

New Faces on SI's Campus

Bear Vida '27

Editor-in-Chief

This year, SI welcomes 13 new faculty and staff members, including two new Deans of Students, to the Outer Sunset. If you see the new Deans and faculty on campus, please give them a warm SI welcome.

Front row (left to right): Xiao Tan (Mandarin), Nicole Nastari (Dean of Students), Jennifer Sosa Ramirez (Spanish), Jane Matchak (Librarian), Mario Gonzales Villagran (Spanish), Grace Salceanu (Campus Ministry), Nicole Kwong (Human Resources), Eddie Torre (Religion).

Back row (left to right): Elijah Qualls (FSA Humanities), James Townsend (Dean of Students), Olivia Wahler (Math), Bus Leonard (Engineering), Patrick Hayden (Wellness Counselor).

Check out page 4 to learn about SI's new Dean Team!



c/o Danielle Devencenzi

The new faculty and staff pose for a picture on the piazza.

SI's 2026-27 Theme of Magnify Dignity

Farrah Almajdalani '27 Editor-in-Chief

"Arriving at the right time" is how Ms. Miguens described SI's 2026-27 theme of the year, "Magnify Dignity." Drawing from Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas, or "Magnificent Humanity," the theme places human dignity at the center of St. Ignatius' Jesuit mission. The encyclical explores the beauty and complexity of being human and also addresses the responsibilities that come with a rapidly changing world, including the growing presence of artificial intelligence.

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Editors' Note

Farrah Almajdalani '27, Genevieve Arcenio '27,
Lauren Yu '27, Bear Vida '27 Editors-in-Chief

Welcome back Cats! We are thrilled to kick off a new school year as your new Editor's-in-Chief of *Inside SI's* 75th volume. Entering this school year under the theme of Magnify Dignity, we hope to capture all the diverse voices at SI in our publication. We hope to showcase all your unique perspectives on your SI Odyssey.



c/o Amanda Oberto '27

Farrah Almajdalani *Genevieve Arcenio* *Lauren Yu* *Bear Vida*

A Warm Welcome to the Class of 2030

Genevieve Arcenio '27

Editor-in-Chief

Each year, Cat Camp gives incoming freshmen the opportunity to become more familiar with their classmates and the SI campus through a variety of activities facilitated by rising seniors, also known as Big Cats. This summer, the class of 2030 attended two Cat Camps, one in June at the beginning of the summer and one in August right before school began.

During the first Cat Camp, the freshmen rotated through five areas throughout campus. In McCulloch and Cowell, freshmen played volleyball, basketball, and ping pong. They also participated in musical chairs and mattress races. In the library, Big Cats and freshmen played Uno, Monopoly, and other board and card games. On the Father Sauer Field, freshmen played soccer, basketball, and volleyball. On the North Side of JB Murphy Field, freshmen played kickball and cornball, had a water balloon fight, and competed against each other in a bouncy house obstacle course. Finally, on the South Side of JB Murphy field, freshmen played football and competed in tug-of-war battles.

During the second Cat Camp, the freshmen received a tour of their classes by their Big Cats. "I thought it was really nice how this year they allowed the freshmen to go to their classes and preview it before the actual day of school because I know my freshman year, it would've been very helpful," Katelyn Tang '27 commented. The freshmen also had a chance to go on a walk around the neighborhood, passing by local businesses that are popular among SI students, such as Domino's, Eggets, Polly Ann's, and Gus.



The freshmen learn the Wildcat Whisper.

The freshmen and Big Cats walked along the Sunset Dunes, attaining views of Ocean Beach and picking up snacks before heading back to the SI campus.

The day concluded with the freshmen learning SI's cheers, including old favorites such as the Wildcat Whisper and the Icelandic Clap, and some new cheers in-

spired by the World Cup, such as the Netherlands cheer and the Norway row.

Overall, both Cat Camps gave incoming freshmen the opportunity to meet new people and learn what SI is all about. To the class of 2030: Welcome to SI, and we hope you have a great year!



The freshmen meet Mr. Townsend and Ms. Nastari.

Welcome, Frosh, to Your SI Odyssey

Lauren Yu '27

Editor-in-Chief

For thousands of years, Homer's *The Odyssey* has told the story of a hero leaving behind everything familiar and embarking on an uncertain journey. Along the way, Odysseus faces challenges, meets new people, gets lost, finds his way, and ultimately grows through everything he experiences.

And now, *The Odyssey* has been adapted into a movie. But for freshmen at St. Ignatius, the story might feel a little more familiar than you think.

At SI, *The Odyssey* is one of the first books read in freshman year English. It is a story about navigating an unfamiliar world and trying to find a way home. At the same time, hundreds of freshmen are beginning their own journeys and finding home in a completely new community.

Starting at SI can feel like entering your own mythical world. Suddenly, there are new classrooms to find, new teachers to meet, new expectations to understand, and hundreds of new faces everywhere you look. Even finding your place at lunch can sometimes feel like its own heroic quest.

And while you probably won't encounter a Cyclops on the way to class, freshman year comes with its own monsters.

Whether it be the fear of not knowing anyone, worrying about making friends, or being overwhelmed by a new schedule and workload, all these challenges are completely normal. Every hero has moments when the journey feels overwhelming, and that's what makes it an odyssey.

A hero's journey is truly about stepping into the unknown, meeting people along the way, and discovering more about yourself in the process.

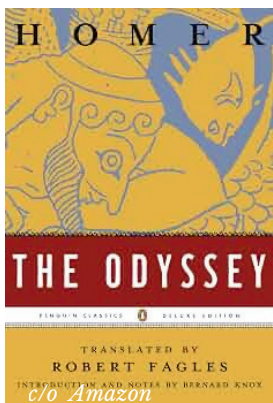


Maybe your version of Ithaca is finding your closest friends. Maybe it's discovering a passion, joining a team, or simply becoming more confident in yourself.

Odysseus didn't make his journey alone and neither will you. There will be people at SI who help you navigate unfamiliar waters, and make the adventure worth taking. So don't be afraid to introduce yourself, sit with someone new, or join a club. Say yes to an opportunity that makes you a little nervous. Some of the best parts of an odyssey are unexpected ones.

Class of 2030, as you walk through the doors of St. Ignatius, remember that you aren't expected to have the entire map figured out. You're only at the beginning. May your friends be loyal, your adventures be legendary, your seas be calm, and your freshman year be one unforgettable odyssey.

Good luck, Wildcats. Your journey begins now.



SI's 2026-27 Theme of Magnify Dignity

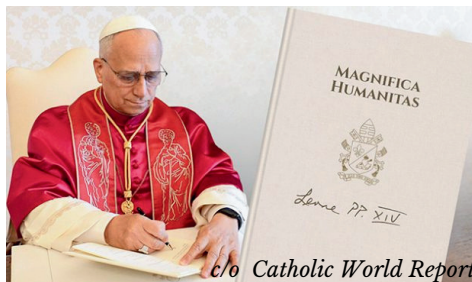
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As AI becomes increasingly woven into the way we learn, communicate, and create, “Magnify Dignity” encourages us to approach these changes with discernment. Rather than simply focusing on what technology can do, we are challenged to consider how we use it and whether our choices continue to respect the dignity of ourselves and others.

Yet the theme extends far beyond technology. It calls us to recognize the humanity of those around us, particularly those whose dignity or voices may go unnoticed. As Ignatians, we are called to accompany others and put our values into action through the ways we listen, include and care for our community.

Ms. Miguens noted that “Magnify Dignity will invite and challenge our community to continue to grow in areas of inclusion, celebration of gifts and social justice.” She also identified a central question behind the theme: “How do we help people feel free to be fully themselves and fully

alive - not only at SI, but in the world?” She encourages the community to “Approach every interaction, decision and conversation through the lens of dignity and love” and to “Help every person we encounter remember they are beloved and that they are the image of God reflected back to us.”



For Ms. Pryor Lorentz, SI's Asst. Principal for Mission, this understanding of dignity is rooted in her first experience at Loyola Marymount University, where she encountered St. Irenaeus' words, “The Glory of God is the human person fully alive!” The message challenged her to see being human not through our mistakes or limitations, but through the inherent worth of every person.

She believes “Magnify Dignity” carries this same message, calling the SI community to recognize the sacredness of each person, especially those whose dignity may be overlooked.

Ms. Pryor Lorentz hopes to see this understanding of dignity reflected in the everyday actions of the SI community. She encourages students to “celebrate each other's successes,” be “a loving presence in the midst of struggles” and choose to be “upstanders rather than bystanders” when someone makes a hurtful joke or insensitive comment. She also urges students to remain attentive to the needs of those around them, asking themselves, “How can I be ‘with’ them today or ‘for’ them in my words or actions?”

This year's theme, “Magnify Dignity,” challenges us to see beyond differences and recognize the inherent worth of all humans. By bringing that dignity into greater focus, we can more fully live out our Jesuit commitment to each other and to the wider world.

SI Welcomes Two New Deans

Bear Vida '27

Editor-in-Chief

This year, SI introduces two new Deans of Students: Nicole Nastari, and James Townsend!

Nicole Nastari is a graduate of the SI class of 1994. Nastari holds a Master of Arts in Education from the University of San Francisco and has most recently served as Dean of Students at Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory.

James Townsend, a native of Sacramento, holds a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Loyola Marymount University and captained the men's basketball team at UC Santa Cruz. He most recently served as the Assistant Principal of Culture at KIPP Esperanza High School in East Palo Alto.

We all welcome you to the SI community!



Nicole Nastari



James Townsend

Immersion Destinations: Near, Far, and New

Bear Vida '27

Editor-in-Chief

This summer, 93 students from the class of 2027 embarked on 10 different trips through SI's immersion program. Overseen by the Arrupe Center for Social Justice and led by members of the SI faculty and staff, those participating in immersion experience community through the combination of shared experiences, simple living, reflection, and prayer.

This year, the immersion program offered four one-week trips to various locations: Chicago, IL; Jerusalem Farm, Kansas City, MO; Wheeling, WV; and San Francisco's Tenderloin. The program also offered six two-week trips to locations near and far: Agua Prieta, Mexico; Las Cruces, NM; Tenderloin, SF; Dominican Republic; and El Salvador.

This was the first year SI offered an immersion trip to the Dominican Republic. Through the partnerships of Rostio de Cristo and Caribbean Social Immersion, eleven students were able to spend two weeks delving into the human rights and social issues regarding colorism and statelessness in the Dominican Republic.

Maya Guerra '27, who had the opportunity to venture to the DR, reflected, "It was important for me to connect what I learned in my history classes about slavery, the sugar industry, and the Haitian Revolution to the present day. While there is still systemic oppression happening, I saw the beauty of the culture through music, dance, food, and the energy that each per-

son shared with me."

Other SI students immersed themselves in communities closer to home, such as the Tenderloin immersion. Two separate groups spent time in the Tenderloin community: one for one week and the other for two weeks. In total, sixteen students had the opportunity to go.

Colby Sy '27, who went on the two-week immersion in the Tenderloin said, "Being on the Tenderloin immersion truly opened my eyes in our city of San Francisco. It was important to meet different people and hear from those who have been stereotyped through the media in a negative way."

When asked about how new immersion locations and partnerships are created, Ms. Pryor Lorentz, the Assistant Principal for Mission, explained, "I'd say that presently, we choose

our partners/agencies/locations based on long-term relationships with communities. For many of our trips, we have known our partners for years, have built trust with our shared approaches to safety, the quality of educational opportunity and support they offer, and their depth of connection to the community living the justice issue we are there to engage with."

When juniors apply to go on immersion, they do not get to pick the location of their trip. Juniors who are interested in learning more about immersion should be on the lookout for email updates this fall about information sessions.

Save the date for Solidarity Night on Wednesday, October 28th—any interested students and parents are welcome to attend. The immersion application deadline is Monday, November 16th.



Students on SI's first ever Dominican Republic immersion trip attend a local mass.

c/o LifeatSI

Save the Date for Future SI Happenings

Genevieve Arcenio '27

Editor-in-Chief

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31 FIELD HOCKEY SI VS. TAMAMPAIS	1 BIG CAT & FROSH X-PERIOD SOCIAL	2 FLAG FOOTBALL SI VS. TRACY HS	3 VOLLEYBALL SI VS. MARIN CATHOLIC	4 CLUB FAIR FNL  	5
6	7 LABOR DAY NO CLASSES	8	9	10 BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT	11 MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	12
13	14	15	16 FLAG FOOTBALL SI VS. GALILEO MEN'S WATER POLO SI VS. SERRA	17	18 TENNIS SI VS. SHP FIELD HOCKEY SI VS. CHRISTOPHER	19 
20	21	22 VOLLEYBALL SI VS. MITTY AFFINITY X-PERIOD	23 CROSS COUNTRY WCAL #1 FIELD HOCKEY SI VS. SAINT FRANCIS	24 VOLLEYBALL SI VS. RIORDAN	25 BRUCE MAHONEY FOOTBALL	26
27	28	29 TENNIS SI VS. SHC	30 MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WATER POLO SI VS. MENLO	1	2	3 FLAG FOOTBALL SI VS. RIORDAN



CLUB FAIR
SEPTEMBER 4



FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS
SEPTEMBER 4



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
SEPTEMBER 10



MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
SEPTEMBER 11



HOMECOMING
SEPTEMBER 19



BRUCE MAHONEY
SEPTEMBER 25

The Turn of a Tassel, the Beginning of an Odyssey

Farrah Almajdalani '27

Editor-in-Chief

Saying goodbye can be difficult and emotional, but it can also mark the beginning of a new journey, or an odyssey, as one might say. As Joey Ng '26 reflected, "One thing that definitely stood out from the ceremony was a line from Valedictorian Amelia Haller '26's speech that read, 'This is the last time the senior class will all be in the same room together.'" While that moment marks the end of an era, it also highlights the import-

ance of the relationships built throughout high school. As Joey put it, "While sad it's true. Senior year isn't just about colleges, it's about strengthening those connections that will survive the transition."

He advised current seniors and all high school students to surround yourself with people you want to stay in contact with beyond the transition out of high school. We especially recognize the

students who were awarded for their leadership, character, service, and contributions to the SI community, exemplifying the values and spirit that have defined this graduating class.

We congratulate the Class of 2026 on their accomplishments, the legacy they have left on SI, and the meaningful relationships they have built along the way. As they begin their next chapter, we wish them well on the odyssey ahead!



c/o SlickPic



c/o SlickPic

Seniors gather on the field, tossing their graduation caps into the air.



c/o SlickPic



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Left side (top to bottom):

Amelia Haller '26,
Valedictorian Award

Kate Ozaeta '26,
Loyalty Award

Camila Limo-Fernandez '26,
*Fr. Anthony P. Sauer, S.J.
General Excellence Award*

Right side (top to bottom):

Giovanni Gonzalez '26,
Ignatian Award

Alexander Salentine '26,
Loyalty Award

Tai Morganson '26,
*Fr. Anthony P. Sauer, S.J.
General Excellence Award*

Senior Sunset

Lauren Yu '27

Editor-in-Chief



Join **INSIDE SI** and Get Your Voice In Print

Lauren Yu '27

Editor-in-Chief

Calling all Wildcat writers, designers, and reporters! *InsideSI* is looking for both new and experienced staff members to join our team. Whether you're interested in current events, school news, humor, sports, or something completely different, there's a place for you at *Inside SI*.

Our first All Staff Meeting takes place on August 26th, after school in room 119. We can't wait to see you out there.

Have a burning headline idea? Want to meet new people? Looking for a way to get involved at SI?

Get your writing in print and join InsideSI!



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Farrah Almajdalani '27, Genevieve Arcenio '27, Bear Vida '27, Lauren Yu '27 - Editors-in-Chief

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