

LEAD WITH PURPOSE - THE CAMPAIGN FOR BISHOP'S

CAMPAIGN UPDATES,
NEWS AND MORE

ISSUE NO. 2
2026

BULLETIN



WINNING COMBINATION

The Murfey family joins forces to support the Wu Tsai Field House

SPACE TO SOAR

Transforming strength and conditioning and sports medicine at Bishop's

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WINNING COMBINATION

The Murfey family joins forces to support the Wu Tsai Field House

With six boys — and a thriving real estate development company — between them, Scott, Melissa, Russell and Maureen Murfey are busy, to say the least. Through the years, The Bishop's School has been an important anchor for their active family, as well as their extended community of alumni, parents and friends.

Scott, Melissa and Russell all graduated from Bishop's (classes of 1995, 1997 and 1999, respectively), and now, five Murfey sons are carrying on the tradition. Russell and Maureen have Seamus '27 and Macklin '30 at Bishop's; their youngest, Ronan '33, will enroll this fall. According to Maureen, all three “live and breathe water polo.” Melissa and Scott's boys are Carl '25, a freshman at Montana State University and former captain of the Bishop's surf team; Laird '28, a talented songwriter; and Ryder '32, who loves water polo and baseball.

“Bishop's was a launching pad for both Melissa and me,” reflects Scott, who currently serves on the board of trustees. “To be mentored by teachers who provide such care, and to

learn in this safe and challenging place — I think most of us as students don't realize how influential that is until later in life.”

After Bishop's, Scott and Russell attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, four years apart, where Scott continued his water polo career that began at Bishop's. At Cal Poly, Russell met Maureen, an art major and a fellow athlete devoted to volleyball. Melissa, meanwhile, attended Colby College in Maine where she ran cross country and track.

“We had our independent adventures,” says Melissa, “but we all ended up back home around the time that Scott and Russ' parents passed away in 2003. We got married in 2005, then we launched the Murfey Company in 2009, and our lives

took off.” During that time and beyond, Melissa worked briefly at Bishop’s as the first event coordinator. Later Melissa served as president of the alumni board (twice), which also placed her on the board of trustees.

In 2004, thanks to generous donations from friends and family, and prompted by the McCain family’s lead gift, the Buddy & Barbara Murfey Memorial Pool was named for Scott and Russell’s parents, who were great cheerleaders of The

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— RUSSELL MURFEY ’99

Bishop’s School.

“I treasure this campus for all the traditions and values Bishop’s keeps alive,” says Melissa. “The Chapel has the same nostalgic smell it had in 1991, and there’s Reverend Simopoulos-Pigato blessing the animals every year. We have a thousand people at the Christmas tree lighting and two thousand Christmas cookies. You can feel the welcome and the inclusivity and the Episcopal values.”

Now, as Bishop’s pursues its distinctive strategic plan and the *Lead with Purpose* campaign, both Murfey families have made early, purposeful gifts to spur the Wu Tsai Field House forward. The School is working as swiftly as possible to complete funding for this facility within the first half of 2027.

“Ron Kim and his leadership team are a big part of our confidence in Bishop’s right now and our excitement about the Field House,” says Russell, who was recently inducted into Bishop’s Athletics Hall of Fame as a member of the renowned 1997 boys’ water polo team. “Ron’s vision for balance and

excellence in all areas of the School is really appealing and something that we can’t help but want to support.”

The Wu Tsai Field House will revolutionize how Knights train for interscholastic competition both physically and mentally. The facility will dramatically expand space for strength and conditioning, sports medicine, nutrition, game film analysis, team meetings and more. A new optimal performance psychologist will also be housed in the building.

“The Knights have done well athletically,” says Russell, “and the Field House will unlock so much more potential. We need to keep reinvesting in facilities, staff and the student body to bring all the key elements together.” Scott echoes this sentiment. “Right now, pieces of the program are separated across campus and have outgrown their current spaces,” he explains. “A single headquarters dedicated to performance and well-being will elevate Bishop’s as a dominant force.”

For Maureen, her belief in the Wu Tsai Field House arises from her belief that athletics is a crucial mode of learning. “Sports teach you how to be a person in the world,” she says. “You learn to trust your teammates and become self-driven. You learn to overcome difficulty and discomfort for the sake of a higher goal.”

Such lessons are vital to the Bishop’s experience, which Maureen sees from a unique perspective. “Among the four of us, as the one who did not attend Bishop’s, I am a huge Bishop’s advocate because the evidence is all around me,” she says. “Years ago, when I met Russ’ high school friends, I could tell that Bishop’s set them up for tremendous success. Not just academically, but in the unspoken elements of life. There’s a refinement to how they conduct themselves, solve problems and treat people. We are so fortunate to see this growth in our own kids and in all Bishop’s students so early in life.”

Thanks to the generosity of both Murfey families, Bishop’s is now one step closer to making the Wu Tsai Field House a reality. Imagining the outcome, Scott reflects, “Our family bleeds maroon and gold. We truly enjoy giving back to the School. We are proud ambassadors for Bishop’s, and we

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To get involved in the *Lead with Purpose Campaign*, please contact Emily Hassig, Chief Advancement Officer emily.hassig@bishops.com (858) 875-0839

Mentor Mindset



Esther Hsiao,
Chinese teacher

“Early in my career, I half-jokingly described myself as a ‘benevolent dictator’ in the classroom. I carefully structured curriculum, routines and expectations, believing that if everything were designed well enough, students would learn ‘for their own good.’ While my intentions were sincere, this approach was rooted more in control than in trust. Recently, that mindset began to shift. Reading David Yeager’s “10 to 25: The Science of Motivating Young People” prompted me to refine my mentor mindset — moving from telling to asking, from managing behavior to supporting motivation and well-being. Later, Ichiro Kishimi and Fumitake Koga’s “The Courage to Be Happy” pushed me to interrogate the deeper purpose of education and the role of the educator.

Maria Montessori’s assertion that the greatest sign of success for a teacher is being able to say, ‘The children are now working as if I did not exist,’ resonates deeply with both my teaching and parenting experiences. Like parenting, education succeeds only when we make ourselves increasingly unnecessary. While unsettling at times, this letting go is the truest expression of care and love.”

— Esther Hsiao P '14, '16, '18; middle and upper school Chinese teacher

The *Lead With Purpose* campaign aims to ensure that Bishop’s attracts and retains teachers like Esther Hsiao, who continually hone their expertise and explore new ideas. You can become a faculty investor by creating a permanent endowment fund to make Bishop’s compensation more competitive in California and beyond.



The Power of a Bishop’s Education



**Christy Pharr
Wilson '67**

“A quality education is an absolutely amazing gift. If you come into the Bishop’s family, you find a community that is very focused on your personal well-being, your personal success with your education. And then you are given the chance to take what you’ve been given when you graduate and bring it out into the world, like casting it to the wind — ‘What am I going to do, what am I going to accomplish?’ I think sometimes it takes years to understand what you’ve gained when you are in high school. But it will come to you if you treasure it and hold it dear and value your education above almost anything, as I do Bishop’s.”

— Christy Pharr Wilson '67

As an early contributor to the *Lead with Purpose* campaign, Christy Pharr Wilson '67 chose to support endowment for financial aid, so that future generations of Bishop’s students can experience the power of a Bishop’s education, as she did. Hear her reflections on the School and watch the full interview online.



Dynamic Duo

In the Wu Tsai Field House, two exceptional programs will gain space to soar

For decades, Strength and Conditioning Director Charles Johnson and Head Athletic Trainer Jason Charlebois have helped Bishop's students get fit, win games, heal from injuries and cultivate well-being from daily activity. Over time, and in collaboration with the entire Bishop's Athletics Department, the two have built exceptional programs in their respective fields.

Now the proposed Wu Tsai Field House is poised to deliver best-in-class space, equipment and technology to both these programs. With the help of generous donors, these new athletics suites will fully match Bishop's vision for optimal performance and health. Their design will enable Bishop's students to train — and pursue any goal — at the highest level.



How can you help?

Bishop's is seeking philanthropic investment to make these spaces and the entire Wu Tsai Field House a reality for our students as soon as possible. If visionary supporters rally around the project, the facility could break ground in the first half of 2027 and open by the fall of 2028. If you'd like to learn more, contact Emily Hassig, Chief Advancement Officer, emily.hassig@bishops.com, (858) 875-0839.



Transform our students' strength and conditioning

This state-of-the-art coaching suite will bring weight training and field work into the same location. This proximity, combined with greater working space, will enable more students to train simultaneously, and with superior tools.

- Twelve weight racks and lifting platforms will serve 48 students at once.
- Technology tools will provide students with real-time analysis of their biomechanics.
- This suite reduces competition for the fields outside. The turf training track will enable students to enhance their agility and explosiveness.
- This will be a highly-visible space from the street level, full of students in action, pursuing their peak abilities.



Make room for superlative sports medicine

This modern sports medicine suite will replace Bishop's very modest training room. It will be a treatment and education hub that helps prevent injury and also provides injury rehabilitation.

- The suite will more than double our sports medicine space.
- The suite will add treatment tables, expand the hydrotherapy and icing areas and create room for a second trainer to work.
- Expanded space will allow our trainers to better meet the full volume and variety of needs that our students present.



Lead with Purpose

THE CAMPAIGN FOR BISHOP'S

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