

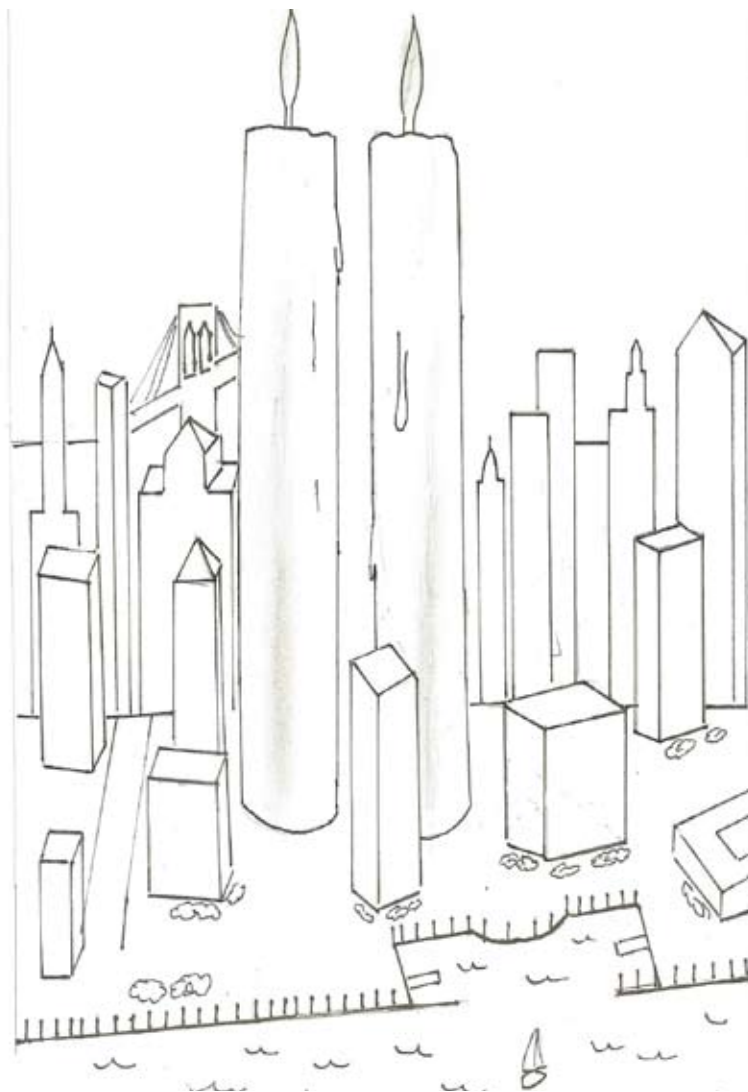
9/11 Hits Home: A Remembrance of San Marin Alumni Affected by the Tragedy

by Lauren Bollinger

Illustration by Lauren Bollinger

September 11: a date that is forever etched in our nation's psyche. While many at San Marin realize the day's significance as the deadliest terrorist attack in American history, many lack a personal connection to the event, so it remains distant, like a reoccurring nightmare that returns every September. However, out of the nearly 3,000 Americans that lost their lives that day, the casualties included two fellow Mustangs: John 'Jack' Keohane (Class of '78) and Paul Sloan (Class of '93).

Born in Denver, Colorado on July 30, 1975, Paul Sloan lived in Houston, Texas before moving to the Bay Area in 1981. Despite these frequent relocations, he and his family adjusted quite well in the Novato community. At San Marin, Sloan excelled both academically, being Senior Class Vice-President and Honor student, and athletically, playing offensive lineman for the Varsity Football team. His coach Mr. Zechlin said Sloan was "the antithesis of a dumb jock" and achieved many awards, including All-League and All-Bay Area honors as one of the top linemen in Northern California. Described by friends as a "sweet, driven" man, Sloan was "full of contradictions... he was a sensitive warrior and a humble hero." Zechlin agrees, describing him as a "very down-to-earth, normal, intelligent guy off the field but when he played, he was a tough cookie." Sloan continued his athletic career at Brown University, where he played offensive lineman and was awarded the University's Football Team Award in 1996, for being the senior with the "highest scholastic standing for the first seven semesters." After graduating with a History degree in 1997, Sloan worked in San Francisco before moving to New York City six months before the 9/11 attacks. Located on the 89th floor of the World Trade Center's South Tower, Sloan's office was only five floors above United Airlines Flight 175's point of impact. Unfortunately, like most 9/11 victims, firefighters were unable to recover a body. He was only 26.



America commemorated those lost on 9/11

Like Paul, John 'Jack' Keohane also had a transient childhood. After living in San Bruno, California, Keohane and his family moved to Novato, where he attended Sinaloa Middle School and San Marin High. Graduating in 1978, he was a speaker at graduation. Described by friends as charismatic, Keohane was "disarming; you saw him and you wanted to talk to him." He put his social and public speaking skills to good use, attending Sacramento State University and the McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento. After living in Pennsylvania, he moved to New York to be a lawyer for a successful Swiss

insurance company, Zurich, U.S. Located at One Liberty Plaza, a skyscraper adjacent to the Twin Towers, Keohane was shaken from his office desk to find his beloved city a disaster zone. He quickly evacuated to a nearby street and met up with his partner of 17 years, Mike Lyons, who worked nearby. Staring in horror at the burning towers, Keohane called his mother in Petaluma. "Mom, I'm safe," he assured her, and remarked that a "third plane" just hit the towers. But it wasn't a third plane, but the sound of the North Tower collapsing. As the building fell apart, Keohane and Lyons ran for cover from the cloud of smoke and debris that was headed their way. As the dust settled, Lyons realized that he escaped without harm but his partner wasn't so lucky. After a 3-day search of local morgues and hospitals, his family was informed that Keohane's name was on the coroner's report. Thankful for the recovery of her brother's body, Darlene Keohane remarked that Keohane was "just this ordinary kind of hero, calling his mother to let us know he was okay."

Though many know of the newly constructed 9/11 memorial on Ground Zero, many are unaware of similar memorial located on San Marin's campus. Built in 2002, a flagpole, memorial plaque, and commemorative bench were constructed

next to the track and football field for all at San Marin to honor both Sloan and Keohane. A brick initiative was launched in March to enhance the memorial. In order to honor these, who both lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, a memorial was established in 2002 near the to honor these men. The site currently consists of a beautiful flagpole next to the track and football field. Plans are currently underway to add commemorative bricks to the site as well. If you wish to buy a brick for the memorial, call 892-3585 or check out the Facebook page.

Remembering Mrs. Fung

by Rachel DeFilippis

Many students at San Marin found themselves in a state of shock when they heard the news of Mrs. Julie Fung's unexpected death. In a strong show of support, the students turned to Facebook to share their feelings and to seek comfort for the passing of the beloved teacher. The "We Believe Mrs. Fung" page was put together after cervical cancer took her life this past August. Filled with words of love, thanks and inspiration, this online memorial only scratches the surface of Mrs. Fung's special bond with each individual. Although Fung may be physically gone, she will forever be in the hearts of her students.

"Mrs. Fung was a role model. She was inspiring and the nicest person I have ever met," said Sophomore Damon Moore, who had Fung as a 7th grade teacher. He continues to smile as he explained, "my favorite memory was when our class made the Fung Rap." Fung was known for her humor and how she could personally relate to each student. "I will definitely miss being able to go back and visit her," 11th grader Shay Stubblefield added. When Olivia Murillo was asked about her Fung memories, she had a tough time picking one but said, "Mrs. Fung

crowned me Queen of the M&Ms once!"

Mrs. Fung's standout personality taught all of her students to have fun while making a difference. At Fung's remembrance service, fellow teacher Jill Heyer spoke a final goodbye message to her best friend. "Julie Fung, you are irreplaceable in my life and the lives of your family, friends and students. Your humor and joy and love have blossomed in countless people and we are better and stronger for it. You taught us all to believe and inspire. You had many blessings, and you are a blessing."



Anthony Giusti, Michael Power, and Ricky McCloskey speak about Mrs. Fung

Students gathered to commemorate their beloved teacher



An altar constructed by students