

# ST. JOSEPH'S - ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

[www.saintjosephscollege.org](http://www.saintjosephscollege.org)

Fall 2023 Newsletter

*We honor the past; We celebrate the present;  
We plan for the future.....TOGETHER.*

## ALUMNI COMING EVENTS

### ALUMNI DAY 2024

Alumni Day will be on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at St. Patrick's in Menlo Park. We will again do it with lunch instead of dinner. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Honoree Classes will be:

60 Years – Rhet class of 1964

50 Years High School – H.S. 1974

45 Years High School – H.S. 1979

50 Years College – College 1974

45 Years College – College 1979

40 Years College – College 1984

### DAY OF RECOLLECTION

We will hold our annual Day of Recollection on Saturday, February 24, 2024. This will be held both in person at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park and virtually by Zoom.

The Director for this Day will be the Rev. Jim Fredericks (C'73). Jim lives in retirement in Sonoma. He has a long career in teaching at LMU in Los Angeles. His interests are world religions, comparative religions and spirituality. He is most known for his pastoral skills. His weekly homilies are prized by all who get to hear or read them.

**SAVE THE DATE now.** A formal invitation will come out in January.

## ALUMNI NEWS

### THE OCTOBER SYNOD OF POPE FRANCIS

We are making it possible for alums to follow, even daily if you wish, the first session of Pope Francis' Synod on Synodality which begins this October. See the separate article on this opportunity in this newsletter.

### UPDATED WEBSITE

Some alums tell us that we need to mention more the existence of the website. This reminder is indeed timely because our wonderful Board member, Mark Wandro (C'70), has just recently updated it. You should really check it out. The address is: [www.saintjosephscollege.org](http://www.saintjosephscollege.org). Check it out. Mark welcomes comments.

### ANNUAL REQUEST FOR VOLUNTARY DUES

Just a reminder that this Fall you will receive our annual request for "dues" to fund the operations of your Alumni Association. We do not get any support from any other source. So, please do what you can. We still have good contact information for over 1,000 of us. We are grateful for whatever you can do to help.

## ALUMNI DAY 2023

Don Carroll (R'58)

On June 17th we held the 41st annual Alumni Day at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. About 160 attended. It was the first lunch format the Alumni Board had tried. It was very well received, and the Alumni Board will follow the same format for 2024. The change is helpful to those who would rather not drive at night. (Also, the Bar tab is lower.)

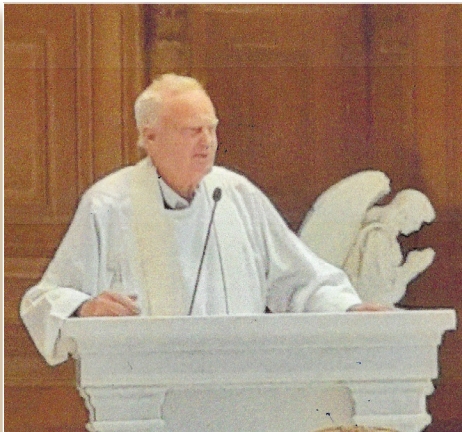
Our main celebrant was Bishop Randolph (Randy) Calvo, the retired Bishop of Reno, a member of the 50 year College class of 1973. The homilist was the Rev. James A. Hagan (R'63). The cantor was Mary Carroll, the Director of Music for the Benedictine Woodside Priory. We honored two with Alumnus of the Year Awards, James Purcell (R'60) and Fr. Jim Hagan, our homilist. Jim Purcell was cleverly introduced by John Van Hagen and Rich Laveroni. Fr. Hagan was movingly introduced by his classmate, Justice Jim Marchiano.

Unfortunately, Fr. Jim Hagan was badly beaten by some itinerant upon his return to Chula Vista. We should continue to hold him up in prayer.

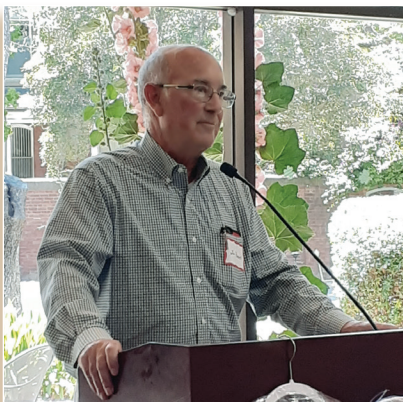
The food was excellent, thanks to the Oblate Sisters of Jesus the Priest and St. Pat's. There was a very good tone to the event, perhaps reflective of the fact that the pandemic was further removed from memories.

The only rough spot was when Board member John Brennan rose to point out that the main celebrant and the Alumnus of the Year awardee Fr. Jim Hagan were from St. Ann's Parish. He was booed unceremoniously by the larger contingent from St. Cecilia's Parish led by John Riley. Age precluded any escalation.

Next year, we will do it again on **April 27th**. Mark your calendars.



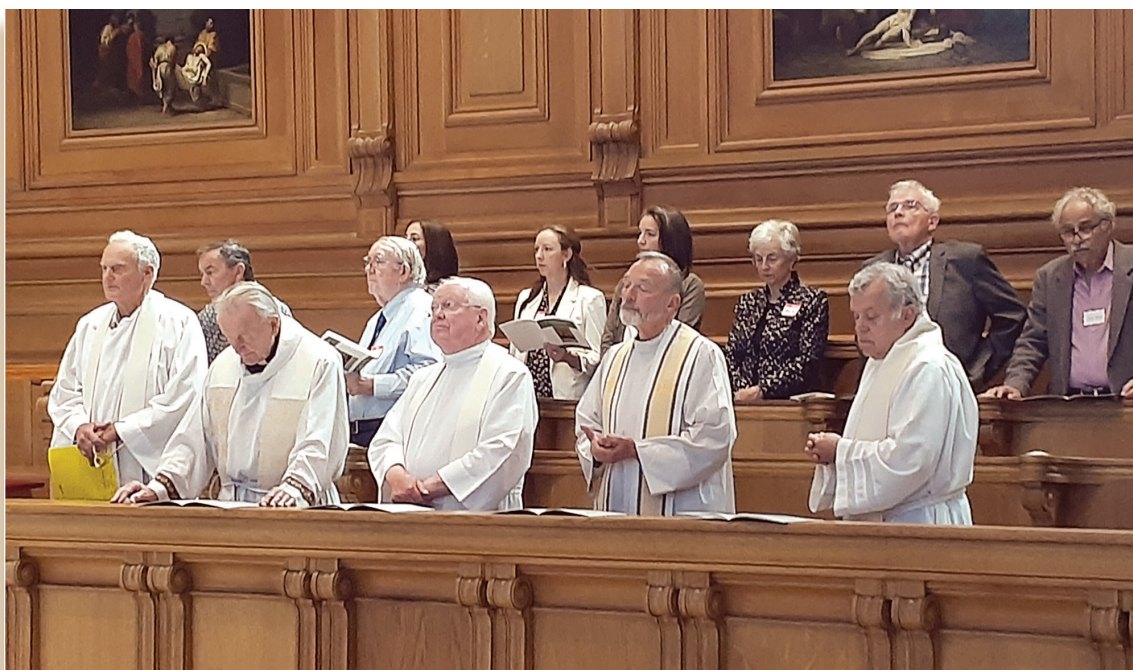
Homilist, Rev. James A. Hagan (R'63)



Alumnus of the Year Awardee Jim Purcell (R'60) addresses the assembly



Alumni Day Mass  
Bishop Randy Calvo (C'73) & Deacon Mike Ghorso (C'73)

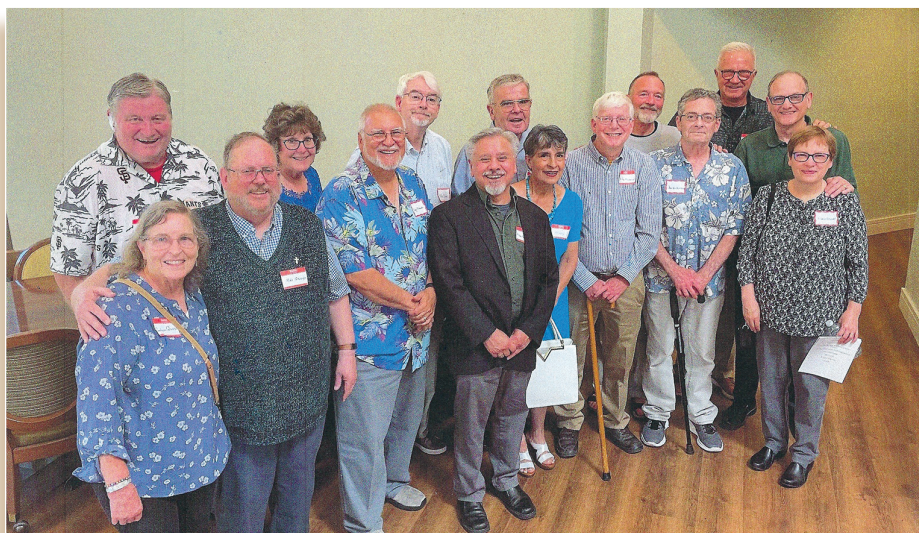


Concelebrants, Revs. Jim Hagan (R'63), Dan Derry (R'57),  
Joe Gordon (R'65), Steve Brown (C'73)  
& Tom Diaz (C'77)



Presentation of the Alumnus of the Year Award  
to Fr. Jim Hagan (R'63)  
Left to right: Justice Jim Marchiano (R'63),  
Pres. Mike Sheehan & Fr. Jim Hagan

50 Years, College 1973, (l-r):  
Emmet Monahan;  
Deacon Mike Ghiorso and  
wife Carolyn;  
Fabienne Esparza, wife of  
deceased alum, Mike Regan;  
Gary Orlando; Mike Beck;  
Bishop Randy Calvo;  
Deacon Joe Haggarty and wife  
Gloria; Rev. Jim Fredericks;  
Rev. Steve Brown;  
Paul Von Gottfried; Jim Hansen;  
Deacon Dave Rolandelli and  
wife Mildred.



## ST. JOE'S ALUMS CAN FOLLOW THE SYNOD FOR FREE

By Don Carroll

We alums have lived through a lot in our lives, even just in the life of the Church. Most of us entered the seminary, and many priest alums were ordained, before Vatican II. In Vatican II good Pope John XXIII decided to open the windows to the Church and the resulting breeze-- the "ruah" of the Holy Spirit – produced the documents and liturgical changes we associate with this Second Vatican Council. Thereafter, the next two popes didn't like the breeze so much, and there followed a retrenchment to show that the Council's actions were merely in "continuity" with the Church's pre-Vatican II teachings.

The Second Vatican Council had decreed the future use of synods, and certainly these were held post-Vatican II; but they were all carefully orchestrated to deflect any new winds that might give further life to the words of the Council.

Now, we are alive to see Francis institute a Synod, to be held in October of 2023 and again in October 2024, where the ventilation is not as controlled and where the Spirit may yet again blow. Some people are excited. Some are nervous. They are nervous because

they view the Truth as being unalterable. And of course, so it is. But, what is alterable is the Church's grasp or understanding of just what the Truth is; and this is a challenge to the authority of the Church which only reluctantly admits of error or a need to change. This fear of change infects this Synod just as it did the Second Vatican Council. And, if we pay any attention, we will hear this tension between fear of change and the promptings of the Holy Spirit who may want change.

We wish to make it possible for you to follow this historic Synod, even daily if you desire. The National Catholic Reporter (NCR) has a "Special Series" on the Synod and will cover it daily. You need only type into your browser the following:

<https://www.ncronline.org/feature-series/synod-on-synodality/stories>

This will allow you access to all the coverage at any time for free.

*Veni Sancti Spiritus.*

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## CONFESSIONS OF A NATURAL SCIENTIST OF BEHAVIOR

Stephen F. Ledoux, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritua of Behaviorology State University of New York at Canton

My two years at St. Patrick's College followed my June 1968 graduation from St. Pius X Seminary south of Sacramento. A prediction at that time of where my life would go differs substantially from where life actually took me. My lifetime career blossomed as an educator in the natural science of behavior now called behaviorology, which is neither a part of nor any kind of psychology. It does stem from biology, a lingering interest prompted by the inspirational Principles of Biology course at St. Patrick's. But it only indirectly relates to physiology, with physiology dealing with *how* a body mediates—not originates—behavior, and behaviorology dealing with



*Stephen Ledoux*

*why* a body mediates—not originates—behavior. Behaviorology deals with the observable and measurable independent variables responsible for behavior as an observable and measurable dependent variable.

Why should anyone bother with such a topic? Because human behavior causes global (and personal and local) problems, and humanity needs changes in human behavior to solve these problems. To the extent that this natural science is *required* to solve problems, human civilized survival and perhaps much more comes under increased risk if this natural science of

behavior is weakly known or poorly applied. The risk increases, because some global problems, like global warming, set rather strict requirements on the time frame for how quickly solutions must occur. On a more personal scale, this science is also essentially the science of teaching and learning. Such facts provide some of the reasons for my entry in 1972 into the teaching side of the educational arena.

### Early Formations

While my family ultimately had a total of nine children, my parents raised me in the working-class social, political, and Catholic spheres in the USA in the 1950s. Most of those 1950s circumstances, particularly the religious ones, included my attending a Catholic school for grades one through eight, serving as an altar boy in the local parish, and then completing four years of high school at St. Pius X Seminary. All the religious claims and ceremonial pageantry that those religious contingencies could manage enmeshed and enthralled me. Still, the circumstances inherent in this college-prep education also induced not only a repertoire of respect for academic studies, but also a repertoire of concern for the welfare of other people. This led to attending St. Patrick's College seminary where these repertoires expanded, with a default focus on studying psychology—as the only offered although incomplete option—as a means to help others.

At that point some increasingly salient and evolving events interrupted what might otherwise have been a straight line to a vocation as a parish priest. These included the social disruption and unofficial education stemming from the war in Vietnam that caused questions to arise about many concerns including such a vocation. Many seminarians were leaving and completing their educations elsewhere under other concerns including that St. Patrick's seems only to have offered a "Bachelor of Arts in Humanities" degree. This degree would not be as helpful in finding a job, if that became needed because one later left the seminary, as would be a more explicit disciplinary degree. Such concerns led me "temporarily" to leave the seminary college.

The journey led to continuing my education at California State University Sacramento (CSUS),

earning a BA degree in 1972. St. Patrick's had provided most of the traditional psychology credits needed for the CSUS psychology major. This fact enabled me to take most of my remaining major course credits in what was then called "behavior analysis" and its applications.

### Scientific and Other Formations

For me, human *behavior*—intellectual and emotional, proved understandable, predictable, controllable, meaningful, all when approached through a philosophically and methodologically sound natural science. Some early and well conditioned patterns, like preaching, become hard to break. Along with other variables (elaborated in my full autobiography) all of that induced a very strong switch in the directions of my life, from the traditionally conditioned theological and secular perspectives to the direction of the natural sciences, particularly the "natural science of behavior."

Of course, conditioned experience both before and after that point has kept me permanently on the lookout for something even better. After more than 50 further years, however, nothing better has come along (as of this writing). And, other than artistic inputs, something better coming along seems increasingly unlikely.

Thus no surprise occurs when the situation induced further studies in the natural science of behavior at CSUS, leading to my MA degree in 1973. My MA certificate, however, was rather unbelievably signed by *Ronald Reagan* and *James Bond*...

My teaching, however, actually began in the last semester of my BA degree. The requirements for one course led to an arrangement, with the St. Pius principal, to teach two sections of an introduction to the natural science of behavior (behaviorology) course, under a less appropriate name, in exchange for room and board. One section was for sophomores and the other was for seniors. That teaching was at once challenging, enjoyable, helpful and meaningful for both teacher and at least some of the students. Among my students were LeVar Burton, who later was active in children's educational television as well as in shows and movies (e.g., in *Star Trek The Next Generation*)

and Michael Barber who later, my sources tell me, became Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland.

### **Regular Employment Developments**

Few relevant job openings existed, however, at the time of my MA graduation. After stints with the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, an appointment from the University of Queensland (UQ), in Brisbane, Australia, led to my living in Australia for four years. One year in that UQ position expanded my horizons enough that an appointment to a tenure-track position in a college southeast of Melbourne induced another move. My experiences there solidified teaching as enjoyable and meaningful work, especially because my teaching involved a natural science that could improve teaching itself, and it did make a difference in the lives of my students (such as improving their child-rearing skills). For three more years, 1976 through 1978, this teaching work kept me busy. During those years in Australia, my long-standing interests in aviation—from living under the final-approach path for aircraft landing at Sacramento's airport, "took off", with flying lessons and earning my private pilot license (later extended to a US license).

When back in the USA, flying occurred less often, because the costs were much higher. The occasional flight, however, proved interesting, or revealing, such as when in 1980 one of my flights went far enough south of Sacramento that its smog was behind me, until turning around revealed what looked like a solid wall that must be penetrated to go back. A different fun and interesting flight involved taking some friends up for views of the Sierra Nevada Mountains from angles and altitudes about which they had never dreamed.

Another long-standing interest stemmed from daily reading of *The Sacramento Bee*, before and after delivering these newspapers on my route for a couple of years. In those years the paper's pages occasionally contained stories about the "land down under" (i.e., Australia) and regularly featured articles discussing the contrary claims between Mao Zedong and Chiang Kai-shek over the future of China. Those factors generated a recognized, high probability of foreign travel to two places, Australia with its very different

flora and fauna, and China with its very different social system. Having reached Australia successfully, China beckoned. Australia already had diplomatic relations with China, so my first China travel was a three-week study tour with the Australia-China Society in 1977. On it, commentary from an Australian teaching English in China added enough to my interest that giving up my Australian tenure-track position to accept a position in Xi'an, China seemed not so silly as it sounds. So January 1979, which happened to be shortly after the normalizing of US-China diplomatic relations, found me moving to teach English at Xi'an Jiaotong University.

### **Doctoral Work and Jobs and Writings**

Upon returning to the USA, the scarcity of jobs, combined with my interest in repertoire expansion, and the reactions to the signatures on my MA degree, took me to Western Michigan University (WMU) in Kalamazoo. There, my efforts completed the Ph.D. program in August 1982 in "The Experimental Analysis of Behavior," which is an older name for the natural science of behavior.

During my time in that program, the usual range of typical participatory activities occurred, including interactions with and presentations by various visiting scholars. At one of these, B. F. Skinner met with faculty and graduate students, and delivered a public paper. His paper, "Why we are not acting to save the world," along with my meeting him (after a few past letter exchanges) reinforced various of my behaviors that had occurred over the last decade. His paper and the encounter very likely helped shape my later writings more than either of us might then have imagined.

Upon graduation, another tenure-track position immediately attracted me to teach at the Canton campus of the State University of New York (SUNY-Canton). This is where my spouse met and married me, and we raised our family there. My work led to some sermons at the Canton Unitarian Universalist Church, where my spouse was, for 27 years, organist and choir director. After 33 years at SUNY-Canton, my 2015 retirement led to a move to Los Alamos, NM, where my enjoyment continued in writing educational books and articles that might make some difference.

We stayed all those years in Canton, which was not the end of the world (although you could see it from there). We kept our family there, raising two children, a boy who at age five went to China with us in 1990, and a girl, who later preferred travel in Europe, nine years younger than the boy.

My writing projects included a book about another stint teaching in China, this time during the 1990–1991 academic year, with my spouse, who was the official exchange faculty, at Xi'an Foreign Languages University. That book, *The Panda and Monkey King Christmas—A Family's Year in China*, details the experiences we had that year not only teaching but also with our then five-year-old son who went with us. Also, due to various articles and presentations produced by the end of that year in China, many of which were written and first presented in China, a book of readings was ready for publication in 1997. It was titled *Origins and Components of Behaviorology*.

### Artistic Possibilities

Inspired by my watershed article in 2012, “Behaviorism at 100” (an updating of Skinner’s 1963 article, “Behaviorism at fifty”) most of my education-related books began with my comprehensive 2014 textbook, *Running Out of Time—Introducing Behaviorology to Help Solve Global Problems*. This text covers the basic principles, methods, concepts, and practices of behaviorological science plus its extensions, implications, interpretations, and applications. These include some initial scientific answers to several of humankind’s essential but long-enduring—and as yet inadequately answered—questions (e.g., about values, rights, ethics, morals, language, consciousness, personhood, life, death, reality, and even the more recent topic of robotics). My 2017 book, *What Causes Human Behavior—Stars, Selves, or Contingencies?* is a general-audience version of the textbook, not as comprehensive as the textbook but with less technical jargon and so likely easier to read. Then, after my 2015 retirement, a dozen books followed. Most relate to education, especially in behaviorology, but some are recipe books and others are art and photography books.

What? Wait! Recipe books? Photography books? Aside

from additional textbooks (e.g., on verbal behavior) from the usual need for textbooks for behaviorology courses, after my 2015 retirement new circumstances, like more writing time, led to these recipe and photography books. Earlier art considerations prompted some of these books. One book presented the results of decades of my educational art collecting, “educational” in the sense that the objects became the focus of various presentations to a range of audiences of all ages. And other books focused more specifically on my art photos from across those same decades. All of these art books include a scientific definition of art.

My art photography had expanded in the 1980s. Graduate-school circumstances had induced some additional behaviors beyond just studying, behaviors that were relaxing while also producing reinforcers. Such behaviors included my getting more deeply into photography with my first interchangeable-lens SLR (single-lens reflex) 35mm camera in 1981.

While several other interesting hobbies crossed my path, the 2020 pandemic produced some new activities. In addition to constant concerns to stay hydrated due to the low humidity of my local area (Los Alamos, NM) our “staycation” during the pandemic increased our experimentation with “quarantinis.” This resulted in a book featuring a couple dozen hydration enhancing “quarantini” recipes, with some of my photographs providing some special graphics messaging.

### Conclusion

Life circumstances wonderfully drove me to work constantly in education to help make more visible the already 100-year-old science, behaviorology. This effort continues. May it succeed, and with *your* help. For free-access coverage of many pertinent scientific details, see [www.BehaviorInfo.com](http://www.BehaviorInfo.com). (Many books mentioned herein provide other details about this science, my life, even my photographic arts; curious readers can find them under my name at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com).) Also, you can get a page of references for this article from me. You can contact me at 26 Timber Ridge Road, Los Alamos, NM 87544.

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Editor, Jim Harvey

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Don't miss our colorful and informative newsletters, our Alumni Day information, and more. If you have moved recently please let us know: write us a note, send us a quick email, or contact us through our school's website. **If items we mailed to you bounced back to us, then we need to delete your mailing label from our file.** Don't let this happen to you!!!

Thank you!

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### **Contact Information**

Please do contact us with any change of address, suggestions, alumni updates, opinions or concerns.

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