

Tradition, Ceremonies, and Awards

***“At Santiago College we honor the Past, shape the Future,
and embrace the Present”***

Santiago College (SC), founded in 1880, is known for honoring a number of traditions that are handed down from generation to generation, setting it apart from other schools. Many of the traditions are expressed through hundred-year-old ceremonies and rites of passage that mark the different stages of school life. The ceremonies not only contain important, meaningful symbols, they are also a reflection of the commitment that students acquire with the values they learn at SC.

The Alumni Association has to make sure that School traditions are followed, as it was entrusted with that responsibility by the founders, and it is the only entity that will remain over the years and always be the heir to the institution and its legacy.

In this context it is important to analyze the “*founding charisma*.” This “charisma” includes the tradition, ceremonies, and SC spirit that ensure that the hallmark that characterizes the men and women who have had the privilege of a Santiago College education will never be lost.

Ceremonies of Santiago College

The ceremonies at SC are part of a tradition that is over one hundred years old, and they are characterized by their formality, solemnity, and the repetition of their symbols and rituals over the years.

Harvest

This is Thanksgiving Day. At this ceremony SC remembers the pilgrims who came to North America and after a year of hard work gave thanks to God for the harvest. The act is commemorated in an assembly held during autumn. The students and the SC community make a symbolic presentation of non-perishable food that they have collected and will later donate to charitable institutions. The celebration takes place in the School auditorium on a stage that has been decorated with all the products that have been collected. The Infant, Lower, Middle, Upper and High School hold this ceremony separately to give thanks for the year's harvest.

4th of July

At this ceremony the School celebrates the Independence of the United States, the country that SC and its founders came from. The different levels in the school organize assemblies with songs, dances, typical costumes, and speeches related to the date that is being commemorated.

18 of September – Chilean National Day

This date is also celebrated with the appropriate solemnity. The faculty selects various subjects that refer to the historical events that marked the independence process in Chile. Stands, games, and speeches are organized that emphasize patriotic values. Typical Chilean dishes are served at the end of the ceremony.

School Days

In October the School celebrates its anniversary, organized by the Student Councils of the Middle, Upper, and High School. During School Days the teams or houses represented by colors and named in memory of people who marked the development of SC - /La Fetra (red), Swaney (yellow), Mason (green), and Taylor (blue) parade across the sports fields with floats celebrating various subjects chosen by the students. Starting in pre-kinder every student joins a team. If one of their parents is an alumna or alumnus, the student will join the same team their parents were on when they were students. If both parents went to SC, students can choose which team they want to belong to. There are sports competitions, creative activities, talent shows, debates, and games for the younger students.

Class Trip

Every year the Junior class takes a trip that combines culture and recreation to encourage fellowship among the students at SC. Since the year 2000 the destination of the trip has been Washington, DC (USA). The administration decided to include the trip among the School traditions so the students could learn about the roots of SC in their place of origin.

SC Magazine

The magazine is also a School tradition. This annual publication contains a photograph of every senior – dressed in their cap and gown – with a biography written by their classmates – called Senior Character.

The magazine also contains an account of all the important events of the year, which will constitute the history of the School over time.

Senior Ceremonies

These are the rites of passage that prepare the students to bid farewell to their school years and send them off to a new life full of challenges, but fortified by the spirit they formed at SC.

Tie Ceremony

At a special ceremony held in the beginning of the school year, twelfth grade students receive the tie that sets them off from the rest of the School as new Seniors.

This distinction implies special privileges but also the responsibility of living according to SC values and setting an example for the younger students.

Ring & Medal Ceremony

In November the School gives Seniors their rings and medals. The medals were included in 1980, when the first class of men graduated from SC.

The rings and medals bear the School seal, and they symbolize the end of the students' school years and their commitment to SC for the rest of their lives. The students' parents are invited to the ceremony, and the mothers, fathers or grandparents, who are alumni and alumnae, have the honor of giving rings and medals to their children or grandchildren.

Last Chapel

This is one of the most significant traditional ceremonies at SC, and it is the one that touches the students' hearts most deeply. It is called Last Chapel because it is the last religious ceremony attended by Seniors. In the past, students attended a number of assemblies or Chapels during the year. The services included a reading from the Bible and a talk by the director or an invited guest about a spiritual subject. Hymns were sung, and at Christmas time the students sang Christmas carols.

The ceremony of Last Chapel is based on the spiritual life at SC. It is the farewell offered by the School to its Seniors. The ceremony is

characterized by the deep religious content that represents the three faiths that are taught at the School: Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish. Parents of Seniors, teachers, and Juniors attend the ceremony.

Seniors traditionally enter singing “Father Almighty” dressed in cap and gown. First grade students give Seniors a bouquet of flowers or the school flag while they sing “The Sweetest Flower that Grows.” This phase of the ceremony emphasizes the circularity and continuity of new generations, who replace the ones that are leaving.

The Senior Presidents give a speech thanking their parents and the School for giving them the opportunity of being educated at SC. Then they pin the colors of their class on the School flag. They also give the director the traditional gift the Senior Class leaves to the school in appreciation of their Alma Mater.

The President of the Student Council then says good-bye to the Seniors in the name of the student body. In conclusion, the director speaks to the future graduates who are in the Last Chapel with the rest of the School for the last time.

Junior---Senior Picnic

After the Last Chapel has finished, Juniors invite Seniors to a picnic outdoors where they celebrate with their head teachers, teachers, and members of the administration and management of the school. As a remembrance of the day every Senior receives a keychain with the insignia of the School as a present from a Junior (an eleventh-grade student chosen by affinity or relationship).

Alumni Supper

The Alumni Association officially receives the Senior Class as new members. The ceremony is held every year with a dinner at Santiago College, attended by alumnae and alumni from all the past classes. Generations of alumni and alumnae meet that night to celebrate five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty, thirty-five, forty, and even fifty years or more since their graduation. In the past, Seniors processed into the Alumni Supper singing "Father Almighty." Now the senior class enters singing the SC song. During dinner the President of the Alumni gives a welcome speech. Senior Presidents speak to the alumni, expressing their appreciation to the Association that will always welcome the graduates of Santiago College.

The following awards are announced at the ceremony: the English Award, established by Graciela Balbontín de Bravo, class of 1931, which is given to the student with the highest grade average in English during high school. The prerequisite for this award is that English may not be the awardee's first language. The prize consists of a silver medal that is presented by the President of the Alumni Association, as established by Graciela Balbontín. The Math Award, in honor of Ingrid Bergstrom, Class of 1934, mathematics teacher and leader of the Washington Chapter, which is given to the student with the highest grade average in math during high school. The prize is a silver medal that is presented by the President of the Alumni Association.

In 2004 the Board of the Santiago College Alumni Association, fulfilling its objective of ensuring the material and spiritual well-being of its members and its Alma Mater, created a prize called SC OUTSTANDING ALUMNI, which is awarded every year at the Alumni Supper to two alumni who have been outstanding in their professional, academic, and intellectual careers, and have made a significant contribution in terms of values to our society and, especially, to the Santiago College

community. The SC OUTSTANDING ALUMNI prize serves to encourage, support, motivate, and guarantee that the new alumni, who have just graduated and are received at the Supper, will maintain the imprint of the SC seal in their lives, reaffirming the true significance of the Commencement Evergreen Chain. This is an endless chain where generation after generation keeps the legacy of the traditions and values of the school and the Finer Humankind alive, and to Santiago College Alumni Association and its members as custodians. The prize is a silver-plated oval tray, which is engraved with the following: SC Outstanding Alumni, the name of the awardee, and the date and year the prize was awarded.

Senior Breakfast

On the morning of Commencement Day, Seniors and their head teachers have breakfast in the dining room of the School. This tradition goes back to the time when SC had a boarding department. That morning was the last day the boarders had breakfast together before graduation. After the reading of the 23rd Psalm, in a relaxed atmosphere, the teachers who want to speak to the Seniors, say a few words about the time they have shared, and the head teachers say good-bye to their classes with a special speech for them.

Commencement Exercises

Graduation is held in December. Commencement means the end of one stage, but also the start of a new life. Traditionally a special speaker has been invited to address the Seniors. It is always a prominent person, either the President or Head of a university, an

ambassador, a religious authority or a distinguished member of the local or international community like members of government, senators, professionals, university professors, etc.

This solemn ceremony takes place in the Rose Garden of the School.

Commencement starts with the Seniors' entrance, dressed in cap and gown, escorted by Juniors carrying the evergreen chain. The chain is made of fresh pine, and it represents the progression of the new generations in an endless chain. In previous years, the Carabineros Band played "Pomp and Circumstance" in the background. Now the School orchestra plays the music.

After the procession, the President of the Board of Trustees addresses the Seniors with a few brief words of farewell.

The Director, wearing cap and gown, gives a farewell speech to the class and then hands out the diplomas, changing the tassel on each student's cap from right to left. This act means that the student is now a graduate.

When the diplomas are handed out to the students, the parents or grandparents of that student who are alumni are mentioned. The significance of this deference to the alumni is to underline the pride shared by the different generations in having been educated at the same school.

The seven awards the School only gives out at the end of school life are given out next. The most significant one is the Finer Humankind Award, followed by the Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Sportsmanship Award, Creativity Award, and the ECIS International Understanding Award.

This marks the end of the ceremony when the Seniors throw their caps up in the air in a sign of jubilation.

Junior Prom

After Commencement is over, Juniors attend the Junior Prom. In the last few years this celebration has been held in the dining room of the School.

Women students wear the white dress they wore to escort the Seniors, and men students wear the official Senior uniform. The dining room is decorated with flowers and balloons, and Juniors celebrate their having been recognized as the new Senior Class of SC by the director of the School.

Senior Ball

This is the last party the whole graduating class attends in the company of their parents and guardians. The dance is organized by the parents and guardians, supported by a teacher assigned by the school.

The evening begins with a cocktail party followed by a waltz danced by the parents and their newly graduated sons and daughters. The parents then leave the party with the other guests before dinner is served. Dancing continues after dinner until dawn, and the party ends with breakfast. The special cake served at the Ball is donated by the Alumni Association, in the name of the alumni.

The Senior Ball is the last opportunity for the whole class to spend time together and say good-bye to their life at school.

Awards

Finer Humankind Award

This is the highest prize awarded to graduates by Santiago College. The Finer Humankind Award was instituted in 1925, and it symbolizes the values the students have learned during their years at school: Respect, Honesty, Responsibility, Solidarity, Perseverance, and Joie de Vivre.

When students reach Senior Year, they should have achieved these values. Since it is impossible in practice to give this award to everyone, the awardee symbolizes these ideals in representation of the whole class.

Valedictorian

Santiago College gives this award to the student who has obtained the highest grade average during high school.

Salutatorian

Santiago College gives this prize to the student who has obtained the second highest grade average in high school.

Sportsmanship Award

This prize is given to the student who, without necessarily being the best athlete, embodies good sportsmanship in its broadest sense: who knows how to lose with honor, win with modesty, and contribute to the advancement of his/her team, always making his/her best effort and supporting others. This prize was instituted in 1976, and the winners are chosen by the Physical Education and Sports Department.

Elizabeth Mason--- Mary Swaney Award

(Creativity Award)

The Alumni Association has given this award since 1992. The prize consists of a silver medal, which is awarded to a student for their outstanding creativity. It was instituted in commemoration of the hundred year birthdays of Mary Swaney and Elizabeth Mason. The President of the Alumni Association presents the medal at Commencement.

ECIS Award for International Understanding

The Award for International Understanding, granted by the European Council of International Schools, was presented for the first time at Commencement in 1992. The objective of this prize is to recognize the Seniors who best represent the principles of an international citizen and have a clear view of the need for cooperation between people of different origin.

Mrs. Elizabeth Fox, former headmistress of SC who instituted this prize, defined it as follows:

“This Award is given to a student who has been a good representative of his/her country, with a positive attitude toward the life and culture of others, and capable of communicating in at least two languages; he/she should be a strong collaborator in order to integrate people who are different from one another into a community for better international understanding.”

In 1904 Adelaida W. La Fetra spoke to the alumni of Santiago College before returning to the United States. Her moving words will always remain in the memory of the Alumni Association.

For twenty-five years Mrs. La Fetra devoted her life to Chile and her beloved Santiago College. When she left, she said the following:

"I see marvelous possibilities for the School if we can work and plan together.

But the big question now is. What is your attitude and mine about that?

Do you want your Alma Mater to continue to exist forever with increasing power and influence, modeling the lives and character of the next generation?

Do you want it to be representative of the best teaching in methods, in research, in happiness?

Do you want to see your children immensely happy, as all children have the right to be from kindergarten to Senior year, and to leave the School with the great objective of making this world a happier and better place?

Do you say, "What can we do?"

"Make sure there is always an alumna under your influence."

After these comments, Mrs. La Fetra urged the Alumni Association to take an interest in the progress of SC, to improve its infrastructure

and equipment.

“Let us try to have a School blessed by heaven that is a source of pride for our beautiful Chile.”

Mrs. La Fetra’s words constitute our legacy, and the Alumni Association promises through this document to honor it, respect it, and always remain faithful to it through the years.

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Santiago College Hymn

1. Wherever men shall speak in praise,
Of Santiago mountain---flanked.

There shall the school that bears its name,
Among its foremost works be ranked;
Founded by men who strong in faith,
Believed in progress of the world;
Guided by those who the flag
Of finer Mankind unfurl'd.

Refrain:

Dear Alma Matter, we pledge to thee,
In work and play, our loyalty;
High shall our flag fly, stainless pass,
From us to those who follow us.

2. Countless the gift we owe to thee;
The joy of dear companionship,
An atmosphere of joy and peace.
High standards in our scholarship;

Spirit of service in our work.
Freedom of thought for all alive,
Beauty of garden, hall and land,
Noble ideals for which to strive.

Refrain:

Dear Alma Matter, we pledge to thee,
In work and play, our loyalty;
High shall our flag fly, stainless pass,
From us to those who follow us.

3. Where'er we come from north or south
From foreign land or from the town,
Where'er we go, how'er we live,
In quiet seclusion or renown;
We never can forget the years
We spend within thy kindly walls;
We'll carry with us everywhere
The spirit that imbued thy halls.

Final Double Refrain:

From Fireland to desert plain,
From mountains to the sea,
We raise our voice in unison
In thanks and praise to thee;

Dear Alma Matter, we pledge to thee,
In work and play, our loyalty;
High shall our flag fly, stainless pass,
From us to those who follow us.

Words: Betty Danson

Music Adapted by: Abduli Bath

Santiago College Song

You are the college beautiful,

Pride of the S.C. band,

And we are duly dutiful,

Loyal heart and hand.

We full allegiance tender you,

Alma Mater dear,

And true devotion render you,

Whether far or near.

SA---SAN---TI---AGO

Santiago, Santiago, Santiago RAH!

S.C we truly love you,

There's none above you,

Old S.C

You are the College royal

And we are loyal.

Old SC

We would be ever near your,

Defended and cheer your,

Old S.C

Here's to your name,

Here's to your fame,

Old S.C

San---ti---ago

That's a place for me,

San---ti---ago

There I long to be,

Every time I hear the bell

Go ting--- a ling,

I know it means to start

To do some other thing.

Oh'...yes...in

San---ti---ago

Everything is fine,

All the children laughing

All the time,

You may think us slow...

But we know...

The meaning of the word "GO"

San---ti---ago

We love you so!

Father Almighty, Bless Us

Father Almighty, bless us with Thy Blessing,
Answer in love Thy children's supplications;
Hear Thou our prayer, spoken and unspoken;
Hear us, our Father.

Shepherd of souls, who bringest all who seek Thee,
To pastures green, beside the peaceful waters,
Tenderest Guide, in ways of cheerful duty,
Lead us, good Shepherd.

Father of mercy, from Thy watch and keeping,
No place can part, nor hour or time remove us;
Give us Thy good, and save us from our evil,

Amén