

Inside SI

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THE NEWSPAPER OF ST. IGNATIUS COLLEGE PREPARATORY

AUGUST 22, 2025

Remembering Father Reese, S.J.

Jordan Liu '26

Editor-in-Chief

For many students, stepping into SI for the very first time was an intimidating experience. With all the commotion and the unfamiliar aspects of high school life, adjusting to high school can be a challenge. I was no exception. But one thing that assuaged my freshman nerves was the community. And no one embodied the spirit of Saint Ignatius more than President Father Eddie Reese.

No matter what year students were or what routes they took to class, SI students were bound to



c/o Jesuits West

run into Fr. Reese at least once.

His infectious smile, along with his gregarious dogs Roger and Ginger, always invited conversation no matter where he was. I saw him on the wooden bench by the Deans' Office, in the hallways during passing periods, and even at some of my tennis matches.

Fr. Reese embodied an example of Jesus' love for us that my sophomore RS class explored: he was an omnipresent, loving force of goodness, a confidant, and a rock to lean on.

Continued on Page 4

St. Ignatius Unveils 2025-26 Theme: Journeying With Youth

Evelyn Conboy '26

Editor-in-Chief

In a bold reaffirmation of its Jesuit mission, St. Ignatius has adopted "Journeying with Youth" as the guiding theme for its 2025-26 school year, calling our community to walk alongside students in shaping a hope-filled future.

Rooted in the 2018 Synod on Youth and Vocational Discern-

ment, the theme recognizes the need to empower youth perspectives and foster their leadership.

In this era of rapid digital transformation, our theme, "Journeying with Youth," invites faculty to meet students where they are, guiding them toward their goals.

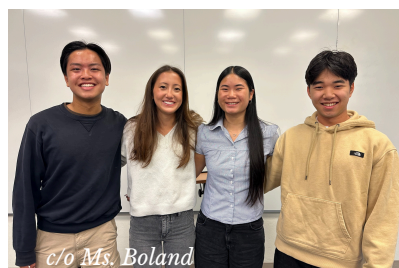
Continued on Page 3

Editors' Note

Lucas Liang '26, Jordan Liu '26, Annika Watkins '26,
Evelyn Conboy '26

Editors-in-Chief

Welcome back, Wildcats! We are excited to start a new school year, serving as your Editors-in-Chief of *Inside SI's* 74th volume! Our world is constantly changing, and it is essential that our publication represents all of our communities' voices. This year, we hope to bring you stories that not only highlight the incredible events and accomplishments happening on campus, but also capture the unique perspectives of our community.



c/o Ms. Boland

Lucas Liang
Evelyn Conboy
Annika Watkins

St. Ignatius Welcomes New Faculty

Evelyn Conboy '26

Editor-in-Chief

This year, SI is excited to welcome new faculty members who bring fresh perspectives, talents, and passions to our community.

Their presence strengthens our academic and extracurricular programs and also enriches the bonds that make SI a vibrant and

supportive student environment. Be sure to say “hi” to them in the hallway and give them a warm welcome!



c/o @LifeatSI

From Left to Right:

Jeff Noblejas, Physics

Leonardo Iacomini, Digital Communications & Webmaster

Claire Collins, English

Leah Borquez, Latin

Rachel Zarrow, English

Marvin McCrary, Fr. Sauer Academy (FSA) - Humanities

Hermes Ruiz, Physics

Francesca Ohanessian, Counseling

John McGarry, S.J., Campus Ministry

Not pictured: Mike Santos, Multimedia & Design

Senior Sunset: Horizon of '25

Evelyn Conboy '26

Editor-in-Chief



Members of the class of 2026 (plus Mr. Glosser and Ms. Sanchez) gather to watch the sun set at Ocean Beach.

photos c/o Bowerbird/SlickPic



On the evening of August 15, the Class of 2025 gathered at Ocean Beach to commence their last high school year. At this annual tradition, formally known as “Senior Sunset,” seniors watched the sun set on the horizon, marking the beginning of their final year together. Friends spent the night around the fire, taking pictures, eating pizza, and playing spike ball, among other activities, forming memories they will cherish well after senior year.



Seniors Attend Magis Bootcamp

Annika Watkins '26 Editor-in-Chief

The 13th annual Magis College Bootcamp took place in the library the week of August 4 and served as a space for students of all grade levels to start preparing for the college application process. Throughout this weeklong camp, SI College Counselor Ms. Anna Maria Vaccaro guided participants through both the UC application and CSU planning processes, while also introducing strategies for researching scholarships and financial aid opportunities.

Attendee Marcela Hernandez '26 shares: "Ms. Vaccaro helped me navigate the application portals and made the whole process really easy."

College counselor Dr. Zander and English teacher Mr. White worked closely with students to develop their personal statements, holding one-on-one meetings to help them craft compelling and unique essays.

After receiving help from Mr. White, student Camila Limo Fernandez '26 stated: "I was able to get a lot of my Common App done and form a strong narrative that I'm happy with."

Although this bootcamp was just the beginning of a challenging yet rewarding college application process, students will continue to have support from staff and the greater SI community.

Class of '25 Shines At Graduation

Lucas Liang '26 Editor-in-Chief



Listed clockwise from the left:

Maya Briones

Ignatian Award

George Zaghaba

Valedictorian

Ciel Duffy

Loyalty Award

Danny Flores

Kate Quach

Fr. Sauer General

Maggie Strain

Excellence Award



c/o Mr. Gazulla/SlickPic

Dr. Kristofer Koller blesses student Alexandra Wallerstein '27 at a prayer service.

SCHOOL THEME

Continued from Page 1

In these formative years, the theme challenges students to strengthen bonds across campus, cultivating a community defined by creativity and mutual respect. As Ignatians, we are called to stand alongside one another in our personal, spiritual, academic, and athletic pursuits, recognizing that students can shape tomorrow's world. It is with this responsibility that we must internalize this message as a calling toward a higher purpose of uplifting youth voices and building a community of solidarity.

FATHER REESE

Continued from Page 1

For myself and countless others in the SI community and beyond, Father Reese was where we saw God, a man who surely was one of God's finest works.

After a battle with cancer, Father Reese went to God on August 2; he spent his last days accompanied by his Jesuit brothers at the Sacred Heart Center in Los Gatos. He was 82.

Father Reese's life was punctuated by numerous accomplishments that are testaments to his character as a man of kindness and his Jesuit mission. He served as an Assistant Principal for Student Affairs at his alma mater, Loyola High School in Los Angeles. He then went on to become the Principal of Bellarmine College Preparatory in San Jose for 13 years. After spending three years at St. Ignatius in Sydney, Australia, he became President of Brophy College Preparatory in Phoenix, where he opened the Loyola Academy, an extension of Brophy and a tuition-free middle school for underserved students.

In 2016, Fr. Reese became the 31st President of St. Ignatius College Preparatory, where he accomplished much in a short nine-year span: He opened the Fr. Sauer Academy, significantly increased the school's scholarship fund, and started the construction of the ambitious New Learning Commons. Above all, he filled in his role as the glue that held the school community together.

The beloved pair of pups, Roger and Ginger, will be taken care of; Mr. Vollert and his dogs Digby and Bernie have welcomed Roger, and Ms. Levine and her dog Bruno have taken in Ginger.



c/o SlickPic

Father Reese celebrates mass at Holy Name of Jesus Parish

Roger and Ginger will continue to visit SI to spread their positivity amongst students.

Mr. Vollert, who has served as the Vice President of Advancement for the past 20 years and has been with the school for a total of 37 years, will step up as president in Father Reese's wake.

For SI students, faculty, staff, and families, Father Reese will forever be immortalized in our hearts as an unstoppable force of good, leaving a profound impact that will never be erased. With a long life of accomplishment, Father Reese leaves behind a legacy that truly embodied the Jesuit tenet of men and women with and for others. His undying commitment to helping others manifested itself through his work creating opportunity for students, his selfless career in secondary education, and most of all, his love for his students. He went above and beyond for us students. Looking back, I took for granted everything he did for the community. From putting on prayer services to attending

student events, Father Reese always loved the students, and it is what I will remember him most for. For a legacy that impacted thousands, if not more: we thank you, Father Reese.



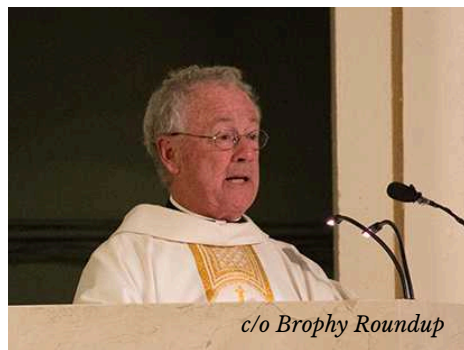
c/o SI Website

Edward A. Reese, S.J.
1942-2025



c/o @rogerreesesandginger

Father Reese and his pup Ginger.



c/o Brophy Roundup



c/o SI Website

Father Reese and Brother Lee exemplify great Jesuits.



c/o SITV

Brother Lee delivers mail inside the faculty workroom.

Jordan Liu '25

Remembering Brother Lee

Editor-in-Chief

Arthur Lee, S.J., better known as Brother Lee to the SI community, sadly passed away on July 16, 2025. He was 98.

To many current SI students, his role may be lesser-known, yet his impact on the SI community was substantial: he served SI for over 40 years before becoming semi-retired in 2021. But for those who knew him, Brother Lee was a source of inspiration and endless kindness.

He started off running the print shop and then went on to manage the book store. He led student faith groups (known as Christian Life Communities) and was a vibrant presence in student

life. In addition, he coached tennis, and the Brother Lee award given in SI's tennis programs recognizes the player with characteristics reflected in Brother Lee's life: inspirational action, effort towards improvement, and selflessness.

Born in Singapore on May 21, 1926, Brother Lee recounted that he joined the



c/o Jesuits West

**Arthur W. Lee, S.J.
1926-2025**

Jesuits as "God's will for me." Former SI tennis coach Mike Thomas described Brother Lee as "a model human being" and "a man for others" who "simply is, lives, and breathes the spirit of St. Ignatius."

Brother Lee will be remembered by the thousands he impacted at SI over the span of his 40+ service to the school. His selfless humility and boundless compassion were present throughout all his actions, whether he was working the bookstore or fixing up the tennis courts. To the hearts he touched during his long life, he will truly be missed.

Immersion 2025

Lucas Liang '26

Editor-in-Chief



Students pose at the equator on the Kenya Immersion trip led by Dr. Clements and Mr. Evans.

Over the past two months, the class of 2026 continued an SI summer tradition as nine groups of seniors embarked on immersion experiences to eight distinct locations.

SI's immersion program, organized by the Arrupe Center for Social Justice, aims to develop a "well-educated' solidarity for our students in the Ignatian tradition" per the Arrupe Center's webpage. According to the center, "immersion participants will come to know other communities and cultures through their stories, traditions, struggles, celebrations, and expressions of faith."

Although the immersion program has existed at SI since the 1990s, one group this year still had the opportunity to go to a completely new destination. For the first time, an SI immersion group went to Kenya, where

they shared their musical talents with a group of schoolchildren.

One of those SI students was Amelia Haller '26, who remarked, "My immersion trip was an extraordinary experience that transformed my perspective on the world and meaning in life."

For other groups, immersion was an opportunity to learn about communities closer to home. Two immersion groups went to the Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco, where they were hosted by the community nonprofit the Faithful Fools.

Kieran Devlin '26, who went on a one-week immersion to the Tenderloin in late July shared, "I got to know a great group of people, and live in a neighborhood that I don't often spend time in," he said. "I also experienced beauty and community in the lives of

Immersion Trips for the Class of '26

El Salvador

June 29 - July 12

Wheeling, West Virginia

July 13 - July 19

Tenderloin, San Francisco

June 14 - June 27

July 27 - August 2

Chicago, Illinois

July 20 - July 26

L'Arche, Tacoma

June 1 - June 14

Agua Prieta, Mexico

June 2 - June 13

Las Cruces, New Mexico

June 8 - June 21

Jerusalem Farm, Kansas City

June 8 - June 14

Nyeri, Kenya

June 12 - June 25

people whose neighborhood is often portrayed negatively in the news."

Other groups fanned out across the country to learn about communities that are often overlooked in our nation. Kevin Chin '26 was part of an immersion group to Wheeling, West Virginia, where they learned about ecological and economic justice. "It was a really fun experience that was also very informative," Chin said. "I definitely learned a lot about another part of our country."

Most immersion participants, no matter where they went, were grateful for the unforgettable communities and places they got to experience. As Haller put it, "I'm beyond grateful for Dr. [Clements] and Mr. Evans, our hosts in Kenya, and SI's immersion department for this opportunity."

Bay Area Beats: Songs of the Summer

Annika Watkins '26

Editor-in-Chief

This summer, the Bay Area welcomed a myriad of different artists that students will be raving about all year.

Kicking it off, Coldplay's Music of the Spheres tour lit up the Stanford Stadium on May 31 and June 1. Thousands of fans enjoyed nostalgic music and lit up the stands with LED bracelets. A bonus was their 100% biodegradable confetti!

A few weeks later, on July 8 and 9, The Weeknd rocked two sold-out nights at Levi's Stadium, cementing his place as the highest-grossing male solo artist in Levi's Stadium history. The show was ethereal: futuristic catwalks, masked dancers in red, and his symbolic moment of shedding the chrome mask mid-set. transformation and vulnerability throughout his music career: his album *After Hours* (2020) carries darker themes and centers around a damaged lifestyle consumed by fame. On the other hand, the themes in his album *Dawn FM* (2022) focus on the idea of confronting one's flaws, letting go of the armor that fame builds, and ultimately stepping into an unfiltered search for peace.

Next up, Morgan Wallen graced Levi's Stadium with his "I'm the Problem" Tour on August 1 and 2. The country star fired up the crowd by bringing former Giants player Barry Bonds on stage the first night. On the second night, he brought out 49ers stars George Kittle and Trent Williams to recreate their iconic "Bumpboxx" entrance.

Last but certainly not least, San Francisco's famous music festival Outside Lands took place in

c/o EDM Maniac



Outside Lands attracts a myriad of music fans.

Golden Gate Park August 8–10. Artists like Doechii, Hozier, Ludacris, Role Model, Tyler, the Creator, and Gracie Abrams drew massive crowds to the park's sprawling stages, blending genres from hip-hop to indie folk. Festival-goers also enjoyed a variety of food vendors, art installations, and even surprise guest appearances. Nancy Pelosi sang along to Gracie Abrams' heartfelt set from her VIP seat, joined by Governor Gavin Newsom and his entourage, while TV host Conan O'Brien was spotted with friends near the art installations, making it one of the most talked-about events of the Bay Area summer.

From stadium anthems to festival sing-alongs, this summer proved that the Bay Area's music scene is as diverse and vibrant as ever.

c/o Annika Watkins '26



The Weeknd gives an electric performance at Levi's Stadium.

Bring on the Fun: Save the Date for Upcoming Events

Evelyn Conboy '26

Editor-in-Chief



1



2

1) Kickoff the school year with Nashville Night, an exclusive night of country music and fun on **August 28th**

2) Cheer on SI's football team at their first game of the year against San Marin on **August 29th**



3



4

3) Bring your parents to school on Back to School Night, **September 4th**

4) Reflect and rejuvenate for the start of the school year with the Mass of the Holy Spirit on **September 5th**



5



6

5) Be sure to check out the Club Fair (upper lunch and X period) on **September 9th**

6) Celebrate and dance the night away at Homecoming on **October 4th**

**MISSED THE FIRST INSIDE SI ALL STAFF MEETING?
SIGN UP TO WRITE AT THE CLUB FAIR ON SEPTEMBER 9!**



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Evelyn Conboy '26, Lucas Liang '26, Jordan Liu '26, Annika Watkins '26 - *Editors-in-Chief*

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