



# Santa Clara University Catalá Club

Service, Support, and Spirituality

October 2025

Volume 35 Issue 8

## President's Message - Nancy Tarantino

Dear Members of Catalá,

What a great start of the 2025-26 year for Catalá! Our own SCU President, Julie Sullivan, was the guest speaker at our September General Luncheon, and she had the whole room in awe. She covered many areas including - Impact 3030 the Strategic Plan, Santa Clara's involvement in the American Talent Initiative (ATI), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the curriculum, amongst a few of the key items. When Julie was done, we all were so proud to be Broncos! Thank you, Leana Giannini, Mary McCurdy and Charlene Raisch for organizing this great luncheon.

What's next? The Fashion Show, Luncheon and Fundraiser celebrating the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Catalá Club. This promises to be a fun day so bring your friends and fill those tables. This year the event is on

Friday, October 17, at The DoubleTree by Hilton in San Jose. Many thanks to Mary Blaser, Dianne Bonino, Ida Skikos and their numerous team members for the invaluable dedication to this day. We are so lucky to have them!

November brings our Mass of Remembrance. This will be on Wednesday, November 19, with lunch following in the Williman Room. Our guest speaker will be SCU's Athletic Director, Heather Owen. Heather is an alumna of Santa Clara Law and just celebrated her one-year anniversary as Athletic Director.

Can't wait to see you all at the Fashion Show!

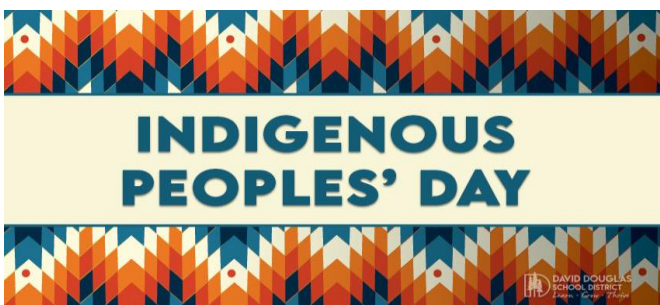
With sincere appreciation,  
Nancy

## KUDOS TO SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY!!

Santa Clara University rose to No. 59 from No. 63 among more than 400 top national universities in the most recent "U.S. News & World Report 2026 Best Colleges" rankings. Among private universities, Santa Clara ranked 35th best in the nation, up from No. 38 last year.

The rankings place the university again in the top 15% of all national universities in the U.S. The steady gains are a testament to Santa Clara's focus on academic excellence, a teacher-scholar model that benefits both faculty and students, and an emphasis on building and nurturing an environment in which all students can excel and flourish.

"We are gratified to see our investments in outstanding faculty, innovative and relevant academic offerings, and student support reflected in these rankings," said Santa Clara University President Julie Sullivan. "We are equally proud of how our entire campus community is dedicated to educating each of our students as whole persons, so that when they graduate, they do so not just with competence in their chosen field, but also with the values and the compassion our world so greatly needs."



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR SAVE THE DATE

- October 1 Mass of the Holy Spirit - Noon
- October 17 Fashion Show & Luncheon  
"Celebrating 95 years  
of Catalá Club"  
**DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton,  
San Jose**
- November 19 Mass of Remembrance and  
Luncheon Guest Speaker: SCU  
Athletic Director Heather Owen  
Williman Room
- December 10 Christmas Luncheon  
Maggiano's at Santana Row



**Merilee Amos**  
**Cookie Cattaneo**  
**Shirley Dorsa**  
**Fatima Fagundes**  
**Ronnie Foley**  
**Feng Han**  
**Ginny Haughey**  
**Diana Jensen**  
**Elizabeth Moul Smith**  
**Carol O'Brien**

**Birdie Pacelli**  
**Vicki Pope**  
**Karen Reagan**  
**Regina Reilly**  
**Tara Reimers**  
**Marianne Rhine**  
**Carol Sabatino**  
**Margaret Shumm**  
**Christine Wheeler**  
**Sheri Zipse**

## THINKING OF YOU

We extend our Prayers of Sympathy and Consolation  
to friends and family of our Pat DeMarlo;  
to Kate Canessa with the passing of her mother,  
Jean Adams

We extend our Prayers for Healing and  
Restored Health for  
Joe De Maria, husband of Cathy De Maria;  
Mike Guerra, husband of Jane Guerra;  
Bob Lowry, husband of Fran Lowry;  
Jim Pacelli, husband of Birdie Pacelli;  
Jeanne Torre; Michelle Sola's grandson, Aedán;  
for our SCU Community  
and for all who have nobody to pray for them.

## FOOD INSECURITY at SCU

Bronco Pantry Update by Sue Davison

Happy Back to School! Our SCU students are back on campus and settling into their dorms and apartments. Thank you to all who contributed to the 50/50 raffle at our September luncheon. We were able to provide \$275 to the Food Pantry to help with move-in needs. We will not have a 50/50 raffle at our upcoming Fashion Show Fundraiser in October so if you would like to make a donation now, please visit the Amazon wish list from the QR code below.

Donations to the Food Insecurity Program at SCU may also be made via Amazon at Amazon Wish List. Please search "SCU Students: Food Insecurity at SCU" for the public wish list of items on Amazon.com or use the QR code below.

Please select "Jason Fitzer 500 El Camino Real," as the mailing address. Gift Cards and purchases from the Amazon Wish List may also be dropped off at the Santa Clara University address noted above.

Thank you for your continuous support



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to all of our members who have already renewed their Catala Club membership for this year. We are so grateful for your continued support!

A warm welcome to our new members

Elena Galkina  
Susan Warm

Katherine Long  
Kelly Wood

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

If you have not yet submitted your membership dues, it's not too late. While your name will not appear in the printed roster, we will update the online directory once your renewal is received.

Printed rosters will be distributed during the first week of October via mail to members who renewed on time.

We truly appreciate your commitment to Catala Club and look forward to another wonderful year together!

With gratitude,

Lisa de Lusignan & Shannon Potts  
Membership Chairs



SCU Catala Club

# Fashion SHOW & Luncheon

Friday,

October 17, 2025

DoubleTree by Hilton San Jose

**RSVP by October 1**

Invitations have been mailed for our fun-filled day of Fashion, Food and Fundraising at our new location the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 2050 Gateway Place in San Jose! More than a festive gathering of fashion and friends, this cherished event serves a powerful purpose. It is our cornerstone fundraiser that helps provide essential scholarships to undergraduate students at Santa Clara University. Invite your friends, invite your family, invite your co-workers!

We are excited to announce that *Bloomingdale's* will highlight this year's fashion show with fashions for women and men. *Kismet Boutique* and *In the Olde Manner* will be back to grace our runway as well as *J. McLaughlin*, *Los Gatos*.

Silent Auction opens at 11:00 with many wonderful items. Come ready to bid high and bid often on our amazing silent auction items, **including and not limited to FOUR tickets to SF 49ers v Carolina Panthers on Monday, November 24, 2025**, (your Thanksgiving visitors will be grateful to see holiday football up close and personal) and a special **VIP Day at Santana Row for 8**; there are also trips to Napa, Carmel by the Sea, Broadway San Francisco and Broadway San Jose as well as MANY restaurant gift certificates.

**Plan ahead  
for these Silent Auction Packages -  
get your group together/sign up individually**

- Private lunch for 12 Hosted by President Julie Sullivan on Wednesday, April 22, 2026
- Festa Gioia Sip and Shop for 26 persons on Sunday, November 16, 2025
- Mass with Father Jack and Brunch for 12 - date TBD

AND - we will have a special **Golden Ticket Donation Drawing** – only 50 tickets will be sold, and you can win \$500!!!

*Your presence, your participation and your partnership  
truly make a difference in shaping bright futures  
of Santa Clara University students.*



Our September luncheon meeting kicked off the calendar year of the Catalá ladies to a good start as we wished our 2025-26 President Nancy Tarantino and the Club another successful year. Always a joyous occasion seeing each other after the summer break. SCU President, Dr. Julie Sullivan, spoke about the State of the University. Thank you, Mary Atwell, for the photos.

