

# fullcircle

CASTILLEJA SCHOOL MAGAZINE  
SPRING/SUMMER 2015





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## SPRING/SUMMER 2015

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# from the head



## *Stand Up and Speak Out*

It seems some women are having a hard time using their strong voices in the boardroom. In a study by Flynn Heath Holt Leadership<sup>1</sup>, a consulting firm focused on women's leadership development, men observed that in meetings, some of the most highly successful and powerful women "apologize repeatedly," are "quiet and tentative," and are "defensive when challenged." Women in the study agreed that they feel less effective in meetings; but from their perspective, it is because "their voices are ignored or drowned out."

At our recent View360 event in April, we celebrated the journey women and men take to find, build, and strengthen their voices. Our opening speaker, senior Mayuka Sarukkai '15, reminded us that at an all-girls school, students create and test their voices every day, under the guidance of their most trusted and supportive teachers. In the classroom, on the playing fields, and around the Circle, Castilleja students *stand up and speak out* for themselves, and also for their peers when they need allies. And out in their communities, through their engagement with our local and global partners, our students learn to give voice to the voiceless. In Mayuka's words, they are "unapologetic," and they take joy in the potential of their voices.

Our youngest alumnae report that wherever they land in college and again at their first jobs, they build upon their Castilleja experiences and witness the stark contrast between their own confident voices and the restrained ones of their female classmates and colleagues. Through the power of their voices, these Castilleja alumnae quickly emerge as confident leaders who have the skills to guide and persuade others.

Since 1907, Castilleja graduates have always been well prepared to succeed academically at the most challenging and selective colleges and universities. In the 21st century, we are deepening our commitment to ensuring that as Women Learning, Women Leading, our alumnae are also poised to use their strong voices to lead and inspire others in the community, in the laboratory, and in the boardroom.

In this issue of *full circle*, we invite you to learn more about the voices of Castilleja.

*Nanci*

<sup>1</sup> Harvard Business Review. June 2014

## Helping Girls Find Their Voice

Between childhood and womanhood, girls encounter a phenomenon called “losing voice,” according to studies published at Harvard University. Seventy-four percent of 12 year olds surveyed by Girl Scouts of America listed “Improving the world around me” as their favorite activity, but a lack of confidence holds them back from taking leadership. That’s got to change! **Katie Kirsch '12** talked with Assistant Director of Advancement **Dana Sundblad** about how she’s working to make that change happen.

**Dana Sundblad:** What inspired you to create your non-profit, Girls Driving for a Difference (GDD)?

**Katie Kirsch:** As a product design engineering student at Stanford and a passionate advocate for women’s empowerment, largely stemming from Castilleja’s motto “Women Learning, Women Leading,” I had been thinking a lot about how to best bring these two areas together. The only problem was that this opportunity didn’t already exist - I had to create it! I ultimately realized that I could follow my own dream of empowering young women through design, by using the design thinking methodology to help middle school girls discover impact-driven dreams of their own.

**DS:** What exactly is design thinking?

**KK:** Design thinking is a creative way of approaching any problem. It starts with getting to know the “user” and moves through steps for defining the need and challenge, brainstorming ideas, creating and building concepts as prototypes, and then testing them in the real world to see if they work.

**DS:** How does this process help girls find their voice?

**KK:** For girls, middle school is such a critical time period for self-development. Social dynamics are incredibly important at this age, as girls define what it means to be “popular” and question the roles they want to play and already do play in society. Our



team believes that being a girl and being a leader is the coolest thing ever, and design thinking has been one of the most successful ways for us to share this vision with girls. Design thinking is about building creative confidence, taking risks, collaborating with others, and celebrating mistakes made along the way. Together, these qualities are essential to empowering girls to innovate and direct their own change in the world.

**DS:** What has been the reaction among the girls with whom you have worked?

**KK:** It is amazing to watch girls identify their skills, interests, and passions and turn them into their own personal mission statements. At the end of every workshop, each girl stands up on her chair and shouts her mission statement for using her skills and interests for good. We've heard girls say things like, "I will use my skill in being a leader and my interest in cooking to make school lunches healthier" and "I will use my skills to furnish/re-design shelters so they can have temporary housing to ensure the safety of outdoor animals in the rain." I often leave as inspired as the girls do!

**DS:** You and your team have received a lot of press and have been featured in Fast Company Leadership and in a podcast interview for IDEO Futures where you were recognized as "innovators of the future for hacking creativity and design thinking." What has that been like?

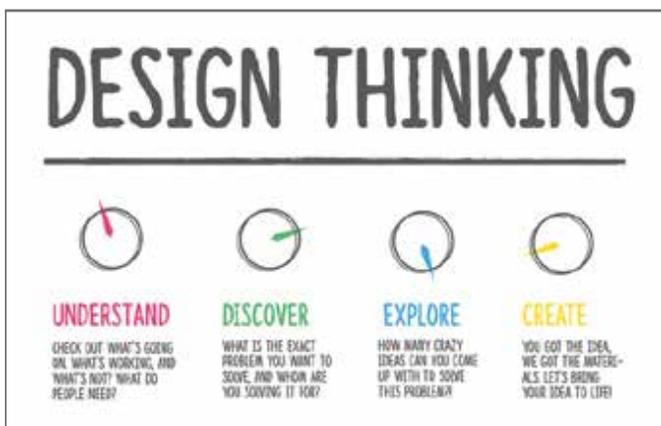
**KK:** It has been such an exciting year! We are so humbled and thrilled by the support we have received from our mentors, professors, industry experts, and friends. One of our greatest moments was wrapping up our Kickstarter campaign last month, where we exceeded our fundraising goal by \$10,000, raising a total of \$35,000.

**DS:** You have an exciting summer planned. Can you tell me about it?

**KK:** This summer, we will be driving in an RV across America, visiting about 50 diverse communities, such as girl scout and summer camps for middle school girls, to coach design thinking and leadership workshops. The workshops have been designed to give girls the tools, inspiration, and creative confidence to discover their purpose, enact social change in their communities, and envision their own dreams for someday changing the world. By the end of the summer, we hope to have reached at least 2,500 girls across the nation.

As a team, we are constantly learning, adapting our workshop materials and techniques, and seeking new ways to challenge each other to make every event even better than the last. It's been such an incredible journey so far, and I can't wait to jump on the road this summer!

*Katie Kirsch '12 is a junior at Stanford University studying product design engineering.*



## Voices Echo through the ACE Center

by Emily Entress, ACE Communications Coordinator  
and Stacey Kertsman, ACE Center Director

The theme of “voices” carried through Castilleja’s Center for Awareness, Compassion, and Engagement (ACE) this year. Through year-long class projects, Global Week workshops and activities, and participation in ACE Orgs and clubs, student experiences honed skills, fostered new mindsets, and continued to develop women leaders.

### **Learning From Voices: Increasing Awareness**

**6th Grade/Downtown Streets** The sixth grade worked with Downtown Streets to gain a new perspective on their engagement topic of the semester: shelter. A panel of Downtown Streets team members spoke to the students about their personal experience of homelessness and the transition into becoming a working member of the Palo Alto community.

**8th Grade/Elder Project** After interviewing their elder buddies about how cities have changed over time, eighth grade students worked during Global Week to create an art piece that visually represented their elders’ experience growing up in various cities. The finished books were then presented to the elders during a luncheon at the end of Global Week.

**10th Grade/Communities in Transition** This project enabled sophomores to interview residents in Palo Alto and East Palo Alto and develop a nuanced understanding of the complementary and competing development interests in their local community. Over the course of the semester, they identified a local development need and then created and shared a graphic to illustrate the potential for positive community change as their final presentation during Global Week.

**ACE Org/Community Alliance for Identity and Expression** CAIE hosted a number of movie nights for the entire Palo Alto youth community to raise awareness about different identity expressions as well as a “Pride Dance” with more than 100 local student attendees.

### **Voices Collaborating Together: Increasing Compassion**

**7th Grade/Brentwood Elementary School** The seventh grade partnership with Brentwood School continued to grow. This year the buddies worked together using an ipad to create an electronic book that chronicled their visits with the kindergartners throughout the year. The books were printed for the kinder buddies to keep.

**ACE Org/Castaruni** The partnership between Castilleja and the Kisaruni School in Kenya flourishes through an exchange of newsletters. Each semester, students from each school compile information about school-wide and personal achievements, academics, athletics and more! Girls from both schools have enjoyed this communication and learning more about each other’s lives.

### **Using your Voice: Deepening Engagement**

**STEMx ACE Org and Middle School Community Action Team** Students literally “used their voice” to give back to their community during Spring Break. Many Upper School and Middle School students recorded up to four hours of their own voice to be added to VocaliD’s voice bank. Founded by Rupal Patel, who spoke to students at an assembly and to parents at View360, VocaliD is a company that gives people who can’t speak the ability to communicate in a voice all their own through the combination of new technology and donated voices.



**9th Grade/Local Partners** The entire ninth grade class spent an EOP this semester engaging with one of Castilleja's local partner organizations. Students were asked to "use their voice" by choosing to work with the Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP), East Palo Alto Charter School (EPACS), or My New Red Shoes. The experience gave students the opportunity to continue working with an organization already familiar to them or to make connections at a new location.

**ACE Org/Music for the Community** The ACE Org hosted its annual Music for the Community Benefit Concert in March to raise funds for the Music in the Schools Foundation, which provides under-resourced students in the Ravenswood School District with fundamental music education. The concert was truly a community affair and featured an orchestra performance, flute quartet, songs, instrument solos and more from both Castilleja and Ravenswood students. Through donations made at the concert and through previous fundraising events this year, Music for the Community has raised \$1,700 for the Music in the Schools Foundation.

*Emily Entress joined Castilleja in 2012 to work in the ACE Center. She received her BA from Santa Clara University.*

*Stacey Kertsman joined Castilleja in 2011 from St. Mark's School in San Rafael. Previously she taught across all grade levels and at the University of California, Berkeley. She received her MA in the field of Social and Cultural Studies in Education from the University of California, Berkeley.*

## Global Investigator Trip: Learning From Voices

Castilleja's signature Global Investigator Program designs unique experiential learning opportunities for juniors to explore first-hand the socio-political and economic complexities of globalization by collaborating with social change agents, educators, and students on the ground at Global Investigator destinations. This year, students visited China, France, Guatemala, or India. The girls returned from their trips with broader perspective and deeper understanding.

*"My ears can't stop hearing 'Radha on the dance floor, Radha likes to party, Radha likes to move ya.' and I'm glad the tune remains plastered in my head because it carries the infinite laughter and genuine friendship that developed between the Roshni and Casti girls when we all danced as if there were no tomorrow."*

*"... not only did we appreciate this exposure which both educated us on France but also illuminated our perspective of our country, but we each discovered and cherished the importance of etre soi-meme (being true to yourself) and sharing your voice, whether it be for a problem as major as civil rights in the US to an issue as minor as the Castilleja uniform."*

ace  
center

## Sharing My Voice: HumanKindness

In 2015, Castilleja joined forces with Palo Alto non-profit Ada's Cafe for Arts with a Heart: HumanKIND. Inspired by the theme, alumna and past AwaH participants **Leila Milki '11** composed an original song for the show titled, "Human Together." Her beautiful lyrics captured the theme of the show and the spirit of joyful collaboration that emerged between Castilleja students and Ada's associates as they rehearsed together in the Dance Studio and on the stage.

Ada's Cafe has been a part of the Castilleja "family" for many years. It has a strong partnership with the ACE Center and welcomes many Castilleja students as volunteers. For the show's producers and performers — more than 120 total — knowing they were directly supporting the work of a local community organization brought special meaning to all their hard work.

The show raised over \$22,500 to support Ada's work hiring, training, and empowering people with disabilities in the Palo Alto community to work in the commercial food service industry.

*To learn more about Ada's Cafe visit [www.adascafe.org](http://www.adascafe.org) or stop by the cafe located in the Mitchell Park Community Center. To read more about Leila, see page 31.*

### Human Together

Words and Music by Leila Milki '11

#### Verse 1

It's been so long since I've felt a spark in you  
You've been blind and lost, well I've lived in darkness too  
If I ignite a fire, will you lend me a smile for a while  
And if we hold each other tight, can we make it  
through the night

#### Chorus

When the dawn has come  
We'll let the morning sun shine on in each other  
Through the fog we'll run  
Our golden hearts are one when we're human together

#### Verse 2

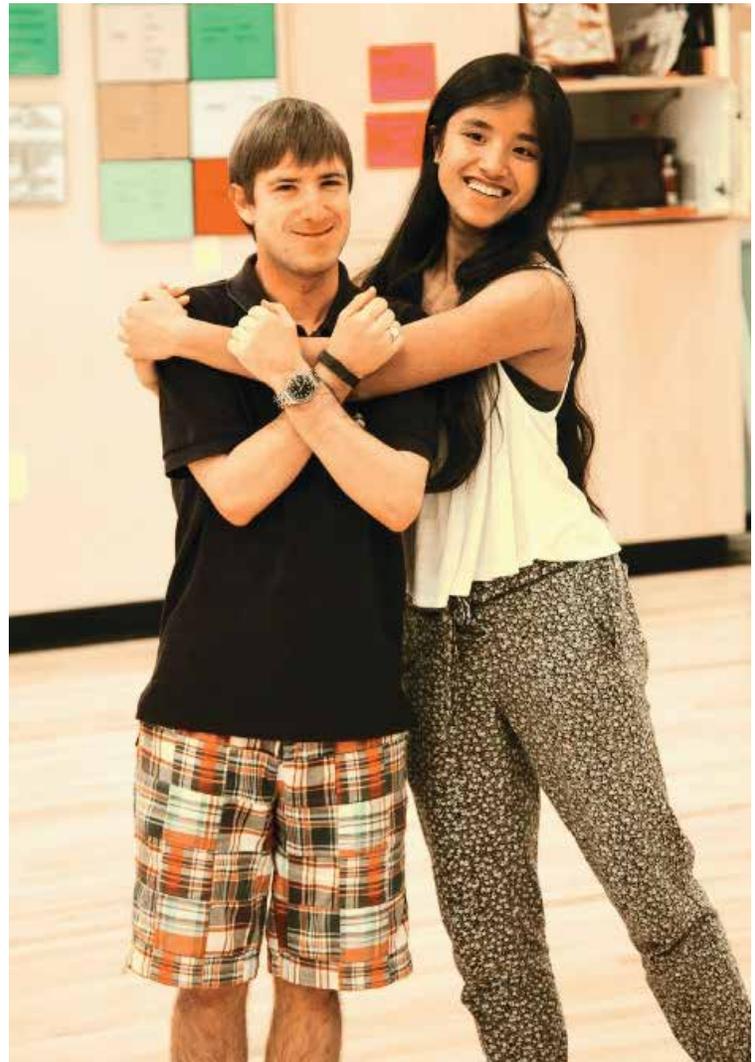
Though we're apart, there's a promise of love within  
Whether near or far, it burns bright beneath our skin  
With every breath it deepens and brings us closer  
than before  
And if we share the lasting glow, we can make any  
place our home

#### Chorus

When the dawn has come  
We'll let the morning sun shine on in each other  
Through the fog we'll run  
Our golden hearts are one when we're human together  
If hope is hard to find  
I'll hold your hand in mine, and we'll make it better  
It's easy to be kind  
And distant souls align when we're human together

#### Chorus

When the dawn has come  
We'll let the morning sun shine on in each other  
Through the fog we'll run  
Our golden hearts are one when we're human together  
If hope is hard to find  
I'll hold your hand in mine, and we'll make it better  
It's easy to be kind  
Our stories intertwine when we're human together



# feature

## Finding My Own Voice

by Mayuka Sarukkai '15

"...when I'm doing  
what I love, my voice  
stops apologizing."



“Mayuka reminds us that when a girl is challenged to become increasingly competent, she grows in confidence and finds her own voice. For every Casti girl, this journey looks different, but as each girl’s voice gets stronger, she emerges as a young woman, ready to take on any challenge.”  
—Nanci Kauffman<sup>HA</sup>

**You are my captive audience. You must sit here for the next five minutes and listen to all that I have to say and provide the necessary applause.**

Six months ago, on a sunny summer Sunday afternoon, I realized that the world beyond these walls is not a captive audience. Or, at least, the world of the local Jollyman Park, where dog-walking strangers who really shouldn’t be strangers side-eye my friend and me, slightly intrigued by the sight of two teenage girls standing under a tree balancing large bags of flowers.

Now, I assure you that our doings in the park weren’t half as questionable as they looked. A month earlier, we had started a blog—called the Happiness Project—to philosophize about happiness and the meaning of the universe and other such things. (Because what else would two high school juniors have to do in life? I don’t know.) Our plan was simple enough in theory: we were going to interview random people on the street about what makes them happy, take their pictures, wish them a good day—piece of cake. Oh, and handing out flowers, we thought, would be a nice touch, so we hauled along several tote bags of wholesale daisies and anxiously prepared to approach the next reasonably friendly-looking person who passed by.

But after ten people just plain looked too scary to approach and then another ten informed us that no, they do not have a minute, and no, they would not like to answer a really simple question, and no, they would not like a flower to brighten up their day and uplift their soul, we quickly realized that maybe connecting with strangers isn’t really such an easy thing.

In fact, it’s one of the hardest things I’ve ever tried to do.

What had this world become? I thought as I vigorously shook tanbark out of my shoes. Why couldn’t I connect with my fellow Homo sapiens of Cupertino? Why was I met with a reserved distance, a cool distrust?

I could call it the problem of the modern world, but I was—am—part of the problem.

Because as I took one step and then another toward a stranger in the park, I believed deep down that I was an absolute waste of her time. And it showed.

You see, there’s an apology that lives in my voice. I’m sorry that you have to listen to me, it says, I’m sorry that what I have to say isn’t mind-bogglingly brilliant, I’m sorry that my voice is too quiet, I’m sorry for making this awkward, I’m sorry that I’m talking to you when you have much more important things to be doing in life than listening to me.

I’m sorry, I’m sorry, I’m sorry.

That’s how apology bites my tongue.

High school has been a journey towards discovering my true voice, a voice freed from its apology.

But “voice,” I’ve realized doesn’t necessarily mean being loud. Sometimes, it just means opening my mouth and letting the real me do all the talking.

And sometimes voice isn’t even really a matter of talking at all—because I’ve discovered a voice I hold really close to my heart that is my body as it dances.

And when I’m doing what I love, my voice stops apologizing.

My dance guru epitomized that “voice”—he danced unrelentingly and lived unrelentingly.

And it was only after he passed away suddenly earlier this month, as I watched a sea of unfamiliar faces pour into his funeral service, that I realized that this man had the gift of connecting deeply with every single person he touched. Because there was no apology in his knowing smile and the sharp slap of his foot and the sharp wit of his tongue.

He taught me to use a voice I already had—to dance and to live without apology, to listen to myself just as I listen to others, to be me and to love it. And I assure you that my voice is a huge work-in-progress—but guess what? I’m a work-in-progress too, and that’s okay.

So as I enter a more unsheltered world beyond these walls, a world that is by no means a captive audience, where the strangers of Jollyman Park—and anywhere else for that matter—do not accept my flowers and entertain my questions, I know that the only way I can get people to listen to me is for me to love what I have to say.

Because you don’t need to have the loudest voice in the room, or be the most articulate, or channel your inner, maybe nonexistent, extrovert, to find your voice.

You need to be shamelessly, beautifully, imperfectly, unapologetically you.

*Mayuka Sarukkai '15 is a senior at Castilleja. This piece was originally delivered as her senior speech.*

# around the circle



Team 1700 poses after winning the Engineering Inspiration award.

## Gatorbotics Celebrates 10th Anniversary

**(1-6)** To celebrate their 10th anniversary, Team 1700 took home the prestigious Engineering Inspiration Award at the East Arizona Regional competition, for the first time since their inaugural appearance at the FIRST Robotics Competition in 2005. The award, which “celebrates outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering within a team’s school and community,” qualified the team for the FIRST World Championship in St. Louis.

Ten years ago, Gatorbotics was really the only outlet for high school students interested in exploring engineering. The enthusiasm and dedication of hundreds of students and dozens of mentors over the years paved the way for what is now a full-fledged Computer Science and Engineering department, a dedicated maker space, and a thriving robotics program for both Upper and Middle School students. Two Gatorbotics members currently serve as mentors for the middle schoolers continuing the cycle of mentorship and inspiring the next generation of Team 1700!



**(#)** indicates the photo number

## Casti Mock Congress in Session

(7) To gain a better understanding of how Congress works, Sophomores participated in a mock congress focused on improving current issues in the Castilleja community. The House, comprised of three committees: Environment and Facility, Schedule and Calendar, and Upper School Curriculum, drafted and debated legislation. Their final bills then passed to the Senate for further debate and amendment. In the last session Senators gave impassioned speeches for and against the proposed bills and amendments and some attempted to filibuster.

In the end, two bills along with their proposed amendments were passed by the Senate and moved on to conference committee where members were charged with coming to agreement on one identical bill to be voted on by both Houses and then presented to President Kauffman for her signature.



7



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## Castilleja Welcomes Artist in Residence Motoko Honda

(8) Castilleja's current Artist in Residence (AIR), composer Motoko Honda, spent several weeks collaborating with girls in music classes, refining her own music compositions in the gallery, and creating music for the recent student production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She provided private composition lessons to students throughout her residency, worked closely with students in the Middle School music composition elective and the 9th grade core arts music class, and created a new piece of music for the Upper School Choir. To celebrate her time on campus, she performed two inspiring concerts for students and faculty. *To read more about our AIR program, see page 24.*



9

## Explo students visit Coyote Lake

(9) In April, Middle School science classes kicked off preparations for Explo 2015 with a field trip to Coyote Lake. This multi-faceted trip enabled the students to engage with a variety of scientific experiences. In intergrade groups, students both collected a wide variety of data about the lake and its surroundings and navigated through rolling hills and along the lakeside while thinking about the environment through which they were walking. They tested water, soil, and air for many variables, including but not limited to pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and salinity. The combination of hands-on real-world activities helped them to practice the skills they have learned in class. This also enabled them to explore and understand the connections between many features of the ecosystem while allowing them to practice techniques and develop ideas for their own upcoming Explo projects. They got to enjoy the beautiful scenery and even had some visits from interesting wildlife.

## Castilleja Welcomes our Partner Schools

**(1)** The Castilleja community welcomed twenty-two Italian students and their chaperones to campus this winter as part of an exchange program that has continued for fourteen years. Last year, Castilleja students traveled to Fano, Italy for a week-long home stay; this year, the same students came here and were hosted by their Casti partners. As part of their stay, the Italian students shadowed at Castilleja two days and participated in a history presentation on World War II, enjoyed sitting on the Circle taking in the beautiful weather, and formed a large and noisy fan base for Casti softball games. They also spent a day sightseeing in San Francisco and another day in Monterey visiting the aquarium.

The most memorable moments, however, were those spent with the Castilleja girls on campus and at home with host families. One host parent reflected, “We are honored to have shared such an amazing experience with the students. We’ve made a connection that will last a lifetime. We now have two new members of our family.” Another noted, “It was so nice to see things through the eyes of our Italian daughters and sons. There were new things for us to discover even in things we thought were familiar, such as the town of Santa Cruz.

**(2-3)** In early spring, Castilleja welcomed students and teachers from Melbourne Girls Grammar School (MGGS) in Australia. Their visit kicked off Castilleja’s new global partnership centering on technology and computer science. While on their Science and Enterprise Tour of the West Coast, 59 MGGS girls collaborated with Castilleja’s Middle Schoolers to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), including participating in a tinkering project in Castilleja’s Bourn Idea Lab.

During the visit, 14 girls in Castilleja’s computer science

programming elective attended the MGGS Young Women for Enterprise and Innovation Conference, which showcased how women across the global community can unite to tackle the technological challenges of today and tomorrow. This visit lay the groundwork for a collaborative, ongoing coding project, in which Castilleja and MGGS students hope to use app and website development as a lens for cross-cultural and authentic leadership experiences between the two schools.

## Casti Kudos

**Hannah Knowles ’15** was recognized as a 2015 Young Arts Finalist in the Writing/Short Story category. Hannah was one of 23 students recognized in this category and one of only 170 Finalists nationwide selected from a pool of over 11,000 applications. As a Finalist, she was invited to participate in the 34th Annual National Young Arts Week in Miami, Florida where she spent a week taking master classes taught by internationally renowned artists and writers.

**Abby Lowell ’16** and **Sophia Pelosi ’16** won Honorable Mentions in the 2015 White House Student Film Festival. The national contest received over 1,500 entries focused on “The Impact of Giving Back.” This is the first time Castilleja students have entered this contest and they were thrilled to bring home awards for Abby’s short film “Love, Emma” and Sophia’s short film, “School Service Starts with Justice.”

**(4)** **Lea Sparkman ’16** was named a Regional Finalist in the Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology. Her project focused on astronomy, specifically comparing the chemical composition of the centers of galaxies and the globular clusters, which are basically clusters of stars that are orbiting around these galaxies. The paper she submitted to the competition was an outgrowth of her summer internship at the University of California, Santa Cruz

through the University’s Science Internship Program (SIP). “The competition was like a second internship.” Sparkman said. “It really requires you to understand what you learned really deeply.” As part of the competition she presented her poster to the judges and to other members of the Caltech community.

**(5)** **Senior Kriti Lall ’15** was named a Finalist in the 2015 Intel Science Talent Search (STS). More than 1,800 high school seniors applied for the competition and 40 were chosen as finalists, based on leading-edge research, breakthrough discoveries, and progressive inventions, all with far-reaching potential to make a positive difference in the world. Inspired to look into water treatment after volunteering in a village in India and learning that arsenic poisoning from drinking water is a huge problem. To combat this, she genetically engineered bacteria so that they get rid of the arsenic in water through a technique called bioremediation. Lall also built a bioreactor — that only cost \$8 — using commonly found materials such as pipes and gravel. The setup is easy to implement and it’s efficient: It can remove arsenic from water at a rate of four gallons per hour. She’s continuing to work to move her project into development.

**(6)** **Sophia Nesamoney ’19, Olivia Vercruyse ’19, and Niv Layton ’19**, otherwise known as “Technically Challenged,” won the award for Outstanding Engineering Journal at the annual Tech Challenge competition. Sixth grade students **Grace Kim ’21** and **Mukki Sahiwal ’21** were part of “The TecTonic Plates” team that won the award for Outstanding Engineering Design Process. Sponsored by the San Jose Tech Museum of Innovation, the Tech Challenge uses a real-world problem as a hands-on way to teach the science and engineering design process to students in grades 5-12. This year’s competition challenged participants to build an earthquake-safe structure.

**(#)** indicates the photo number



# Winter Sports Recap

## Varsity Soccer

(1-2) Competing in the Skyline Division of the WBAL, the varsity soccer team went undefeated in conference play this past season. (8-2-0). The Gators defeated Crystal Springs 1-0 to win the League Championship for the first time and advance to the Central Coast Sectionals (CCS). Though they fell to Notre Dame San Jose (1-2), it was an incredible season for the team with new coach James Graham.

## Varsity Basketball

(3-4) The team had a strong pre-season, capturing 3rd place in the King's Academy Tournament and finishing 2-2 in the Monterey Bay Sweet 16 tournament. Competing in the very tough Foothill Division of the WBAL, the team qualified for CCS and beat Carmel at home to move into the quarterfinals. Though they lost to Menlo, the Gators had a great season.

## Winter sports teams receive WBAL Honors

The soccer and basketball teams were named as the #1 and #3 academic teams in West Bay Athletic League (WBAL) respectively. Individual athletes were also recognized:

### MVP

Julia Lodoen '16, Forward of the Year (Soccer)  
Amanda McMaster '17, Goalkeeper of Year (Soccer)

### First Team All League

Sarah Abramowitz '16 (Soccer)  
Leena Ambady '16 (Soccer)  
Sam Jensen '16 (Soccer)  
Victoria Pu '15 (Soccer)

### Second Team All League

Clare Maloney-McCrystle '15 (Soccer)  
Natalie Sands '16 (Soccer)  
Paige Vermeer '15 (Basketball)  
Anna Verwillow '15 (Soccer)

### Honorable Mention

Ellie Chen '16 (Basketball)  
Elizabeth Parker '17 (Soccer)  
Anais Sarrazin '16 (Soccer)

# Spring Sports Recap

## Swimming

(5) The Gators had a strong showing in their first WBAL two meets of the season, including team wins at both meets. The team also produced remarkable individual results, At their first home meet, Castilleja swimmers took 1st place finishes in the 200 Medley Relay, 200 Individual Medley, 100 Butterfly, 500 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle Relay, 100 Backstroke, and 400 Freestyle. Against Notre Dame San Jose at San Jose State University, four swimmers got 1st place in two events each. In some cases the wins qualified them for CCS.

## Track and Field

(6) Competing in the WBAL, the track and field team got off to a great start with a 2nd place finish in their first meet of the season at Bellarmine College Prep. The Gators participated in 11 events with strong results including 1st place finishes in the 400m Dash, 4x100m Relay, and Long Jump.



1



2



3



4



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### Lacrosse

**(7-8)** The Gators had a 3-game win streak to start the season in non-league play against Mountain View High School, Sequoia, and Notre Dame San Jose. They had a few losses heading into the start of league play, but were looking to finish the season strong.

### Softball

**(9)** The young team had a slow start to the season despite two big wins over Mercy Burlingame and Notre Dame San Jose. They rallied as league play began and ended in second place in the Foothill Division with a 6-3 record.



## Casti Kudos

Freshman **Izzi Henig '18** competed in the finals event for the 50-meter Freestyle at the Speedo Sectionals Championship series in College Station, Texas. Her winning time of 26.06 was under the US Olympic time standard (26.39). As a result, she qualified to compete in the US Olympic Trials in June for a spot on the team that will compete in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

Casti Kudos to **Alix Barry '18** who won gold in the Women's Junior Freshman event at the Peninsula Indoor 2k Regatta at Canada College with a time of 7:28.6! She placed 6th in the overall high school competition with 300+ athletes from around Northern California. Around 70 high school women participated in the women's freshman and open weight categories. Alix rows with Norcal Crew out of Redwood City.



## Sibling Swim Coaches: Laura Duran and Alison Tovar

**(10)** **Laura Duran** and **Alison Tovar** are two sisters who are transforming the varsity swim program one stroke at a time. Coach Laura Duran has been coaching at Castilleja for four seasons now, but this is the first time that her sister, Alison Tovar, has joined her as associate head coach. Working together has taken the team to the next level. They each bring different strengths to the table, which is really beneficial with such a large group of talented swimmers. Laura says some of her favorite experiences include bonding over the pain of 6:00 am practices and seeing swimmers with almost no experience dramatically improve. Alison also enjoys watching the swimmers improve, and she says she has seen impressive changes in just the short time she's been with the team. Both coaches appreciate the way the girls push themselves, motivate each other, and willingly accept feedback, all while keeping a smile on their faces. As proponents of the sport, both coaches feel that swimming lends itself to all experience levels, and they are so happy to be working with the Castilleja varsity team.





## Performing Arts Rewind

Castilleja's performing arts program celebrated an exciting 2014-15 season! Middle and Upper School students brought their considerable talents, both on the stage and behind the scenes to musicals, plays, concerts, and much more! The season included fully staged productions of the musicals *Oliver* and *Anything Goes* as well as Arts with a Heart: *HumankIND*, which featured more than 120 Middle and Upper School students on stage and behind the scenes. Students took the reins for two plays; **Kat Pavlidis '15** directed Beth Henley's award-winning *Crimes of the Heart* in the Studio Theater and **Kathleen Keanealy '15** directed Shakespeare's romantic comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Good Court, Casti's first outdoor production! Midsummer also featured an original score composed by Castilleja Artist in Residence Motoko Honda. Other performance included One Act Plays, Stage and Screen Evening, and the Winter and Spring Music concerts.



**1-2** Scenes from Beth Henley's *Crimes of the Heart* directed by Kat Pavlidis '15

**3-4** Scenes from the Upper School musical, *Anything Goes*

**5-6** Performances from the Winter Music Concert

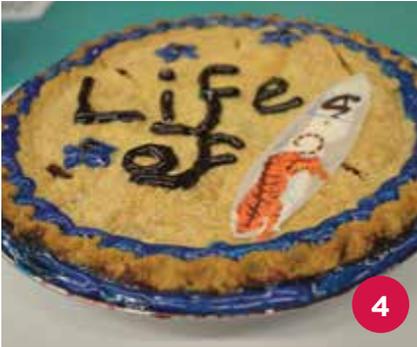
**7-9** Performances from Arts with a Heart 2015: *HumankIND*

**10-12** Scenes from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

**13-14** Scenes from the Middle School musical, *Oliver*



## around the circle



## Outside Voices

Each year, Castilleja welcomes dozens of speakers to campus to share their professional expertise and personal experiences with students. Among those who visited were an engineering professor from Stanford, a film editor from Hollywood, and a representative from the NGO Village Enterprise in Uganda.

(1) This spring, the STEMx ACE org hosted **Dr. Martin Hellman**, professor emeritus of electrical engineering at Stanford, member of the National Academy of Engineering, and an inductee of the National Inventors Hall of Fame. Dr. Hellman is best known for his invention (with Whitfield Diffie and Ralph Merkle) of public key cryptography, which forms

the basis for secure transactions and cybersecurity on the Internet. Students at this meeting were treated to a fascinating and often hilarious presentation that spanned many topics, from computer science to mathematics to political and civil liberties.

(2) Mrs. McKee's African Studies class heard from **Winnie Auma**, Uganda Country Director from Village Enterprise. She spoke to the class about her "journey" and her responsibilities as a business mentor, field coordinator, and now country director for Village Enterprise, which focuses on transforming lives by helping people to create sustainable businesses. As with many children in Uganda, her family's poverty presented a significant barrier to education, especially being the youngest of fifteen. However

her passion, charisma, and determination inspired support from her family and led to help from the Female Scholarship Initiative of the Carnegie Foundation which allowed her to graduate from Makerere University. She is now dedicated to giving back to the community and country that supported her. Students left inspired and searching for ways to take action beyond the Circle.

Film 2 students were privileged to have a visit from Hollywood film editor **Don Stroud**, who came to Castilleja to share some tips and tricks of the trade. Having just completed a two-week nighttime feature shoot in San Francisco, he was quite frank and often hilarious in his description of just what goes

(#) indicates the photo number

into making a movie. Continuing the tradition of this fall's "Talk with an Expert," students now have a valuable resource to email about directing and Stanley Kubrick's films which they have studied.

## C-STEAM speakers share expertise

(3) This winter, Castilleja held its third annual C-STEAM Forum for Upper School students. Fifteen speakers, including alumnae, parents, and friends of the school, came to campus to discuss their expertise in the STEAM fields: science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

Students had the opportunity to see three different speakers, gaining exposure to fields including product design, medicine, entrepreneurship, and computer science. With the guests sharing their personal and professional wisdom, and answering questions ranging from how to combine a passion for the humanities with an interest in the sciences, to how new pieces of technology such as Fitbits are designed with the user in mind, each student came away with a great deal of food for thought. The speakers were thoughtful and passionate, did not shy away from the hard realities of the amount of work required, and shared the importance of other skills such as the ability to ask questions, persevering, and developing relationships with mentors.

## Student's Enjoy Eating Their Words

(4) This spring, the Castilleja Library celebrated its 2nd Annual Edible Book Festival by playing literary games, decorating cupcakes, and, of course, eating edible books! Before eating, students had the opportunity to look at the more than 60 entries and vote for the most creative creations in a variety of categories. The winners included "Harry Squatter and the Chamber Pot of Secrets" (Funniest/Punniest); "Romeo and Juliet" (Technical Mastery); "A Mango Shaped Space" (Best Simple Idea); "Where the Wild Greens Grow" (Healthiest); "Othello" (Most Othello-licious); and "A Fault in our Cake" (People's Choice).

The event was a true collaboration by the library staff, parent volunteers, and the 7-member student planning team, which included both Middle and Upper School students, and everyone had a great time eating their words!

## Founder's Day

(5-7) On a sunny May Day, more than 800 mothers, guardians, special friends and daughters joined faculty, staff, and alumnae on the Circle for the annual celebration of Founder's Day. The program included a welcome from Head of School **Nanci Kauffman<sup>HA</sup>**, songs from the 6th Grade Chorus and MUSE as well as speeches from seniors **Teni Amos, Christina Craig, Chloe Sales**, and **Mayuka Sarukkai** who

shared their personal stories, Castilleja histories, and hopes for our shared future. Special recognition was given to **Desola Amos, P'05, P'06, P'10, P'11, P'15** who has been part of the fabric of the Castilleja community since 1997 when eldest daughter Tope started at Castilleja.

## Sophomores explore on Career Day

(8-10) Earlier this year, sophomores had the opportunity to explore future professional options by participating in Career Day. Students could choose to visit: Bouchon Bakery, Challenge Success, Peter Koch's Printers/Chronicle Books, Google, NASA, IDEO+, Stanford Hospital, or UCSF Medical Center.

At each venue students had a full day of exploring a profession by shadowing people in the workforce and seeing careers in a hands-on way. Students were involved in a wide variety of exciting activities: they observed surgery, sat in on board meetings, toured research labs and gourmet baking facilities, collaborated in a design-thinking process, and even performed laparoscopic surgery on a piñata (which is harder than it looks!) They also interviewed experts in the field: medical specialists and clinicians, programmers and engineers, as well as publishers and business executives. They came back excited and with a better understanding of the careers that they may want to pursue in the future.



8



9



10

## Quartet-in-Residence

(1) As part of its Artist in Residence” program, Castilleja was honored to have the Real Vocal String Quartet (RVSQ) on campus for a three-day residency. RVSQ’s surprisingly broad repertoire embraces the diverse influences of all four players, from classical, jazz, and rock, to songs and styles from West Africa, Brazil, and rural America. Yet while four distinct voices can be heard, in seven years of performing together the Quartet has achieved a true group sound.

While on campus the quartet collaborated with students in arts classes on a wide variety of tunes and techniques. Students worked on improvisation and composition skills, and learned the key components of being a collaborative chamber musician. One highlight included a workshop with the Upper School Choir on Regina Spektor’s haunting tune Machine. RVSQ also performed for all the 6th and 7th grade music classes, and worked on musical improv games with the students in smaller groups: the students had to

create compositions on the spot, something RVSQ calls a “Now.”

As a grand finale, RVSQ treated Castilleja to a mini-concert Wednesday afternoon, which met with a standing ovation from students and adults alike.

## Keith Haring at the De Young

(2) The entire 9th grade Core Arts class as well as Upper School students from Painting and Drawing classes visited the de Young Museum in San Francisco to see “The Political Line,” an exhibition featuring 130 artworks by Keith Haring. The vivid and thought-provoking group of paintings, sculptures, and subway drawings served as a wonderful extension of their social justice investigations in Vision and Voice.

## Rivalry Returns

(3-4) The Casti Rivalry tradition took the campus by storm with juniors and seniors creating a spectacular show of spirit and camaraderie. To kick off the week, seniors organized a flashmob to celebrate the end of their days in uniform and begin their final quarter at Castilleja.

Next, juniors put on a “royal” display of class pride, decorating the campus with purple galore. There was even a throne for Head of School **Nanci Kauffman**<sup>HA</sup> and Head of Upper School **Jim Pickett** to celebrate their benevolent reign of the school.

Not to be outdone, seniors turned the Circle into a circus—literally. With a theme of “Under the Big Red Top,” the Ring Leaders, a/k/a the Class of 2015, led a spirited contingent of students and faculty dressed as ringmasters, clowns, lion tamers, animals, fortune tellers, and more!

(#) indicates the photo number



# your gifts at work

RAISING THE BAR TO MEET OUR NEEDS

CASTILLEJA SCHOOL

2014-2015

**Gifts as of April 30, 2015**

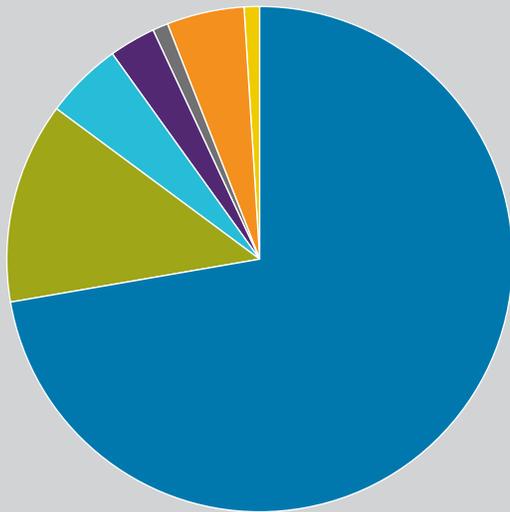
**It's not too late to  
participate this year!  
Give by June 30, 2015**



## Gifts This Year

**Each year, your gifts have an immediate impact on the lives of our students.** Your generosity provides critical scholarship opportunities and tuition assistance; funds innovative academic programming; supports faculty compensation and professional development opportunities; and sustains high-caliber academic programs as well as athletics, performing arts, student organizations, and so much more. The following gifts were received between July 1, 2014 and April 30, 2015.

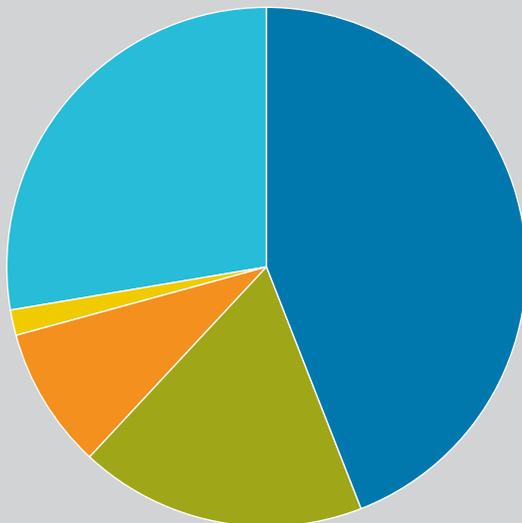
### Annual Fund Gift Sources



Current Parents	\$ 1,559,938
Trustees*	\$ 276,757
Alumnae	\$ 104,698
Alumnae Parents	\$ 61,709
Grandparents	\$ 15,400
Other	\$ 101,150
Faculty and Staff	\$ 6,714
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,126,366</b>

\* Includes trustees who are current and alumnae parents and alumnae.

### 2014-2015 All Gifts by Fund\*



Annual Fund	\$ 2,111,366
View360	\$ 855,602
Innovation Investment Fund	\$ 422,642
Scholarships	\$ 76,061
Other:	\$ 1,325,337
Planned Gifts	\$ 312,937
Restricted Gifts	\$ 1,012,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,791,008</b>

\* Includes gifts and new pledges. Does not include pledge payments from prior years.

We are deeply grateful for the strong financial support we receive from all parts of the Castilleja community. From unrestricted gifts to the Annual Fund and View360 which support daily operations and tuition assistance respectively, to restricted gifts that help us bring dynamic speakers to campus, deepen our Computer Science program, build a Digital Learning Lab, and much more, every gift helps us raise the bar. The accomplishments highlighted on the following pages are as much yours as they are Castilleja's—without your support, none of this would have been possible.

## Annual Initiatives

Each year, three annual initiatives comprise the backbone of fundraising at the school: Annual Fund, Innovation Investment Fund, and View360. Together, they make up the difference between revenue (including endowment payout) and actual operating costs and allow the school to provide an exceptional educational experience.

### Annual Fund

**To sustain our cutting-edge programs, retain outstanding faculty and staff, and ensure a diverse and academically strong student body, Castilleja relies on gifts to the Annual Fund.** The collective generosity of current parents, alumnae, alumnae parents, trustees, faculty, staff, grandparents, and others enables Castilleja to continue educating girls to be confident thinkers and compassionate leaders.

This year, with the support of parent, alumnae, and alumnae parent solicitors, the Annual Fund had its strongest fundraising year in school history, **raising over \$2.11 million.**

**The Annual Fund doesn't conclude until June 30, so if you haven't made your gift yet, it's not too late! Please use the enclosed envelope or visit [www.castilleja.org/circle](http://www.castilleja.org/circle).**

### Innovation Investment Fund

**To keep Castilleja on the leading-edge of education in the 21st century, the School launched the Innovation Investment Fund (IIF) in 2011.** For the past four years, IIF has provided the financial flexibility to explore new avenues for teaching and learning and support enhancements to academic programs related to Castilleja's strategic vision especially in the areas of creativity, art, and design; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

### View360

Since 2008, View360 has contributed over \$3.0 million to tuition assistance. This year our team of parent solicitors led the most successful View360 fundraising campaign in the event's history raising over \$850,000. Keeping Castilleja a viable educational option for as many students as possible, is critically important and strong support ensures our tuition assistance program remains robust.

## Restricted Gifts

Restricted gifts are given for a specific purpose to fund a wide array of initiatives and programs that support the mission of the school and enhance the Castilleja experience.

### Athletics

Following the development of a Strategic Plan for Athletics, this year we welcomed a new Athletic Director, Mary Jo Pruitt. She is off to a tremendous start and has already infused the program with inspiring new energy and a vision that is strengthening Athletics at Castilleja. Our teams are performing well and our fans have more spirit than ever! Current parents, alumnae and alumnae parents made gifts to help us reach a goal of \$75,000 to provide the program with funds to make a one-time larger investment in new uniforms for all of our teams and to recruit and retain the best coaches. The success of Athletics is felt throughout the campus and has everyone saying, "Go Gators!"

### Digital Learning Lab

A recent update to our Language Lab takes advantage of advances in digital technology and expands our repertoire of tools to help students develop and strengthen their listening and speaking skills. New technology allows teachers to create two-way conversations that simulate dialogue with native speakers, to easily insert corrections into student recordings, and to adapt and adjust texts for reading fluency practice. The result? Students love the environment and appreciate the interactive components, which allow them to listen to their own voices, work in groups, and get instant feedback from the teacher.

### Global

Since 2008, one of the things that makes Castilleja special is the curriculum planned around the junior year Global Investigator Trip. At its inception an endowment was created to ensure that EVERY girl could participate. This allows Castilleja to create school wide programming around this shared student experience. Unfortunately, due to rising travel costs, the payout from our Global Endowment no longer covers the total cost of this essential Castilleja experience. This year, a few generous donors helped us to ensure that every 11th grade student could participate by helping to cover the \$75,000 shortfall. In the future we hope to raise endowment funds to once again cover the full cost of the trip.

### Partnership for 21st Century Assessment (PA21)

With the support of The Edward E. Ford Foundation and other gifts, PA21 is flourishing. Director Karen Strobel has worked with faculty to identify an assessment project that they each wanted to develop or improve. Teachers chose to assess a range of skills including critical analysis, flexible problem solving, perseverance, self-directed learning, collaboration, and presentation skills. Next, faculty will pilot and refine these tools, and then identify the processes for adapting these resources for future assignments. The research is currently shared internally and this library of assessment resources is key as Castilleja lays the groundwork for collaboration with peer schools in Phase II.

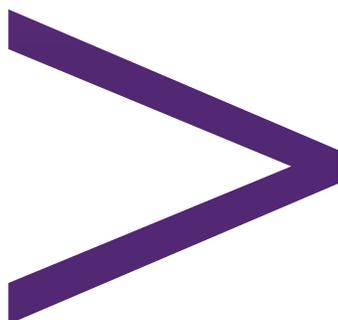
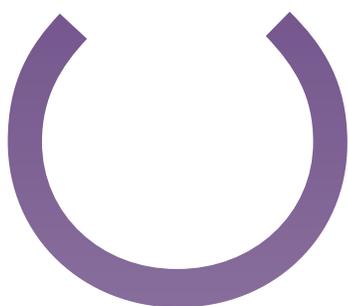
### Speakers and More

Speakers and our Writers, Activists, and Artists in Residence add an important dimension to our curriculum, enabling students to apprentice themselves to experts and hear their personal stories. Among those on campus this year were:

- **Liza Donnelly** (Arrillaga and Morris Family Speaker): The renowned New Yorker cartoonist spoke at an all-school assembly and led a series of hands-on workshops.
- **Alexandra Fuller** (Writer in Residence): The distinguished author returned to hold a non-fiction workshop with Juniors as well as an intensive writing symposium for Seniors.
- **Julio "Lencho" Melendez** (Activist in Residence): The advocate for indigenous minorities worked with students to explore how communities can embrace both equality and environmental awareness through innovative entrepreneurship.
- **Real Vocal String Quartet** (Artist in Residence): This all-female ensemble used their residency to mentor music classes and collaborate with student chamber groups. *Read more on page 20.*

**It's not too late to  
participate this year!  
Give by June 30, 2015**





## View360

On April 18, the Castilleja community gathered for the 8th Annual View360 Symposium. More than 500 parents, alumnae, alumnae parents, faculty, staff, and students attended our signature spring fundraiser held at Yahoo! This year's event raised a record amount—over \$850,000—to support tuition assistance and enable qualified young women to attend Castilleja regardless of their families' financial circumstances.

The theme of *Voices* served as an inspiring lens through which to explore the ways in which a single voice can be both channeled and amplified to raise awareness and to effect change. **Martha Adams** of Girl Rising and **James Kass** of Youth Speaks described how they are giving a voice to the disenfranchised, whether by providing impoverished girls around the globe with the education to serve as community leaders, or by launching a national spoken-word movement to leverage the creativity of today's young adults. YouTube founder **Steve Chen** and journalist **Forrest Sawyer** discussed the power of shared stories - from the profound to the mundane - and the positive and negative impact of social media, while **Rupal Patel** talked about how her company VocaliD is building a human voice bank that will be used to literally create a voice for those who have lost the ability to use their own voice.

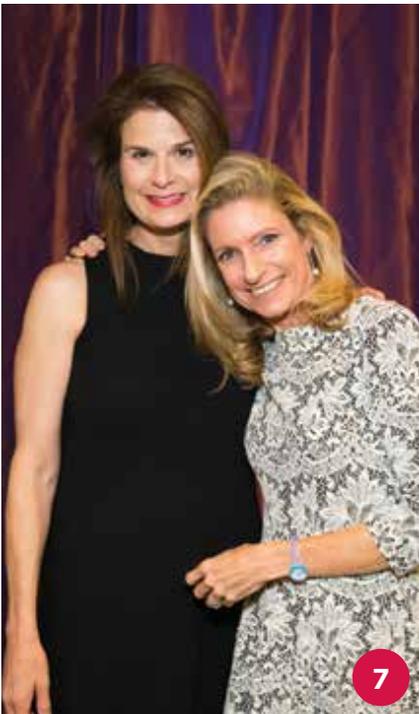
One of the evening's highlights was Naturally 7's "vocal play" performance. By transforming human voice into a chorus of a cappella instrumentation, the group added both depth and subtext to the palette of expression and brought the audience to their feet.

The school is deeply grateful for the generosity of its donors, particularly lead sponsors Yahoo! and Osborne Partners Capital Management, and the many volunteer hours contributed by the View360 steering committee including **Alison Abbo, P'19; Nahid Aliniazee, P'14; Sybilla Balkanski, P'18; Liz Horner, P'20; Susan Lewis, P'19; Shana Middler, P'18, P'21; Usha Nesamoney, P'19;** and **Mike Orsak, P'17, P'20** as well as fundraising chair **Diana Sunshine, P'19.**

1 View360 2015 speakers 2 Forrest Sawyer and Steve Chen 3 Members of Naturally 7 4 Martha Adams 5 James Kass 6 Mayuka Sarukkai '15 7 Forrest Sawyer with Shruti and Pawan Tewari, P'16 8 (left to right) Josie Shiff, P'13, P'15; Anita Westly, P'21; and Nahid Aliniazee, P'14 9 Barb Rosston, P'12 and Usha Nesamony, P'19 10 (left to right) Shana Middler, P'13, P'21; Ellen Flamen, P'14, P'16; and Carla Cassani, P'14 11 Student volunteers flash the "WL, WL" sign



## around the circle



**1** View360 steering and fundraising committee members with Head of School Nanci Kauffman<sup>HA</sup> **2** DJ at the after party **3** Patrick McCrystle and Anne Maloney, P'13, P'15 and Teri Raffel **4** Sekhar Sarukkai and Rajashree Srirangarajan, P'15, P'19 **5** Hans Jacobsen and Michelle Meller, P'15 **6** Karen Fisher, P'11 and Alison Abbo, P'19 **7** Kristina Austin-Nicholls, P'13, P'17 and Susan Lewis, P'19 **8** Ethan Nicholls, P'13, P'17 and Guy Goldstein, P'15, P'20



**9** Michele Kirsch, P'12, P'14, P'20; Katie Hanna Dickson and Tom Dickson, P'20  
**10** Lisa Stephenson, P'17; Rebecca Long, P'17; and Tom Stephenson, P'17  
**11** Alum parents gather at the after party  
**12** Deglin and Heather Kenealy, P'15  
**13** Cam Moler and Steve Rosston, P'11  
**14** Susie Hwang, P'16, P'19, P'21 and Shana Middler, P'19 and P'21  
**15** Paige McClellan, P'17; Nicole Richardson, P'17; and Kathy Adzich, P'19

# alumnae



Alums gather at View360 2015 in April.

## A Fond Farewell to Maggie Ely Pringle '71

In May, Castilleja said goodbye to Maggie Ely Pringle '71 who stepped down from her position as Director of Alumnae Relations after ten years. Since 2005, Maggie has been a strong voice for Castilleja alumnae and alumnae parents, spearheading efforts to create stronger connections, a more vibrant program, and more avenues for involvement. With the enthusiastic support and hard work of the Alumnae Association Executive Committee and the Castilleja Alumnae Parents Association, she leaves behind a robust and flourishing program that will continue to grow to meet the needs of our alumnae.

As alum, alum parent, and now honorary alumna, we know Maggie will never really “leave” Castilleja and wish her well as she embarks on new adventures!

*More information about the transition will be sent to all alumnae.*



Maggie Ely Pringle '71, Jean “Babs” Gillon '69, and Derry Wallace MacBride '69.

## Save the Date for Reunion Weekend

Whether you are celebrating a special reunion or just want to come back to campus to see friends and faculty—mark your calendars for September 25-26, 2015.

### Friday, September 25

- Class Visits and Campus Tours
- All Classes Reunion Party!

### Saturday, September 26

- All Classes Reunion Luncheon and Program
- Individual Class Reunion Events—stay tuned for more information from your Class Reps!

**save the date...**  
to attend **YOUR** Casti Reunion!

**REUNION WEEKEND**  
**SEPTEMBER 25-26**  
**2015**

 **CASTILLEJA**  
SCHOOL

## Spotlight: Leila Milki '11

Leila is a dynamic and eclectic pop singer-songwriter who integrates her classical piano training with her Middle Eastern background to create thoughtful instrumentation, engaging melodies, and heartfelt harmony. In June 2015 she will complete her studies as a Communication, Songwriting, and Music Industry student at the University of Southern California.

Leila strives to translate her artistic expression into an accessible platform for emotional and social empowerment, and she continuously draws from Castilleja's core values of conscience, character, courtesy, charity, and courage to move others, form lasting relationships, advocate for women's leadership, and perform with humility, gratitude, and devotion. Her time at Castilleja allowed her to cultivate her passions in an open, stimulating learning environment, fostering in her the drive to spark meaningful change through her music. Her involvement in Arts with a Heart (AWAH) during all four years of high school, for instance, has extended to her college life, as she recently wrote, composed, and arranged the song "Human Together" for this year's AWAH production, *HumankIND*, benefiting Ada's Cafe. This union of art and compassion captures her ultimate aspiration to make a difference through her artistic voice.

In the summer of 2012, Leila won the *gigg.com* Once Upon Another Time Cover Contest, which earned her a Skype conversation with Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Sara Bareilles. Gaining one of her favorite artists' recognition pushed her, more than ever before, to pursue her passion as a profession. In September 2014, she was invited to write the music for "Boys' Toys," a documentary exploring the representation of women in video games, and in October she was featured as *StarCentral* magazine's "Female Artist of the Month." In March 2015, her girl-power pop tune "Invincible" was chosen as the theme song for the second annual Worldwide Endo March, a global event raising awareness about endometriosis and its severity as an epidemic that affects millions of women and girls.

In addition to writing and performing her own music, Leila is also the keyboardist and background vocalist for multiple Los Angeles artists, enriching her musicianship by immersing herself in other people's work. She is currently focusing on recording and promoting her original material, as she prepares for a musical career after college.

Hear Leila's music on:  
[youtube.com/Imilki](https://www.youtube.com/Imilki)  
[soundcloud.com/Imilki](https://www.soundcloud.com/Imilki)  
[facebook.com/leilamilkimusic](https://www.facebook.com/leilamilkimusic)



# Alumnae Events

Over the last few months more than 100 alumnae and honorary alumnae have gathered at regional events across the country. From a Boston evening meet up to a Silicon Valley wine tasting, these events gave alums across the decades the chance to meet, reconnect and have fun!



## Silicon Valley Wine Tasting ^ v

**1** (left to right): Marian Washington Williams '94, Carol Patel '93, and Joyce Bogner Bohn '72 **2** (left to right): Katherine Haase Taylor '88, Margaret Kennelly Hazelrig '00, and Ursula Kinney Ringham '90 **3** (left to right): Leslie Cardozo Stafford '93, James Stafford, Carol Patel '93, and Jim Ringham **4** (left to right): Charles Whitfield, Courtney Dyar '93, and Emily Shenfield '08 **5** Kelsey Finch and Aylin Oncel '05





**Annual Alumnae vs. Varsity Soccer Game and Boston Regional Gathering ^**

**6** Natasha Lilani '13 and Kaley Nelsen '13 **7** Boston area alums gather with Head of School Nanci Kauffman<sup>HA</sup>



**Castilleja Alumnae Parents Association (CAPA) Fall Event ^**

**8** (left to right): Jesper Strøe, P'12, P'14; Michele Kirsch, P'12, P'14, P'20; Louise Strøe, P'12, P'14; and Elizabeth Softky, P'12  
**9** Gus Malekmadani, P'09, P'13 and Ken Lee, P'13 **10** Kim Sommer, P'05, P'11 and Melanie Hatchell, P'09 **11** Martha Seaver, P'06, P'08, P'11; Veronica Kornberg, P'00, P'02, P'08; and Susan Costello, P'11 **12** Anne Ritchie, P'10, P'12; Barb Rosston, P'12; and Susann Mirabella, P'12  
**13** Anil and Ena Gupta, P'13, P'16; Doreen Nelsen, P'11 and P'13; and Marsha Abbott, P'10, P'13

**Alumnae Family Valentine's Day Party ▼**

**1** Pratima Sethi '94 and Lisa Kitayama Wallgren '94 **2** Susan Ryan Tighe '91 and Lily Tighe **3** Courtney Carter Charney '97 and Avery Charney



**Honorary Alumnae Winter Tea and First Friday Alumnae Lunch ▼**

**4** Front row (left to right): Karen Tobey<sup>HA</sup>, Toni Hsu<sup>HA</sup>, Eleni Coltos<sup>HA</sup>, Mercedes McCaffrey<sup>HA</sup>, Elyce Melmon<sup>HA</sup>; Back row (left to right): Ann Criswell<sup>HA</sup>, Christiane Andreopoulos<sup>HA</sup>, Eliane Neukermans<sup>HA</sup>, Jeannine Marston<sup>HA</sup>, Connie Richardson<sup>HA</sup>, Michèle Grundmann<sup>HA</sup>, Judy Wagner<sup>HA</sup>, Lauren Schryver<sup>HA</sup>, Kyle Barriger<sup>HA</sup>, Peggy McKee<sup>HA</sup>, Nancy Flowers<sup>HA</sup>, and Judy Rino<sup>HA</sup> **5** (left to right): Ann Criswell<sup>HA</sup>, Ursula Kinney Ringham '90, Heather Allen Pang '84<sup>HA</sup>, Allison Koo '98, Bonnie Rosenberg '87, and Kristin Meier '87



**Young Alum Holiday Brunch ►**

**6** (left to right): Alina Brown '14, Julia Brug '14, Smriti Pramanick '14, Norma Rodriguez '14, Asees Waraich '14, and Nickie Pereira '14 **7** Alice Borie '12 and Zara Saraon '12 **8** (left to right): Charlotte Jones '13, Saloni Kalkat '13, and Taylor Wilkerson '13 **9** (left to right): Samra Ahmed '14, Lindsey Baab '14, and Monica Taneja '14 **10** (left to right): Jacqueline Maloney '14, Hannah Mazonson '14, and Laura Hagenah '14 **11** Marion Lepert '13 and Kaitlyn Baab '11 **12** (left to right): Maddy Baum '13, Jordan Fowler '13, Nina Jansen '13, Aneesha Gupta '13, Lucy Tashman '13, and Saloni Kalkat '13 **13** (left to right): Tobi Amos '11, Abby Thornburg '11, Lindsey Wang '12, Sallie Walecka '11, and Nora Brug '12 **14** (left to right): Anna Strøe '14, Colleen O'Malley '14, Hannah Mazonson '14, Becca Merenbach '14, Jacqueline Maloney '14, and Laura Hagenah '14 **15** Hana Khosla '12 and Katie Kirsch '12



# class notes



Casti golfers Paris Wilkerson '16, Cosi Layton '18, Nicole Mitchell '15, Dee Gibson (Stanford Women's Club Champion, 2003 and Senior Club Champion 2011), Chloe Sales '15, Danielle Mitchell '15, Colby Choi '16, and Head Golf Coach Donn Levine (Stanford Men's Club Champion, 2007).

## Keep in Touch with Castilleja

Please send Class Notes to your Class Representative, or to Castilleja:

**The Office of Alumnae Relations**  
Castilleja School  
1310 Bryant Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

[alumnae@castilleja.org](mailto:alumnae@castilleja.org)

Or go online to [castilleja.org/notes](http://castilleja.org/notes)

Find your Class Representative on page 42.

## 1958

**Carolyn Wells** is thriving in southern California: "I am living in Rancho Bernardo and serving as the Chaplain of Rancho Bernardo Republican Women as well as the President of my P.E.O. chapter, which I dearly love. I also enjoy my Junior League Sustainers Group every month. My daughter, Donna, lives close by, so I'm very much enjoying my active 'mid-life' age."

## 1961

**Ruth Cannon Lee** is living in Redlands in southern California where she grew up. "I retired here in 2000, and my husband passed in 2012. I am working for free at Assistance League of Redlands as well as traveling. If any classmates are living in southern California, please contact me."

## 1962

**Honor Berger Spitz** has quite the green thumb! "One of the joys of gardening (provided that's your passion) is that it's a work in progress; it's never quite finished. And so I find myself adding and subtracting plants that had seemed perfectly acceptable - that is, before the drought. As for the painting projects, I've come to the conclusion that it's time to hand over the paint roller and let someone else have the pleasure. I won't be able to write the check fast enough!!"

## 1964

**Cary Golub Lurie** is still glowing about Reunion Weekend: "Our 50th Reunion rocked with a good time in Big Sur, Carmel, and Palo Alto!! What an awesome group of women." Cary was expecting her seventh grandchild at the end of February, and she and Wayne ("my Waynedear") went to Australia and New Zealand in April.

Meanwhile, **Gail Wilson Zetter** keeps folks up to date with all things Class of '64:

**Guida Veronda** wrote shortly after Christmas from her new address in Mesquite, NV: "After some stormy, cloudy, and windy times we are bright with starry, starry nights and frost every dawn. So far, the sun doesn't rise visibly further north, as there seems to be a stall before we tilt enough, but the promise of longer days and stronger sun helps the psyche and the soul."

### Christy Hulden Westmoreland's

daughter, Lisa, has just translated a best seller from the Japanese author Marie Kondo called *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, and Christy was putting it to work. The basic idea is to touch each object and ask yourself if it brings you joy - if it does, you keep it; if it doesn't, you toss it. Christy has donated bags and bags of clothes, and has found a place called Crayons to Calculators where she can donate pens, pencils, notebooks, etc. She did have a new wardrobe for her daughter's wedding and our reunion, though - her daughters wouldn't let her wear sweat pants.

**Bonnie Eggink Allen** and Steve traveled to the Big Island of Hawaii - fruits and nuts all over the place. They stayed in a series of intriguing houses, one overlooking Haleakala Bay, one in Waimea overlooking the Parker Ranch and looking up to Mauna Kea, and another off-the-grid one in a clearing in a rain forest. "We went in the water, saw volcanoes erupting, and ate papayas from fruit stands."

**Enid Hardcastle Nuisberger** and Geoffrey did not send a Christmas card. They planned to use a picture of the two of them in their intricately designed and highly decorative Christmas sweaters, but the man in the print shop said Geoffrey looked like a Christmas pudding and Geoffrey took it the wrong way. Apparently it was his childhood nickname in boarding school.

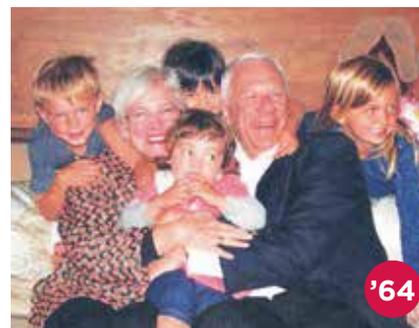
**Ann Grinnell Lynn** sent a picture of herself and five of six grandchildren - she



Cary Golub Lurie with her family



Gail Wilson Zetter's grandsons



Cindy Swanson Miller with her family



Ellen Curtis with her family



Ann Grinnell Lynn with her grandchildren



Chris Witzel

was looking forward to her annual “really nice three-week thaw” in Jamaica. She reported lots of snow in Vermont but mild temperatures. She is working a little and “puttering around the land - wood and gardens.”

**Janet Mauel Cronk** and Rick's card showed three grandchildren, cousins Cole, Molly, and Chris Cronk, after they descended from the cupola at St. Peter's in Rome. This was about the time Kara and Chris' little ones, Kinsley Fiona Cronk and William Atlas Cronk, joined the family last July 19.

**Gail Wilson Zetter** and Mark spent a memorable few days with **Jeffie Welsh Feakins** and Nick in the Santa Cruz house last November. “We saw cormorants, pelicans, and dolphins during walks on the beach; walked down to have dinner out; and picked up fresh crab for a feast one night. It was a perfect antidote to my post-Reunion doldrums. We had a crazy Christmas with all three grandsons, their parents, and a dog...the house was trashed, but the family loved it. In January I attended a really pretty baby shower for **Pat Hunter Gregory's** youngest daughter, **Lilla Gregory Spivak '99**. Now I'm wading through family archives and heirlooms - hundred-year-old love notes and letters from the late 1800s, vats of pictures, ancient albums and baby books, etc. I just finished a twenty-page inventory of the enormous black oak dollhouse my mother had built for her mother-in-law, my grandmother, in 1951 - Nanna was in her 60s, but had a wonderful time arranging the tiny things she had collected or was given over the

years. Now it lives in my dining room. I wonder if I could use Christy's book... probably not, in this case. Off to Boston, weather permitting!”

## 1967

**Colleen Yeates Marsh's** son, Brian, married Heather Green in November 2014. Colleen also has four adorable grandchildren: Avary (14), Ingrid (8), Quinn (7), and Katrina (2).

## 1968

**Chris Witzel** has been keeping busy: “After publishing *She Also Served: Letters from a Navy Wife* last year (excerpts from Mother's letters from Menlo Park, Shanghai, and London during and after World War II), I have started giving local readings. As a gardener myself, I'm especially looking forward to speaking on Mother's Victory Garden battles with birds and bugs ('By God, I shall not yield!'). Taking a break from our varied volunteer activities, Stephanie and I are going on a Nile River cruise in Egypt.”

## 1971

**Jeanne Fisichella Hahne** has a son in college at the Academy of Art in San Francisco. “He is studying sound design. Meanwhile, I'm still working at California Pacific Medical Center as a registered nurse. My husband also works there. I am launching a new product: FaceView

Mask™, a clear medical facial mask which lets patients see their doctors' faces and read their lips. I hope this will help many people!”

**DeBorah Eaton Beatty** and her husband just purchased a home in Salem, OR. and let us know that they are “looking forward to getting back to their artistic endeavors.” I'm having a great time leading my ARTiculate Yourself workshops to help others rediscover their creativity.”

## 1972

In October 2014, **Joyce Bogner Bohn** took a photo safari to Ethiopia and Tanzania. “I returned with some incredible stories (like getting stuck in the mud and over-nighting in a lawless border town) and some amazing images of the tribes of the Omo Valley. A number of images have been entered in the *Smithsonian Magazine's* twelfth annual photo contest. Wish me luck!”

**Diane Kimball Jacob** has gone back to school, but this time is teaching music to 950 elementary students K-6. “I get to enjoy school musicals, recorders, ukuleles, djembes, and congas. I love my job.”

## 1977

**Denise Dowsett** started her second career this year as a first-year teacher at Graham Middle School in Mountain View. “I am teaching Seventh Grade

## class notes



Diane Kimball Jacob



Caren Friedman Lee '77 with her family



Denise Dowsett with her children



Lynn Anderson Poole with Casti friends



Liza Shiff Feigenbaum with her family



Sara Alexander with her family



Keri Yen Ng and Casti friends



Greer Ashman with Renee Jenkinson's son



Kate Stober's son, Alexander



Ashley Parsons Jablow with her family



Jessie Kornberg



Belkis Boyacigiller



Shawna Seth with her fiancé



Christina Nawas Courtney's son, William



Julia Sorensen Lund's daughter, Lucy

Life Science. I believe this is the most challenging job I have ever had. Thanks in part to **Mrs. Meece**, who faced every classroom calamity with stoicism (e.g. fruit flies waking up and buzzing around the classroom), science has always been my love and I am now returning to it. After spending more than a quarter of a century in marketing, most recently at Yahoo!. My daughter, Antonetta, is a sixth grader, and my son, Ethan, is a freshman at Woodside High School, where he loves playing basketball."

**Amanda "Amy" Lewis Catt** sent in an update: "Hello Casti alumnae! My husband and I are still living in southern California - empty nesters now that my two children have both graduated from college! I am working as the Executive Director of a food pantry serving low-income and homeless families and individuals in Los Angeles County. It is very rewarding work, and my family helps out whenever possible - including my sister, **Casey Lewis Keeshan '75**, who assists with our social media long distance from New York! I love hearing the news from Casti and keeping up with my classmates - I hope to make it back to campus soon."

**Cathy Friedman Duane '78** sent in a picture from her sister **Caren Friedman Lee '77's** surprise wedding to Warren Lee. "She invited all of her family and a few good friends to an 'engagement dinner' During the evening, a man at the dinner stood and started taking off his jacket and button down shirt to reveal a black t-shirt that read 'Minister.' and said that as long as everyone was there, why not go ahead and seal the deal!"

## 1978

**Lynn Anderson Poole, Cathy Friedman Duane, Victoria Lillenthal, and Karen Hoffman Gilhuily** got together to celebrate Lynn's birthday.

## 1986

**Liza Shiff Feigenbaum** is a direct primary care doctor (concierge medicine) who has been practicing in Silicon Valley for over fifteen years, now incorporating telemedicine virtual consultations. She is a mother of two children, and serves on the Board of Directors at South Peninsula Hebrew Day School (her other alma mater!). She also serves on the Sunnyvale South Little League Board. In her spare time, she coaches baseball and belays her seven-year-old daughter for rock climbing competitions. She also volunteers with local special needs baseball teams and non-profit health care. Both her nieces are Casti girls too: **Devon Shiff '13** and **Haley Shiff '15!**

## 1994

**Kim Bowen Rust** is still living in DeLand ("DeWhere?" she jokes!), FL, with her husband, Josh, and their two children, Quinn and Brynn, who just turned four and two this spring. Kim is busy with her private counseling practice and has also started a blog about her experiences as a play therapist and as a mom with a child diagnosed with high-functioning autism. Read the blog at [www.crashingthespectrum.com](http://www.crashingthespectrum.com), and feel free to share it with anyone you feel might find it interesting. Kim is looking forward to visiting the Bay Area in July - definitely send her a note if you would like to meet up!

## 1996

**Sara Alexander** just moved back home with her family after almost fourteen years living and working abroad. "I'm currently the Executive Director at the local non-profit organization There With Care. I'm looking forward to reconnecting with the Casti community now that I'm back home."

## 1998

**Renee Jenkinson** has started three exciting new endeavors this year. "The first is Gender Gap Year: A Power Year for Women. Gender Gap Year ([www.gendergapyear.com](http://www.gendergapyear.com)) is a Portland, OR-based semester-long program for young women ages 18-22 who are taking a gap year. The program helps women identify and fill gender gaps that they will encounter through connection, skill, and strategy. The second is Ola Hawaii Camp, a summer adventure camp on the Big Island of Hawaii ([www.olahawaiicamp.com](http://www.olahawaiicamp.com)). The third is my awesome son, Delmar (Del), born last April!" She and Del met up with **Greer Ashman** in Santa Cruz last spring.

**Bekki Cima Lyon** recently became a Parent Education Instructor through a local community college. "It's a fun mix of working with toddlers and coaching grown-ups through the ups and downs of parenting." Bekki's sons, Will and Andrew, started kindergarten, and Bekki has also been working as a substitute teacher at their school. Bekki recently traveled to Florida with her extended family - including cousin **Tori Anthony '07** - where they participated in the Disney World Princess Half Marathon Weekend.

**Keri Yen Ng** and her husband, Darren, welcomed their second child, Dylan, in September 2014. A week before his arrival, a mini baby shower was thrown by some Casti friends: **Jennifer Dinsmore Clegg, Kimberley Morris Rosen, Lynsey**

**Barkoff '03, Lindsay Austin Louie, Lanlian Szeto, Katie Barnes, Laura Vartain Horn, and Jennifer Massoni Pardini.** After maternity leave, Keri will be joining a small medical device start-up company and leading the regulatory, quality, and clinical department.

## 1999

**Ashley Parsons Jablow** and her family recently moved from the Bay Area to Washington, DC to participate in the Presidential Innovation Fellows Program, a twelve-month White House fellowship that pairs innovators from the private sector, non-profits, and academia with innovators in government to develop solutions that can save lives, conserve taxpayer money, and fuel job creation. Ashley is spending her year at the National Archives, focusing on projects that provide increased public access to some of our nation's most precious historical records. Ashley, her husband, Dan, and their two-year-old son, Eli, are enjoying their new adventure in DC but are missing the California weather!

**Kate Stober** and her husband welcomed a little boy, Alexander, in December 2013. "He's our first. We currently live in Missoula, MT."

## 2000

In December **Jessie Kornberg** was named the first female President and CEO of Bet Tzedek Legal Services, a leading legal aid and pro bono law firm in Los Angeles.

## 2001

2014 was a year of life changes for **Belkis Boyacigiller**. "I got married to my sweetheart of seven years in April, my beloved father passed away after an eight-month battle with a very rare form of cancer in June, and I launched one of Istanbul's first plant-based restaurants, Bi Nevi Karakoy, in August. I am very thankful to the Castilleja community for enveloping me in love and support throughout my father's illness. We hadn't lived in the Bay Area for well over a decade, but the Casti connection doesn't fade away easily and I am grateful to know that I always have a home in Palo Alto away from my adopted hometown of Istanbul. If you are ever in the Istanbul area, please visit me at Bi Nevi Karakoy! [www.bi-nevi.com](http://www.bi-nevi.com) or @binevikarakoy on Instagram!"

**Shawna Seth** moved back to San Francisco to live with her fiancé, Luke Congdon, and is enjoying saying the word "affianced" as many times as possible. She continues to work toward her Masters of Science in Oriental

Medicine (graduating December 2015!) and is a senior intern in the school acupuncture clinic, where she treats patients for everything from anxiety, to joint pain, to chronic disease management. Seeing patients is the most rewarding part of her week and she is thrilled with her path so far. She went to China in April to observe the medicine in action at Tianjin's famous teaching hospital (featured in the documentary "9000 Needles") and to play with pandas.

## 2002

**Christina Nawas Courtney** and her husband, James, welcomed William Cameron Courtney into the Castilleja community on January 26.

## 2003

**Julia Sorensen Lund** and her husband, Andy, welcomed their daughter, Lucy, on October 7, 2014.

**Jenny Nichols Cook** is living in San Francisco and has transitioned from teaching into working as the Learning and Development Manager at Thumbtack. "I love finally being back in the Bay Area and have been enjoying reconnecting with various other San Francisco Casti alums."

## 2004

**Selina Troesch** finished her second year at the University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business and graduated with her MBA in May. She will work for Touchdown Ventures, partnering with leading corporations to establish and manage their venture capital platforms.

## 2005

**Lynn Oncel** recently left her position as a corporate attorney at Wilson Sonsini in San Francisco to start her own business, Vinlighten, a wine education service that sends curated wine flights along with fun, easily-understandable tasting materials to customers at home. She would be honored to have Casti alums sign up to receive launch information and updates on Vinlighten's website at [www.vinlighten.com](http://www.vinlighten.com). Cheers!

## 2006

**Kate Powell** is a first-year MBA student at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. At Wharton, she is an associate with the Social Venture

Fund, which invests in seed-stage social enterprises. This summer, Kate is a summer associate at UPenn's Office of Investments, focusing on private equity and real assets. The UPenn endowment stewards \$9.6 billion in assets on behalf of the University's schools, centers, and health system.

**Jocelyn Jiao** is currently finishing her last year at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. After completing an extra year of clinical neurological research, she hopes to complete a neurology residency in the coming years.

## 2008

**Rachel Baden** is finishing her second year at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, and will be spending two months this summer doing externships at exotic animal clinics in Australia.

## 2011

**Sophia Koontz '11** recently received the J.E. Wallace Sterling Award that is awarded to the top 25 students of each year's graduating class at Stanford University. A special part of this award is the in-person recognition of the secondary school teacher whom the recipients name as having most influenced their scholastic career. Sophia named her Castilleja biology teacher, **Jane McConnell '81**, as her most influential high school teacher!

## 2012

**Eleanor Brug** spent last summer at ETH Zurich in Switzerland conducting research on the tensile properties of specially-made thin films with flexible electronics applications.

**Katie Kirsch** is thriving as a product design engineering student in her third year at Stanford. "Earlier this year, I co-founded Girls Driving for a Difference, a team of Stanford students using design thinking to empower middle school girls to become leaders of social change. This summer we'll be driving across the US in an RV teaching workshops in 50 diverse communities." *Read more about Katie's work on page 2.*

## 2013

**Gaby Castro** is excited to share that she has been hard at work on her third studio album of original songs. "I've been writing and composing in Minnesota while recording in Campbell, CA, with my producer, Grammy-nominated Robert Berry. My hope is to release the album Fall 2015, and I have set up an Indiegogo

campaign to help me reach this goal. The support I received from the Castilleja community for my first two albums truly helped me grow as an artist and as a person. I will be playing shows both in the Bay Area and in various places across the country this summer, and I hope to see as many Casti girls as I can! To learn more, the link is: <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/gaby-s-third-studio-album/x/9460580>."

**Aneesha Gupta** is a computer science major at USC and is the Director of Operations at LavaLab, an incubator where students from engineering, business, and design work together in teams to build products and then "pitch" them. LavaLab has a full 10-week curriculum and numerous workshops to facilitate the product development process, such as ideation, UX, design and pitch workshops. Aneesha credits her time on the robotics team, including 2 years as build lead, as one of the reasons she's pursued engineering and computer science! Read more about LavaLab at: <http://dailytrojan.com/2015/04/28/lavalab-showcases-student-projects/>

## 2014

**Lindsey Baab** finished second at the 2014 College Sailing Women's Singlehanded National Championship for the Janet Lutz Trophy, November 8-9, in Bellingham, WA. Lindsey finished with seventeen points in five races, seven points behind three-time National Champion Erika Reineke of Boston College. Just a freshman, Lindsey's finishes were 1-4-6-3-3 in the eighteen-boat fleet. For Brown University, this was the best result at a Singlehanded National Championship since 2009.

## News of Former Faculty and Staff

<sup>HA</sup> denotes Honorary Alumna or Alumnus  
<sup>FS</sup> denotes Former Faculty and Staff

Sixteen years into retirement, **Susan Sheehan Barkan<sup>HA</sup>**, formerly **Ms. Albro**, continues to be active. Recently, she took a Sierra Club hiking trip to New Zealand's South Island which also included kayaking in the Tasman Marine Reserve. She was impressed with the variety of scenery in New Zealand: snow-capped peaks; hundreds of rivers; thirty-mile-long lakes; glaciers; rainforests; hardwood forests; acres of pasturage for sheep, cattle, and deer; and miles of empty beaches. She writes, "The government is making Herculean efforts to save many endangered species, especially the defenseless non-flying birds which are threatened by introduced rats, weasels, and stoats."



Sophia Koontz '11



Katie Kirsch



Pat Hahn



Gaby Castro, taken by Elke Teichmann '09

Dori Lansdowne<sup>HA</sup>Susan Sheehan Barkan<sup>HA</sup>Karen Tobey<sup>HA</sup>'s daughter and granddaughter

Dee Gibson with Casti golfers

Collaboration was the theme when **Dee Gibson**, who taught Middle School Math 1973-1981, was invited in the fall to assist a group of Casti golfers (including **Nicole Mitchell '15**, **Colby Choi '16**, **Chloe Sales '15**, and **Danielle Mitchell '15**, who are pictured above with Dee) in their preparations for competition against Menlo. Said Head Golf Coach **Donn Levine**, "I was thrilled when Dee agreed to play with three of our golfers while the other three and I also practiced for the upcoming match. Dee, a former Stanford Ladies' Club Champion, was able to provide a wealth of course knowledge to the ladies, and our golfers really enjoyed playing with Dee." Dee herself spoke of how she relished the chance to collaborate and how impressed she was with the "delightful young ladies, all of whom spoke of really loving Casti." As a result of the collaboration of former faculty member Dee Gibson, current coach Donn Levine, and current students, Coach Levine stated that Casti golfers "dominated that next match against Menlo at Stanford, catapulting them to the WBAL League Championship."

**Pat Hahn**, formerly **Pat Gossett**, who taught Chemistry, Physics, and Introduction to Physical Science 1973-1976, earned her Ph.D. from Cornell University and accepted a job offer in Minneapolis from Pillsbury and General Mills in food product and technology development. During her career, she was the first female at General Mills to become a Fellow and then a Senior Fellow. Upon retiring after a thirty-year career, Pat and her husband, Doug Hahn, moved to Aptos to be closer to her mother and their son, Adam, a Stanford graduate who works in San Francisco at his startup. Now a consultant to the food industry, Pat writes that her most recent client is Impossible Foods in Redwood City. "Although Minneapolis has excellent schools and affordable housing, the long winters can be difficult. I love being back in California; during the 2,100-mile drive from Minnesota to California, I kept humming the tune 'California, Here I Come...Right Back Where I Started From....'"

**Christa Lansdowne Nicholas '77** writes with the sad news that her mother, **Dori Lansdowne<sup>HA</sup>**, passed away on February 14, 2015. After retiring from Castilleja in 1989, Dori moved to Orcas Island, where she lived on a ten-acre rural property until her health declined and she returned to California in 2010. She still enjoyed bird watching, classical music concerts, and museum visits up until the latter half of 2014, when her health declined steeply. Dori served as Registrar and Secretary to the Head of School 1968-1989.

**Karen Tobey<sup>HA</sup>** welcomed her fifth grandchild, Flora Tobey Saenz, born May 1, 2014, to **Kirsten Tobey Saenz '96** and her husband, Ben Saenz. Flora joins two older sisters, Alita and Dakota, and also two cousins, Carina and Tobey Nottingham, children of **Rachel Tobey '94** and her husband, Will Nottingham.

stay connected

## Stay Connected. Get Involved.

STAY CONNECTED to the Castilleja alumnae network. Join the new Castilleja Careers Listserv at [groups.google.com/group/castilleja-careers](https://groups.google.com/group/castilleja-careers) to stay up to date on upcoming career-oriented events, job opportunities, and professional-skills workshops.

We want YOU! There are countless ways alumnae can get involved. We love hearing from you, so please stay in touch. If you're as excited as we are and want to join in the fun, here are a few suggestions:

1. Join the Advisory Council
2. Help plan a regional event
3. Attend a regional event
4. Provide an internship for a Castilleja student or alum
5. Send an update for Class Notes
6. Become a Castilleja School fan on Facebook
7. Join the Castilleja Careers Listserv
8. Send us your updated contact information (it sounds simple, but nothing makes us happier than an accurate database!)

 **Instagram** Castilleja School

**facebook** Castilleja School

**twitter** Casti School  
Casti Athletics

**LinkedIn** Castilleja School

**YouTube** Casti School

## Class Reps

Please send Class Notes to your Class Representative, or to Castilleja:

The Office of Alumnae Relations  
Castilleja School  
1310 Bryant Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94301  
[alumnae@castilleja.org](mailto:alumnae@castilleja.org)

Or, go online to [www.castilleja.org/notes](http://www.castilleja.org/notes)

The following classes should send news to school:

<b>Prior to 1941</b>	<b>1948</b>	<b>1970</b>
<b>1941</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>1974</b>
<b>1944</b>	<b>1959</b>	<b>1975</b>
<b>1945</b>	<b>1960</b>	<b>1981</b>
<b>1946</b>	<b>1966</b>	<b>1984</b>
<b>1947</b>	<b>1968</b>	<b>2001</b>

**1942**  
Adele Landenberger Haynie  
550 Main Street  
Morro Bay, CA 93442

**1943**  
Marilyn Hill McKae  
4855 Snyder Lane, #231  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

**1949**  
Carolyn Hornkohl Gillespie  
531 Rosarita Drive  
Fullerton, CA 92835  
[chgillespie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chgillespie@sbcglobal.net)

**1951**  
Cynthia Kaiser Floyd  
620 Sand Hill Road, #127 D  
Palo Alto, CA 94304

**1952**  
Shirley Arnott Pruitt  
8555 Edinbridge Way  
Roseville, CA 95747  
[shirlpruitt@aol.com](mailto:shirlpruitt@aol.com)

**1953**  
Ellie Tilden Gardner  
501 Portola Road, #10-K  
Portola Valley, CA 94028

**1954**  
Judith Bailey Quayle  
7106 Overlook Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409  
[dkquayle@hotmail.com](mailto:dkquayle@hotmail.com)

**1955**  
Peggy McKennan Link  
3085 Mill Vista Road, #2423  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129  
[peggyslink@indra.com](mailto:peggyslink@indra.com)

**1956**  
Darlene Cherie Rickey  
7600 Isabella Way, #150  
Gilroy, CA 95020  
[rickeydarlene@yahoo.com](mailto:rickeydarlene@yahoo.com)

**1957**  
Charlotte Geary Gilmore  
1061 45th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95819  
[charlotte.gilmore@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.gilmore@gmail.com)

**1958**  
Hildi Jensvold Vieira  
75-640 Mahi iu Lani Place  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740  
[rolandhildi@gmail.com](mailto:rolandhildi@gmail.com)

**1961**  
Dee O'Brien James  
3223 Canfield Road  
Sebastopol, CA 95472  
[dee.e.james@gmail.com](mailto:dee.e.james@gmail.com)

**1962**  
Honor Berger Spitz  
2012 Glen Una Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95125  
[honorspitz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:honorspitz@sbcglobal.net)

**1963**  
Sudie Fenn Moreland  
1897 Echo Lane  
Lincoln, CA 95648  
[casudie@aol.com](mailto:casudie@aol.com)

**1964**  
Gail Wilson Zetter  
757 Marina View Drive  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

**1965**  
Libby Ames Edwards  
3517 Shilo Drive  
Fort Collins, CO 80521  
[libbyeuro3@gmail.com](mailto:libbyeuro3@gmail.com)

Lindsay Jones Lowe  
729 Old Creek Road  
Danville, CA 94526  
[lindslowe@aol.com](mailto:lindslowe@aol.com)

**1967**  
Nancy Blake Tetrick  
[dntetrick@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dntetrick@sbcglobal.net)

**1969**  
Caroline Trotter  
[caroline100@gmail.com](mailto:caroline100@gmail.com)

**1971**  
Jeanne Fisichella Hahne  
[jeannahne@gmail.com](mailto:jeannahne@gmail.com)

**1972**  
Karen Smith Shaw  
[kesshaw@comcast.net](mailto:kesshaw@comcast.net)

**1973**Meg Malone Thompson  
peterthom@comcast.net**1976**Susan Smith Flesher  
susan@flesher.com**1977**Mijke Roggeveen  
mijkeroggeveen@aol.com**1978**Laurie Ray Lamb  
nylamb@gmail.com**1979**Margarita Huertas Balagso  
balagsom@yahoo.com**1980**Jeanne Floyd Downs  
jdowns84@comcast.net**1982**Laura Kelly Kroger  
laurakroger@comcast.net**1983**Yoshimi Segawa Munch  
ymunch@ysmcommunications.com**1985**Kristin Young Gilbert  
kristingilbert@sbcglobal.net**1986**Laura Greene Wilkin  
laurawilkin@surewest.net**1987**Sonja Hellman Bogumill  
sonjabogumill@yahoo.com**1988**Alexandra Dumas  
alexandra92@alumni.stanford.edu**1989**Jessica Collins Lonergan  
jessica@spurprojects.com**1990**Christina Koo Van Zandt  
christinavz@gmail.com**1991**Michele Harari Goldwasser  
bimini356@yahoo.com**1992**Laila Haq Collins  
collinslaila@gmail.com**1993**Courtney Dyar  
cdyarsf@hotmail.comLauren Carreker Leary  
laurenliseleary@gmail.com**1994**Jennifer Cady Logan  
skinbyjennifer@gmail.com**1995**Lisa Vocker  
lcvlteach@mac.com**1996**Anna Beattie Wilson  
annawilson@gmail.com**1997**Courtney Carter Charney  
ccharney@apr.comYuriko Tse  
tse.yuriko@gmail.com**1998**Lindsay Austin Louie  
lindsaylouie@stanfordalumni.orgKimmy Morris Rosen  
kimberley.morris@gmail.com**1999**Erin Beattie McDearman  
erinbeattie21@hotmail.comKate Stober  
kestober@hotmail.com**2000**Anjelika Deogirikar  
anjelika@gmail.comClaire Cummins  
clcummins@gmail.com**2002**Whitney Brown  
whitneyalexisbrown@gmail.com**2003**Jenny Nichols Cook  
jennifernicholscook@gmail.com**2004**Caitlin Cameron  
cjcameron86@gmail.com**2005**Ashley D'Amour  
ashley.damour@gmail.com**2006**Chelsea Ono Horn  
onohorn@gmail.comMeg York  
margaret.alice.york@gmail.com**2007**Kelly Fitzgerald  
kellynfitz@gmail.comKristin Leasia  
kleasia@yahoo.com**2008**Roark Luskin  
roark.luskin@gmail.comElise Fabbro  
elisemarie73@gmail.com**2009**Kennedy Flanders  
kennedyflanders@gmail.comAngie Moore  
angela@moorelife.net**2010**Tayo Amos  
tamos922@gmail.comCam Stein  
stecam11@evergreen.edu**2011**Emily Steemers  
emily.steemers@gmail.comDivya Bhat  
dbhatg@gmail.comNatalie Shell  
shell.natalie@gmail.comGinna Freehling  
gehfo01@bucknell.edu**2012**Jane Larkins  
jane.larkins@gmail.comShreya Ramachandran  
shreyar@stanford.edu**2013**Sara Holston  
sara.j.holston.17@dartmouth.eduKendall Levison  
kl1872@nyu.org**2014**Sanah Imran  
sanah.imran@gmail.comSmriti Pramanick  
smriti@mit.edu**News of Former Faculty and Staff**Ann Criswell<sup>HA</sup>  
afcriswell@earthlink.net

# in memoriam



## Alumnae

Sylvia Franz Crisler '53  
Elizabeth Keller Cullen '39  
Katherine Hass '14  
Sally McNeas '71  
Catherine Clift Peck '31

## Family

**Marietta Fulton**  
Mother of Joy Fulton Stiefel '73  
and Lynn Fulton Kurn '76

**Lottie Gutterman**  
Mother of Janet Gutterman '71  
and Myra Gutterman '75

**Dori Lansdowne<sup>HA</sup>**  
Mother of Christa Lansdowne  
Nicholas '77

**Paul Lomio**  
Father of Rita Lomio '00

**Bruce McGeoch**  
Father of Lauren McGeoch  
Porensky '00

**Bette Moorman**  
Former Board of Trustees  
Member  
Mother of Lisa Moorman  
Fremont '75

**Peter Stevens**  
Husband of Flaurie S.  
Imberman<sup>HA</sup>



**Katherine  
Shepherdson Hass**  
December 19, 1995 -  
February 20, 2015

**Katherine Shepherdson Hass**, beloved daughter of Tracy and Eric Hass, passed away from injuries suffered while scuba diving in Monterey, CA. A life-long resident of Menlo Park, Katherine attended Trinity School through fifth grade. In sixth grade, she enrolled at Castilleja School graduating from high school in June 2014. Katherine was a freshman at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, CA.

Katherine's life was full of activity and energy. She loved exploring and experiencing new things and, with her parents, she traveled the world. In her heart, she held a special place for Tanzania, where she volunteered and lived with a family for six weeks during her sophomore summer. Katherine enjoyed philosophy, robotics, and most of all scuba diving, which was her true passion.

Far beyond the things that she did, there is the person that she was. Self-motivated, self-disciplined, and capable, she was described as a "child with insight, humor, and consistency who benefited her peers and her teachers as much as she gained from them...a wonderful student and a confident young woman who is a leader by her actions and her inclusion of all children in her sphere."

Katherine focused her energy on developing diversity and social justice programs at school, pursuits that required empathy, passion, and eloquence. Her goal was to give others a voice, to champion inclusion and acceptance, and to welcome and celebrate individual differences. Hers was the heart of a born leader.

Katherine's life was all too short, yet it was extremely full. She loved her family and the special, private moments they spent together. She loved her friends and the rich relationships they offered. Her classmates will remember Katherine as one "who proved time and time again that there is always hope." Katherine was grateful for all that she had been given and made a point to give back. She was an immeasurable and irreplaceable gift who will be sorely missed by her family and by all who were privileged to know her.

*If you would like to honor Katherine's memory, please contact Director of Advancement Tesha McCord Poe at [tpoe@castilleja.org](mailto:tpoe@castilleja.org).*



## Administration Leadership Team

**Nanci Kauffman<sup>HA</sup>** Head of School

**Josée Band** Dean of Teaching and Learning

**Kathy Burch<sup>HA</sup>** Executive Associate to  
the Head of School

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

**Kathy Layendecker** Chief Financial Officer

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

**Gabe Lucas** Director of Technology

**Jim Pickett** Head of Upper School

**Tesha McCord Poe** Director of Advancement

**Front cover:** Lucy Carlson '18 and Grace Peterson '15 as Bottom  
and Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

**Inside front cover:** The Class of 2015 poses on college decision day!

**Inside back cover:** The cast of *Oliver* takes their final bow.

**Back cover:** Fans cheer on the Gators at a basketball game .

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# full circle

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Castilleja School Foundation  
1310 Bryant Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

[www.castilleja.org](http://www.castilleja.org)

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126 fully  
grown trees



52,807 gallons  
of water



88,119,713  
BTU's of energy



5,846 pounds of  
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11,514 pounds of  
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