



2019 Alumni Dinner



Held at Christian Brothers High School on June 1, the 49th annual Alumni Dinner was a great night for seeing old friends and classmates and building on the strong CB connection.

Alumni, family and friends gathered for a social hour on the main lawn, complete with dinner and a raffle held in the Ron Limeberger '53 Gymnasium. Members of the Class of 1969 were honored with Golden Diplomas in recognition of 50 years of shared legacy and spirit.

The Honorary Alumni Award was presented to Stephanie Cooper-Noe, a proud parent of Dominga Noe '11 and Samantha Noe '18 and an active member of the Lasellian Parent Ambassadors. She has been volunteering at CB events since 2007 when Dominga began her freshman year and has continued her service even after Samantha graduated. At the ceremony, her daughters surprised her and presented her with the award.

The Alumni Service Award, the highest award bestowed by the Alumni Association given to an individual who regularly gives back to CB and

helps make the community a better place, was presented to Laine Himmelman '06. As the development director at Habitat for Humanity Greater Sacramento, Himmelman is responsible for the organization's public relations and fundraising efforts. This past spring, she collaborated with CB and gave the students the opportunity to work at a Habitat for Humanity worksite and assist with building homes for low-income families in the community. She was also recognized as one of Sacramento's 40 Under 40 for 2019.

In addition to service at Christian Brothers, alumni were also recognized for distinguishing themselves in the professional world and making an impact. Honored with the Rising Falcon Award was Viviana Becerra '09. After earning her bachelor's degree in political science from University of California, Santa Barbara, Becerra is now the chief of staff at California State Assembly for Rob Bonta. She is also a board member of the California Latino Capitol Association Foundation and has already had service as a Senate fellow and legislative advocacy on her resume.

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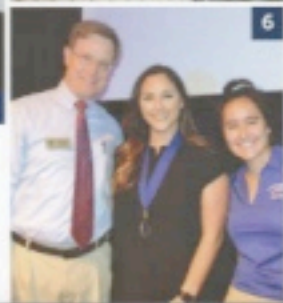
Christian Brothers:
Tim Johnston '00 and
Richard Johnston '80

Bryan Caselli '07 received the Outstanding Alumni in the Arts Award. Caselli has always had a love for drawing. Kevin McGovern '74 had encouraged him to apply to the California State Summer School for the Arts. There he studied in the animation department, leading to him to later earning his bachelor of fine arts degree in character animation from the California Institute of the Arts. He currently lives in Burbank and is the executive producer at Federator Studios, having worked on top-notch cartoons such as "Star vs. the Forces of Evil" and "Sanjay and Craig." Presenting his award was his friend and former teacher, McGovern.

The Outstanding Alumni in Community Engagement and Impact Award was presented to Maritza (Villegas) Davis '02. As vice president of experiences and social responsibility at the Sacramento Kings, Davis helps with fundraising events for the Kings Foundation as well as programs such as the Jr. Kings and Kids Club. She and her husband, Roshaun, founded Urseen Heroes, an award-winning event marketing agency. Davis was also named one of Comstock's Magazine's young emerging leaders of 2016.

Larry Lee '91 received the Outstanding Alumni in Journalism and Communications Award. He has had a lifelong career in media, most recently as the president of the Sacramento Observer newspaper. Lee is also the board president of the Observer Media Institute, a non-profit organization that prepares underserved community members to be journalists, media specialists and communications professionals. He serves on the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Directors and the CARES Strategic Initiative for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention Steering Committee. He is a senior fellow of the American Leadership Forum. In addition to these accomplishments, Lee has served on many reputable boards as well.

CB's spectacular alumni have also made a significant impact on the history and legacy of the school's athletic program. Christian Brothers Athletics continues, as in the past, to be an example and a model of a successful athletic program in the greater Sacramento Area. The individuals inducted into the 2019 Hall of Fame helped lay the groundwork for a Christian Brothers athletic program that has a reputation for excellence in the Sacramento Area.



The following seven individuals and one team were inducted into the 2019 CB Athletics Hall of Fame:

JOE KIRRENE '49

A native of San Francisco, Kirrene was a three-time All-City Prep baseball player for the Brothers. In his three prep seasons, he was a part of three Sacramento City Championship teams from 1947 to 1949, routinely hitting over .400 as the starting third baseman. After his prep career, Kirrene signed with the Chicago White Sox in 1950. On October 1, 1950, the regular season's final day, he made his major league debut starting at third base for the White Sox going 1 for 4 with no errors in the field. Kirrene was out of baseball for three seasons while serving in the Coast Guard during the Korean War and was honorably discharged in 1954. Returning to baseball in 1954, he led the Class A Western League in batting average, hitting .343, and was selected as the third baseman on the league's all-star team. He appeared in nine games for the White Sox that year, batting .304, six as the starting third baseman, and had three multi-hit games. He played baseball with the San Francisco Seals and Oakland Oaks in 1955-56 before leaving professional baseball. In later years, Joe worked as a manager for California State Auto Association for 41 years. Kirrene passed away in 2016 and is survived by his wife of 63 years, Grace.

MCNAMARA BROTHERS (JIM '47, JOHN '50, AND FRANK '51)

Jim McNamara '47 was the starting shortstop for the legendary 1946 undefeated Brothers baseball team. The following year, he made the All-City team and led Brothers to the City Championship with a 12 and 4 record. Considered to be one of the finest fielding shortstops to ever come out of Sacramento, Jim was drafted by the New York Giants in 1947 and spent five years in the minors. Jim was inducted into the La Salle Club Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996 and distinguished himself by chairing that event for 13 years. Jim passed away in 2012 and was married to Mildred Petralli for 56 years.

Frank "Muggs" McNamara '51 was the captain and center fielder of the 1951 Brothers team. He went on to play two years at Sacramento City College and hit .360 for the 1953 State Championship team. His baseball career continued at California State University, Chico where he was once again voted captain of the team and led them to the Far West Conference Championship in 1958. Frank hit .316 and made the All-Conference team. When several professional contracts were offered, Frank chose graduate school and became an esteemed Sacramento educator for 44 years. He was inducted into the La Salle Club Hall of Fame in 2000. Frank has been married to Sally Byrne for 59 years.

John McNamara '50 was an outstanding defensive catcher for the Gaels, earning All-City selections in 1949 and 1950. In 1959, he became a player and manager with Lewiston in the Northwest League, a minor league affiliate with the Kansas City A's. In 1967, John reached the big leagues as a third base coach for the Kansas City A's. The team soon moved to Oakland, and in 1969, he was named manager at the age of 37. He would go on to manage for 19 years, compiling a record of 1,167 and 1,242, ranking 48th on the all-time managerial list. He also managed and/or coached the Giants, Padres, Angels, Reds, Red Sox, and Indians. John will be most remembered by the 1986 post-season as the manager of the Boston Red Sox when he earned the Manager of the Year award. His last year managing was in 1996 with the California Angels.

ALUMNI DINNER

Saturday, June 6th

Annual Awards, Golden Diplomas Presentation, and Hall of Fame Inductions

Congratulations to this year's Athletic Hall of Fame

Roy Christian '51 Joe Whittaker '58 Peter Ballinger '57 David Connors '79



A special thank you to the Alumni Association members and volunteers who organized the fun-filled evening. Kudos to Duane Arend '79, Tony Clark '83, Tom Nulk '83, and Marty Clark '89 for bartending throughout the evening.

CHUCK CHATFIELD '54

Chatfield was a three-year varsity letterman in both football and baseball with the Brothers, earning All-City in football in 1953. He went on to graduate from College of Pacific in 1958 where he played as a wide receiver and field goal kicker from 1954 to 1958; he was seventh in the nation as a wide receiver in 1957. Chatfield also played on the baseball team as a pitcher at COP and was the team MVP in 1958. After graduating, he coached football and baseball at COP in 1958 and 1959. He then served as head football coach at Sacramento City College in 1960. He coached as an assistant coach for Washington State from 1961 to 1962 and Utah in 1963. Chatfield also worked for the Dallas Cowboys under Tom Landry in 1964 as an assistant coach in charge of player personnel signing for the Cowboys All-Pro's Jethro Pugh and "Bullet Bob" Hayes, the only athlete to ever win both the Super Bowl and an Olympic Gold medal. Chatfield lives in Clements, CA and is the grandfather of 12.

JOSEPH GUTIERREZ '70

Gutierrez was a three-year All-Star varsity basketball and a two-year varsity football player for the Falcons. As a basketball player, he was an All-Metro performer averaging 20.8 points per game. In football, Gutierrez was a two-time All-City performer as a receiver; he played in the first Holy Bowl against Jesuit, which was a 20-13 victory in 1969 in front of 6,000 fans. In his senior season, the Falcons basketball team managed a 16-6 record although Gutierrez was the only basketball player over six feet tall. He lists CB Hall of Fame coach, Jack Wiltry, as the best coach he played under. After high school, Gutierrez went on to Santa Clara University where he played football and basketball and earned his bachelor's degree in political science.

MONTY BUCKLEY '91

Buckley was an accomplished track star at Christian Brothers and is listed four times in CB's track and field record books (4th for 200 meters, 2nd in 400 meters, 1st in both 4x100 relay and 4x400 relay). However, Buckley was known mainly as a basketball star, playing on the varsity team for three years. As a senior, Buckley was named the Sacramento Metro Area Player of the Year in 1991. He enjoyed a four-year scholarship basketball career at UC Berkeley. Buckley helped Cal win a NCAA basketball tournament game against defending champion, Duke, by scoring two key three-point baskets, helping the team advance to the NCAA Sweet 16 on March 20, 1993. During his Cal career, Buckley was known as a great defensive player and was named best team defender in 1992 and 1995. Buckley is in the Cal basketball record book for points scored in a career- 45th all-time with 1,035 points. After Cal, Buckley played professionally in the NBA with the Golden State Warriors and Portland Trail Blazers as well as internationally in the Philippines and Argentina. Today, Buckley is a highly regarded basketball trainer and basketball coach. He has coached nationally ranked AAU basketball teams and is involved in high level basketball training for youth in Northern California.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS '81 VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

This record-setting team was the only team in the Falcons' varsity football history to win the Metro League championship title both undefeated and untied in Metro League games; held a no. 1 ranked Division I varsity football team to zero first downs for an entire game in the victory over no. 1, Grant, at Hughes Stadium on November 27, 1981, defeated three Division I varsity football teams in a season that were ranked no. 1 in the Sacramento Area at the start of the game; and defeated a nationally ranked Division I prep no. 2 or higher. The team was the first in school history to win the Division I Sac-Joaquin Section title by defeating previously undefeated no. 1, Napa, 14-10 at Hughes Stadium, the first of two Section titles in school history. This legendary team was also the first team in school history to win the Sacramento City Championship defeating no. 1 Grant. The team was honored at the CB vs. Capital Christian game in September 2019.