

*The Fire Review*  
**Holy Family Catholic High School**  
**2025-2026**



# *The Fire Review*

**Holy Family Catholic High School Literary and Fine Arts Magazine  
2025-2026**

---

## *Faculty Advisors:*

Mrs. Keyho

## *Staff:*

### *Editor-in-chief:*

Rachel Betts

### *Editors:*

Carly Heuer

Ella Conti

Laney Hendrickson

Jaylen Juras

Campbell Koch

## *Writers/Artists:*

Students of Holy Family Catholic High School Approved by *The Fire Review*

## *Letter from the Editor*

Dear Readers,

I am excited to showcase the diverse talents of the students at Holy Family Catholic High School in this year's second publication of *The Fire Review*. This literary and fine arts magazine includes impressive and skillful pieces of several artists and writers. You will experience intriguing and dramatic fiction and non-fiction essays and short stories as well as illuminating and beautiful paintings, pottery, and photography. We are grateful to everyone who submitted and shared their work with *The Fire Review*.

Thank you to my faculty advisor Ms. Keyho for your guidance and recommendations as well as the staff and editors for your hard work, dedication, and thoughtful ideas with assisting in the launch of the second publication.

We are proud of the incredible creativity of the literary and fine arts displayed by the writers and artists in this 2025-2026 edition of *The Fire Review*.

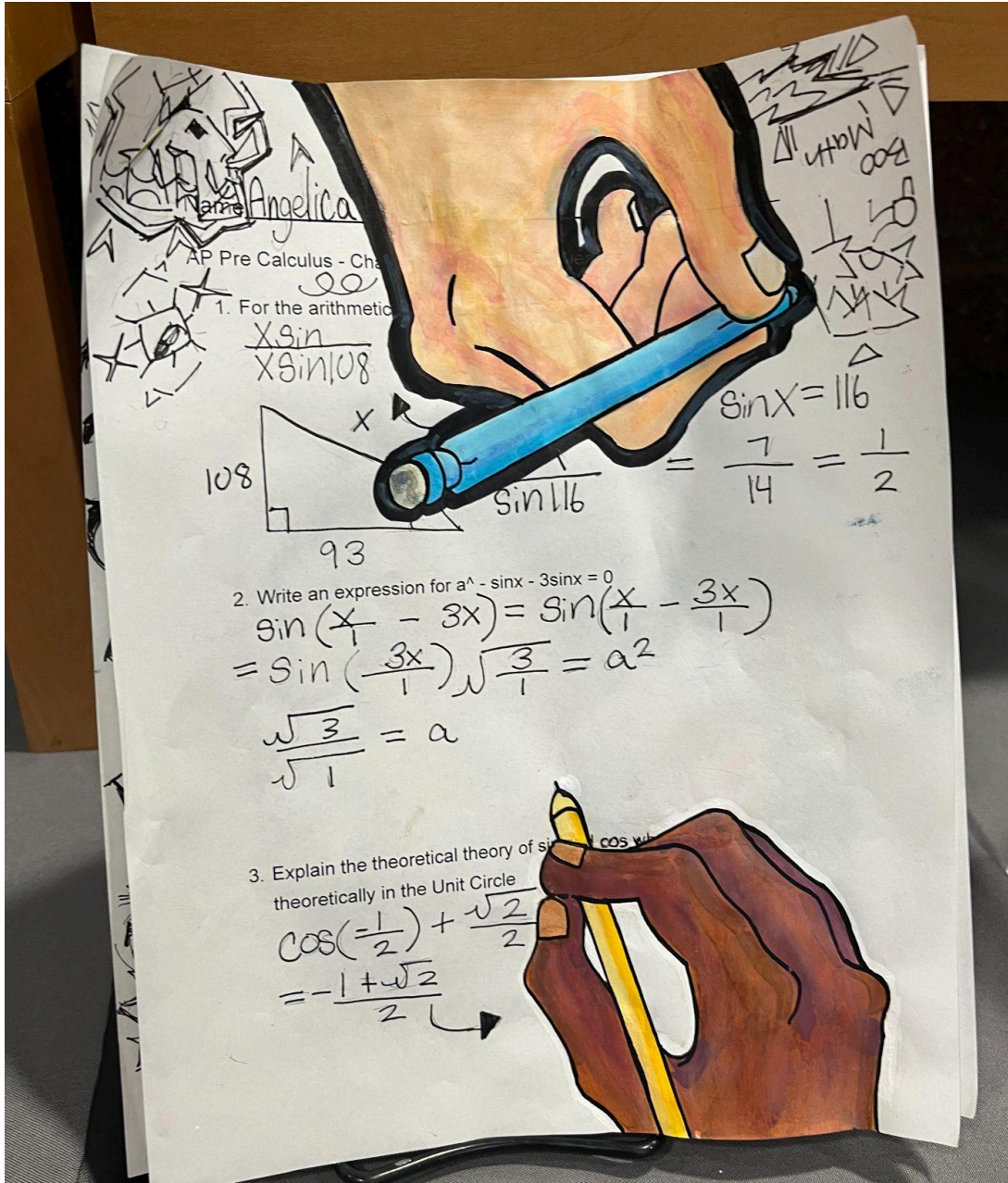
Sincerely,

Rachel Betts, Editor-in-Chief  
*bettsrachel27@hfchs.org*

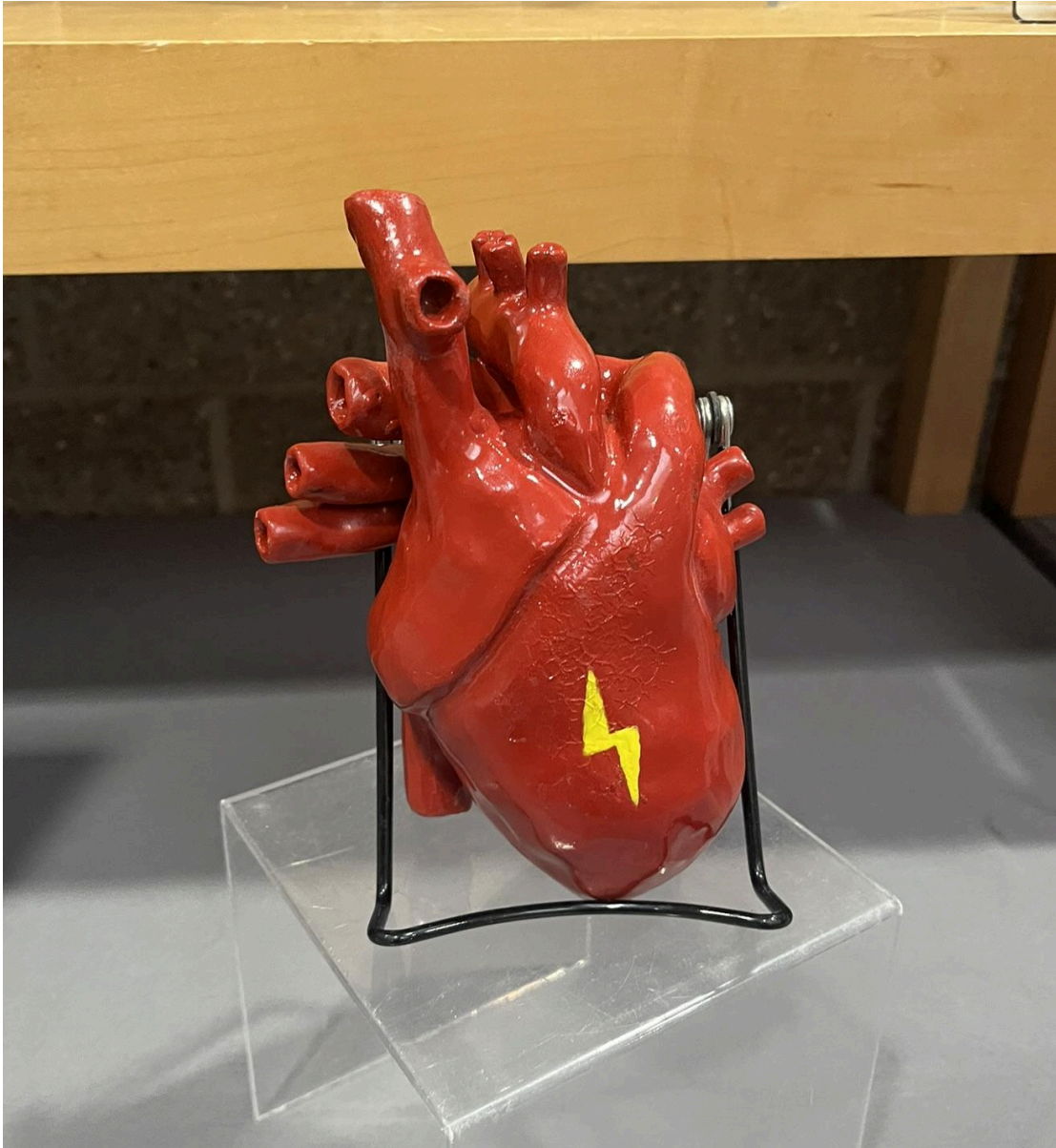
## *Table of Contents*

<i>The Holy Family</i> stained glass image in Chapel at Holy Family	1
<i>Math</i> by Lydia Katz	5
<i>Power of the Heart</i> by Roma M	6
<i>Wide Eyed Wonder</i> by Ava Daniel	7
<i>The Art of Dance</i> by Ruby Briden	8
<i>The Style Study</i> by Thea-Amor Lopez	9
<i>Myth and Mystery</i> by Lucy Reigert	11
<i>Watcher</i> by Noah Worrell	12
<i>The Space Between</i> by Natalie Rizkalla	13
<i>Unfinished Self</i> by Lucy Riegert	14
<i>Adversity: the Road to Sainthood</i> by Rachel Betts	15
<i>Muscular System</i> by Roma Mortensen	19
<i>The Impact of Setbacks</i> by Jack Betts	20
<i>Coiled</i> by Noah Worrell	23

**Math**  
**By Lydia Katz**



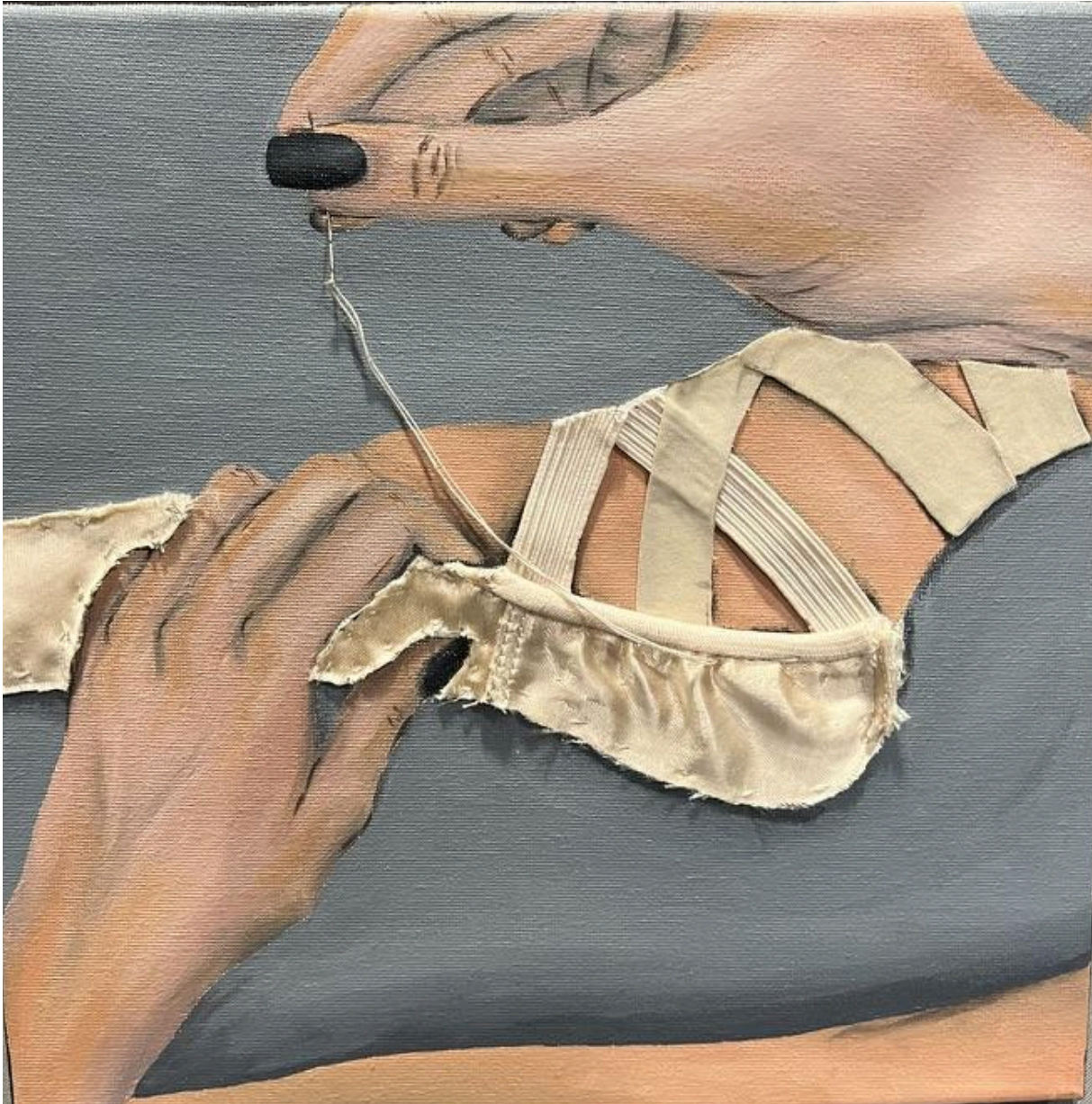
*Power of the Heart*  
By Roma M



*Wide Eyed Wonder*  
By Ava Daniel



*The Art of Dance*  
By Ruby Briden



***The Style Study***  
**By Thea-Amor Lopez**

Gloves have a long and surprisingly rich history evolving from simple protective coverings into symbols of status, fashion and even power. Their story stretches back thousands of years and reflects changes in technology, culture and social customs.

The earliest known gloves date to ancient civilizations. In Ancient Egypt, gloves were worn by royalty and high ranking individuals often as a sign of status rather than practicality. Some were simple linen coverings, while others were more decorative. In Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome, gloves were used more for functional purposes. Workers and soldiers wore them to protect their hands from harsh conditions, while wealthy Romans sometimes used gloves while eating to keep their hands clean.

During the Middle Ages, gloves took on deeper symbolic meaning in Europe. They became closely associated with authority, honor and social rank. Kings, bishops and nobles wore ornate gloves made of fine materials like silk and leather, often decorated with embroidery or jewels. Gloves were also used in ceremonies, offering a glove could symbolize granting power or responsibility. Knights for example, might receive a glove as a token of favor or challenge. By the Renaissance, gloves had become a major fashion accessory, especially among the upper classes. Perfumed gloves became popular in places like France and England, sometimes scented with strong fragrances to mask unpleasant smells of the time. Glove making itself became a respected craft, and specialized guilds were formed to regulate production and quality. In the 17th and 18th centuries, gloves continued to reflect social status and etiquette. It was considered improper for a well dressed person to appear in public without them. Women's gloves, in particular, became increasingly elegant and delicate, often extending above the elbow for formal occasions. Men's gloves were typically more understated but still essential for formal dress. The Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries changed glove production dramatically. Machines allowed gloves to be made more quickly and affordably, making them accessible to a wider population. At the same time,

new materials and techniques improved fit and comfort. Gloves were no longer just for the elite, they became a common part of everyday clothing.

*Myth and Mystery*  
By Lucy Riegert



*Watcher*  
By Noah Worrell



*The Space Between*  
By Natalie Rizkalla



*Unfinished Self*  
By Lucy Riegert



## ***Adversity and the Road to Sainthood***

### **By Rachel Betts**

St. Maria Natividad Venegas de la Torre, also called “Mother Naty”, was the first female Mexican Saint. She was known for her caring spirit and faithful acts of service, especially towards the sick and suffering. She established medical care for those in need and cared for every person, even during times of adversity and hardship. St. Maria Natividad shared her humility, charity, and love with every person she encountered. Through her acts of love and dedication, St. Maria Natividad transformed many lives and inspired others to live a life rooted in Christ.

St. Maria Natividad was born on September 18, 1868 in a small town in Central Mexico. She faced many tragedies and challenges growing up, part of which caused her to become the person she was. Her mother died when Maria was only a baby and at the age of 19, her father also passed away and Maria was taken in by her aunt. St. Maria Natividad always felt a connection and calling to religious life, which was why she entered the Association of Daughters of Mary, located by her in Mexico. After she joined, Maria participated in several retreats and spent time strengthening her relationship with God. Then in 1905, she joined a group made up of six members called, “The Daughters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.” This group's focus was directed towards those at the Sacred Heart Hospital, in Mexico. Maria quickly became a key component for the group. “She distinguished herself by her humility, simplicity, and affable treatment of the sisters, the sick, and people in general” (“Maria de Jesus Sacramentado Venegas de la Torre, Santa”). As a result of her hard work and passion to help the sick, she was named Vicar of the hospital in 1910. Then in 1921, she was elected Superior. As time passed, Maria took leadership of “the daughters of the sacred heart of Jesus” and even wrote the constitutions

that would be used to direct the group. “They received Church approval in 1930, the same year Maria Natividad made final vows and took on the name Maria de Jesus Sacramentado” (“Our Patroness Saint Maria de Jesus Sacramentado”). Unfortunately, Maria became sick and died on July 30, 1959 at 94 years old. But, God granted her the gift of receiving holy communion and the sacraments before she passed. She was beautified in 1992 and after a medical miracle was announced, she was canonized a Saint on March 10, 2000.

Saint Maria Natividad de Torres is an example of a Saint who had beautiful faith and lived her life truly united as one with God. In addition to her devotion to the sick and poor, she was extremely invested (i feel like maybe changed to devoted) in the Eucharist and how it deepened her relationship with Christ. St. Maria found her strength in the Divine Heart of Jesus, which inspired her to serve others with the utmost kindness and compassion. St. Maria Natividad also showed an immense amount of respect to priests and bishops, whom she saw as living images of Christ and His love for us. She had a strong spiritual life by praying often and attending retreats. St. Maria Natividad demonstrated a life of heroic virtue through her selfless acts of service and sacrifice along with her pure trust and devotion to God. She listened to His will and was able to lead others even when it was difficult. For example, “Maria lived in Mexico when the country’s government was trying to destroy Christianity within its borders” (Open Light Media). But, Maria stayed true to her faith and kept attending to the sick in the hospitals and within her community. After she died, the Church recognized two miracles that ultimately led to her canonization. The miracle that led her to be canonized, took place at her Sacred Heart hospital. A man named Anastasio Ledezma Mora needed heart surgery and was in a coma. “The doctors and nurses (some of Maria de Jesus’ sisters) invoked the intercession of Maria de Jesus Sacramentado. Ten to twelve minutes later, Mora’s heart started to beat again and revival

attempts were successful” (“Our Patroness Saint Maria de Jesus Sacramentado”). He was healed fully and her miracle was recognized. Based on St. Maria Natividad’s virtuous life rooted in Christ and her two miracles, she was canonized an official Saint in 2000 and received a feast day of July 30.

St. Maria Natividad de Torres is significant to me because learning about her has inspired me to serve others with a greater sense of humility and passion. She has also given me a new perspective about finding strength in Christ and how He allowed her to serve others so fully, even when facing adversity or hardship. For example, when both of Maria’s parents died, she continued to trust God and put others before herself. She didn’t turn away from God. In fact, she used her struggles to find ways to grow closer to God and relate to others who were struggling. I find that really beautiful and amazing. Reading about St. Maria has challenged me to realize that I need to put my full trust in God and His plan, despite my own fears and doubts. We can all be inspired to live a holier life today because St. Maria Natividad de Torres has shown us that God is always present and is the greatest source of strength. I have discovered that God will grant us the love and courage we need to lead others, we just have to trust and listen to Him. St. Maria Natividad has inspired me to be more compassionate and understanding even through simple interactions in my everyday life. She has shown me that one simple act of service and empathy can change someone's life.

In conclusion, St. Maria Natividad Venegas de la Torre has shown me that showing others love and compassion can go a long way. Reading about her selfless manner, unwavering faith, and courage to help others, has truly inspired me to be a better version of myself. St. Maria Natividad has demonstrated to me what it means to live by faith rather than sight and I will always think of her from now on.

## Works Cited

“Education in Virtue/ Saints Calendar/ St María Venegas de la Torre.” *OpenLight Media Plus*,

<https://plus.openlightmedia.com/saint/st-maria-venegas-de-la-torre/>.

Feregrino, Alejandro. “María de Jesús Sacramentado Venegas, la primera santa mexicana.”

*Desde la Fe*, 21 May 2020,

<https://desdelafe.mx/noticias/iglesia-en-mexico/maria-de-jesus-sacramentado-venegas-la-primera-santa-mexicana/>. Accessed 27 October 2025.

“María de Jesús Sacramentado Venegas de la Torre, Santa.” *Catholic.Net*,

<https://es.catholic.net/op/articulos/37303/mara-de-jess-sacramentado-santa.html>.

“St. Maria De Jesus Sacramentado – Servants of the Lord the Virgin of Matará.” *Servants of the*

*Lord and the Virgin of Matara*,

<https://ssvmusa.org/index.php/our-province/st-maria-de-jesus/>. Accessed 27 October 2025.

*Muscular System*  
By Roma Mortensen



## *The Impact of Setbacks*

**By Jack Betts**

In a 2005 commencement speech at Stanford University, Steve Jobs, entrepreneur and CEO, reflects on the importance of his past experiences, namely learning from setbacks, embracing the need for curiosity and perseverance, and maintaining a willingness to take real risks that add value to you and to your life. Jobs sees his primary purpose in life is to live each day as if it's your last chance to achieve true meaning. When pondering his own life journey, he adopts a poignant tone in order to motivate these young graduates to relentlessly pursue their goals despite adversity; don't settle and keep striving for what you are passionate about doing in your life.

At the beginning of his speech, Jobs, co-founder and CEO of Apple, Inc. says, "This is the closest I've ever been to a college graduation." Jobs never graduated from college. In fact, he tells a personal story about how his biological mother put him up for adoption when he was a newborn baby because she was a single unwed mother who believed she couldn't raise a child by herself. She didn't finish college either. Jobs relays how the adoption process was highly emotional because his biological mother demanded that the adopted parents be highly educated so that her son would go to college someday. Instead, Jobs was adopted by a "working class" couple. Jobs also did not finish college—he stopped taking classes that did not interest him, however, he did go to classes that inspired and interested him such as calligraphy classes. He recalls, "I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life, and no idea how college was going to help me figure it out. I decided to drop out and trust that it would all work out okay. It was pretty scary at the time but looking back, it was one of the best decisions I ever made."

Difficult beginnings can lead to meaningful outcomes, according to Jobs. He describes that when you “connect the dots” of your life, even those difficult times marked with setbacks, you can still turn uncertainty into great opportunity. The calligraphy classes Jobs had taken, for example, were critical to the design of the Macintosh. Jobs was the co-founder and CEO of Apple, Inc. and we all know the technological advances in today’s world are due to many of Jobs’ innovations at Apple with the Macintosh and iPhone.

At age 30, Jobs had another setback when he was fired from Apple: “The heaviness of being successful was replaced by the lightness of being a beginner again ....” During this time in his life, however, Jobs married his wife and was rehired by Apple because he truly loved what he did despite all the pain and challenges of failures and hard work. Jobs was clear that you can’t “lose faith” and you must pursue “what you love” and “what you believe is great work.” Don’t settle, and keep searching, according to Jobs. Hard work can lead to extraordinary growth and to company success if you love what you do. He says, “[i]n 10 years Apple had grown from just two of us in a garage into a 2 billion company with over 4000 employees.”

At the end of his speech to the Stanford students, Jobs uses his cancer diagnosis to convey the emotional reality of facing death and to emphasize how this forced him to confront the true meaning of life. He pauses when he explains the gravity of his cancer diagnosis, and says, “[t]he doctors told me this was almost certainly a type of cancer that is incurable and that I should expect to live no longer than three to six months.” Jobs’ vulnerability and reflective mindset encourages the students to reflect on their own lives and to pursue what truly matters to them.

Steve Jobs reminds us about the importance of believing in yourself even when faced with significant setbacks. With faith, hard work, and perseverance, your life will have great

meaning and growth despite challenges and struggles. If you face life's challenges with authenticity and courage to keep going even when your future feels uncertain, you will find great meaning in life as you continue to search for what you are truly passionate about in life. He concludes: "Stay Hungry, Stay Foolish" which means that we should all "be ambitious toward something." Keep searching and do what you love—that's what Steve Jobs believed and that's his legacy.

*Coiled*

By Noah Worrell

