

The X Factor

Issue #2 | FEB 2016

Xavier Alumni Newsletter

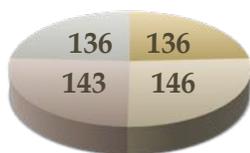
2015-2016 XCP Enrollment per Class



Students

1

- Class of 2016
- Class of 2017
- Class of 2018
- Class of 2019



Let's Keep in Touch

Where
are
you
now?

We want to know what you are up to!

- Internship
- Outreach
- Jobs
- Engagement
- Marriages
- Babies

2

Email us at ucoie@xavierprep.org to include you in our newsletter and keep in touch.

Upcoming Community Events



Easter Egg-Stravaganza
March 13, 2016

3

Toscana Wine Tasting
April 5, 2016

Baccalaureate
May 27, 2016

Dear Saints,

I've spent a little time lately reading about St. Ignatius the student. His educational journey was anything but precise and linear. After working with several tutors and attending what I might characterize as "junior colleges," Ignatius finally enrolled at the University of Paris in February of 1528, at the age of 36. Like so many of you, it took Ignatius more than four years in Paris to finally earn his degree(s). He sat for his baccalaureate exams in March of 1533 and his Master of Arts exams in March of 1534. I'll spare you the details, but Ignatius the student worried about expenses, as well, begging for alms, living wherever he could, and eating a pretty simple diet.



Maybe you're in a similar place today. Some of you graduated from Xavier almost six years ago, and you may still be sitting in a college library trying to figure out just what you want to be, what courses you'll take next semester, or what you'll do after graduating this spring. More urgently, some of you may be wondering how you're ever going to pay for next semester, or how you'll ever manage the student loan debt you're accumulating.

The other day my son told me which courses he was taking this quarter. I am chagrined to say that a few times I thought to myself, "Why are you taking that? What will you ever do with that course?" I'm more embarrassed because I was a teacher who actually required kids to read *Beowulf*. But when I talked to Dan, I was feeling the heavy weight of those very practical concerns. And a prayer attributed to Pedro Arrupe, SJ, reminds me of the most practical concern I could ever have. So...as you muddle your way through Lent, through mid-terms, through the last few weeks of class before graduation, through applications for internships and scholarships and FAFSA's, pray this prayer (and continue to fall in love):

Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in Love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, whom you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in Love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.

Peace,

Chris Alling



A.M.D.G

East LA Trip

Bettina Riddle – Xavier College Prep – February 12, 2016

On February 12, 2016, Xavier students and faculty explored and learned more about downtown Los Angeles, including Skid Row, an area of downtown that contains one of the largest populations of homeless people in the country. Through visits to places

like the Cardinal Manning Center, a Catholic Men’s Shelter, our



students shared in the experience in search of solidarity with the people who call the city home. Our guide and teacher took time to share his story of homelessness and teach us more about our world’s greatest needs. Through these stories, we seek to be in solidarity, community and relationship with others.

Shookfoil

Lori Davis – Xavier College Prep – February 11, 2016

At the last ShookFoil Poetry Reading Series and Open Mic, more than 150 students came together to experience the magical transfiguration of the Commons into an underground coffee house. This included the unveiling of a newly designed logo for the program created by the students in the Visual and Performing Arts Department at Xavier.

The performers consisted of poets, vocalists and musicians, all courageously sharing their God-given talents. Some read poems right off their phones; some wrote and sang original songs; some performed cover tunes and some recited classical poetry.

The level of support that the students show for one another is almost as inspiring as the performances themselves. For many years, Xavier’s ShookFoil Poetry Reading Series has invited outside poetic talent from Los



Angeles, Riverside and San Diego to Xavier’s

campus. The idea is to expose our students to writers and literary performers excelling at their craft. So far, these events are getting young people excited about poetry and highlighting the importance of sharing their thoughts and voices.

Kairos Retreats – The Experience of a Lifetime

Matt Emerson – Xavier College Prep – February 2, 2016

On February 2-5, 2016, another group of seniors journeyed to the mountains near San Diego for one of the defining experiences of their time at Xavier and of Jesuit education: the Kairos retreat. Kairos, which is a Greek word for “God’s time,” is a four day retreat that aims to help students grow closer to God.

Kairos is one of four retreats that Xavier offers. The others are: the Freshman Retreat, the Arrupe Retreat (Sophomores), and the Search Retreat (Juniors). All retreats are designed to help students grow closer to Christ and develop their faith lives.



A Night with Friends at Xavier's Annual Companions' Dinner

Matt Emerson - Xavier College Prep - February 9, 2016

On Feb. 9, 2016, Xavier celebrated its Companions' Dinner. The Companions' Dinner is Xavier's annual commemoration of Catholic and Jesuit education. It's a chance to thank Xavier's benefactors and all those who've donated time, talent, and treasure to schools like Xavier.

This year's honored speaker was William J. McGurn, columnist for the *Wall Street Journal* and former chief speechwriter of George W. Bush. This year's honored guest was Carol Ann Radovich; Xavier also honored the memory of her late husband, John. John and Carol were some of Xavier's earliest benefactors, donating \$1 million to the school around the time it opened.



Mr. McGurn's remarks at the dinner focused on the centrality of Catholic education to the modern world. Speaking of the school's patron saint, he said, "Francis Xavier, of course, is the patron saint of missionaries. And it strikes

me tonight that the school that bears his name has its own missionary work here: To take into our world the truths about God and man and nature that built America - and remain the world's best hope for freedom."

Xavier's Companions' Dinner hopes to inspire that continued work and to motivate parents and benefactors to continue to give generously to Xavier.

2015 - 2016 Important Dates

March 13, 2016

Eggstravaganza

March 25-April 1, 2016

Easter Break

No school

April 5, 2016

Toscana Wine Tasting

May 13, 2016

Bishop's Mass

Seniors

May 23, 2016

Transition Mass

May 24-26, 2016

Senior Final Exams

May 27, 2016

Baccalaureate Mass

7:00 pm

May 28, 2016

Graduation

10:00 am

May 30, 2016

Memorial Day

No school

May 31-June 2, 2016

Final Exams, 2nd Semester

June 2, 2016

Last Day of School

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July 13-August 2, 2016

Athletic Dead Period

August 17, 2016

First Day of School

September 5, 2016

Labor Day

No school

Arrupe Leaders Summit in Los Gatos

Denise Barradas - Xavier College Prep - February 5, 2016

The Arrupe Leaders Summit is an opportunity for high school students from Jesuit high schools and parishes nationwide to help deepen their understanding of "a faith that does justice." The three-day summit focused on Arrupe's example of serving those on the margins and seeing social justice as core to one's faith in Christ.

Students collaborated and shared ideas and resources of social justice programs that occur at their school. It empowered them to reflect on how they can create a positive social change in local and global communities.



You are invited to join us for a special wine tasting
in support of Xavier's Scholarship Fund!



Tuesday, April 5, 2016
6:00 - 8:00 pm • Il Forno at Toscana
\$40 per person includes
Wine Tasting and Hors d'oeuvres

Hosted by Toscana Country Club • 76-009 Via Club Villa • Indian Wells

Limited Space Available

Purchase your tickets at
www.xavierprep.org under Support Xavier Tab

For any questions please contact Darcy Molyet at
dmolyet@xavierprep.org or at 760-601-3900 x 6181

Xavier Senior Accepted to her Top Choice University

Jenna Cesare, Class of 2016

She was accepted into Loyola University Chicago. Jenna received a scholarship of \$20K per year and plans on studying in the Department of Arts and Sciences.

Why did you choose Loyola University Chicago?

Initially, I looked into it because of their nursing program, but when I looked into all the other opportunities they have, I found many options I may be able to choose from. I am still all over the place. Also, all my family is there and it feels like coming back home to me.



How does it feel to be accepted by your first choice, Loyola University Chicago?

It is still surreal to me, the whole idea of graduating, moving, going to the school I wanted to go to, is pretty exciting. I am a little nervous too, but at the same time comforting to know that my friend Melissa may be my roommate.

What is your best memory of Xavier so far?

Kairos 17. Also, to me, I feel like every day is my best memory. When I see all my friends at Mrs. Cervello's desk, it's a daily reminder of the security I feel there and the memories we have shared and continue to share there, and I love it.

What will you carry on from Xavier? What has influenced you from Xavier that you will take with you to Loyola University Chicago and beyond?

Xavier has taught me to not be so close minded about different experiences and different people. Xavier has taught me to be open to growth and has helped me come out of my shell by putting myself out there and challenging myself to experience new things.

What are you looking forward to the most at Loyola University Chicago?

I am really excited to be on my own, to experience things by myself for the first time. It is a new experience and I am looking forward to what it brings. I am also excited to decorate my dorm.

Alumni of the Month

Stephanie Rhoten

Class of 2012

Xavier caught up with Stephanie. Currently she is a senior at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA, majoring in Math with a minor in Biology.

Last summer you worked at the University of North Carolina Greensboro (UNCG). What was it like? What kind of work did you do?

Yes, I got accepted for the Research Experience for Undergraduates program (REU) for Math and Biology. It was a ten week program run from the University of North Carolina Greensboro. It was funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

I was doing Math-Biology research. The first two weeks of the program we learned math topics and computer programming. After the two weeks, my partner and I met with our advisor every day, and we would solve math problems that related to our topic and we would [run] program simulations. We also read multiple research papers to learn writing techniques that would help us write our paper.

What do you remember about Xavier?

The community that was built in the school. The extraordinary support from one another is why I still keep in contact with teachers, faculty and students. The feeling of all knowing each other and supporting each other is something you can't find as easy in any other school.

How does your time at Xavier continue to influence you today?

I still have the values that Xavier instilled in me. I do community service when I can and I go to Mass on the weekends. Xavier influenced me to be a loving and compassionate person and every day on campus I show that by saying hi, smiling, and helping those around me. Xavier has had such an impact in my life, I don't think I would be where I am if I had chosen a different high school.



Xavier Students' Art gets chosen by Palm Springs Art Museum

Lucy McHugh - Art Teacher - February 2, 2016

This year, Xavier is proud to acknowledge the efforts of six students whose work was selected for the 2016 Fine Arts Creativity Program at the Palm Springs Art Museum. Students' work responded to the exhibition theme of "Heroes and Villains." A wide range of materials and perspectives were exhibited through their work.

The museum made a special mention of the amazing work of Xavier's sculpture students and the unusual materials used to create the artistic collars. Other nods were received for digital drawing and AP 2D Design. Students will receive awards at the closing ceremony in April.



Faber Week 2016

Alan Ferrer – Advancement Department – February 26, 2016

With great pride, the last week of February, Xavier College Prep celebrated Faber Week. Faber Week is an opportunity for camaraderie amongst the Faber house members, unity for a cause for the entire school, plenty of fun and some healthy competition. We also learn more about the house’s patron, St. Peter Faber.

The house members, along with some very dedicated house parents, decorated the campus with much detail.

Decorations ranged from streamers, posters, giant letters along our campus fence, cut outs of celebrities wearing a Faber shirt, a long red carpet and even some fun pictures of the kids principal, committed Pro house member, wearing the Faber shirts.



The Faber house also spear headed a spirit day encouraging the entire student body to wear their house color, red, and collecting the proceeds to a very worthy cause, the American Cancer Society.

The week ended with an image of love, leaving the next house, Gonzaga, with very large shoes to fill.

In case you missed it...



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/430797520586477189/>

<http://usatodayhss.com/2016/xavier-prep-cant-grind-out-basketball-win>

<http://usatodayhss.com/2016/xavier-prep-upends-twentynine-palms>

<http://www.desertsun.com/story/sports/high-school/2016/02/17/roundup-xavier-prep-water-polo-falls-short-road/80479012/>

<http://www.desertsun.com/story/sports/high-school/track/2016/02/15/koty-burton-jah-strange-california-winter-championships-track-and-field/80430352/>

<http://www.desertsun.com/story/sports/high-school/2016/02/10/indians-secure-least-share-dvl-boys-hoops-title/80084996/>

<http://www.desertsun.com/story/sports/high-school/water-polo/2016/02/13/water-polo-pairings-released-palm-desert-nabs-top-seed/80339848/>

Xavier Prep’s 8th Annual

Easter Eggtravaganza

for Special Needs Kids of the Coachella Valley

Sunday, March 13, 2016
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Who: Special Needs Kids & Their Families
What: Easter Holiday Fun
Where: Xavier College Prep High School

Enjoy a day of Egg Hunting, Petting Zoo, Face Painting, Bean Bag Toss, Lawn Bowling, Hen House, DJ Music, Photos with the Easter Bunny, Parachute Play, Flower Potting, Coloring, Easter Blessing and Snacks & Water for kids and their families.

RSVP by Wednesday, March 9th to Darcy Molyet at 760-601-3900, ext. 6181 dmolyet@xavierprep.org

Bring this flyer to receive an Easter basket & a free photo of the guest and the Easter Bunny.

The Slice N.Y. Style Pizzeria & Ristorante | **DEL TACO**

Xavier College Prep - 34-200 Cook Street, Palm Desert