

Inside

ST. BENEDICT S DINNER: A FAMILY AFFAIR
 BENEDICTINE VOLUNTEERS
 ALUMNI COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Leadmasters

Report

SPRING 2010

DEAR FELLOW ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS,



SEEING OUR
 NEW BLOCK
 SCHEDULE TAKE
 HOLD AND
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 KIDS HAS BEEN
 GRATIFYING.

The degree of shared sacrifice that all in our school family are embracing this year strikes me as extraordinary. It's much in the news these days that teachers in New Jersey are being asked to consider a salary freeze for the year ahead. We came into this year having already committed ourselves to doing that. We also cut our costs by a significant amount - over \$600,000 in round numbers. Going to a "block schedule enabled us to realize some savings in our teaching staff, while giving us the means to preserve the integrity of instruction. This means classes of extended time, approximately 80 minutes of individual class, which creates new challenges for all teachers, from our most veteran to the newest. Seeing our new block schedule take hold and work for the kids has been gratifying. One hoped for benefit: We have more students on the honor roll.

All year we have also engaged as a full community in the thorough self-inspection demanded of schools as they prepare for a new Middle States Accreditation visit. That means a new set of demands on the time and energy of our teachers on top of an already crowded schedule of classes and meetings with students. As we near the end of some of the major sub-committee work, I can say that we have managed the process quite well. It has given yet another chance for some younger teachers to learn more about school traditions and history and practical matters very quickly; it has also provided more regular opportunity for interaction on serious matters of mission and purpose.

From decades of service, we have become more aware of our obligation to share what we have learned with others. So we have

joined with a relatively new national consortium of "Schools that Can," which has brought together several dozen schools from major cities across the country that have as their common purpose preparing minority students as effectively as possible for success in college. It comprises community schools, some charter schools and independent schools, all of whom are not affiliated with some larger sponsoring body, such as the highly-publicized KIPP charter schools. We are serving as a co-chair of the national conference to be held in Newark in May. A number of leading practitioners in urban education will participate.

Another providential sign for us is the return of Didier Jean Baptiste '86 who has come back to our development office following five years practicing law in NYC. As we work each day to generate the resources we need to provide for our students, his wide-ranging talents and solid experience will be great assets.

Spring invariably brings good college admissions news to our seniors. This year is no different. At this date we know that five are admitted to Lehigh, four to Boston College, three to Holy Cross and Lafayette, two to Rensselaer, with one each at Bates, Bowdoin, Columbia, and Georgetown. Several will go to Rutgers. We are confident that all our seniors will have good choices by graduation on June 6.

We appreciate the steady supply of gifts and encouragement and prayer from all our alumni and friends, near and far, that allows all of this good work to go on year after year. For all of us, I thank you.

Edwi D. Deely, Jr.

ST. BENEDICT'S DINNER a Family Affair

The 2010 St. Benedict's Dinner on May 13 will have a family feel as have many of our most successful annual dinners. Those to be honored have shown by their remarkable and devoted service on our Board and to our larger community that they are especially deserving of recognition with the Medal of St. Benedict's. Members of our Board, Ken Boehl H 97, Bob DiQuollo 65, and Hon. Claude Coleman, and his spouse Barbara Bell Coleman will be honored that evening. Board Chairman, Bill Connolly H 91, announced the honorees at the most recent Board meeting.

Ken Boehl and Bob DiQuollo have both given their substantial talents and extraordinary time to St. Benedict's financial management over the past fifteen years. Ken's efforts began when he was part of a team offered by MBNA America in the early 90s to help re-vamp our business office for more effective financial management. His work has continued through

direct involvement on our finance committee and most recently as head of our Development Committee. Bob, who is President of Brinton Eaton Wealth Advisors in Madison, is a more recent helper as a vice-chair of our Board and its critical Finance Committee. But his involvement with us reaches back to his years as the Gray Bee wrestling coach while still an undergrad at Seton Hall. Both Ken and Bob bring deep experience as accountants and financial managers to their devoted service to St. Benedict's.

Both Claude and Barbara Bell Coleman could be considered among Newark's most active and distinguished public citizens. Claude may be the only person in recent history to have served the City of Newark as both Director of the Fire Department and Director of the Police Department, beginning under Mayor Ken Gibson. He has since served New Jersey as a Superior Court Judge in Essex County. He has also been heavily involved in mentoring programs for Newark's youngsters. His wife, Barbara Bell Coleman, served for

years in revitalizing Newark's Boys' and Girls' Clubs, and later as a key executive at the Amelior Foundation, a philanthropy of Ray Chambers. Most recently she has been in the forefront, working with Essex County Executive Joe DiVincenzo, and corporate and community leaders, to restore and renew Branch Brook Park. She has also played an active role on the Women's Board of NJPAC.

The annual dinner has provided over \$250,000 each year toward the school's current scholarship fund, which assists over two-thirds of our present students. Bill Connolly observed that those dinners with such a "strong family focus" have been among our most successful as well as most thoroughly enjoyable. – PT ■

Information about the dinner is on the school website: www.sbp.org; for reservations or other details about supporting the event, please contact Candace Bradsher at candaceb@sbp.org or 973-792-5752.

Photo by Noreen Connolly



Standing from left:
Jake Barnes, Michael
Hawking, Patrick Hayes
and Will Gilbert.
Seated: Carl Andersen

They are barely five years older than the students they work with and none has ever lived or worked in an urban setting. But the five Benedictine volunteers who joined the faculty this year have provided invaluable help not only to the students here but also to the teachers who are working within the limits of a tightened budget and the challenges of the block schedule.

Jake Barnes, Will Gilbert and Patrick Hayes, all recent graduates of St. John's College in Minnesota, and Michael Hawking, Notre Dame '09 joined the St. Benedict's community for the first phase in late July. Carl Andersen, another Notre Dame graduate, arrived for the fall-winter phase in September. St. Benedict's has never hosted this many volunteers before and these five had their work cut out for them from the beginning.

Much like Teach for America volunteers, the five were elevated to demanding teaching positions very quickly. They have taught life science, physical science, music, economics, civics and more. When teachers were sick or absent, they were the substitutes. Jake Barnes was an assistant wrestling coach and helped out with the Drama Guild in the fall; Carl Andersen coached seventh and eighth grade basketball and is the assistant baseball coach; Pat Hayes has directed the choir; Will Gilbert helped coach water polo. They tutored kids

Volunteers Tackle Teaching

Be sure to visit our website www.sbp.org for frequent updates on news at the Hive.



Alumni Communion Breakfast

The Alumni Association welcomed two new honorary alumni and one honorary alumna and honored two for distinguished service to the community at the annual Alumni Communion Breakfast. School nurse Regina Blackwell, college guidance counselor Tony Carnahan and Fr. Paul Taylor O.S.B., the Executive Director of St. Vincent Archabbey Educational Apostolates and Endowment are all now honorary members of the Class of 2010.

Psychologist Matthias Hagovsky, Ph.D. '60 was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus and long-time wrestling coach and athletic director, Mike DiPiano Sr. '82 was honored for Distinguished Service.

Photo by Michael Scanlan

Winter Sports Wrap Up

THE BASKETBALL TEAM wrapped up its season on a 16-game winning streak, capped with a 66-37 victory over Forest Hills of New York during Senior Night on Feb. 18 in Dalton Gymnasium. Coach Dan Hurley's team, which posted a 20-1 record and finished ranked No. 4 nationally by both ESPN and USA Today, was led all season by the Texas-bound Myck Kabongo (18 points per game), Rutgers-signee Gilvydas Biruta (10.8 points per game.), Temple-commit Aaron Brown (11.7 points per game) and Mike Poole (10.8 points per game.).

THE INDOOR TRACK & FIELD TEAM followed victories in the Essex County Relays and the New Jersey Catholic Conference Championships by winning the State Prep Championships on Feb. 17. Sprinter Martin Otieno, who will attend Lehigh, led the charge in the Preps by claiming the 55- and 200-meter dashes, while Ryan Rhodes captured the shot put title and Kenyon Wright won the high jump.

THE WRESTLING TEAM concluded its first season under the direction of Solomon Fleckman with a 13-10 record. Highlights for individuals came in the National Prep Championships at Lehigh University when UDIIs Chris Dowdy and Bobby Bah, along with senior Riad Abu-Smail, each earned distinction as a National Place -winner by placing in the Top 8 of their respective weight classes. Dowdy had a runner-up finish at 135 pounds, Bah placed eighth at 152 and Abu-Smail came in sixth at 215. Rob Ranalli was the lone state Prep Champion for the Gray Bees, winning the 140-pound title.

THE SWIMMING AND FENCING TEAMS saw dramatic improvements this season. The swimming team placed third in the Prep championships behind UDII Gio Urquilla, who earlier this season became the first swimmer to win a county title since Olympic Gold medalist Cullen Jones in 2002, and seniors Courtney Mosley, Mike Ciociola, Ian Brown and Yomi Onadipe. The fencing team placed second in the state Prep Championships as senior Rodrigo Bergamasco (Epee) and junior Idris Mitchell (Sabre) placed third in their individual weapons. Coach Jeff Austin's fencers went 8-4 on the year. – RJ ■

and hung out with them, played group games and went to students' meets and matches. In short, they became full members of a community that demands intense participation from everyone.

Despite the difficulties that come with the first year of teaching, Jake said that teaching was the most gratifying part of his volunteer experience. "Every minute I spend in the classroom, I am doing the work I came here to do and it is brilliant," he said. Being with the Benedict's students was also important to Mike, "The best part of my volunteer year has been getting to know many of the Benedict's guys and having the chance to hear their stories; hanging out in room 42 after school."

When they leave Benedict's after graduation in June, the volunteers will go in various directions. Carl and Mike will return to the Midwest to go to medical school and Jake will go to law school in the Twin Cities area. Pat and Will have not yet firmed up their plans. – NC ■

DRAMA GUILD



The Drama Guild, under the direction of Pat Flynn H95, produced Larry Shue's *The Foreigner*, March 18-21 in Conlin Auditorium. A comedy set in a run-down lodge in rural Georgia revolves around the antics of two guests, Englishmen Charlie Baker and his friend, Staff Sgt. Froggy LeSeure. Charlie, who pretends to be a non-English-speaking foreigner who brings excitement to the mundane life at the lodge, was played masterfully by William Brown. Froggy was played by Christopher Owen. Fine performances Casey Hauck, Justin Motley, Brandon Bickeroo, Mark Hawthorne, Zakee Conte-Smith, Nolan Edmondson, Zachary Smith and Anthony Rodriguez added to the hilarity. The set, built by a crew of students, was, as always, of professional caliber.

Photo by Michael Scanlan

In Memoriam

We have received word that these alumni, family members and friends of alumni have died.

Joseph A. Robrecht, Jr. '41

Richard E. Nelson '46

Philip C. Rotondo '46

Joseph P. Grum '47

Bernice Hawkins

Mother of James '87 and Will '88 Barnes-Hawkins

James J. Healy '48

Thomas A. Daley, Jr. '50

Thomas F. Daly '53

Father of James '83

Dan Davie '59

Barton "Barry" F. Reynolds '61

Kevin Laughna '71

Brother of Mike '68 and Pat '70

Edmund N. Carpenter II

Friend of Newark Abbey/St. Benedict's Prep

Barbara Cawley

Wife of Charles E. Cawley '71

Margaret Mary (Flynn) Decker

Mother of Mark '70

Bernice Doherty

Wife of Eugene '45, Mother of Brian '66

Colette Marie Liddy

Mother of Michael Liddy

Annual Giving Director

Arlene McCullen

Wife of John McCullen '56

Albert J. Anton, Jr. H'82

Father of Chris Anton '81 and Tom Anton '82

Rev. John P. Nickas

Friend of Newark Abbey/St. Benedict's Prep

Br. Gereon Reuter, OSB

Monk of Newark Abbey/Faculty

of St. Benedict's Prep

Most Rev. Michael A. Saltarelli, D.D.

Bishop of Diocese of Wilmington, DE

Friend of Newark Abbey/St. Benedict's Prep

A sympathy card has been sent to each bereaved family in the name of the St. Benedict's family-alumni, students, faculty, staff, and monks—promising our prayers and a special remembrance at the monks' daily conventual mass.

Reunions

Class of 50 – 60th Reunion

June 11, 2010 at

The Breakers, Spring Lake, N.J.

Class of 60 – 50th Reunion

June 4-6, 2010

Class of 85 – 25th Reunion

June 4-6, 2010

Class of 90 – 20th Reunion

June 5, 2010

All classes from 1987-1993 are invited

Classes of 65 & 70 – TBA

Class of 95 – TBA

Class of 2000 – June 4-5, 2010

Reunion Picnic – June 5, 2010

12-5pm at St. Benedict's **for all classes**

Senior Alumni Luncheon

June 11, 2010 at The Breakers, Spring Lake, NJ for **alumni who graduated 50 years ago or more**

For more information contact

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candaceb@sbp.org or

973-792-5752.



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