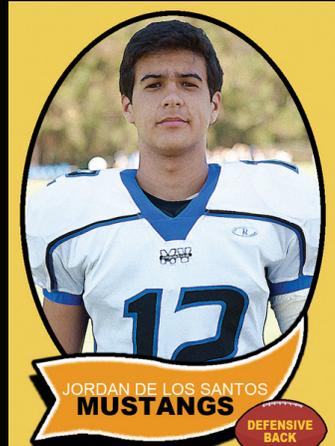
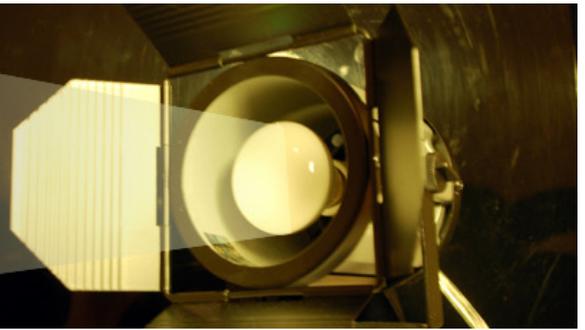


# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



## Alumni Spotlight: Jordan De Los Santos '12

Current MVC Digital Art teacher Jordan De Los Santos '12 likes a challenge. "Don't ever tell me I can't do something, because that just means I'll figure out a way to prove you wrong." He can look back and see that mindset taking shape in his high school years, during which he would no sooner finish challenging courses than sign up for the next year's even more difficult version. The challenges kept coming after that, and Jordan's can-do attitude continued to serve him well. His MVC college preparation equipped him to blaze new ground for his family as a first-generation college student. Four years at Azusa Pacific University culminated in a Communications Studies degree in 2016.

Post-college, Jordan decided to take up the challenge of starting a business, honing in on one of his father's many entrepreneurial ideas. He focused on a prototype of what is now known as a REFLEX Brand wallet, took a leap of faith, and co-launched the venture with his dad. A year and a half later, their wallets can be found in seven different retail stores in five states and the company REFLEX Brand is turning a profit.

As if launching an online business wasn't enough, Jordan also found himself navigating his first year of teaching - right back here at his alma mater. The opportunity to teach both graphic design and videography was "not something [he] saw coming," but once again, he rose to the challenge.

Having had the fortunate experience of participating in a design internship with an elite networking company called PTTOW! during his final year at Azusa, Jordan was inspired to bring "real world design" experiences into the classroom. A highlight of his year thus far has been orchestrating the opportunity for his graphic design classes to work on branding projects for two local companies - a Watsonville coffee bag producer with over \$1 million in annual sales and a San Jose muscle car shop. For each of these "clients," Jordan's students have been developing marketing/branding materials including logos, websites, color palettes/tones, and overall design packages.

*"My classroom has become a design studio of sorts, with free-flowing collaboration and student-ownership of products that will truly have an impact in the marketplace."*

- continued -

Looking back at his own four years as a student at MVC, Jordan readily points to teacher relationships that shaped both the person and the teacher that he is today. His engaging and challenging World History course taught by current High School Dean, Josh Davis, provided not only a great example to emulate, but a long term relationship with a mentor who still encourages his growth - academically and spiritually. He also distinctly remembers being challenged by Laramie Holtzclaw '96, and notes that "you don't get the full MVC experience unless you take at least one class with Mr. Holtzclaw. He was the first person to ever tell me that my writing was terrible; but by the end of the year, I passed the AP exam so clearly he helped me do something about it."

*"Looking back at high school, I realize teachers like Josh and Laramie demanded excellence in the classroom, but also had a unique way of weaving spiritual truth into their courses that was unexpected and unassuming. They challenged their students to approach ideas and philosophies with a spiritual lens."*

As Jordan moved into college and beyond, he says that it became clear how important it was to establish his own biblical worldview, observing life through a spiritual lens. This is something he desires to pass on to his students, as he also challenges them to pursue excellence in their work.

Jordan points to the college preparatory nature of his MVC education as another huge influence in his life path.

*"At Monte Vista, even though I would be the first in my family to do so, there was no doubt in my mind that college was next. Students see themselves as academically excellent and believe that they can, and will, get into college. To be at a school that encourages this kind of thinking is huge. Just like the mission statement says, MVC really does equip students to achieve their highest potential."*

Looking ahead, Jordan sees a bright future - for himself in his teaching, for the growth of REFLEX Brand, and for Monte Vista.

*"As someone who studied organizational leadership in college, I've seen some really positive things [in MVC's administration.] I'm excited to see what they're bringing and the direction we're all moving in together."*

Thankfully, building a bright future for MVC is yet another challenge for which Jordan De Los Santos is ready.

