



MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
Town of Moraga:
 www.moraga.ca.us
 Phone: (925) 888-7022
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.moragachamber.org
Moraga Citizens' Network:
 www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Town Council Meetings:
 Wed., June 26, 6:30 p.m. and Wed., July 10, 6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission: Tuesday, July 2, 6:30 p.m.
Parks and Recreation Commission:
 Mon., July 8, 6:30 p.m.

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LINDA EHRIKH



Saint Mary's College hires new president after a nationwide search

By Vera Kochan



Photo courtesy Saint Mary's College

**SMC's 31st President,
 Roger J. Thompson, EdD**

After spending nearly a year conducting an extensive search to find a new president, Saint Mary's College announced last month that Roger J. Thompson, EdD is the school's new choice to take the helm.

In June 2023, SMC parted ways with its president of two years, Dr. Richard Plumb. While the college searched for his replacement,

the school's board of trustees appointed Brother Thomas Jones, FSC, as the interim president.

Thompson officially becomes SMC's 31st president on July 22, bringing with him nearly 40 years of experience as a higher education executive with experience in enrollment management.

In an announcement from Eric Flowers EMBA, Chairman of the SMC Board of Trustees, and Brother Nick Gonzalez, FSC, Brother Visitor and Provincial Superior for the District of San Francisco New Orleans of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, the SMC community was informed of the selection via email. "The Board of Trustees' approval of Dr. Thompson to serve as Saint Mary's next President signals a turning point for the College and a time for renewal, enthusiasm, and optimism," stated Flowers.

"Dr. Thompson is an inspiring, engaging leader with the vision and the breadth of experience to elevate Saint Mary's College and position the College as the

leading Lasallian Catholic institution of higher education in the country," added Gonzalez.

Thompson's most recent experience comes from almost 14 years with the University of Oregon. His last duty there, before coming to SMC, was as Vice President for Student Services and Enrollment Management, where he led nearly 2,000 team members while overseeing an operating and scholarship budget of more than \$250 million. He also worked to expand enrollment to record levels, in addition to improving student housing, dining, university health services, student financial wellness, and creating a student welcome center. His skills as a fundraiser surpassed a campaign goal of \$70 million by nearly \$50 million, years ahead of schedule, and that's just the tip of the iceberg.

According to SMC's press release, prior to arriving at the University of Oregon, Thompson was "vice provost for enrollment management and special advisor to

the president at Indiana University in Bloomington. Under his four-year watch, the university's enrollment grew from 38,000 students to more than 42,000."

Before coming to Indiana, Thompson oversaw the enrollment responsibilities at the University of Alabama where the college set records for total enrollment, entering freshman class size, academic quality, and diversity, including a spike in African American student enrollment of nearly 50%. He was responsible for developing financial aid programs to help low- and middle-income families with college costs.

Thompson has earned a variety of awards both for himself and the colleges that he has served. SMC stated, "A nationally-recognized expert in strategic enrollment management and student services, Dr. Thompson's work has appeared in news outlets and recognized by PBS News Hour, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, The Atlantic,

the College Board, ACT, and the American Marketing Association, among others."

A native of Oregon, Thompson earned a Bachelor of Arts in broadcasting from California State University, Long Beach, a Master of Science from the University of Central Missouri, and a doctorate from the University of Southern California in higher education policy and administration.

"I am profoundly honored for the opportunity to serve as Saint Mary's next president," said Thompson. "Saint Mary's won my heart as a truly student-centered learning community grounded in Lasallian heritage and guided by Christian Brothers, faculty, and staff who have a passion for transformative education, service, and commitment to student success. I look forward to getting to know the Gael community, alumni, and supporters alike. Together, we will embrace the work ahead to thrive and grow as an inclusive, diverse, and vibrant community."

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Up your golf game with Moraga's new Sunday Swing

By Vera Kochan

Golfing indoors? Yep, and it's now a reality in Moraga. Sunday Swing is an indoor golf performance center that boasts expert instructors and tour-level technology to help anyone improve their golfing skills.

The location had its soft opening in April and a grand-opening in early June at the Moraga Shopping Center at 1480 Moraga Rd., Suite D (formerly the CVS space). Co-owners Edwin Lee and Lee McClure are hoping to offer something new to all of the golfers in the area.

Both Lamorinda residents are avid golfers, with Lee having played on Stanford University's golf team. "We were always helping people out on the range and thought about how we could give better instruction," explained Lee. "We try to help people get out of their own heads and focus on their technique." Lee's kids are also golfers, and his son, Alex, helps out at the facility.

Sunday Swing has two coaches on staff with Professional Golfers' Association experience. Cody Robinson is a former assistant coach for Saint Mary's College where he also played, along with his stint on Washington State University's golf team. Joshua Kelley played in the NCAA championships while on SMC's team and offers more than 10 years of teaching experience. Both men have participated in various tours internationally. "The coaching



Photo Vera Kochan

Sunday Swing's Edwin Lee on the "putting green"

sessions start with an assessment," stated Lee. "It's true coaching, as opposed to 'I'm just here to fix your swing.'"

Their first step is to assess by benchmarking a client's ability, setting some goals and setting up a plan with the coaches. The next step is training by achieving goals through focused sessions. The third step is to practice by leveraging Sunday Swing's technology and coaches to develop the client's skills. Next comes play -- the act of actually taking the improved skills to a golf course. Lastly, in order to continue building on the game, go back to step one.

On the technological side, Sunday Swing offers a variety of equipment to boost anyone's golfing skills. In addition to the Activation Room (weight training), there's

Puttview, Trackman, Titleist Performance Institute, and Sportsbox AI.

Puttview is an indoor putting green embedded with the latest Puttview Interactive Putting Technology to revolutionize a player's putting game. It helps the golfer learn to understand the impact of read, line, and speed. Trackman offers four state-of-the-art swing bays that give comprehensive swing data and video capture along with the ability to play thousands of courses on one of golf's best simulators. The fitness and recovery area is designed for Titleist Performance Institute programming and optimized for golf performance. The organization is dedicated to the study of how the human body functions in relation to the golf swing.

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