

# The Royal Courier

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER | MAY 2017

## ALUMNI PROFILE

## GARY DUNCAN

## CLASS OF 2000

Gary currently lives in Switzerland with his wife and son. He works as a Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State.

### What are some of your best memories from your time at MCP?

It is difficult to distill four years into a handful of moments. Instead, I tend to remember the collection of memories made over the years with my friends because those relationships carried on beyond MCP and form an arc of memories that are still being created.

### What have you been doing since graduating high school?

I have moved a lot since high school. After graduating in 2000, I did my undergraduate studies at UC Berkeley, followed by graduate studies in Sweden. I have since lived in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, Miami, Afghanistan, Austria and now live in Switzerland. I paused long enough to get married and have a son, but then we just started moving and traveling together. Between



the three of us, we have been to 48 countries so far.

### What are you doing professionally?

Following graduate school, I worked at a law firm, a defense contractor and as a self-employed consultant. Since 2011, I have served as a Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State.

### What are some of your favorite memories from playing sports?

I ran cross country and played soccer. I was an objectively terrible athlete, so most of my positive memories have to do with the time spent with friends on the

team. Though we did manage to win one game when I was goalie my junior year, so that was nice.

### What would you attribute from your time at MCP to your current situation?

It is hard to overstate how much of my life I credit to MCP. The teachers were outstanding. I was rather precocious and contrarian, but rather than challenge this, the faculty instead redirected my energies so I succeeded and felt I was doing so on my terms. It was also at MCP that I was first exposed to learning a foreign language. Those four years of French are directly responsible for sparking my interest in the larger world, leading to the study of three additional languages and a career in diplomacy. The most significant contribution of MCP was, of course, the friends I made while there. I carry many of those friendships with me today and give them just as much credit for my success as I give to MCP or my university.

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## Stations of the Cross

In April, all of our students, staff, and several parents gathered in the gym as members from the Drama, Music and Religion classes, and a handful of staff provided a beautifully moving performance depicting Christ's crucifixion.

Coupled with music, the story of the cross was retold as the performers invited everyone for several moments of personal reflection. The performers were deeply connected to their roles, which shone through each scene as they reverently re-enacted the events leading up to the crucifixion and death of Jesus. The experience was unique and no one made a sound through the entire performance. Our principal, Mike Susank said, "What a spectacle of incredible faith, courage, and talent by everyone involved. I am so grateful for the hour of reverence, devotion, and inspiration made available to all members of our community."



*Sam Oeser portrays Jesus on the cross*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, May 23rd**

**Annual Royal Day Awards Assembly**

**Thursday, June 1st**

**Baccalaureate Mass at Old Mission Church**

**Friday, June 2nd**

**Graduation of the Class of 2017 at Mission Plaza**



*MCP's Drama Club at the CA State Thesbian Festival*

## Upcoming Class Reunions

The class of 1967 will celebrate their 50th Mission Central Catholic High School reunion on Saturday, June 10, 2017 at the home of Gary and Debbie Stanwyck. For more information, please contact Debbie at [deborah.stanwyck@yahoo.com](mailto:deborah.stanwyck@yahoo.com) or Gracie Tedone Manderscheid at [sloshopper@aol.com](mailto:sloshopper@aol.com).

The class of 2007 will celebrate their 10th reunion at this year's homecoming game, Saturday, October 7th at 1:00pm. Join us in the Alumni Skybox to watch the game! For more information, contact Christine Dawson at [Christine christine.dawson@me.com](mailto:christine.dawson@me.com).



## 2017 CA State Thesbian Festival

For the fourth year in a row, MCP's Troupe 7903 of the International Thesbian Society made a trip to the California State Thesbian Festival. 19 student delegates and 5 adult chaperones joined over 1100 attendees from 57 high schools, to spend three days celebrating excellence in high school theatre. Students presented prepared pieces for professional adjudication, auditioned & interviewed for scholarships, attended theatre workshops, and watched performances representing the best in the state.

Several Mission students received special recognition during the festival:

- Bella Yaguda's "Talking to Your Child About Death" was one of two (out of 19) student-written plays chosen to be performed at the Festival. She received 1st Place.
- Cascina Caradonna and Sadie Selby were awarded Senior Scholarships \$750
- Sadie Selby 2nd place in the Costume Construction Individual Event (for her Witch Transformation Costume which was featured in the Drama Club's production of Into the Woods Jr
- Cascina Caradonna received a Superior ranking for her entry in the Acting-Monologue Individual Event
- Genevieve Blauvelt was chosen for the All-State Audio crew, and received an Outstanding Technician Award for Audio
- Karl Schumacher, Lily Schumacher and Peter Schumacher were all selected as spotlight operators for the All-State Lighting crew
- Emma Walter was cast in the dance troupe for the Opening Number
- Cayden Wemple placed FIRST PLACE in Friday's talent Showcase, and Nico Widmann Second Place in Saturday's Showcase, both performing original songs