

St. Benedict's Prep

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 38 ISSUE I

SUMMER 2010



GRADUATION

The heat did not seem to diminish the fervor that the Class of 2010 and its families brought to the prayer service in St. Mary's Church that preceded the 136th graduation ceremony Sunday June 6. The 120 graduates, the largest group since the school reopened, prayed and sang along with family, faculty and monks before entering Conlin Auditorium for the presentation of the diplomas by Abbot Melvin Valvano O.S.B., Headmaster, Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B., Chairman of the Board of Trustees, William H. Connolly, Jr.

This year's three valedictorians, Rodrigo Bergamasco, Preston Fletcher and Nicholas Yulan and Senior Group Leader, Nigil Whyte spoke to the graduates as did commencement speaker Lt. Col. Allen West (U.S. Army, Retired).

Nick Yulan spoke for the entire class when he said, "Our alma mater helped us grow, mature and become strong, kind and humble Benedict's men."

Campaign Fund 2010

In great St. Benedict's style, our donors, led by our alumni, made up in generous spirit what we may have lacked in extraordinary gifts in this year's campaign. But the tempo of giving made for a breathless finish, as fully one quarter of all gifts for this year's July to June campaign came in June. The end result was remarkable nonetheless, as our 2220 donors provided just over \$4 million for current support through our annual campaign.

The most surprising statistics in this year's efforts come from the increased levels of participation from all our individual alumni and friends. We received gifts from 20% more donors this year than last from all

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FROM THE HEADMASTER



Emotions always run high at school at graduation time. This year that was more true than ever. We experienced a year of fine work, with some exceptional achievements and mature leadership from the young men of our graduating senior class. For a couple of months now, we have been announcing the college opportunities that they earned with their steady effort, so much of that is already known. One mark of their strong class is that more young men than usual were

nominated for the President's Award. I'm happy to say that their fine example continued through to the end of the year, and all of that led up to an especially enjoyable and very moving graduation ceremony.

Mixed in with the celebrations of the Class of 2010, we enjoyed the reunions of several classes over that weekend, including one group always special to me, the class of 1960, which gathered for their 50th reunion. These men were seniors when I was a lowly freshman, so I spent my earliest days at St. Benedict's learning about the school and what it expected from watching these men and, quite literally, looking up to almost all of them. They have been among our most loyal and engaged alumni, starting with my monastic confrere and school "architect," Fr. Albert, and including psychologists, physicians, lawyers and businessmen, who have responded whenever called upon to help us in a host of ways through the years. Several serve on our Board of Trustees and on Alumni Board of Directors. To add to that generous record of service, the men in this class raised an extraordinary total of \$551,485 this year for their 50th reunion gift to St. Benedict's. This did more than break all the records we keep for such efforts; it added even more luster to the great regard we all have for this fine group of men for their devotion and loyalty. As they joined with our newest graduates, and the men from 1985, who joined as our 25th reunion class in commencement for the first time, we realized once more how faithful they have been to the pledge expressed in our alma mater:

"Thy sons forever more are we, ever dear St. Benedict's."

Our school year ended with a great display of the vitality and creativity of our students and faculty in the presentations given to culminate project phase - the varied endeavors we call "projects" pursued by all students during the month of May. These again ranged from the Backpack project required of all freshmen, to Downtown Clowns to gardening and videography, and special, enhanced issues both the Benedict News and our literary magazine, the Kayrix, which overflowed with photos and art along with strong writing. Our returning students and our faculty earned a well-deserved "summer break" - lasting until the start of "First Term" on July 26.

Edwin D. Deely '61

SAVE THE DATE

Dear 1961 Classmates: June 5, 2011 marks the 50th anniversary of our graduation from Saint Benedict's. We are in the planning stage for our class reunion, which will occur on the weekend of Friday, June 3rd, to Sunday, June 5th, 2011. As we have in prior reunion years, we intend to have a "classmates only" event and a dinner dance on Friday and Saturday.

Father Edwin has invited us to participate in the graduation ceremony on Sunday, June 5th, which will include awarding golden diplomas in remembrance of our 50th anniversary. So please - save the date.

Sincerely,

Peter V. Ryan '61

On Behalf of the
Reunion Committee

6th Annual Garden State Coaches Clinic at SBP

Friday, September 24, 2010

For information go to www.sbp.org

St. Benedict's Prep NEWSLETTER

is published twice a year by the Development Office.

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Visit our Website

All of our current publications and lots of other news are posted on our Website, which is updated almost daily. Be sure to visit it to hear the latest word from the Hive.

ST. BENEDICT'S PREP

<http://www.sbp.org>

NEWARK ABBEY

<http://www.newarkabbey.org>

How do I get my Good News to my classmates?

Please send your information
for Class Notes to:

The SBP Alumni Office
520 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd.
Newark, New Jersey 07102
973-792-5752
or by e-mail at
graybee@sbp.org

Campaign 2010 *continued from page 1*

groups, headed by our alumni. Our alumni participated overall at a level beyond that of recent years, with 34% of our reachable alumni participating. The most remarkable feature of that effort was the great response of the men from the class of 1960, who celebrated their 50th reunion with an outpouring of generosity amounting to \$551,485, including an anonymous \$25,000 challenge that helped push them over their \$500,000 goal. They set a new record for a 50th reunion class, one which would be impressive among any prep schools.

Participation by alumni from the 80's and 90's increased by 44% compared to last year. Their collective giving enabled us to meet the challenge offered again by our friends in the New Hampshire Charitable Fund, yielding an additional \$25,000 for the annual campaign. The most impressive class of this era was 1983, which reached a tough-to-beat 63% participation rate. Faculty member and performance artist Rafael Sanchez '96 inspired a groundswell of support from the '90 and '00 decades and fellow faculty when he pledged to dance on May 7 one minute for every donor from the classes of 1989-2009. Raf collaborated with Reverend Winstead, whose music has roused many students to life at Convocation since 1989, to create the soundtrack for his fundraiser. Raf's 189 continuous minutes of dancing drew Spring Phase classes to Shanley Gym in a school-wide show of solidarity.

While the dollar totals for current support this year could not surpass those of 2009 with results that were swelled by two extraordinary one-time gifts from the Oprah Winfrey Foundation and from an anonymous benefactor moved by the fidelity of the monks to this



Class of 1960 Reunion committee members, Charlie Villano (center) and Joe Locascio, present Fr. Edwin a check for \$500,000 as the 50th Reunion Gift at the Saturday night class dinner in the SBP café.

mission, the tremendous enthusiasm and broad-based support from all who gave this year provided the critical level of \$4 million in support we needed. That's a wonderful accomplishment for which we thank everyone who responded, including more than a few who noted that even if they had to "cut back" some, or had to choose not to respond to all the other worthy appeals they received this year, they had to continue helping St. Benedict's. Deo Gratias. PT ■



Raf Sanchez' one-man "Dance for Donations Marathon" was a complete, but exhausting, success in Shanley Gymnasium the morning of May 7 and into the afternoon. St. Benedict's and Sanchez, the 1996 Presidential Award winner, would personally like to thank the nearly 200 donors who raised in excess of \$6,000 to aid his cause in helping promote the future of The Hive.

A WORD WITH DIDIER JEAN-BAPTISTE

Questions our managing editor posed to Didier Jean-Baptiste '86 about returning to work at St. Benedict's

Would you talk about why you returned to the Hive after practicing law — how it happened?

Fr. Edwin and Paul Thornton have always been open about saying that despite their enduring youthful looks and energy, they looked to many of us who work at St. Benedict's now to eventually take ownership of the school that has been their life-long mission. I understood that because of my 15 years working with both current students and alumni, coupled with my own years as a student at St. Benedict's, they were looking to me to remain involved in the work of the development office. So when I left St. Benedict's in 2005 I said to Fr. Ed and Paul that it wasn't a permanent departure, and I meant it. I'd worked at St. Benedict's since literally the week after I graduated from college and wanted to experience the work world from somewhere other than 520 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, but I had a gut sense even in May 2005 that it would be tough to find work that meant as much to me as my work at St. Benedict's and a group of people that I enjoyed working with as much as the students, staff and alumni of St. Benedict's.

Paul made sure that I remained involved in the school by asking me to join the Board, while Fr. Edwin, who is not above seizing on any sense of weakness, would always say things like, "Have you had enough yet?" and "Don't you think there are enough lawyers already?" and "We're not getting any younger here" whenever we'd meet at an alumni event and would tap into the sentiments and sense of responsibility I have for St. Benedict's.

After four years of working in the commercial real estate departments of Kaye Scholer LLP and Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP in New



Didier Jean-Baptiste '86 returned to St. Benedict's in February as Associate Director of Development.

York City, I'd experienced what I'd wanted to experience working outside of St. Benedict's, and during a particularly difficult stretch at Akin Gump last November Fr. Edwin jabbed again. He happened to ask my good friend and former Dean of Faculty, Keith Corpus, what I was doing, which I knew implied more than that. Keith relayed the message to me, and I decided it was time to leave an environment where I felt interchangeable to return to an environment where I felt I had a unique skill set and knowledge base that was valued.

What is your role now?

One of my primary roles now is to continue to re-engage the alumni who graduated after the school's reopening in 1973. We want input from these men on the direction the school should take, we need their presence in the lives of today's students, and we need their financial support.

Many have suggested restarting the Headmaster's Leadership Council, which was a group of graduates from the '70's, 80's and '90's, who for a few years in the early part of the last decade met regularly to discuss current events at the school with Fr. Edwin and to plan opportunities for their classmates to come and speak to students about such topics as leadership, changing one's reputation during one's years at St. Benedict's, and careers.

Since I returned in the middle of an academic and fiscal year, the most logical thing for me to dive into was organizing a cadre of class agents that would help drum up support for the 2009-2010 Annual Fund as we neared the end of the fiscal year. I think we were successful with the classes that we targeted, which were about half of the classes from 1980 through 2009. With those good volunteers now in place, I hope to focus my energies to accomplish the same thing with those classes we did not have the time to focus on this year. How my role will evolve from there is something that the Board, Fr. Edwin, Paul, Kevin Moore '64 (see class notes) and I will discuss as we plan how best to structure the development office to face the challenges ahead.

What are the development challenges you want to address?

The looming challenge we all see is that after the school reopened the sizes of the graduating classes were much smaller than had been the case up to 1972. Right now we are fortunate to have a large alumni body, but in the next few decades, the size of the alumni body will shrink considerably.

We must communicate this reality to our recent alumni and hope that they understand that the giant weight of keeping St. Benedict's affordable will be shifted from those large pre-'72 classes to them.

To shoulder that alumni responsibility a large percentage of each of these smaller classes will need to get involved, and the school will need to help them by finding ways to expand its circle of additional outside helpers.

Will you be working with the students?

My 11 years of teaching were some of the most rewarding in my life. I'm always surprised by teachers elsewhere who say that

students are not grateful and that it sometimes takes decades to get the feeling that you've made a difference. My personal experience has been that Benedict's students — maybe because of the level of interaction among students and teachers here — make it abundantly clear just how much they appreciate what faculty do for them, and, even those who don't often stop by one day shortly after graduation and exhibit a maturity that makes you realize that all that we teach here has sunk in and has been put into practice after graduation and helped shape the individual.

On another level, one of the reasons I enjoy working in the development office so much is that when I write a letter or pick up the phone to call someone, I'm usually communicating with someone whom I know personally, either through interactions in the classroom, or working with them on the tennis team, the track team, the Student Alumni Association, or the drama guild. I'd like to maintain that same sort of relationship with the guys who will be graduating in the future. I think this can only help when trying to explain to them why we need their involvement.

How has it been — returning?

It's been a lot of fun coming back. I've received so many kind words of welcome from my colleagues and from alumni. Again, it's nice to feel appreciated as an individual and, to mix metaphors, feel like I can have a big impact in our small pond that is The Hive. I was afraid that after five years I would be rusty with names and faces and with the ability to write and speak passionately about St. Benedict's, precisely because I hadn't been getting my hands dirty and interacting with its students. There are undoubtedly more occasions where I have to ask alumni — even some former students whom I haven't seen in a few years — to remind me of their names, but when one morning within the first couple of weeks of my return I woke up at 4:30am because I had an idea for the fundraising letter I had to write to my class in my capacity as class agent and banged the letter out before heading to work, I knew that I was back in the saddle and that that blurring of the line between home life and work life that I'd so enjoyed when I worked at St. Benedict's before had returned. As it was before, St. Benedict's is just my second home, not my job. ■

1953

Dick Hester '53 reports that classmate Fr. Paul Longua is recovering from an accident. Mr. Hester asks classmates to keep Fr. Paul in their prayers. On a personal note, Dick says, "I was just blessed with my 49th grand-child, and my 50th is due in August, the good Lord willing."

1960

Editor's note: We received many submissions for the class of 1960 50th anniversary "remembrance" booklet. We've reproduced as much of that material, in edited form, as space permitted for the newsletter. We intend to have full versions of their recollections, including their "most memorable Benedict's experience" on our website (www.sbp.org) later this summer.

Stephen Adik writes that he retired in 2003 as Vice Chairman of Northern Indiana Public Service/NiSource Inc. in Indiana. Currently he serves on a number of not-for-profit boards in Indiana. His wife, Vicki, is a docent at the Art Institute of Chicago. They

enjoy traveling extensively, especially to California where they have one grandchild. About his time at The Hive, he says, "I owe much of my life experience to my years at St. Benedict's...I look back fondly on...the patient and caring guidance of the faculty."

Matthew Bocchino, a retired elementary school principal in Livingston, N.J., suffered a five-week long coma and when he came out, he vowed to travel the world as long as he could. Of his 50 "must see" places, he has now visited 45.

Tom Brothers went to Seton Hall after St. Benedict's, when he "started working part-time at UPS, stayed with them after graduation, went into management in August 1965, and retired 30 years later. It was a great company to work for, gave me lots of responsibility and rewarded me generously for the 'unusual effort' all management people put out. Now Patty and I 'summer' at the Jersey Shore and 'winter' in Hobe Sound, FL (kind of snooty?) I golf, read, and do some other things too. I also still support the Anheuser Busch Foundation. Any success I've had I owe to my parents, my wife, my company and my high school. I'll never forget the Gray Bees at the Hive.

Mickey Brown recalls that "Br. Michael always made us have a fever when you weren't prepared for class on how to make a weight."

Paul Cafone retired from PSE&G after 40 years. He and wife Diane live in Nutley and have two sons and four grandchildren.

Pete Cahill tells us that "all four years were memorable. My closest friends of today are those cultivated at Benedict's."

Anthony Campillo, who lives in Virginia, retired in 2007 from the Naval Research lab in Washington D.C. where he worked on various aspects of the Defense Department optics and lasers. He currently works part-time at the Optical Society of America, where he is helping to develop several news publication products. His career in science was particularly rewarding, he says, and his enthusiasm rubbed off on his youngest son who is perusing a PhD, as an optics researcher. He and his wife Elizabeth have eight grandchildren and they all live nearby.

Jim Cusumano has combined his "two vastly disparate passions, chemistry and rock 'n roll, into a journey through five professional lives linked by technology,

entertainment, and business." Principal business success was in building Catalytica Pharmaceuticals into a 2000 person public company. Two years after the death of his wife, Jane, a screenplay writer and film producer and director, who won the "Best Director" Award from the NY Film Festival for her first feature, "What Matters Most," he married Inez, a friend of friends from the Czech Republic, and has worked with her to restore a run-down 17th century castle outside of Prague into a 5-star hotel and spa, www.ChateauMcelly.com. He now writes on technology and business and occasionally performs at "oldies" concerts in the Czech Republic to raise funds for children's charities.

Linus Deeny practiced law for about 15 years before becoming a contracts manager with a defense electronics firm. "It was my good fortune to spend much of the next 16 years traveling around the world and being paid for it," he writes. The traveling broadened his outlook on many things but also gave him a greater appreciation for this country. Linus and his wife, Carmen, have two daughters, Anna and Alicia, and one granddaughter. Of St. Benedict's he writes, "As I get older my thoughts are more with the

school than when I was younger...I really believe there is something special about the place."

Jim Groll joined Equitable Life (now AXA-Equitable) after Villanova. In 1992 "we relocated to Charlotte, NC, where I ultimately became Vice President and Chief Underwriter until retirement in 2002. Two years ago the St. Benedict's basketball team came to the Bojangles Holiday tournament in Charlotte (which they won). I was the only Gray Bee fan in the stands. After the awards ceremony I introduced myself to Coach Dan Hurley, who introduced me to all the players. They were a great group of young men and it reminded me of my days at the Hive and what Benedict's was and is all about."

Jim Gorman met his wife, Louise, while working for Shell, then worked for Kidde, before stints at Seton Hall University as and Ramapo College as Assistant Bursar. Now retired in North Carolina, enjoying golf, travel and five grandchildren.

Erich Hahn writes that he remembers Fr. Martin's taking Sr. E to see "My Fair Lady" on Broadway with Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews. That trip gave

me an appreciation for the theater which has enriched my life over the years.

Tim Harrington remembers setting two school and conference records while winning pole vault and high jump on the same day in April 1960. He was “fortunate to marry Maureen Sullivan in 1970. Together we have three wonderful children and so far seven grandchildren. Thanks to Maureen I got to know about Newport, RI where we have a home as well as our residence in Madison, NJ. Since the 1970s I have been a director and sometimes treasurer of the Cerebral Palsy League as my primary charity. I often enjoy making opportunities as events unfold rather than trying to control events.”

Ron Hrasna spent most of his working life in IT; after earning his MBA nights in the 90s, he pursued “one of the loves” of his life, teaching. “These days I am retired and spend my time working within the church, woodworking and being a Jack of all trades DIYer. One of our primary enjoyments of living in New Hampshire is riding our large touring motorcycle. We also spend significant time volunteering for “ride

for Kids,” a motorcycle ride that benefits children with brain tumors,” as happened to one of our granddaughters in childhood.

Anthony Inverno has been an ophthalmologist in his hometown of Clark, NJ, with a eye out for related pursuits – team physician for the Knicks and Rangers in the 70s, work for the boxing promoter at Madison Square Garden, and as a producer working for the Jackson Family (yes, that Jackson Family) who helped with the Tribute to Michael Jackson. “Sorry to miss the reunion, but I’ll be in Berlin at the World Ophthalmology Congress.”

Don Laurie and family (three daughters, providing nine grandchildren) have divided their time between Boston (and Cape Cod) and London, England. He spent 10 years with Xerox in line and staff positions, worked for a time with consulting firm Arthur D. Little, and founded his own consulting business in 1982, focusing on strategy, growth and business building in large, global corporations. He has written articles for the Harvard Business Review, one of which, “The Work of Leadership”, is among their most requested reprints. More recently he has become an active investor and business builder of medical information and device

products and companies. Currently he serves on a steering committee of the Institute for Health Care Improvement, in Cambridge, Mass, working on the Roadmap to Cost Containment. “I have served on the Board of St. Benedict’s for the past 6 years. Getting to know the kids and working with Fr. Ed and others has proven a source of great meaning. Susie and I will divide our time between Centerville (Cape Cod) and Vero Beach.”

Jack Leber reports that after receiving his mechanical engineering degree from NCE (now NJIT) he immediately went to work for Hewlett Packard, where he worked until 1999. During eight years in Seoul, Korea, he commuted regularly to Beijing to form an R&D and marketing operation, which provided his family with the chance to travel throughout most of Asia. “We now spend most of the year in Charleston, SC, where golf, including volunteering at several LPGA events each year, occupies much of my time.”

Joe Locascio followed his teaching and coaching career by years as an AD, becoming the first AD and supervisor of Physical Education and Health for the new high school in North Brunswick, NJ, where he spent 30 of his

39-year career. He and Joyce have enjoyed 42 years together and have two sons, one teaching at a Christian Brothers high school in Denver, the other an attorney in Raleigh, NC.

Dave McCaffrey, Jr. is serving as a permanent deacon at St. Michael’s Annandale, VA following his career with Exxon-Mobil. He wonders “How did our children get to be older than we are?” Life is an ongoing adventure, I would never have expected. The four years at Benedict’s deeply affected who I am and who I hope to be.”

Gerry O’Connor, a partner with the O’Connor Parsons & Lane firm in Westfield and Chatham, NJ, especially remembers “the lasting friendships formed at St. Benedict’s.”

Ed Reiter after medical training “wound up in western Massachusetts as Professor of Pediatrics at Tufts and Chair of the Dept. of Pediatrics at Baystate Children’s Hospital, while serving as a clinical pediatric endocrinologist.” He notes that “it has never occurred to me that the ties to these career stops even remotely had the kind of deep attachment developed at the Hive – despite being far away and

missing ongoing interactions. My Benedict’s pride has come out with the appearance of the Gray Bee basketball team most recent years at the Hall of Fame tournament in Springfield, MA. Ginger and I are married 43 years and have 3 wonderful children and 3 adorable grandchildren.”

John Simpson says he missed Woodstock by 8000 miles, but “spending a year in Southeast Asia was the seminal experience of my life. It gave me a sense of what I could accomplish under adversity like no other experience of my life. Even now one of my charities is to aid Vietnamese victims of the long-term effects of Agent Orange.”

Jules Slowinski reflects that “I guess I am one of the many Benedict’s grads who never got over the place. I think my family and friends are getting a bit tired of my stories and wide-eyed reflections on the school, the monks, the traditions and the loyal friends and classmates. Most of the decade after Benedict’s I spent as a member of the St. Mary’s Abbey Benedictine community. Both my formal education and the monastic community experience have enriched my life throughout the years. I moved on to clinical psychology, spending most of the past

36 years in active practice and teaching in Philadelphia, most of it at Pennsylvania Hospital, a major affiliate with the U Penn School of Medicine, where I have a clinical appointment. I was married 38 years ago (at St. Benedict's) to my French-born wife, Betty, who has had her own teaching career at Penn, at Wharton and in the French department. So much of our life has included international travel and summers in the South of France. Our son, Stefan, carries on this trait, as he now lives in London with his "Sri Lankan born" wife. Our graduating class was fortunate to have been at Benedict's during a special time in its history. Ever grateful. Ever loyal."

Peter Smeretsky notes the "most memorable aspects of the Benedict's experience for him are "the pride and lasting enthusiasm of being among the alumni of St. Benedict's. I rank Fr. Martin Burne among the most impressive people I have ever met."

Rich Tarrant followed up his basketball exploits at St. Michael's with a tryout with the Celtics. After that he started IDX, a healthcare information technology company, which he took

public in '95 and sold to GE in 2005. He ran for US Senate from Vermont in 2006 as a Republican and was "the only person in US history to lose a senatorial election to a socialist. So I had a successful business career sandwiched between a failed basketball career and a failed political career. Now I have several small businesses and play golf while my wife, Deb, prefers her dogs to golf. We spend summers in Vermont and winters in Florida. Most important, we have seven grandchildren, all in Vermont. Nothing better."

Rich Vreeland has enjoyed running his own business, Beaver Electric, where he gets to pick and choose his projects, and he's not ready to sit back and retire.

Tony Wahl reflects that he "sees very little in his life which has affected (him) more deeply than Benedict's. I still practice law but with less intensity than before. My wife, Jane, and I travel more lately. We raised our children to be independent and did they ever listen to that advice. At one point recently we had one in Paris, one in Tokyo, and our youngest now lives on a tiny atoll about 350 miles north-east of Tabiti. There is some pressure to retire, but somehow Florida doesn't seem like my kind of place."

Jim Wharton is surprised to have had such a travelog of a life. In his 35 years with Celanese he and Beth McCarthy (Benedictine '61) moved several times, including international sales in Canada, Mexico and Central and South America. "When we retired, we had some good years in Pensacola, but moved back to Dallas to be nearer our seven grandchildren."

Tom Wojick says he "feels very blessed for everything he has experienced in life."

Walter Zilahy observes that "the love, fraternity, and spirituality of the monks of St. Mary's Abbey dominate (his) memories of St. Benedict's."

1961

William Blauvelt '61's grandson J.T. presented him and his wife with their first great granddaughter, Madison Rose Blauvelt, in November 2009. J.T. is in the U.S. Army, a tank driver going back to Iraq for his second tour.

1962

Julian De Lia '62 was presented with The Pacesetter Award, which is the highest award offered by the New York Hospital Queens Medical Center. Some recent recipients of

the award have included business leader, J. Willard Marriott, Jr., Nobel Laureate in Medicine, Dr. Joshua Lederberg, noted cancer researcher, Dr. Judab Folkman and Father Mychal Judge, a priest at St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York.

1964

Kevin Moore '64 is taking the concept of volunteering for St. Benedict's to a completely new level. For the past year Kevin has been visiting regularly and meeting with Fr. Edwin and others at the school to learn how he could most meaningfully help the school with a year's service. (There's also the possibility he could re-up for longer than a year!)

Kevin brings a varied career since his Navy days of flying and commanding others, including two decades as a key manager and later president and chairman of Whitley, Bradley, Brown, Inc., a major defense consulting firm. Kevin's role at St. Benedict's will key off of managing our development program as it moves through a transitional period of re-structuring, while he also initiates new alumni-recent grad and current student mentorships which will pair grads of classes out close to 25 and 50 years' with current students and the class of 2010.

1965

Joseph A. Gervasi, Esq. '65, is the new Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Mental Health Association of Essex County.

1968

Ernest J. Porter '68 will retire from the Federal Bureau of Investigation on July 30, 2010. Ernie has held public information and administrative management positions for the Bureau in Washington, D.C. for 37 years.

1969

"LUCKY STRIKE: WWII Army Air Force Veterans," a solo exhibition of oil paintings by Connecticut-based visual artist **Will Holub '69** was featured this June and July at ARTSPACE in New Haven. Will dedicated the series to the memory of his father William Holub, a decorated World War II Army Air Force navigator, who died last year in Connecticut at the age of 90. The paintings are based on photographs taken by the Army in 1942 of navigator candidates with whom his father had trained in San Marcos, Texas.

Will relocated to the southeastern Connecticut shoreline in 2008 after living in Santa Fe for 14 years following 17 years in New

York City. His work is represented in public and private collections across the United States and in Europe. He is available for interviews and images are available upon request. Please call 505-795-6556 or email will@willholubgallery.com

1973

Bob Silvestri '73, founder and owner of Romarsi Pesto, has been working with student farmers at St. Benedict's this summer. The Spring Phase Garden Project has been supplying Bob with some of the basil he needs for his pesto, a frozen product that can be found in local Whole Foods and Shop Rites. Bob is pleased with the basil and calls the endeavor where he gets a product supplied by Benedict's entrepreneurs a "win-win situation."

1983

Linhord Darlington '83 writes "On March 27, I DJ'd a party for the daughter of MY ALL TIME FAVORITE ENTERTAINER OF MY LIFETIME! THE 'MASTER BLASTER' - MR. STEVIE WONDER! I'm so excited,

Linhord Darlington '83 with Stevie Wonder



I'm sending this picture out to everyone I know!"

1987

Kevon Chisolm '87 and **Justin Morant '09** were guest speakers for Mt. Zion Pentecostal Church's educational program on July 25.

1990

Karen & Chris Rodriguez '90 are now parents of a third child, John Dillon Rodriguez, born February 27, 2010.

Joshua Morgan '90, the Development Director for **Claudio Reyna '91's** Claudio Reyna Foundation, reported that on June 23 the Foundation successfully held its annual Showdown in Chinatown fundraiser, starring Claudio, Steve Nash, and some of the world's biggest NBA and soccer stars, including Grant Hill, Tony Parker, Baron Davis, Jason Kidd, Edgar Davids, Robbie Fowler, Thierry Henry, and more. While the day-long series of events provided time for ticket holders to mingle informally with these sports greats, the highlight of the day was a late afternoon

soccer competition between teams lead by Claudio and Steve Nash. According to its mission statement, "The Claudio Reyna Foundation is dedicated to motivating and supporting underprivileged youth around the globe by providing positive experiences through education, community involvement, and sports that grow healthy bodies, minds, and spirits. The Foundation seeks to empower today's underprivileged youth to: remain active in school, athletics and community outreach programs; become true examples of champions in their own communities; and make smart decisions on the street, like avoiding drugs and alcohol." For more information, please visit their website at <http://www.claudioreynafoundation.org>.

1992

Matthew Thornton '92 and his wife, Nan, are pleased to announce the birth of Charles Collins Thornton on July 6. This makes three boys under four in the Thornton household, recently re-located to Ridgewood, N.J. Matthew celebrated one year of work at Audible.com in Newark, as their Senior Editor. Charles is also the grandson of **Paul '63**, and the grandnephew of **Greg '67** and **David '75**.

1994

Kevin Brown '94 and **Rashied McCreary '94** are working together at Rise

Academy, a part of KIPP/Team Schools housed in the former St. Rocco's school building on Ashland Avenue in Newark. Kevin is a guidance counselor, and Rashied teaches history, having finished his doctoral studies in Japan a few years ago. Kevin had to take a few days off from his work this spring, however, since on March 29, 2010 he donated a kidney to his cousin. Kevin and his cousin are doing well.

1996

Juliet Olivia Lopez was born to **Jose Lopez '96** and his wife, Margaret, on March 27, 2010 at 9:26am at Newark Beth Israel Hospital.

1997

Bryan Jackson '97 writes "I am great - living in Atlanta with my family. My wife just gave birth to twins, Brandon Eric and Sidney Rachelle, on March 30."

1998

Jason Glasgow '98, who is the 2009 McDonald's Gospelfest Spoken Word Champion, was featured on the "Real Talk" segment of Good Day New York on Fox Five on June 5.

Matthew Hopkins '98 reports: "I'm training to participate in the Marine Corps Marathon 2010 this

October as a member of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) "Team In Training." "All of us on "Team In Training" are raising funds to help stop leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin lymphoma and myeloma from taking more lives. I am completing this event in honor of all individuals who are battling blood cancers. These people are the real heroes on our team, and we need your support to cross the ultimate finish line - a cure! Please make a donation to support my participation in "Team In Training" and help advance LLS's mission." Matt hopes that alumni will follow his progress by visiting his web site, <http://pages.team-intraining.org/nj/corps10/mhopkin00a>, often.

Kyle Dargan '98 will be one of the New Jersey poets headlining the Dodge Poetry Festival, to be held in Newark for the first time, from October 7-10. Kyle is trying to make St. Benedict's a site for a pre-Festival workshop with some participating poets and Newark high school students. Contact Dr. David Wolf at dewolf@sbp.org for developments.

2002

Cassia Jones and **Brian Garrett '02** were married July 5, 2010 in Plainfield, N.J. In the wedding party were **Yolande McAllister '02**, who was Brian's Best Man, **Kehinde Togun '02** and **Oba Simmonds '02**.



REUNIONS | CLASS OF '60

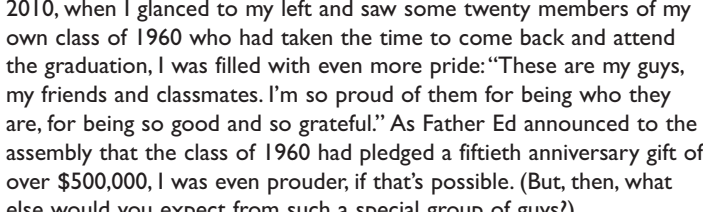
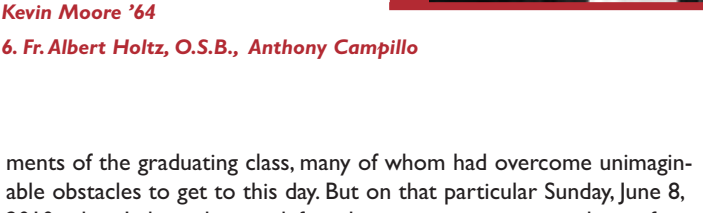
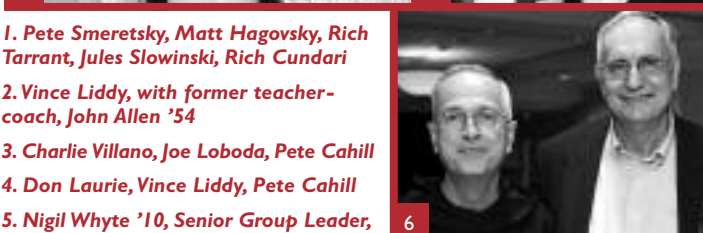
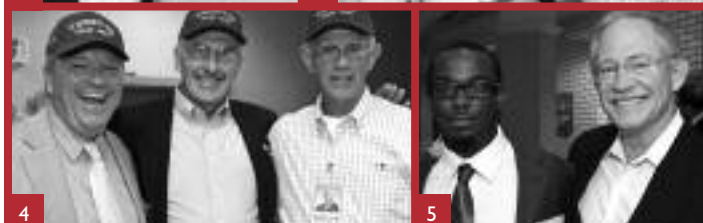
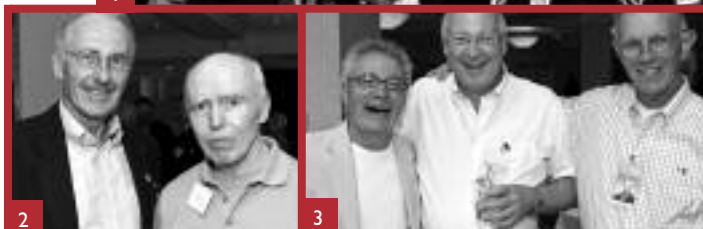
When I first came to St. Benedict's I naturally looked up to the older students, especially the seniors of the class of 1957 and my brother Bob's class of 1959. I took my own classmates for granted – they were just kind of there. Even with the three State Prep track championships my senior year, and the memorable victories in football (Seton Hall) and basketball (Weequahic, etc.), I never thought of us as being extraordinary.

It was only when I returned to teach at St. Benedict's in the fall of 1969 that I began to hear that the class of 1960 was a special group of guys. Father Benedict told me that my class was his favorite. People from Father John to Joe K would say to me "You're the class of 60, huh? They were a special group of guys." Then they'd start naming not just star athletes and brilliant students, but classmates who were just salt of the earth types who had made a teacher's job rewarding. Even the normally reticent Fr. Theodore let slip one time that the class of 1960 was about the brightest group he'd ever taught. "Hmm, I said to myself, I guess I'm part of a pretty remarkable bunch of guys."

Three years after I arrived to teach at the Hive we closed our doors, but within a few months we monks were laying out plans for what we thought would be a new school. Those plans never came to be: we never would open that "new" school! What happened instead was that the very first people we spoke to about our plan, mostly folks from the neighborhood, said, "What great news! You're going to keep Saint Benedict's going after all! Go for it!" Among the people I called on in the earliest days of the "new" but not-so-new Saint Benedict's were classmates from 1960. I won't name names because I'd be sure to leave out way too many people, but the class of 1960 would provide the fledgling school with guest lecturers, a school psychologist, tips about New Jersey Bond Issues, and a revitalized Alumni Association and even help revive the annual communion breakfast, to mention a few. The present Board of St. Benedict's boasts two members of the class of 1960. Some of my classmates who have been blessed with financial success have generously passed on some of those blessings to our present St. Benedict's students in the form of gifts that would be the envy of most private schools in the state.

As one of the members helping to organize our fiftieth reunion, I began looking forward to it with growing excitement as the emails phone calls and notes started flying faster and faster. When the big weekend finally arrived I was expecting to be immersed in nostalgia, including lots of stories (many of them true) and memories (it's amazing how you can laugh at pain when looking back at it 50 years later). I certainly found plenty of those things. But what characterized my classmates even more during the three-day weekend was a sense of gratitude. Over and over I heard classmates saying how thankful they were for their parents, for their teachers and coaches at St. Benedict's. Another sentiment that was really gratifying for me was the number of times I heard someone say either in a conversation or to the whole group that they were proud of the work we are still doing today, and were proud to be able to give back to an institution that had helped to form them as young men.

As I sat on the stage during the commencement exercises for the class of 2010, I was filled with pride, as I always am, in the achieve-



1. Pete Smeretsky, Matt Hagovsky, Rich Tarrant, Jules Slowinski, Rich Cundari

2. Vince Liddy, with former teacher-coach, John Allen '54

3. Charlie Villano, Joe Loboda, Pete Cahill

4. Don Laurie, Vince Liddy, Pete Cahill

5. Nigil Whyte '10, Senior Group Leader, Kevin Moore '64

6. Fr. Albert Holtz, O.S.B., Anthony Campillo

ments of the graduating class, many of whom had overcome unimaginable obstacles to get to this day. But on that particular Sunday, June 8, 2010, when I glanced to my left and saw some twenty members of my own class of 1960 who had taken the time to come back and attend the graduation, I was filled with even more pride: "These are my guys, my friends and classmates. I'm so proud of them for being who they are, for being so good and so grateful." As Father Ed announced to the assembly that the class of 1960 had pledged a fiftieth anniversary gift of over \$500,000, I was even prouder, if that's possible. (But, then, what else would you expect from such a special group of guys?) As I stood at the podium to lead the alma mater, the stage lights made it difficult to see everyone in front of me. But I could hear the grateful voices of my classmates from 1960 mingling with the hopeful voices of the class of 2010, "Thy praises now we fondly sing, ever dear Saint Benedict's."

I thought to myself, "It doesn't get any better than this." ■

Fr. Albert Holtz, O.S.B. '60

Fr. Boniface Treanor, O.S.B. '47, joins a group from '56.

Record-setting Crowd of **GOLDEN BEES** at the Breakers

Perhaps it was the brilliant early June weather or just the growing enthusiasm among our oldest alumni cohort in reconnecting with each other, but the sizable crowd at The Breakers in Spring Lake on the second Friday of June topped all previous years' reunions. The class of 1950 used the gathering as their 60th reunion, while the newly-eligible class of 1960 used the event as the first gathering of the newest "golden alumni" class. We welcomed representatives from as far back as 1932 in the person of Henry Lubben, and a great span of alumni from the 40's to 1960 made for a lively and engaged crowd. Some of us wondered what we'll do if our numbers get much larger, but we agree it will be a challenge we'll enjoy. PT ■



Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 responds to questions.



Henry Lubben '32 was recognized as "most senior alumnus" attending.

REUNIONS | CLASS OF '85



1. *Carlos Farinhas (reunion co-chair), Julio Lamberty, Willy Montanez, Donald Mincy (reunion co-chair), Todd Fultz, Jose Garcia, Paul Hester, Kevin Monroe, Monico Nadera, John Matthews (reunion co-chair), and Tyrone Howard (reunion co-chair) assemble before Commencement.*



2. *Rene Calderon and Andrew Stypa.*



3. *Todd Fultz and John Matthews.*

4. *Seated, Octavio Andrade, Tyrone Howard, Tony Motley, Matthew Pinckney (reunion co-chair), Carlos Farinhas, and Donald Mincy; second row, Rene Calderon, Norman Bernard, Willy Montanez, Julio Lamberty, and Monico Nadera; third row, John Senatore, Kevin Monroe, Jose Garcia, Jose Rebelo, and Jose Martinez; fourth row, Simeon Locust, Charles Good, Omar Abdallah, Todd Fultz, Charles Whigham, John Matthews, and Andrew Stypa at Rio Rodizio in Newark.*



5. *Seated, clockwise from left: Monico Nadera, Carlos Farinhas, Donald Mincy, Jose Rebelo, Andrew Stypa, and Jose Martinez.*

ALUMNI PICNIC JUNE 2010



1. Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 with members of the Class of 1995, Trevor Stevens, Roger Damon, Nixon Kannah, Matthew Reddick, John Ramos, Wali Bell, Hassan Dixon, Michael Johnson, and Rasheed Wiggins.



2. Jermaine Lewis '05 and Michael Behrmann '05.



3. Jermaine Lewis '05, Fr. Mark Payne, O.S.B. '69, and Marc Onion '89.

4. Frederick Ludd '03, Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63, and Kyle Cox '03.

5. The St. Benedict's Soccer Alumni Reunion



3

4



5

(Below) Standing: Jimmie Wandling '92, Ceibert Swaby '91, Kenny Cervantes '91, Kenya Moncur '91, Frantz Masse '90, Corey Puryear '90, Rick Jacobs H'90, Keymonte Crooms '90, James Stradford '90, Lee Herbert '90, Luna Mishoe '90, Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63, Uriel Burwell '90; crouching: Peter Elias '90, Michael Anabui '90 (high), Warren Lamar Melton '90 (low), Emiliano DeGregoris '90, Josh Morgan '90, Dwain Mishoe '90, Glenn Cassidy '90 at the 1st Annual Reunion Blowout

CLASS OF '00

The Class of 2000 will be holding its 10th reunion on Saturday, Aug. 21. The gathering will begin at St. Benedict's with a 3 p.m. informal meal (sandwiches and sodas), which will be combined with a couple hours of open time in Dalton Gymnasium. Then, at 8 p.m., the reunion class will congregate at a downtown restaurant in Newark called "27 Mix." The afternoon get-together for classmates, family and friends comes at no charge, but the evening's festivities will cost \$40 per person. For further information or to RSVP, please contact Terrill Harris at terrill.harris@gmail.com or 857-919-5432 or Didier Jean-Baptiste at djeanbaptiste@sbp.org or 973-792-5747, or visit the event's page at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/event.php?eid=143059889038892>. RJ ■



Kenya Moncur '91 (the event promoter), Michael Anabui '90, Lee Herbert '90, and Bernard Greene '73 at the 1st Annual Reunion Blowout.

The **2010** Annual St. Benedict's Dinner



*Medal of St. Benedict's,
awarded to each
honoree:*

1. Ken Boehl '97
2. Barbara Bell Coleman
3. Bob DiQuollo '65
4. Judge Claude Coleman



While our crowd was a bit smaller, this year's annual dinner had a wonderful feel to it, reflecting the special relationships our honorees have with St. Benedict's. It also brought a surprise visit by New Jersey's first Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable Kim Guadagno, whose appearance was matched by another slight surprise when she was escorted by our newly-returned Didier Jean-Baptiste '86, who had worked as her teaching assistant when she taught at Rutgers Law School.

Our four honorees included one married couple – also a first. While Judge Claude Coleman and his wife, Barbara Bell Coleman, have been so active in Newark's public and community life for decades, that one might think their connection very well known, their comments about the special place St. Benedict's holds for each of them brought some new touches to our understanding of their individual ties to St. Benedict's. Mrs. Coleman especially underlined the special impact for the single mothers of teenage sons in this often tough city that St. Benedict's and the person of Fr. Edwin had for her and others.

Ken Boehl 'H 97 and Bob DiQuollo '65 were lauded for their extraordinarily generous gifts of time and expertise in recent years in ways that far exceed what we could reasonably expect even from our most committed and active Board members. Assistant Headmaster, Mike Scanlan, H'97, who had worked with Ken at MBNA, introduced him, and Dr. Mike Pennella '67, who had wrestled for Bob, introduced him; both acknowledged that no mere summary could do justice to their involvement with St. Benedict's.

The dinner raised a most impressive \$360,000 in a year that was challenging for all fund-raising events. That too has to be seen as a reflection of the unusual commitment our honorees have demonstrated to St. Benedict's. PT ■

New Coaches in Basketball, Soccer

Roshown McLeod is back home. McLeod 34, a native of Jersey City, was named as the new Gray Bee basketball coach in April by Fr. Edwin. The former NBA player, who played for Mike Krzyzewski at Duke and Bob Hurley Sr. at St. Anthony, will succeed Dan Hurley, who stepped down as St. Benedict's coach after nine seasons to assume the coaching duties at Wagner College.

"It's time to come back home," said McLeod, who spent the last two years as an assistant at Indiana University. "I've been around the world and gotten so much out of basketball. It's now my turn to give back what I've learned through the years.

McLeod played at St. Anthony, as did the former Gray Bees coach, Danny Hurley. He helped lead the Friars to the New Jersey Tournament of Champions title in 1991 and '93 and was named to The Star-Ledger All-State team. He played his first two seasons of college ball at St. John's before transferring to Duke, where he was the first transfer player signed by Krzyzewski. He earned a degree in psychology there.

It wasn't just the renowned basketball program at the Hive that enticed



McLeod to apply for the position.

"The fact that St. Benedict's wasn't just looking for a coach is what really impressed me. They were looking for someone to teach children to become young men. I want to be able to share my experiences with them and be able to show them what their options are and guide them into the future. It was a spiritual calling."

It was just this calling that Fr. Edwin found most compelling about McLeod.

"We had the privilege of talking to some really outstanding candidates, but I believe we have a guy in Roshown who knows what it means to be successful and who seems to have a great heart and is ready to be part of our community," Fr. Edwin said.

Fr. Edwin sees him as following in the footsteps of many great coaches here.

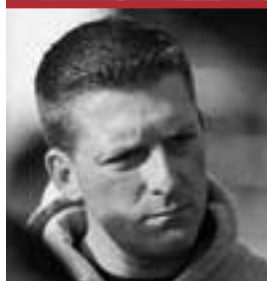
"I expect him to be able to carry on the tradition that we started in the beginning of the century with Frank Hill and continued all the way through Dan Hurley," said Fr. Edwin.



Rick Jacobs and Jim Wandling each had an inkling this day would come. They just didn't know when — until now.

Wandling '92, who came back to St. Benedict's in 2000, has officially taken over as the soccer coach of perhaps the most successful prep program in the nation.

Jacobs H'90 is stepping aside as coach of the



"I would say as far back as high school that we had thrown around the idea," said Wandling, a successful player under Jacobs, "but certainly after graduating college, I knew this is what I wanted to do."

Gray Bees, after 25 years and six National Championships, to pursue a career as an executive for the Philadelphia Union of the MLS.

"You wouldn't have any idea how tough a decision this was," said Jacobs, who amassed a staggering 519-27-13 record, all at St. Benedict's. "I've been saying for 25 years that you don't feel like you're going to work when you are part of a place like St. Benedict's Prep. Typically, you're not looking around the corner for the next opportunity. This has been a very surprising turn of events — one that I could not and would not have predicted."

Jacobs, who was named New Jersey Coach of the Year in 1990, led his team to its 21st consecutive state title (23rd overall) and finished his final year last fall with a 17-2 slate. He felt the pull of the professional ranks, especially at this stage of his life, made the move a sensible one.

"There comes a time when you're a certain age and you're presented with something that may provide for your family that's in a way lasting in the terms of the future for my children and for my wife," said Jacobs.

Jim Wandling, 36, was an all-county and all-state performer for Jacobs, who went on to lead St. Peter's College soccer program to new heights. He was a conference Rookie of the Year before becoming two-time captain at St. Peter's, where he has since been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Wandling took over Athletic Director's job from the legendary Mike DiPiano H'82 in July 2009. He is thrilled with his new positions. "I became AD and now the new soccer coach - my feet haven't touched the ground in the last year. If you would have talked to me a year ago and told me I would be the AD and soccer coach, I would have thought you were crazy."

Although Fr. Edwin is losing a long-time associate in Jacobs, he is supportive of his move and eager for Wandling to show his own coaching competence.

"Everything ends, but new things begin and come out of it," Fr. Edwin said. It's a great opportunity, not only for Rick, but for us here at St. Benedict's. I'm confident Jimmie will keep the soccer experience here full. I'm looking forward to working with him in his new role." RJ ■



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In Memoriam

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

*John C. Birmingham '38
 Leonard H. Talarico '41
 Louis J. Magno '42*

*John T. Downey '45
 Brother of William '47*

*Robert F. Weber '56
 Joseph R. Kendall '49*

*Rev. Regis P. Wallace '51 O.S.B.
 Brother of Frank '49*

*Stephen F. Baron '53
 John A. Cogan '53
 Theodore J. Dachowski '53
 John E. Schmid '54
 Robert J. Hickey '56*

*Christopher C. McDonough '59
 Brother of Frank '49*

*Rodman R. Decker '60
 Gregory G. Kastner '64*

*Albert J. Anton, Jr. H'82
 Father of Chris '81*

*Catherine E. Feeney Donohue
 Mother of Joseph '61, John '62, Robert '67*

*Gisela W. Drennan
 Wife of John Drennan '54*

*Frank Flynn
 Father of Pat Flynn H'95*

*Ralph Geiger
 Friend of St. Benedict's Prep/Newark Abbey*

*Charles Joseph Blaiuze Kuruc
 Brother of Thomas '71*

*Elizabeth "Betty" Link
 Friend of St. Benedict's Prep/Newark Abbey*

*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.*