

LEAD WITH PURPOSE - THE CAMPAIGN FOR BISHOP'S

BULLETIN

CAMPAIGN UPDATES,
NEWS AND MORE

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NO ORDINARY CAMPAIGN

Head of School Ron Kim on the urgency behind Bishop's vision

GENEROUS CHAMPIONS NEEDED

Bishop's targets fall 2028 for opening the Wu Tsai Field House

SHAPING BISHOP'S

Kathrine and Tom '94 Cassidy share the inspiration behind their gift

The Educational Mandate of Our Time

A CONVERSATION WITH HEAD OF SCHOOL RON KIM

Head of School Ron Kim is known for his love of questions. In 2020, he led The Bishop's School to conceive a new vision statement in the form of a single query, "How do our students learn and grow best?" That fundamental question inspired a new framework for learning and achievement, casually known as "the Bishop's egg," which the School adopted in 2021.

Now, five years later, Bishop's continues to deepen its unique framework. For Kim, the intervening years have only confirmed its urgency. Here, he reflects on Bishop's future, the *Lead with Purpose* campaign, and what he calls "the educational mandate of our time."

It's unusual for a school to formulate its vision as a question. How is that working at Bishop's so far?

It fits our culture of inquiry very well. Schools can be pulled in many directions, and I appreciate how this vision continually centers our students' experience. I also appreciate that this question has no final answer. It recognizes that Bishop's must always adapt as the world changes for our students.

As you said, Bishop's must continually adapt. What are the biggest forces of change right now?

First, it's the ongoing mental health crisis among adolescents. The risks remain especially high for students like ours, in academically-ambitious schools and high-achieving communities.

Over my 30 years in education, I've watched this problem slowly grow and then accelerate. It is fed, in part, by another crisis: the isolation so many adolescents feel, whether due to social media or the loss of communal life more broadly. Adolescence is a period when students feel a deep need to belong, yet also intense insecurity. They need trusted, genuine relationships with adults.



Lastly, I think about technology and artificial intelligence. The acceleration of AI is raising fundamental questions, such as "What is learning?" and "What is school for?" Some educational models are beginning to promote artificial intelligence as a way of getting students through curriculum in the shortest amount of time, so they can do other things. At high-performing institutions like Bishop's, we need to use this moment to clarify and model what students truly need from this enterprise we call "school."

What's at stake in your mind, and how will Bishop's respond?

I think immediately about our students and their potential. Students at The Bishop's School have been successful since its founding. However, the challenges I described earlier are contributing to diminished hope and resilience, and research confirms this. Bishop's students are not immune, and we must do everything in our power to ensure they greet the future with a sense of ambitious optimism. We must help them to actually *expand* their potential.



WEB STORIES



Meet the Campaign Co-Chairs



Mac Armstrong '93;
P '27, '29, PP '25



Doug Arthur '99;
P '30, '32



Kyndra Leach
P '27, '30, PP '24



Juli Oh Browne
PP '20, '23, '25

Bishop's is immensely grateful to these four great community leaders. Here, each one shares why they were called to action by the *Lead with Purpose* campaign.



Investing in Faculty Excellence



In this film interview, Brad and Cathy Geier PP '04, '05, '07, '09 consider the influence of Bishop's faculty on their children and the School.



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How can Bishop's leverage its strengths to help?

In everything we do, we are grounded by our history of academic excellence and our Episcopal identity. This is why our framework begins with well-being at its core and leads out toward greater purpose. Young people want to know that they matter and that their actions matter. If the sole purpose of learning is to win the best grade or to be admitted to a particular college, that will ultimately feel empty. But when students realize that their learning has an impact on someone else — that is incredibly motivating and rewarding.

Having a purpose is the best antidote to isolation I can imagine. It leads our students right back to Ellen Browning Scripps and her belief that human beings should “make life a little better for others to live.”

I believe we need a whole new approach to how students achieve optimal learning. As we link the inward strength of well-being to the outward sense of purpose, students go farther in their growth. They can think more constructively and explore more creatively. This has become the educational mandate of our time. We are creating solutions our students need now, that we hope will make a difference for students beyond Bishop's as well.

What comes next? How do we help Bishop's reach its goals?

We are in the early stage of an ambitious campaign, *Lead with Purpose*. The total dollar goal is still in formation, but the board, Chief

Advancement Officer Emily Hassig, the advancement team and I are actively seeking major philanthropic investment that will determine our ultimate success.

One of the key priorities I haven't mentioned yet is an investment in our faculty. The longer I work within our new model, the clearer it becomes that meaningful relationships with teachers are essential to every layer of the framework.

As technology challenges the general assumptions about school, we must make certain that Bishop's faculty remain not only masters of academic content, but also adept at teaching adolescents the learning process. If AI can instantly provide answers to traditional, well-posed problems, we must ask questions that AI can't answer, that inspire creativity and authenticity.

Our faculty will be the ones to safeguard and evolve Bishop's legacy of excellence in an era of unprecedented technological change and formidable social pressures. Our teachers must be skilled mentors whom students trust so that they can face an unknowable future with confidence.

Any final thoughts?

Only that everyone can participate right now in the *Lead with Purpose* campaign at any level, through one of our investment initiatives or The Bishop's Fund. If you love Bishop's and want to shape its future, I hope you'll become a yearly contributor to The Bishop's Fund. That's the most immediate way for you to lend your support.

Support The Bishop's Fund

Make your gift today.
bishops.com/givenow



Shaping What Bishop's Will Become

Kathrine and Tom '94 Cassidy help the Wu Tsai Field House gain traction

Tom and Kathrine Cassidy speak about Bishop's with the ease of people who know a place well and have watched it live up to its promises. For Tom, an alumnus of the Class of 1994 and a member of the Alumni Board of Directors and the Alumni Leadership Council, that relationship spans decades. For Kathrine, it has been shaped through years of close engagement with the School; she and Tom are parents to Jack '28 and Cavan '32. Their recent gift in support of the Wu Tsai Field House grows out of a long-held appreciation for Bishop's commitment to developing the whole person.

After a childhood spent moving, Tom arrived at Bishop's when his father retired from the Navy. Bishop's became a proving ground of sorts, where Tom learned to balance academics with meaningful involvement across campus. He was an athlete, participated in the theater program, and served as an editor of the yearbook. Today, he credits the School with helping him develop a sense of confidence rooted in effort and adaptability.

“ RELATIONSHIPS YOU FORM HERE, THEY LAST, AND BEING PART OF SHAPING WHAT BISHOP'S WILL BECOME, THAT'S IMPORTANT. ”

Kathrine came to Bishop's later, and from far away. Raised in San Antonio, surrounded by extended family, she never imagined she would leave Texas. She, too, appreciates Bishop's attention to the entire self. “The School does a great job of helping children harness the magic inside of them and find what it's meant to be for them,” she says. That growth, Tom adds, doesn't stop at the campus edge. Through the service requirement and sustained engagement beyond the School, Bishop's nudges students out of their bubbles and toward community, “in a good way.”

When the Cassidys learned about the *Lead with Purpose* campaign, they were all in, and chose to support the Wu



Tsai Field House. “I gained just as much on an athletic field as I did anywhere else,” Tom says. He remembers practicing wherever space could be found and making do with limited facilities in his day at Bishop's. He's excited to confirm for today's students that athletics are important. “A dedicated place to train, recover, get guidance, both physically and mentally... that matters,” he says. “It says, this part of your development counts.”

Giving back resonates deeply with the Cassidys' own values, and – most importantly – with their actions. They value how Bishop's helps students understand that responsibility is part of belonging. “To whom much is given, much is expected,” Kathrine says. “If you're living your life just for you, it's going to be a pretty meaningless life.”

For Tom, supporting Bishop's is also about continuity. “Relationships you form here, they last,” he explains, “and being part of shaping what Bishop's will become, that's important.” Even in uncertain times, that sense of purpose is encouraging. “The world can feel heavy,” Kathrine says. “But seeing what young people are capable of when they're supported and empowered, it gives you hope.”

The Cassidys' generous commitment reflects that same belief: in Bishop's, in its students, and in an education that takes the whole person seriously.

RALLY FOR WU TSAI FIELD HOUSE

With generous support, Bishop's could open the facility by fall 2028

Last September, when former Trustee Clara Wu and Joe Tsai PP '17, '20 '25 announced their visionary gift to establish the Wu Tsai Field House, they created a rare opportunity for The Bishop's School. Construction projects with sweeping, community-wide impact don't come along too often in the history of any institution.

"A building like this arrives maybe once in a generation," explains Board President Doug Arthur '99; P '30, '32. "It elevates our commitment to high-performance training, but it's not just for athletes. The fundamental purpose of the Wu Tsai Field House is to enhance well-being across the entire School. Every square inch has been intentionally designed to support fitness, a healthy mindset and community connection. It will serve everyone — all students and their families, employees and alumni, and La Jolla as well. Picture it as the welcoming hub of Bishop's reunions, Bish Bowls and Hall of Fame celebrations for years to come."

To deliver this vital complex as soon as possible, the School would like to break ground within the next 15 months — sometime in the first half of 2027. Architectural renderings now make it easy to imagine students, faculty, teams and coaches exploring the strength and conditioning suite, the practice simulators, the nutrition and refueling station, the outdoor observation deck and so much more.

Bishop's can achieve this timeline, but only with the help of generous investors. Early donors have already committed more than \$20 million, with \$15 million still remaining to reach the full cost of construction and endowment. The School must have the funding commitment in place before it can break ground.

At this crucial stage, Bishop's is exceptionally grateful to all those who are showing what is possible through their early gifts. If visionary supporters rally around the project, the Wu Tsai Field House could open for business by the fall of 2028.

"I believe this building is ahead of its time," says Doug Arthur. "It's a focal point where the School's leadership team, athletic director and the future director of well-being can fully explore how to enhance Bishop's value proposition.



We will be a school that supports optimal performance, whether you're a football player or a dancer or an editor on 'The Tower.' We will attract the very best coaching, teaching and student talent with this superb facility.

"Together, we have a clear path that leads to an actualized Wu Tsai Field House as quickly as possible. On behalf of students here at Bishop's now, and those who are coming soon, let's bring this project across the finish line."



Lead with Purpose

THE CAMPAIGN FOR BISHOP'S

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