents gather in Anita Seipp Art Gallery for art, wine, and conversation.

### WINTER 2020

#### YOUNG ALUMNAE BRUNCH

JANUARY 8, 2020

Recent alumnae are invited back to the Circle for a festive brunch.

#### ALUMNAE FAMILY VALENTINE’S PARTY

FEBRUARY 8, 2020

Join us for Valentine activities including crafts and games. A perfect event for children and grandchildren!

### SPRING 2020

#### VIEW360

APRIL 18, 2020

Be inspired by world-renowned speakers and entertainment at Castilleja’s premiere fundraising event.  
[castilleja.org/view360](http://castilleja.org/view360)

#### COMMENCEMENT

JUNE 6, 2020

Celebrate the graduating Class of 2020 on the Circle.

### ONGOING

#### REGIONAL GATHERINGS

Hosted annually in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, NYC, Palo Alto, San Francisco, and Washington DC.

#### ALUMNAE PANELS

Do you have an interesting career or life story to share with fellow alumnae and current students?  
[alumnae@castilleja.org](mailto:alumnae@castilleja.org)

#### FIRST FRIDAY LUNCHES

Join us in the Dining Room:  
September 6, 2019  
November 1, 2019  
February 7, 2020



(Left to Right) Christina Jansen '13, Orelia Merchant Camara '88, Dana Abbo '19, Katie Wang '08, and Laura Miller '98



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## PIVOT POINTS

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# Chasing Happy

Reunion Weekend 2018 opened with a thought-provoking and inspiring Alumnae Panel, moderated by Dana Abbo '19. Four panelists addressed alumnae from the classes of 1961 to 2013, as well as Upper School students. The conversation quickly moved into an honest and open discussion about how the panelists navigated non-traditional paths in their quest for personal fulfillment. Here's a snippet of what they shared.

Over the last several years, Christina Jansen '13 has worked on multiple political campaigns in various states. She advised others to follow their North Star, even when it means breaking from convention. Katie Wang '08 emphasized that nothing is stronger than a Castilleja girl's intuition, as she described leaving the corporate world to run marketing at Barry's Bootcamp. Laura Miller '98 encouraged students to live a fulfilled life, but also to be humble and know when it's time to hustle. Recently appointed Lieutenant Colonel in the Army, Laura exemplifies these virtues every day. Orelia Merchant Camara '88 emphasized the value of investing time in developing strong relationships. As Executive Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, this sage piece of advice has served her well on her journey.

Rather than comparing her own path to others', each alumna focused on figuring out who she wanted to be—and pursuing that wholeheartedly. The panel encouraged students to take time to learn about and advocate for themselves, and to 'chase their happy.' To these alumnae, happiness is living a proud life, one that makes them feel good about looking in the mirror each day.

**"The alumnae panel was incredibly inspiring. They all emphasized the importance of keeping an open mind and taking advantage of a wide variety of opportunities, even if they require taking a risk. None of them gave up in the face of challenges in their careers or personal lives, and I am so grateful for their openness and the excellent advice they imparted; I will definitely take their wisdom with me in college and beyond."**

— DANA ABBO '19



# Alumnae Events 2018-2019

**YOUNG ALUMNAE BRUNCH** Recent graduates reconnect for this annual tradition.



**CAPA FALL GATHERING** The Castilleja Alumnae Parent Association enjoyed art and wine in the Anita Seipp Art Gallery.



**REGIONAL GATHERINGS** take place annually in a city near you. Photos below from (left to right) Southern California and Stanford.





**FIRST FRIDAY LUNCHES** (below) are informal opportunities to reconnect with Castilleja teachers and friends.



**YOUNG ALUMNAE PANEL** (right) Jane Larkins '12, Colleen O'Malley '14, Meredith Shell '14, Natasha Lilani '13, Natalie Occhipinti '14, Gaby Castro '13, and Carly Robison '14 returned to campus for a young alumnae panel series this past January. Sophomores heard a discussion on "College: Mythbusters Edition" while the junior class talked with alumnae working in their first job after college.



**ALUMNAE FAMILY VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY** Castilleja alumnae and their families visit for a morning of crafts, games, and fun.





# Reunion Weekend

## CELEBRATE “EIGHT”

Last October, we welcomed Castilleja alumnae from the **Classes of 1964–2013** back to the Circle for Reunion Weekend. Below are alumnae who attended from the graduating classes of **1968, 1988, 1998, and 2008**—and a special poem marking the event.



### *Reunion* BY KAYANNE GOLUB-SMITH '68

Castilleja Seniors of '68  
were gifted with a good education  
and promising future.

Fifty years later, we come full circle,  
reuniting as Seniors of another sort,  
called back to school by a future past.

I stand in The Circle, lost, confused,  
finding everything changed,  
unrecognizable.

After fifty years, we are here again,  
here, where we studied, learned,  
struggled, and lived.

Looking for memories,  
I search her face,  
never mind the grey hair,  
here we are.

With a shared remembrance,  
she flashes her smile,  
throws back her head, and laughs.  
Years fall away. Reunion.



Reunion Weekend was full of reconnecting and reminiscing with lots of activities and laughter. Congratulations to this year's Distinguished Alumna, **Leslie Cardozo Stafford '93**, and the **Class of 2008**—winners of the Castilleja Cup! **SAVE THE DATE** for next year's event **October 11-12, 2019** where we will celebrate alumnae with graduation years ending with "4" or "9."





## FRIENDS FOREVER

The Reunion Weekend 2018 celebration included an alumnae panel, garden luncheon at Lockey House, letterpress printing class, campus tours, and celebration dinner. On Saturday, alumnae enjoyed “Classes Without Quizzes,” featuring a workshop on journal writing with **Elyce Melmon<sup>HA</sup>** and hand-painting silk scarves with **Doris Mourad<sup>HA</sup>**.

Congratulations to everyone celebrating a reunion!  
Mark your calendar for this fall’s Reunion Weekend:  
October 11-12, 2019.





## CLASS NOTES

# We'd love to hear from you!

Help us stay in touch by sharing your new contact information and exciting updates on life, work, family, accomplishments, travel, hobbies, and more. Submit your Class Note (75 words or fewer) to appear in the next issue of *Full Circle Magazine* at: [castilleja.org/alumnae](http://castilleja.org/alumnae)

Questions? Ideas? Please contact:  
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## 1940s

**1945 Winifred Berry Lowell '45** recalls, "I was always called Winnie at Casti." She still keeps in contact with **Ann McNamara Gray** and **Audrey Hill McQuay**. She says, "I've been widowed for three years but am blessed with a lovely family of five children, ten grandchildren, and three great grands—the third one just born three months ago—such a delight. I live in West Vancouver, BC, spend summers at my beach house, am very active, still dance and have passed on my artistic abilities to my family—two professionals and two architects."

## 1950s

**1950 Patsy Chickering Fish '50** writes, "I'm a happy 86. I have just been to Rancho LA Puerta...so relaxing and fun." She had lunch this week with **Joan Terbell Knowles '52**, **Ellie Tilden Gardner '53**, and **Suzi King**, sister in law of **Celia King Cebrian**, who was her best friend in 8th and 9th grade. Now Patsy is enjoying painting, reading, yarn art, docenting at Octagon House in San Francisco, Bible studies at Menlo Church, and meeting and getting together with her dearest OLD friends.

**1954 B.J. Lockhart Cowie '54** says, "Following a granddaughter's wedding in Lake Tahoe last summer, my husband and I had the pleasure of sharing lunch with **Marcy Wheeler Elsbree** in Burlingame. She is delightful company, always fun to be with."



**1957 Sue Harris-Wilson '57** has exciting news: "My cousin came over and we traveled to magical Budapest on the Danube. Then to Vienna. A five room exhibition of Breugle's work at the Kunsthistorisches museum and a five hour Berlioz opera: Les Troyens. Fabulous. Unforgettable. Another 'medicinal delight': hosting here in Oxford two dozen former Pakistani students whom I taught over five years at Kinnaird College, Lahore in the sixties. Such gregarious and joyful gatherings take years off old age!"

## 1960s

**1962 Camille Gibbs Herrick '62** writes, "I'm still happily volunteering as a docent at the nearby Sedgwick Reserve. I'm frustrated with our country's lack of action on fighting climate change and concerned for the future. I am an active volunteer with the National Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, and other local environmental organizations. Aside from these concerns, we're happy and busy, and loving being grandparents."

**1964 The Class of 1964** enjoyed reminiscing at their non-reunion year reunion at Alumnae Day in October; the group included **Cindy Swanson Miller**, **Pat Hunter Gregory**, **Janey Mauel Edwards**, **Janet Mauel Cronk**, **Cary Golub Lurie**, **Casey Schaap Mackean**, and **Gail Wilson Zetter**, who says, "I think I remembered everyone—if I didn't, my apology—I'll leave myself out next time!"



**Bonnie Allen '64** is thrilled to announce the arrival of granddaughter Ada Michele, age 4 months, pictured here with Bonnie's son, Sky Kelsey.



**Cristina Lerche de Balestra '64** started the 2018 holiday with a Merry Christmas email to the class...followed by almost 20 of us responding. It was a wonderful way to share the holiday with classmates.

**Janet Mauel Cronk '64** and Rick are enjoying their grandchildren, ranging from day school to college. Cole is a sophomore at Chapman University, Molly is a senior at Acalanes High School, Christopher is a sophomore at the Athenian School, and Kinsley and Atlas attend Children's Day School in San Francisco.

**Jeffie Welsh Feakins '64** and Sam, Dan, Ellie and Ryan, and Toffie, Kevin, Clara and Will are a close family—remembering Nick and looking forward to happy memories in the future.

**Pat Hunter Gregory '64** and Tod have had many wonderful adventures recently, including a big trip to England in November. A brief visit to Carmel took them to Point Lobos. Tod says, "there is one person who deserves the lion's share of credit for taking care of everyone and helping make 2018 a good year for all of us. No surprise. Her name is Pat Hunter Gregory."

**Barbara MacCornack Leutwiler '64** and Robert sent a beautiful card with wonderful pictures and "Happy Everything Magic" on the front—the perfect holiday greeting.

**Cary Golub Lurie '64** sent the perfect poem, covering all the events—starting with the arrival of the latest grandchild Leah—and noting that between the Luries and Smiths there are six children, six spouses, and twelve grandchildren. Cary and Wayne did not stay put, including a southeastern tour, the Galapagos, Machu Picchu, Scandinavia and the Greek Isles in their adventures. "Oy to the World and Happy New Year!" she concluded.



**Ann Grinnell Lynn '64** wrote from Worcester, Vermont, where she is still working two days a week. She had spent a week at Ft. Benning, Georgia, where her first grandson Seth is an Army Captain and lives with his family. Anne got to hang out with her first great-grandson Avery—fun for her. Surrounded by snow and frozen ponds at the time of writing, in January, she is starting a three-week vacation in the Dominican Republic. That should warm her up!



## 1960s, continued

**Cindy Swanson Miller '64** and Buff are surrounded by a happy group of grandchildren: Tyler and Lilly (10), Meiko (8), and Ayumi (6). As it should be! (We never got a group picture—one child hid in the curtains, one went under the table, and the other two couldn't maintain their smiles and kept poking each other.)

**Ellen Curtis '64** and Wallace visited Trieste last November on a trip to Europe, where they celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. Charles Henry Murfit was born last January 2nd to Colin and Rachel, joining his big sister McKenna Sloane. Courtney is working with enjoyment at Apple, as is Cameron at Facebook. Ellen chaired the highly successful reunion for the Stanford GSB Class of 1973.

**Enid Hardcastle Nuisberger '64** and Geoffrey had a lovely Christmas back in Parsley Falls – everyone was there: Hilary and Felix and their partners, R.C. and his dog, and grandchildren Mamie Castilleja and Werner Castilleja, born to each of the twins and now six. Hilary may be expecting again but no one wanted to say anything in case it was...her new look. Enid decided to brush up on her French and named her new kitten "Poubelle" and later learned that it meant trash can.

**Michaele Roth Thunen '64** says, "What a year! I fell in my neighbor's driveway dislocating my ankle, and shattering all the bones connecting to my foot. A year before, I had signed up for a trip to Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. I was able to go, with the use of a cane, sometimes a wheelchair and an adorable, attentive and helpful Uzbek young man, who told everyone I was his Babushka. But, most of all, I have loved the re-connecting with classmates over this last year."

**Christy Hulden Westmoreland '64** sent news of her family: Daughter Lisa continues as Executive Editor at Ten Speed Press. Other daughter Lori completed her three-year zoological and aquatic medicine residency at NC State in July and has accepted an associate veterinarian position at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Christy attended the Southeastern Animal and Fiber Festival and attended classes in wet felting, needle felting, and tapestry weaving.

**Helene Chandler Williams '64** sends hugs from Oregon, where she is happily settled.

**Gail Wilson Zetter '64** says, "The Boston crew celebrated Christmas with us and the Belmont family came up after Christmas. Aside from the failure to get a group picture (see Cindy Miller's part) it was riotous, noisy, and so much fun. The holiday concluded with Nikolai's 10th birthday—the boys went to a skydiving simulation where great blasts shoot you up in the air. Happy New Year, Valentines, Easter, Passover—all of it—to '64!"

**1966 Catherine Mathews Conn '66** moved, after nearly 50 years spent in her husband's hometown in Tennessee and now lives full-time in their second home in Park City, Utah. She writes, "My husband is semi-retired, and I am still working in the travel business with a select group of clients. We are looking forward to more skiing, hiking and fly-fishing! In April, we will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. The time has passed so quickly!"



**1968 The Class of '68** rallied for their 50th Reunion during Castilleja's Alumnae Weekend held in October. Attending activities at the school and enjoying a Saturday lunch at the home of **Muff McLellan Alvarez '68**, we shared many fond memories and caught each other up on families, careers, and interests. At any given time over the two days of Alumnae Weekend, seventeen women from our class came from near and far.



**Muff McLellan Alvarez '68**, our gracious hostess for our Saturday lunch, is still teaching law students at Stanford.

**Dena Bouskos '68**, retired from her career in Human Resources, and **Laurie Thomsen Barnett '68**, still working in Special Ed, traveled from Southern California.

**Patty McCarthy Brady '68** has stayed local with a successful career in interior design.

**Nancy Brunner Grove '68** helped organize our reunion but was unable to attend as she was walking the Camino de Santiago.

**Sandy Howard-Smith Hamlen '68** came from Massachusetts, and we were happy to find out that she visits California every winter, so those of us who are local will look forward to more visits in the future.

**Hilary Harts '68** flew in from Hawaii where she recently sold her organic fruit farm and is now getting used to downsizing. We were treated to fresh Hawaiian pineapple!

**Maryanne Greninger Merritt '68** and husband Allen came from Oregon, while their long-time friends **Juliet Messimer Gede '68** and husband Tom drove from Davis, California.



**Myriam Diane Friedman Ramsey '68** flew in from Maryland where she has lived for many years and is retired from a career in Special Education.

**Jackie Roberts '68**, who recently moved to Morgan Hill to be closer to her mom, was able to make it for the Friday night dinner celebration at Castilleja.

With wine country bottles in hand, **Christie Hunner Shawl '68** joined us from Napa, while **Laura Golub Overett '68** came from Carmel.



**Kayanne Golub Smith '68** came from the Santa Barbara area and in a beautifully written poem, shared her thoughts with us of our special weekend together.



**Diane Schwabacher Vocker '68**, having recently lost her husband Tom, is kept quite busy with 10 grandchildren nearby and in Portland. She and **Kathy Mauel Wright '68**, who both went to Europe in 1967 with **Melissa Huff '68** and **Chris Witzel '68**, are traveling together again—they headed to Africa in late January.

A trip to England and Scotland was just on the horizon for **Anita Unikel '68**. She and **Carolyne Mackenzie Rohrig '68**, an event planner, drove over from the East Bay to join us for lunch at Muff's.



## 1960s, continued

Another classmate we caught up with on both Friday and Saturday was **Chris Witzel '68** who has authored one book and edited several others since her retirement from HP. Chris shares, "It was wonderful to reconnect with classmates this fall. Who can believe it's been 50 years!!! A highlight of our trip to Hawaii in December was catching up with **Hilary Harts '68** over lunch, and I'm enjoying getting together with local alums since the reunion."

Although they were unable to attend our reunion, we were still happy to hear from '68 alumnae **Iska Beck Meehan**, **Laurie Giles Lehman**, **Elisa Miller Shoreman**, **Dianne Tittle de Laet**, **Robin Forrester Uecker**, **Jane Marshall Carroll**, **Lee Anne Fuhrman Kahl** (whom a couple of us visited recently while Lee Anne was visiting her daughter in Carmel), **Deborah McFarlane**, **Denise Wreden**, **Jayne Lyon Devencenzi**, and **Laura Foster Werner**. Throughout the weekend, as we shared so many wonderful memories, we had all of our classmates on our minds and in our hearts.



**1969 Diane Brooks Dixon '69** was both Mayor and Council Member in Newport Beach, California. She was elected Council Member in 2014 and re-elected 2018. She served as mayor in 2016 and again in 2019. She writes, "I have three grandsons: 6, 4, and 2 1/2. Married 43 years. Same man!"

**Jean Gillon '69** writes, "I have enjoyed seeing notes from the girls I so looked up to! The note from **Christine Crawford McGarvin '67** and description of her work in Costa Rica was wonderful and hearing from **Kathy Arellano Fabris '66** about family and cattle ranching was amazing. Would love to hear about **Mary Storm '67**. Otherwise, I am well, nearly retiring as a vascular surgeon. I have two wonderful boys who are charging forward. Castilleja truly gave me the belief I could do anything; I am so grateful."

**Judy Lawrence '69** says "Hello from Chico, California. Hope to see you at our 50th this year!"



**Claudia Paige '69** sends her greetings and shares, "I moved with my two daughters to San Diego, after retiring three years ago. Now I'm bored and looking to work again. I've been offered a job with the Santa Clara County Office of Education as a speech-language pathologist. We are all doing well and looking forward to a great 2019. I hope this update finds you all well and hope to see you at our 50th reunion!"

**Caroline Trotter '69** and **Kathy Rice Bates '69** met up for lunch recently in Scottsdale, Arizona, where they had a very long lunch catching up.

## 1970s

**1971 Deborah Eaton Beatty '71** is so excited to be starting creativity workshops this Fall and exploring its underlying meaning to people. ARTiculate Your Self begins in October.

**Jeanne Fisichella Hahne '71** writes, "I finally retired from Nursing in July after 43 wonderful years. We went on a river boat trip down the Rhine and volunteer regularly. We live in Oregon and I am utilizing my NIH Nursing Grant to get FaceView Mask on the market. I miss all of you!"

**1975 Myra Gutterman '75** writes, "**Kiran (Kiki) Kapani '75** was in Jerusalem with her husband filming for a documentary on self-driving cars for Nova. She took a break and visited with me and my sister **Janet Gutterman '71**. We had a wonderful visit.....and two bottles of wine! I told her about the play I created and am producing right now, *Mikva the Musical*. There is already talk of bringing it to the US for a tour in June."

**1976 Meredith Gillespie Alcock '76** has exciting news: "In 2018 we celebrated the birth of our first (and so far only) grandchild, Eva Michelle. She is a happy and healthy little girl, and to her doting grandmother the world's most beautiful baby."



**1977 Sharon Hare Holzschere '77** welcomed a new grandson in January 2018, and writes, "In June our daughter got married in New York. They moved to Texas in the fall. She is expecting this spring so we will be moving to join her and her family. I am temporarily between jobs as a private school principal. After 25 years in Canada, we are returning to the States!"

**Leslie Moseley Vessey '77** writes, "My dream in high school was to live and teach in Africa. A lifetime dream has become a reality as I now live and work part-time in Uganda. My husband and I write (full-time) for an educational publisher in No. Uganda. In our free-time, we teach children in the villages."



**1978 Lisa-Joy Prenner Avelar '78** says, "I was fortunate to 're-retire' in 2018, giving me more time to satisfy my wanderlust, including Austria, Germany and the Galapagos and the Isles of Ireland & Wales by Zodiac. Closer to home, I have loved seeing **Laurie Ray Lamb '78** and keeping in touch with classmates via social media!"

## 1980s

**1980 Ellen Stewart Moore '80** writes, "After 11 years working at Stanford (SIEPR), I have returned to The Circle as Castilleja's new Director of Events and Parent Engagement and am thrilled to be experiencing first-hand Casti's impressive programs, faculty, parents and, of course, students. I love all my terrific colleagues and the 'new' traditions like Opening Day Tie Ceremony that have developed since my time here. So happy to be back!"



**1981 Laura Doctor '81HA** says, "I continue to love teaching and being a dean at Castilleja. I was married to Cam Stout on September 23, 2017. As a member of the Advisory Board of Stout Heart, Inc., I am fundraising for mental wellness. Check us out at [www.stoutheart.org](http://www.stoutheart.org)."



## 1980s, continued



In the fall **Jamie Flaxman '81** traveled to Australia for vacation and spent several days with fellow Casti classmate **Veronica Chiu '81** who lives in Sydney. She says, "It was so much fun to see her after 35 years and we picked up like it was yesterday."



This October, **Jeannine Marston<sup>HA</sup>** and **Eliane Neukermans<sup>HA</sup>** organized a lovely birthday celebration for **Mercedes McCaffrey<sup>HA</sup>**. The event was well attended by numerous Honorary Alumnae as well as by **Teresa McCaffrey '82** and **Ginny Eversole Contento '79**.



**1982 Helen Floyd Sullivan '82** writes, "Matt and I are now true empty nesters with our oldest living in Santiago, Chile, our middle daughter and her family in LA, and our son finishing college in Portland, OR. We have been able to travel a great deal, which I love. Last year alone we were able to go to Sao Paulo, Brazil, Chennai, India and Santiago, Chile."



**1983** The Class of '83 reconnected at Reunion Weekend this fall to celebrate their 35th reunion. We loved seeing **Sandra Pruitt Ney**, **Jennifer Hom**, **Donna Lee McMaster**, **Yoshimi Segawa Munch**, and **Laura Feistel** on campus for lunch during the festivities, and **Kim Roberts** joined Sandra and Laura for the Celebration Dinner on Friday evening.



The celebration continued on Saturday at the Class of '83 party, with **Yoshimi Segawa Munch**, **Elizabeth Roberts Jackson**, **Kim Roberts**, **Stephanie McLeod Wansek**, **Patty Melnikoff**, and host **Donna Lee McMaster**.

And the following '83 classmates who were not able to attend Reunion, all sent back various "greetings and hello's". It was nice to hear from **Jennifer Ritter Brill**, **Lisa Orup-Smith**, **Aimee Paret**, **Kathy Koppett**, **Suzanne Morris Weeks**, **Rachel Kueny**, **Evelyne Assali Geha**, **Susan Silveira Clinton**, **Jill Brasesco Thomsen**, **Gretchen Van Tuyl Larese**, **Lucy Morgan Dietz**, **Kim Mygatt**, **Gretchen Otterby Craford**, **Val Rice Prainito**, **Sara Gregory Lewis**, and **Jennifer Morrow**.

**Marie Butcher '83** writes, "I am teaching an overload at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies and have five classes this semester! I also do environmental education on the side for the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy. [I have been leading an effort] to "Weave Community" at our local, recently opened park land at Palo Corona Regional Park. I'm working to bring more students from Monterey County out to our parks for environmental education and raise funds for the creation of a Spirit Nest on the property."

**Isabelle Crawford '83** sends her greetings from Scotland. After studying medicine at St. Andrews and Manchester, she qualified as a doctor in 1991. She says, "I now work as a GP (General Practitioner) at Edinburgh University. I love looking after students and young people. I've lived and worked all over the UK and have ended up in Edinburgh—after eight years at Gordonstoun in the far north of Scotland. Stunning place! I have five beautiful daughters who would have loved Castilleja and thrived there...Anyone who would like to visit—or has children studying in the UK, is very welcome to get in touch."



After 12 years living abroad, **Susan Rowe Harrison '83** is back in the US and lives north of Manhattan along the Hudson River in Dobbs Ferry, NY with her husband Philip and daughter Lucia. She says, "I continue to make public art and am particularly proud of a mural that I created and painted for LinkedIn in the Empire State Building last year. If you are in NYC, I would love to connect."

**Robin Kallas '83** and her husband Alex work as ER doctors in the Seattle area, and they have made their home nearby on Bainbridge Island for the past fifteen years. Robin writes, "my sons are both intelligence officers in the Marine Corp. Sam is now in Okinawa, and Ben just returned from Afghanistan...I return to Palo Alto occasionally, and typically see **Val Rice Prainito** and **Elizabeth Roberts Jackson** when I'm back. I have fabulous memories of my time at Castilleja—uniforms, donuts, the circle, and somehow being elected the judge, enforcing all the school rules until I got caught sneaking away from a school field trip, lol."



**1984 Felicia Paik Kim '84**, **Leslie Hom Kingsbury '84**, **Donna Lee McMaster '83**, and **Yoshimi Segawa Munch '83** got together for dinner in October 2018 in Menlo Park.



## 1980s, continued

**Heather Allen Pang '84<sup>HA</sup>** has exciting news: "This year is my 20th year teaching at Castilleja! I would love to see any of my classmates on campus if you are in the area, it is an amazing place to teach."



**Doris Whitesides Stone '84** says, "Greetings and well wishes to my former classmates and dorm mates. My husband Don and I celebrated 25 years of marriage last July. Our family has grown and we have two beautiful grandsons, John and Henry. We hope this finds you all well."



**1986 Nancy Allen '86, Amy Flaskerud Sasaki, Lubna Qureishi, Tanya Bauriedel Buxton, Holly Varian Zuklie, Rhea Tombropoulos, and Sinda Mein '86** celebrated their 50th birthdays at a long weekend retreat at Tanya's family cabin in Serene Lakes, where they enjoyed kayaking, swimming, outdoor yoga, cooking, and much catching up. Holly's sister, **Sidney Varian Scott '84**, also led them on a four-hour hike. A wonderful time was had by all!



**1987 Michele Wray Khateri '87** and her family are settling into their new life in Dubai. She is working as the Director of Advancement at the American School of Dubai where her daughter is attending high school. Her son started at NYU as a freshman in the engineering program. She welcomes reconnecting with fellow alumnae and would be happy to talk about living and working in Dubai.



**1988 Katy McCandless '88** says, "I am back in California! It was so wonderful to see so many of you at our 30th Reunion, I returned to London inspired to come over and stay much longer in California. I have even brought my little spaniel, if anyone wants to go for a hike or coffee."

**1989 Janet Tennyson Manzano '89** writes, "I'm celebrating 25 years of teaching High School Spanish, most of which have been at Menlo School. My husband, sons, and I just moved to Half Moon Bay where we are discovering the many joys of coastal life."



**Diana Gregory Horner '91** is living in San Francisco—19 years and counting. She is working part-time for a local clothing designer, Lesley Evers, in Oakland and volunteering at Caroline's School, Convent of the Sacred Heart. She and her family can often be found on 19th Avenue driving to a sixth-grade basketball or volleyball game. She enjoys running into alumnae **Stefanie Restifo Grosse '86, Ann Brookman Dey '63, Elizabeth Leep '81, and Claire Fischer Fluhr '95** around town.



**1992 Reena Patton '92** earned a Master's degree from USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism in Communication Management. She will participate in USC's 136th Commencement on May 10, 2019.

**1993 Sunny Weiss Pooley '93** is in Sunnyvale, working part-time and raising two 3 year olds.



**1994 Sarah Singer '94** says, "I'm still living in Maine with my husband John and sons Caz (10), Truman (8), and Giff (5). We live in Brunswick a few blocks from Bowdoin College and love living here still. I am in my 5th year on the Brunswick School Board, I run a non-profit I co-founded called The Emergency Action Network that supports at risk kids in our community and work full time as a realtor. Life is great!"

## 1990s



**1990** After five wonderful years in Ethiopia, **Joanna Busza '90** moved back to London in July 2018 and returned to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where she is now Director of the Centre for Evaluation. She says, "Luckily, I get plenty of opportunities to return to Ethiopia for work and found myself staying at the same place as Mo Farrah so hit him up for some running tips ..."



**1991 Besty Gilliland '91** writes, "Lots of accomplishments for me in the last few years! In 2017, I got tenure and a promotion to associate professor in the department of Second Language Studies at the University of Hawaii Manoa. My book, co-authored with grad school classmate Shannon Pella, was published. I bought a house in Honolulu (so now I have plenty of room for guests!). Then in 2018, I received a Fulbright Scholar award at the Universidad de Atacama in Chile."



## 1990s, continued



**1995** Cynthia Harrison Arballo '95 writes, "We added another small member to our family! María Lourdes Inés is our happy, healthy girl. I also went back to work as an adjunct instructor at Reedley College teaching Spanish. It's a refreshing change of pace and a great challenge."

**1997** Jennifer Chow '97 and her husband David are expecting their first child in January 2019! It's a going to be a baby boy. They also launched their first joint business, SF Photo Agency together in 2018 for all corporate event needs: photography, event production and videography. They currently reside in SF.

**1998** Laura Savage '98 has been busy as a Doctoral Candidate in CSUEB's Doctorate of Education: Educational Leadership for Equity and Social Justice program. Laura recently transitioned from her position as Special Education Ombudsman in San Francisco to the Director of Equity, Employment and Professional Development for the Foothill-DeAnza Community College District. In her free time she enjoys family time with her 17-year-old son Nadir, hiking, and advocating for families of students with disabilities.

## 2000s



**2000** Navi Raju Kamdar '00 and her family relocated to San Diego at the end of last year as her husband joined the faculty at UCSD. She has joined a boutique practice near Carmel Valley. Please be in touch if you are local or visiting!



**2003** Sydney Larson '03 writes, "Meggie Sandman's wedding takes the cake for the best weekend of 2018! My husband and I had so much fun with Meggie, Emily Williams Cornejo, Kara Furlong, Emily Dawson Wilson, Julia Sorensen Lund, Karen Ring, and their significant others. 2018 was also the beginning of my entrepreneurial journey. Lily Bird is for women with leaky laughs and dribble dilemmas: [www.mylilybird.com](http://www.mylilybird.com). Lastly, thanks to those who joined for our 15-year reunion.

**2004** Yasmin Radjy '04 says, "I am currently working as the Interim Political Director and Director of Organizing and Training at Planned Parenthood Action Fund / Planned Parenthood Federation of America, where I am helping to lead our organization's 2020 election coordinated campaign and endorsement process planning. I am based in Washington, DC."



Claudia Christman-Skieller Thomas '04 is having an eventful and wonderful year! She got married in September 2018 and Casti friends Carey Jones, Blythe Austin, Emily Dennis Diamond, and Emma Sachs were there! Claudia is finishing her orthopaedic surgery residency this June and will be completing a sports medicine fellowship in Pittsburgh next year.



**2005** Sharlene Su '05 and Tene Cage '97 found themselves working together in the same clinic and were pleasantly surprised to discovered their Castilleja connection! Tene is now a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery at Stanford University and is an attending at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, and Sharlene is now a resident physician in physical medicine and rehabilitation at Stanford.

**2006** Rebecca Strickfaden Harrington '06 married her wonderful husband Chris Harrington on October 13, 2018, in Maine. They are building their new life together in Portland, Maine.

Jocelyn Jiao '06 is completing her neurology residency training in Los Angeles, California.



**2007** Malin Bogue '07 is thrilled that Sarrah Nomanbhoy '07 has joined the Castilleja London crew. She's also excited to become a Freeman of the City of London, an 800-year old tradition. Here is a photo of her getting ready to march in the Lord Mayor's Day Parade in the robes of the Guild of Young Freemen, with figures of Gog and Magog, the ancient guardians of the City of London.



## 2000s, continued

**2008** Rachel Baden '08 is moving back to California in the summer, and will join the Medical Center for Birds in the East Bay as their newest staff veterinarian.



Sylvia Rodriguez '08 earned an MA in Counseling Psychology from Santa Clara University in June, with an emphasis in Latino Counseling. On December 16th, she married Matthew Hendricks, an SCU alumnus, at Mission Santa Clara de Asís. Her sister, Catalina Rodriguez '11, was Maid of Honor, and Evyn Larson '08 was a bridesmaid.



**2009** Audrey Loke '09, Erin O'Malley, and Nicola Schulze celebrate three beautiful years of living together in Potrero Hill, San Francisco. They and Victoria—who is, at this point, an honorary Casti girl—look forward to the addition of a 5th roommate, ideally of the feline variety.

Brooke Taylor '09 has launched her coaching and consulting firm for bold, ambitious women helping them to create lives and businesses of impact. She has moved to Sydney, Australia, with her partner James after nearly 6 years at Google as a workshop facilitator, speaker, and go-to-market team lead for Ads.

## 2010s

**2011** After spending about seven years in Los Angeles, Claire Fraisl '11 recently moved to San Francisco to join the Product Management team at Flexport, a tech-enabled global logistics company. She misses her bungalow in Venice Beach but is glad to be closer to family and friends in the Bay Area.



**2012** Danielle Phan '12 says, "Barry and I met in 2015 at a startup in Mountain View and became friends as we rode Caltrain together and shared podcasts. In 2017, he flew out to New York City to take me out on a date, and later that year I moved to San Francisco. Over the holidays this past year, he proposed! We are so happy and are looking forward to a wedding in 2020."



**2013** In late 2018, Gaby Castro '13 completed her first bilingual EP, La Guerrera//The Warrior EP. The four songs on the project touch on feminism, overcoming adversity, and finding yourself. She'll be touring the Bay Area, Southern California, and Twin Cities regions to promote the EP throughout 2019 and 2020. La Guerrera//The Warrior EP will be released worldwide on March 8th, to coincide with International Women's Day 2019.

**2014** Elizabeth Burnette '14 moved to LA to pursue a Ph.D. in neuroscience at UCLA.

Caroline Debs '14 writes, "I graduated from Stanford this Spring with a B.S. in Symbolic Systems and a minor in Art Practice. I'm now working at LinkedIn in Sunnyvale as a UX Researcher. My little sister Emily is now a Junior at Castilleja!"

Bronte Kass '14 says, "I will be moving to beautiful Tbilisi, Georgia, to work with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on a institutional development and governance reform project! Very excited for this opportunity and would love to connect with any Castilleja alums who may be in the Eastern Europe/Caucasus regions."

Nicole Pereira '14 graduated from Yale with a BS in Physics and Econ, moved to Boston, and started work as a TMT strategy consultant at Altman Vilandrie & Company.



**2015** Nicole Mitchell '15 reconnected at Rice University with Lucy Fox, who went to Casti for middle school, where they are both studying computer science. She writes, "We were inspired to meet other incredible women in tech at the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing earlier this year!"



Kat Pavlidis '15 and Christy Story<sup>HA</sup> met up at Vassar College in October! Kat is spending the spring semester in Oxford and used fall breaks to visit Casti friends. The alumnae network is going strong.



**2016** Lindsay Rosston '16 writes, "Many things stand between the 6,048 miles of land and sea between Palo Alto and Marrakesh, Morocco, but a constant I faced during my visit was a couple of individuals from Castilleja. I was lucky enough to travel to Morocco for a weekend during my study abroad program with two close Castilleja friends. The three of us reunited for a fun and eye-opening weekend trip 6,048 miles from our Palo Alto circle."



# Faculty & Staff Updates LIFELONG LEARNERS



*Birthday Bash*

Jeannie Marston<sup>HA</sup> and Castilleja friends celebrate Mercedes McCaffrey<sup>HA</sup>



*"Wars and Waffles"*

Eliane Neukermans<sup>HA</sup> and family visits Belgium

We extend a big thank you to **Ann Criswell<sup>HA</sup>**, former Latin teacher, who so successfully kept this column alive and well for so many years. Now retired from the newsletter, she stays in touch with both former students and colleagues while navigating between her Virginia and Los Altos homes, together with her husband Floyd.

An update from **Lynne (Williams) Collins** who writes, "after leaving Palo Alto in 1972, I moved to LA, taught at Westlake School for Girls until 1981. Then I remarried, moved to Colorado and taught in public high schools until 2009. Now I am happily retired, living in the mountains of Colorado in Eldora. We travel a lot (Antarctica, Patagonia, Iceland, Africa, Svalbard, Galapagos Islands), always to places we can hike. I still have fond memories of Castilleja and have kept in touch with a few of the students."

Channing House, a retirement community in downtown Palo Alto, harbors what is known locally as the "Castilleja Mafia." Although in the last year the "gang" lost their beloved **Toni Hsu<sup>HA</sup>** and **Ethel Meece<sup>HA</sup>**, the remaining four (**Eleni Coltos<sup>HA</sup>**, **Nancy Flowers<sup>HA</sup>**, **Michèle Grundmann<sup>HA</sup>**, and **Mercedes McCaffrey<sup>HA</sup>**) continue to thrive. Their collective is enriched by visits from family, including former Casti students **Nina Mullen '80**, **Teresa McCaffrey '82**, **Lizzie Harris '88** and **Katie Harris '87**. **Peggy McKee<sup>HA</sup>** led a recent book group discussion of *Prairie Fire*, the biography of Laura Ingalls Wilder, and recent guests include **Christiane Andreopoulos<sup>HA</sup>**, **Susan Barkan<sup>HA</sup>**, **Ann Criswell<sup>HA</sup>**, **Dee Gibson**, **Jeannine Marston<sup>HA</sup>**, **Elyce Melmon<sup>HA</sup>**, **Eliane Neukermans<sup>HA</sup>**, and **Karen Tobey<sup>HA</sup>**.

**Mark Glasser** has been working for the same insurance company ever since he and his wife Karla moved away from California almost 19 years ago. Says Mark, "we have three children, Noah (16), Seth (13), and Zoë (10), and we love our neighborhood and city of Saint Paul. For a while I was an actuary, and now I am a business analyst; both are good jobs for analytical minds that love to learn and teach. I volunteer in high schools communicating concepts about budgeting, investment, and credit, preparing students (a little) for the big world. Every day I rely on the lessons I learned at Castilleja about how to work hard, be professional, listen, communicate, and celebrate—basic, utterly valuable stuff that can make a life."

**Camilla Lau<sup>HA</sup>** and her family moved to the East Coast four and a half years ago. "We're living in Winchester, MA, in the same town as **Brydie Sullivan<sup>HA</sup>**! I'm currently teaching middle school math at BB&N and loving being back in the classroom after a five-year hiatus. I hope all is well with you!"

**Mercedes McCaffrey<sup>HA</sup>**, former Spanish teacher, celebrated her 90th birthday in October at the home of **Jeannine Marston<sup>HA</sup>**, together with former colleagues. Guests shared cake and champagne, as well as memories, at the celebration. Celebrants included her daughter, **Teresa McCaffrey '82**, **Jeannine Marston<sup>HA</sup>**, **Ann Criswell<sup>HA</sup>**, **Eliane Neukermans<sup>HA</sup>**, **Peggy McKee<sup>HA</sup>**, **Michèle Grundmann<sup>HA</sup>**, **Christiane Andreopoulos<sup>HA</sup>**, **Elyce Melmon<sup>HA</sup>**, **Patricia Pietrzyk<sup>HA</sup>**, **Susan Barkan<sup>HA</sup>**, **Karen Tobey<sup>HA</sup>**, **Christine Bennett**, **Judy Rino<sup>HA</sup>**, and **Ginny Eversole '79**.

**Elyce Melmon<sup>HA</sup>**, former English teacher and department head, has had yet another of her creative plays enacted. Ross Valley Players in Greenbrae performed a staged reading of her latest play in April 2018. Elyce writes: "*Beyond Measure*, a full-length play, is a love story. Gil, a scientist, and his wife, Trudy, a writer, grapple with what they can and cannot control, caught in the ripple effect of suicide on their marriage, their careers, and their ability to suspend disbelief when they encounter a surprising visitor from the spirit world." We salute you, Elyce, for yet another successful production!

**Ted Minnis<sup>HA</sup>**, who formerly coached Castilleja's water polo team, writes: "I have been The Friends of Harvard Water Polo head coach for nine years now, coaching both the women's and men's team. We have had some success, and two years ago we were the first team from Harvard to make the Final 4. Living in Boston has been great and I am finally used to the winters!"

**Mary Muggins** is working just across the way from Castilleja at Stanford. Though work keeps her very busy, she hopes to stop by the Circle sometime soon.





*The Third Generation*

The grandchildren of **Karen Tobey<sup>HA</sup>**, children of **Kirsten Tobey Saenz '94** and **Rachel Tobey '96**



*My Three Sons*

**Nancy Ware** and her sons at her retirement celebration



*Art Underground*

**Randy and Janet Whitchurch**

**Eliane Neukermans<sup>HA</sup>** shares some of her highlights from this year: “We hiked in Yosemite and Lake Tahoe, visited with Robert McAdie’s family in London, hiked in the Cotswolds with my brother and sister-in-law and visited family in Belgium with our son Stefaan and three of the grandkids: Kai, Nico and Manoa. They called it “the Wars and Waffles visit “as we introduced them to the trenches and poppies of Flanders’ fields, the bunkers of the Atlantic Wall, Belgian waffles, our ancestors’ homes and lots of family. As an example: 22 cousins welcomed them while visiting the museum in Bokrijk! In addition, in November, Armand was inducted as an officer in the Order of Leopold I by the Belgian government. It was a happy occasion for friends and family.”

**Karen Tobey<sup>HA</sup>** looks forward to a women’s empowerment trip to Morocco in March and a journey with her husband Tom to Estonia in July. She keeps busy with volunteer activities at Berkeley’s local schools, a Democratic Party postcard writing group, and engagement with Ashby Village, an organization that helps elderly people stay in their own homes as they age. Three days a week she devotes to after-school care for grandchildren, which she enjoys immensely. Karen’s five grandchildren are Flora Saenz, Tobey Nottingham, Dakota Saenz, Carina Nottingham, and Alita Saenz. The Saenz girls are daughters of **Kirsten Tobey Saenz '96**; the Nottinghams are children of **Rachel Tobey '94**!

**Judith Wagner<sup>HA</sup>** taught biology at Castilleja 1993-2006 and was Science Department Chair from 1999-2006. She recently had

an essay published in Stanford’s alumni magazine. In the print version, it is the “End Note” on the back page of the December 2018 issue; or you can find it online at [stanfordmag.org](http://stanfordmag.org). Judith says, “if you worked with me in 2001-02, you will recognize the “school near Stanford” it mentions, and you may remember the student (who gave me permission to use her first name). My work was also featured in The Writer’s Spotlight, a monthly newsletter of the Online Creative Writing Program of Stanford Continuing Studies ([continuingstudies.stanford.edu](http://continuingstudies.stanford.edu)) where I say something about the publication process. To quote myself, ‘It’s a good story; I’m glad to have the chance to share it with a wider world.’”

**Nancy Ware** is enjoying a busy and rewarding life, now retired in San Francisco. She shares: “did a lot of traveling last year to be with family and friends. I participated in the retirement of the Head of the Washington (CT) Montessori School after 43 years and my three sons joined in the celebration. I have joined a senior choir and we are busily putting together a musical about our lives. I volunteer twice a week helping two senior ladies with computers and communication. We are getting ready to take our annual trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico. This will be our 29th year going down there with friends and family. Life is good. I love hearing about the dynamic things that are happening at Castilleja.”

**Janet Whitchurch**, former art teacher and Co-Director of the Residence together with her husband **Randy Whitchurch<sup>HA</sup>** when Castilleja had boarders, recently published a book, *Underground and Running North*,

featuring her artwork: a collection of water-color paintings featuring the Salinas Valley and River. Janet signed books for an event at the National Steinbeck Center in May of 2018. Randy, who taught math and coached water polo at Castilleja, attended the event and reconnected with Tom and **Karen Tobey<sup>HA</sup>** (former history teacher and Community Service Director) at the book signing. Randy continues to coach water polo at Santa Catalina School in Monterey.

#### KEEP THE NEWS COMING IN!

Send your updates to **Karen Tobey** at [kftobey@gmail.com](mailto:kftobey@gmail.com) or **Julia Odelowo** at [jodelowo@castilleja.org](mailto:jodelowo@castilleja.org).

Note: HA denotes Honorary Alumna or Alumnus



# *In Memoriam*

## FOREVER IN OUR CIRCLE

### ALUMNAE

Gail Bricker '42

Lucienne Woods '81

Sarah Greenwald Cottrell '78

### FORMER EMPLOYEES

Joan Belden

Ethel Meece<sup>HA</sup>

Mary Crawford Tinkler

### FAMILY

Alan Grundmann

Husband of former faculty member

Michèle Grundmann<sup>HA</sup>

James Johnson

Father of Annie Johnson '01 and

Elizabeth Johnson '07

Lily Lock

Mother of Andrea Chin '06

Paul Long

Grandparent of Erin Hirsch '19

and Megan Hirsch '17

Donald Miller

Grandparent of Katherine Hass '14

Hussein Rabbani

Grandparent of Allison Rabbani '21

Thelma Teichmann

Grandparent of Elke Teichmann '09

and Katja Teichmann '16

Betty Watkins

Grandparent of Catharine Brown '14

Joseph Zabatta

Father of Nanci Zabatta Kauffman<sup>HA</sup>



## Ethel Burnham Meece<sup>HA</sup>

November 2, 1920 – July 10, 2018

This year, Castilleja lost a beloved teacher, Mrs. Ethel Burnham Meece<sup>HA</sup>.

Mrs. Meece taught biology, including sections of Advanced Placement Biology, from 1968 until she retired in 1991. She was an excellent teacher who was deeply proud of her students, and alumnae still fondly recount individual experiments done in her classroom decades ago. Mrs. Meece was a teacher ahead of her time, seeing the essential role women would play in science and technology, and many of her students pursued careers as physicians and scientists due to her influence. She was an inspiration to countless Castilleja students, igniting a love for science in many and instilling a deep sense of pride and purpose in every girl who spent time in her classroom.

### FOND MEMORIES:

*"Like many young women in high school, I thought I didn't like science. Then I took Mrs. Meece's Biology class. And, I learned that I love science, and that led to a career in Biotechnology. Other than her scaring us to death by drinking orange juice out of a beaker, my fondest memory was the lab about blood types where she was thrilled to find that I really was an O-neg, and the tests worked."*

— Ellen B. Layendecker '77

*"I have fond memories of learning about Biology my sophomore year. My favorite part about her class was learning about genetics. Mrs. Meece was a clear, caring teacher. Her wealth of knowledge and command of the subject was an inspiration to generations of young women."*

— Andrea Amdahl Taylor '86

*"Mrs. Meece was truly a remarkable teacher and such a loving & kind human being, equipped with a fabulous sense of humor!"*

— Barb Deméré '77<sup>HA</sup>

*"Before STEM was STEM, Mrs. Meece encouraged countless young women like me to pursue a love of math and science. I have always loved numbers, facts and data and would find myself happily lost in their pursuit. Some people thought that was strange at the time, but Mrs. Meece encouraged me to take pride in it. I am so grateful to her for that encouragement as she changed the direction of my life for the better."*

— Penny Pritzker '77





*Kayla* by Lauren Traum '19



*Out of Body* by Scarlett Akeley '19

## Administration Leadership Team

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**Lorraine Brown** Director of Communications  
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**Kathy Burch<sup>HA</sup>** Chief of Staff

**Anne Cameron<sup>HA</sup>** Head of Middle School

**Stacey Kertsman** Dean of Equity Education and Social Impact

**Sue Kim<sup>HA</sup>** Director of Development

**Jill Lee<sup>HA</sup>** Director of Admission, Tuition Assistance,  
and Summer Programming

**Jim Pickett** Head of Upper School

This issue was conceived, written, and designed by Emily McElhinney, Elke Teichmann '09, and consultant Kris Loew, under the direction of Lorraine Brown. Photography by Elke Teichmann '09. Alumnae content by Julia Odelowo. Additional advising from consultant Lisa Cooper-Carlson.

Many thanks to Castilleja alumnae for their updates and photos. Special thanks to Angélica Ortiz Anguiano '11, Victoria Dean '13, and Nancy Tate '66 for sharing their stories with us, and to Heather Pang '84<sup>HA</sup> for reminding us of the history of the 5Cs. Thank you to the Castilleja students, faculty, and staff who shared their work, thoughts, and support.

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*Haverford by Angélica Ortiz Anguiano '11*