



LA REINA TODAY

Community Edition

Vol. VI, No. 2 • Summer, 2011

The Class of 2011 Steps into the Future

Before 1,000 guests, members of the Class of 2011 stepped into the future as Regent alumnae on Saturday, June 11. Returning to La Reina as the provincial superior of the Sisters of Notre Dame, Sr. M. AnnCarla Costello '69 gave the invocation. Salutatorian Elizabeth Epstein welcomed the guests, and

valedictorians Jillian DeGennaro and Katherine Wikholm shared their memories. Mr. Stan Hirsch introduced each graduate as Sr. M. LaReina Kelly and Dr. Shannon Gomez presented diplomas. Mrs. Linda Lower, representing the Board of Trustees, concluded the ceremony with a benediction.



Above left: Katie Hallmark begins the long processional.

Above middle: Sr. M. AnnCarla Costello '69 gives the invocation.

Above right: Sarah Alessi-Hausenbauer, Anna Harris and Natalie Lawler applaud as their classmates receive their diplomas.

Lower left: Madeline McGinnis, Michele Atherton and Emily Gilbert beam their happiness during the ceremony.

Lower right: Hannah McGough thanks her parents, Mark and Alreen McGough.

Message from the President and Principal

Regent News Bites

Dear Friends,

Sr. Claire Fitzgerald, S.S.N.D., a distinguished educator from Boston College, recently quoted a survey of parents of Catholic school students. That survey asked parents why they chose a Catholic school for their children. The number one reason was the academic excellence that Catholic schools provide.



Sr. M. LaReina Kelly, S.N.D.
President



Shannon Gomez, Ed. D.
Principal

Educational excellence is key hallmark of the vision and mission of La Reina High School. Our curriculum and instruction enable students to discover, develop and share their unique gifts. We encourage students to do their "personal best," recognizing that "personal best" represents different types of achievement within a college preparatory context and that academic excellence cannot always be quantified by grades and test scores.

We are quite proud of our students and alumnae because they consistently give evidence of academic excellence, such as

- Standardized test scores (PSAT, SAT, ACT, and Advanced Placement) well-above state and national results
- Success in academic extra-curricular activities, such as the Ventura County and California State Science Fairs and speech, debate and Mock Trial competitions
- Admission to well-respected colleges and universities, both domestic and foreign
- Graduation from these colleges and universities, in some cases, in less than four years because of credits earned through successful completion of Advanced Placement coursework
- Motivation to pursue advanced college degrees.

Our *Strategic Plan 2009-14* includes our commitment to continued excellence in academics, with the goal to "offer a superior college preparatory curriculum that optimizes academic achievement and life skill development." Recent curricular changes provide expanded opportunities for students through courses such as: introduction to foreign language for junior high students; statistics, world cinema, video production, science research, robotics engineering and online courses through the Virtual High School Consortium for high school students.

As a school sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame, La Reina will always champion its Catholic mission and nurturing environment. At the same time, we recognize parents' desire for academic excellence and our responsibility to develop the whole person in body and spirit. We commit ourselves anew to our common mission. And thank you to our thousands of parents, alumnae, friends and donors who embrace this mission with us!

Sincerely,

Sr. M. LaReina Kelly, S.N.D. and Dr. Shannon Gomez

~~~~Students~~~~

ASB Officers elected for 2011-12 include **Kelly Reinke '12**, president; **Lauren Hearne '12**, vice-president; **Becca Koval '12**, secretary; and **Roxanne Myers '12**, publicity. Newly-elected class officers (president, vice-president and secretary, respectively) are: **Whitney Gould, Rachel Brajkovich and Sara Chesser** (Class of 2012); **Elizabeth Grode, Bailey Roling and Katelyn Sullivan** (Class of 2013); **Lauren Tolcher, Jennifer Bitterly and Ryanne Bamieh** (Class of 2014); **Ariana Brajkovich, Evelina Godecki and Madison Matthews** (Class of 2015); and **Bailey Tait, Hailey Smith and Karsyn Kapur** (Class of 2016).

Members of the Class of 2015 held their Promotion Mass on Thursday, June 9, at St. Maximilian Kolbe Church. Award winners included **Megan Larratt**, Alma Mater Scholarship; **Jessica Zlaket**, Linda Barkley Math/Science Merit Scholarship; **Francesca Cerri and Jo Grode**, Faculty Appreciation Award; **Marlowe Moser**, Parent Guild Service Award; **Emma Chisholm**, St. Monica Scholarship; and **Evelina Godecki**, Spirit 15 Award.

Katherine Workman '12 won a gold medal at the USA Volleyball Girls' Junior National Championships in Atlanta this summer.

Lena Melillo '13 and **Hannah Young '12** earned the degree of Premier Distinction from the National Forensic League. This honor is the NFL's highest degree of membership, in recognition of sustained excellence in speech and debate activities.

Regents who are members of Service Council gave 2,108 hours to their alma mater during 2010-11.

Members of the Class of 2012 who were invited to participate in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Programs' College Plans

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LA REINA TODAY • Community Edition is published quarterly by the La Reina High School Advancement Department to highlight the school's mission, programs, achievements and goals.

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~~~~~**Alumnae**~~~~~

Recent alumnae are competing in collegiate level Mock Trial for Georgetown, Harvard, Seton Hall, the University of California (Berkeley, Los Angeles and Santa Barbara), the University of Notre Dame and the University of Southern California.

**Bridget Benson '01** has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in the Electrical Engineering Department at her alma mater, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Her sister, **Gianna '01** is a marketing manager at Intergral Information Solutions and she will open a new American branch of the company in Los Osos.

**Kristen Jamerson '03**, a graduate of California State University, Long Beach with a B.S. in Kinesiology, will assist Robert Lopez with the LRHS cross country team this year.

**Meghan Meros '04** spent six weeks in Cochabamba, Bolivia this summer, with the Maryknoll missionaries, teaching girls ballet and working in an orphanage. Meghan is study for a master's in Latin American Studies at American University in Washington, D.C.

**Brittany Hernandez '06** graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in Political Science and History. She is attending Loyola Law School.

**Amanda Dobrucki '07** received her degree in Athletic Training from California State University, Northridge. She is a certified athletic trainer and will assist in the LRHS Athletic Department.

**Nayantara Bhushan '08** graduated from UC Berkeley in three years, receiving a B.A. in Hisotry. This year she will return to LRHS as the Junior High Debate Coach and Assistant Speech, Debate and Mock Trial Coach.

**Lauren Dansey '08** also graduated from UC Berkeley in three years, receiving a B.A. in Political Science. Lauren has joined the Teach for America program and will teach special education at De Anza High School in Richmond, California.

**Ashley Millhouse '08** partnered with the Mission of Good Hope, a volunteer service corps at Wake Forest University and led a group of students to South Africa to participate in community development projects. In June, she returned to South Africa as a recipient of a Richter Grant, to research apartheid in Durbin and Cape Town.

~~~~~**Staff**~~~~~

Sr. M. Rebekah Kennedy recently celebrated the Ruby Jubilee (40th anniversary) of her religious profession and former principal **Sr. M. Antonine Manning** celebrated her Diamond Jubilee (60th anniversary).

Practical Arts Department Chairperson **Robin Privat** attended a week-long SPARK physical education conference this summer. This innovative program increases both student participation and activity levels, as well as their subsequent enjoyment of a physical education class.

Betsy Potts, Director of Alumnae Relations, became an Associate of the Sisters of Notre Dame in June. Mrs. Potts has been a member of the LRHS staff since 1973.

La Reina has helped me to become the strong, ambitious, and independent person I am today. I am happy to be so confident, so unafraid of my future. In fact, I embrace the future. I embrace all the knowledge and experiences I will gain. I am truly grateful to La Reina for giving me the strength to be who I am, no matter what.

...Cynthia Garcia '11



Members of the Class of 2015 were promoted into high school, including Dominique Dollenmayer, Bobbi Elias, Annalise Elsasser and Leila Flanagan.



Dr. Shannon Gomez presents the Alma Mater Scholarship to Megan Larratt.



Assistant Principal of Students Stan Hirsch guides Thea Percival and Elizabeth Epstein as they join the entrance procession at the Baccalaureate Mass. The Baccalaureate was held at St. Maximilian Kolbe Church on Friday, June 10, with Rev. Jarlath Dolan as celebrant.



Nicole Walsh served as a cantor during the Baccalaureate Mass.



Christina Culley, Haley Mosdell and Celia Guzman hold candles after singing the alma mater at the conclusion of the Baccalaureate Mass.

Regents Earn AP Awards

Assistant Principal of Academics Rebecca Joyce Adams '81 reports that 62 Regents earned an Advanced Placement Scholar Award for 2011. The AP Program offers several awards to recognize high school students who have demonstrated college-level achievement through AP courses and exams. The La Reina community congratulates these students for their accomplishments.

National Advanced Placement Scholar Award

for earning an average grade of 4 or higher on all AP exams taken and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams

Jillian DeGennaro '11
Elly Shao '12

Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction Award

for earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams

Sarah Alessihausenbauer '11
Ana Alvarez '12
Nicole Anaya '11
Michelle Atherton '11
Janaki Balachandran '11
Gabiella Brignardello '12
Emilia Cardenas '11
Sofia Cardenas '11
Steffi Chen '12
Jillian DeGennaro '11
Elizabeth Epstein, '11
Nicole Florentino '11
Josie Gormley '11
Ashley Lawrence '11
Alyssa Mallory '11
Hannah McGough '11
Emily Melvin '11
Alyssa Orr '11
Alyssa Parisi '11
Laurel Rodewald '11
Elly Shao '12
Ravital Solomon '11
Sonia Tagari '11
Katherine Wikholm '11
Hanna Winter '11

Advanced Placement Scholar with Honor Award

for earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams

Linda-fe Benson '12
Rachel Brajkovich '12
Mary Clyne '12
Emily Fortner '12
Laura Horan '12
Rajika Jindani '12
Thea Percival '11
Alexa Poulton '12
Jillian Walke '12
Christina Zins '11

Advanced Placement Scholar Award

by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher

Paige Bartholomew '12
Monica Bermudez '11
Cassidy Budig '12
Anna Burrows '12
Sara Chesser '12
Cynthia Garcia '11
Sarah Hardy '12
Rashi Jindani '11
Rebecca Koval '12,
Bridget Leire '12
Cheyenne Mangubat '12
Bailey Martz '12
Madeleine McGinnis '11
Krista McPherson '11
Marie Mitchell '12
Kirsten Mosesson '11
Roxanne Myers '12
Marisa Ochoa '12
Valentina Oliver '12
Christine Pumford '12
Katelyn Reeves '12
Hannah Roberts '11
Jillian Stephens '11
Jennifer Tolcher '11
Amanda Tom '11
Nishitha Viswanathan '12
Hannah Young '12

Special Awards Earned by 2011 Grads



Alexandra Kiefer • Conejo Valley Association of Realtors Scholarship presented by Mary Davis



Claira Castillo & Megan Gray • Simi Valley Knights of Columbus Scholarship presented by Ron Huertth



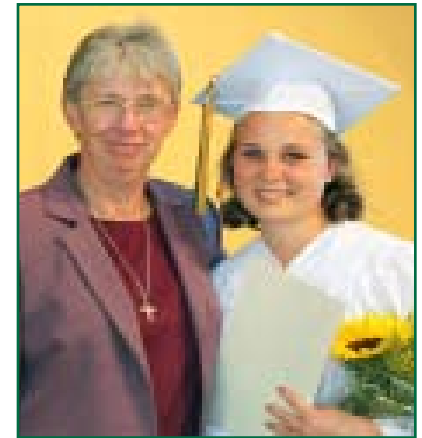
Megan Garcia • Commander William Coffey Engineering Scholarship presented by Dan Fisher



Katherine Wikholm • Alma Mater Award presented by Sr. M. LaReina Kelly and Dr. Shannon Gomez



Michelle Cunningham • Concerned Black Women of the Conejo Valley presented by Bobbie Radford



Katherine Trockey • Sr. Ignatia Service Award presented by Sr. M. Rebekah Kennedy



Alexandra Kiefer • Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce Education Committee Scholarship • presented by Loree Bussard

Allen Family Scholarship • Emma Delsohn
 Athlete of the Year • Jordan Needle
 Conejo Valley Chapter, National Charity League Scholarship •
 Michelle Atherton & Rashi Jindani
 Faculty Recognition Award • Jennifer Tolcher
 Los Robles Hospital Student Volunteer Award • Mary Katlyn Fisher
 Outstanding Citizenship Award • Thea Percival
 Parent Guild Service Award • Christina Zins
 Ruth Scholarship • Kathleen Hallmark
 Salutatorian • Elizabeth Epstein
 Sr. M. Aloysia Service Award • Megan Garcia
 St. Jude Scholarship • Emily Melvin
 Sisters of Notre Dame Distinguished Graduate Award • Mary Katlyn Fisher
 Unified Association of Conejo Teachers Award •
 Madeleine McGinnis & Jordan Needle
 Valedictorians • Jillian DeGennaro & Katherine Wikholm
 Ventura County Chapter of California Women for Agriculture Award •
 Katherine Trockey

LA REINA HIGH SCHOOL

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LA REINA

Tribute Scholarship Fund

*You live forever in the minds you
inspire and in the lives you touch.*

Tribute Scholarship Gifts honor a special person (on a birthday or another occasion) or memorialize a deceased loved one. La Reina's Advancement Office will send an attractive acknowledgment to the honoree, or to the family of the deceased person, with an appropriate message and a promise of prayer. A monthly Mass is also offered for the honorees. Donations will be used for tuition assistance grants for deserving students. Special thanks to these recent donors.

In honor of Judy Knight
Joann & Stan Benson

In honor of the SND Jubilarians
Terri Bond
Darlene Boyd Goodman '87
Nancy & Tom Grasmehr
Kevin McNamara
Betsy Potts

In honor of
Caroline Prijatel Sutton '97
Joann & Stan Benson

Calendar of Coming Events

Further information on these and other events is available at <www.lareina.com>.

Saturday, September 10

Alumnae Reunion Picnic • 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

All alumnae and their families are invited to this traditional reunion, honoring the Classes of '71, '76, '81, '86, '91, '96, '01 and '06.

Wednesday, September 7

Opening Liturgy & Student Council/Campus Ministry Core Induction • 9:30 a.m.

Parents, alumnae and friends are invited!

Saturday, September 24

Senior Car Wash & Green Team E-Waste Drive • LRHS Campus • 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 1

Application Season Opens for 2012-13

All application materials are available at www.lareina.com. Contact Mrs. Cristy Richey McNay '87, Director of Admissions, at admissions@lareina.com or 805-495-6494, ext. 307 for more information or to arrange a tour.

Friday, October 7

La Reina High Day and Auction Catalog Deadline

Wednesday, October 20

Respect Life Liturgy/Honor Assembly • 9:30 a.m.

Parents, alumnae and friends are invited!

Friday, October 21

Auction Reservation Deadline

Sunday, October 30 • 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Open House for Prospective Students and Families

Meet current students, alumnae, parents and staff, tour the campus and see La Reina in action!

Saturday, November 5

28th Annual Parent Guild Auction • "La Reina...Leading the Way"

For information on donations, reservations, or advertising, contact Barbara Lilley at 805-917-7112 or blilley@lareina.com.



**The La Reina
High School
community offers
sympathy and prayers**

- *Helen Mihalovits Griffith '92 and Louise Mihalovits Novotney '93 and their families on the loss of their father, Alex Mihalovits.*
- *Mylea Mann '15 and Mara Mann '16 and their family on the loss of their father, David Mann.*
- *Laura Canfield Cifuentes '91 and her family on the loss of her mother, Ruth Canfield.*

By remembering La Reina High School in your will, trust or other estate plan, you will be investing in future generations of Regents. Our legal title is "La Reina High School, Inc." with IRS identification number 95-2381453. For further information, contact the Development Office, 805-495-6494, ext. 382.

Thank you and God bless you
for adopting the Regents!