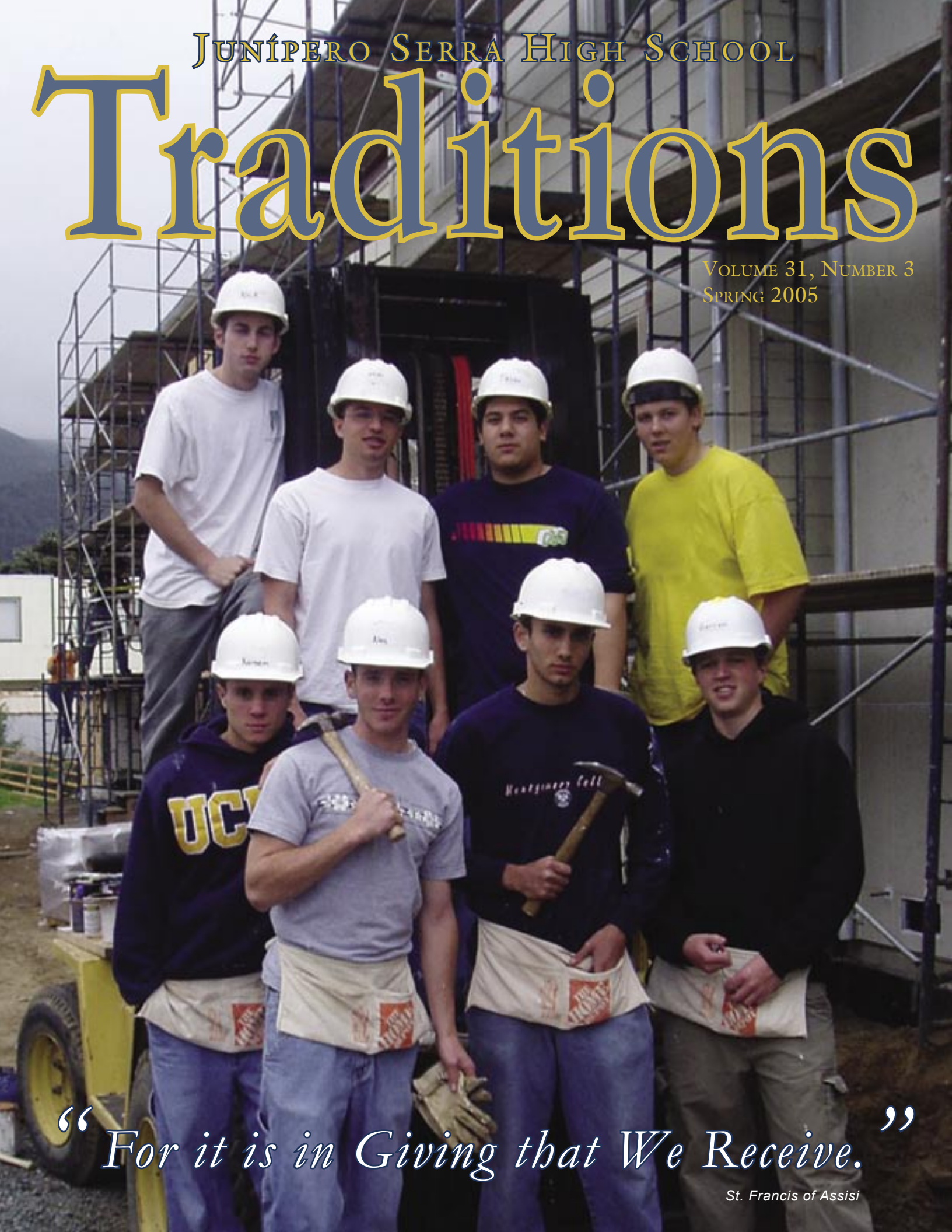


JUNIPERO SERRA HIGH SCHOOL

Traditions

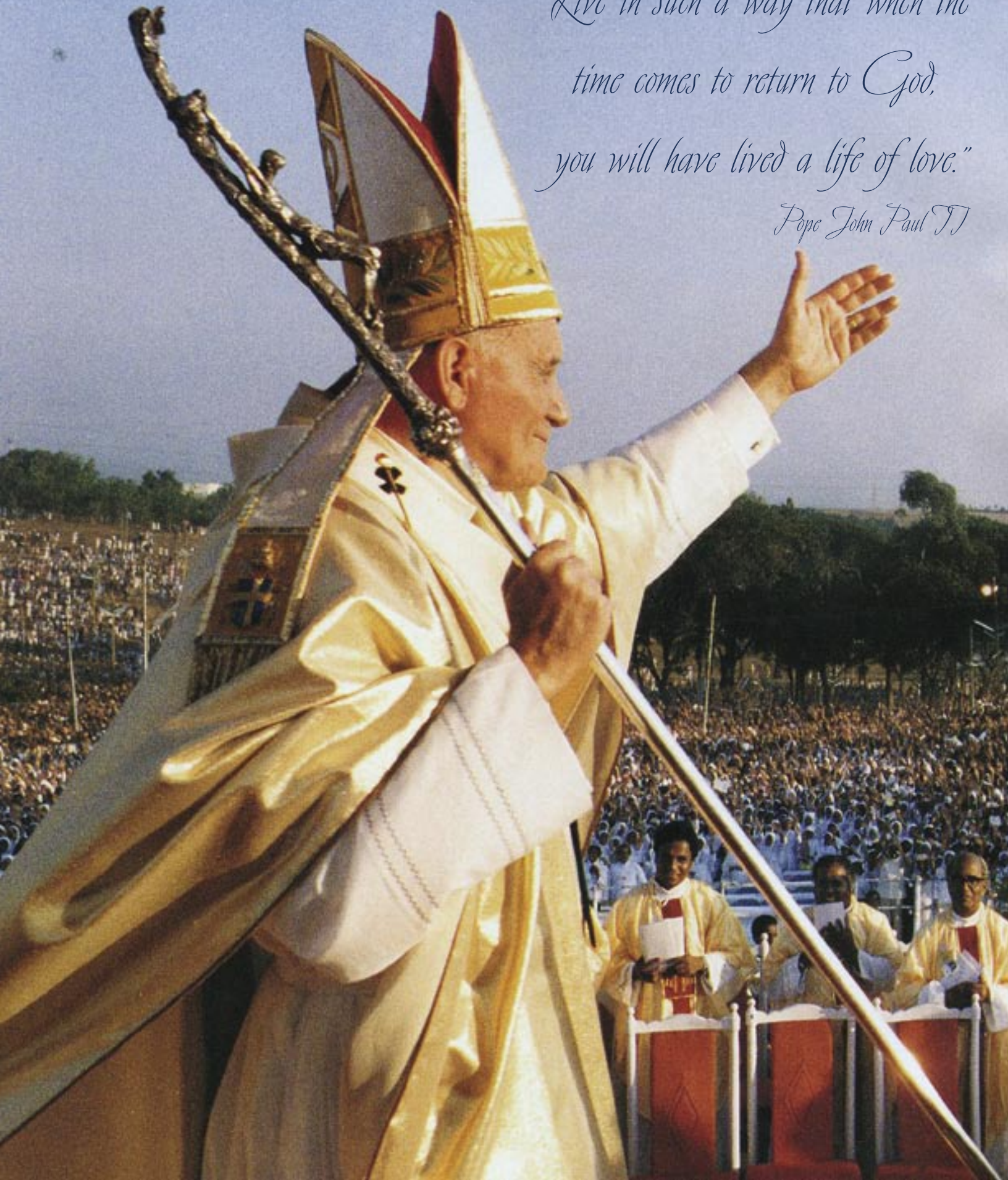
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“*For it is in Giving that We Receive.*”

St. Francis of Assisi

*"Live in such a way that when the
time comes to return to God,
you will have lived a life of love."
Pope John Paul II*



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Traditions

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Back Row: Nick Galletta '05
Mike Noce '05, Alike Herrera '05, Ted Cordery '05
Front Row: Kareem Barghouti '05, Alex Tartaglia '05
Iyad Shihadeh '05, Garren Staubi '07





FROM THE PRINCIPAL, MR. LARS LUND

“TOTUS TUUS” — A LIFE WELL LIVED

As I write this letter, the cardinals of the Catholic Church have entered the Sistine Chapel for the first ballot of the papal election. It will be hard to imagine a Church without John Paul II as our Holy Father.

It was divine providence that gave us a man whose hometown was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire just two years before his birth, who suffered the early deaths of his mother, brother and father, who suffered under the oppression of the Nazis, and who courageously spoke out against the Soviet Empire. It was providence that allowed him to become the 265th Bishop of Rome-- the Vicar of Christ, the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church.

His intellectual brilliance did not camouflage a simple and single-minded faith. Nazi occupation of his homeland, Soviet dominance over church and state, nor an assassin's bullets could separate him from the love of Christ nor his devotion to the Blessed Mother. His faith, which animated his human courage, saw him through many losses, challenges and times of loneliness.

His faith called him to forgo the joys of married life, of parenthood and, given his many talents, a life of personal wealth and power. Instead, he became a priest and lived a life of obedience and celibacy for the sake of God's Kingdom and our Church. As a result, he was not only a witness to the many upheavals of the 20th Century, he was also a major player in the events that led to the end of Soviet communism and the unseating of many dictators in the Third World.

He called attention to the appalling conditions in which two-thirds of the human race live. He shed light on the injustices visited upon the poor and marginalized. He was a prophetic witness against the conspicuous consumption of the industrialized world, a prophetic leader in his apologies to Jews and Muslims for previous sins of the Church, and a prophetic witness to the gospel virtues of faith, hope and love.

This man from Poland called us to have faith in God and to live this faith with courage, reason, and passion. The motto for his papacy was “Totus Tuus” which means, “I am all yours.” He knew that Christ, through Mary gave him all of his talents and abilities. He returned these gifts through a life of absolutely selfless service to others.

Perhaps it is providential that this edition of Traditions focuses on the service that the Serra community -- students, teachers and parents -- provides to the Church and the local community. As a Catholic school our mission is to provide students a program of intellectual, moral and spiritual formation that will help them to become men of faith and service, leaders who will make a difference for the good in our world. Karol Jozef Wojtyla was such a man and now, through his intercession, we pray that our students and alumni will follow his example.

His was a life well lived.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lars Lund". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "L" at the beginning.

Lars Lund
Principal

Taking a Look Back . . .

by Michael Peterson



In reading through this issue of *TRADITIONS*, I recalled my four years at Leo High School on the South Side of Chicago, and thought about the changes that have taken place in Catholic schools like both Leo and Serra. Leo was a high school similar to Serra in the late 50's and early 60's. We were a Catholic "all boys" school with an enrollment of about 1000, a strong academic tradition, as well as outstanding athletic teams. We had a class retreat (conducted in total silence!) held once a year in the chapel during the Lenten season. The retreat was taught almost entirely by the Irish Christian Brothers . . . and we had only one program in which to perform any volunteer service. At that time, helping others through a service program coordinated by the school just didn't exist. Sure, if you were a Boy Scout or part of another similar organization, you had opportunities to help others; however, in high school there just wasn't the emphasis on volunteering or giving back to the community that exists today.

As I look back at schools like Serra and Leo, it seems to me there have been many notable changes. Obviously the most dramatic is the change in personnel; there are no longer priests and brothers in great numbers in our schools. Both Serra and Leo (I continue to receive Leo's Alumni Newsletter) are taught almost entirely by lay people; dedicated men and women who have made teaching in a Catholic school a true ministry. Another major change in our schools during the past forty years or so is the establishment of a formalized volunteer program, usually under the supervision of the Campus Ministry Program.

I really believe that one of the hallmarks of our schools in 2005 is this outreach program. As you read through these pages, you will see evidence of our students and graduates helping others. Yes, we are still a Catholic school, with school-wide masses celebrated on a regular basis throughout the year. Yes, we continue to have confession available, especially during the Advent and Lenten seasons. And, yes, we still continue to have retreats. Our students continue to be accepted to outstanding colleges and universities. We continue to put on great musicals, as seen this Spring when we performed Disney's "*Beauty and the Beast*," to packed houses. Our athletic teams continue to win championships. But, in addition to all of this, our Campus Ministry team, parents, and other faculty members are regularly working with students, joining them on service projects, and making it possible for them to get out into the community so they can help others. In this way, I believe that Serra and Leo are better now than when I was in high school. Our young men today are doing so much more than I ever did.

Read these pages and see what our students, faculty and alumni are doing for others. I hope you come away with the same sense of pride I did. Good things are going on and they are taking place at schools like Serra and Leo.

If you ever want to get involved, just give me a call.

Sincerely,



Michael Peterson
Director of Institutional Advancement

FROM THE EDITOR

Michelle Wilkinson

From the time I met and fell *head over hills* for a “Serra Boy,” I knew there was something special about Junípero Serra High School; I just didn’t know how special until now.

Besides the obvious important stuff I used to think about when I was a teenager like “*What should I wear?*” and “*He’s so cute,*” I wondered what the guy would be like that I would eventually marry. Actually, I used to wonder whether I would ever get married at all. I daydreamed about where we would meet and hoped that my family would like him.

Well, our meeting place couldn’t have been more romantic. There Steve was staring directly at me across the counter of a local McDonalds restaurant. I think he asked me, “Do you want some fries with that?”

Once we began dating, I couldn’t help but notice there was something different and wonderful about this guy from Serra. He seemed more confident than the other boys I knew. He was kind, educated, spiritual, respectful and, wouldn’t you know it, my parents liked him. Of course, I suppose I should give some credit to his parents (now my in-laws) for the part they played. I mean they did run a pretty “tight ship,” bringing up their children with strong moral and family values. (*Besides, I think they still receive copies of this Alumni magazine!*)

Thirty years have passed since my husband walked the halls of Serra High School; however, it is clear to me that the important things about Serra have not changed. In the relatively short time I’ve joined the staff here, I’ve had the privilege of observing and taking part in a truly extraordinary school. The enthusiasm, determination, and dedication of teachers, coaches, staff, and students alike, quite simply amaze me. I have witnessed an incredible tribute and expression of “Padre Pride” when alum, Tom Brady, donated his SuperBowl MVP Cadillac to our school fundraiser. I have shared the tears of victory and the tears of defeat as our sports teams competed in some of the most incredible games I have ever seen. In my job as Public Relations Director, I have reported on numerous and varied academic awards earned by Serra students, and have had the privilege of personally witnessing these incredible students in action. I have watched as our students continually come together to provide service to those less fortunate in our own community and around the globe. Just as wonderful, I am able to experience on a daily basis the transformation of freshman boys into proud young men as they reach their senior year and prepare to move on.

My oldest son, Sean, will be graduating from Serra this year. It is both an emotional and wonderful time for my husband and me. Although our son has not made his final decision as to where he will continue his education, he has been accepted to some of the finest universities in the country. Like my in-laws and my own parents, we have and will continue to work hard at raising our children as best we know how. I am grateful, however, for the job that Serra has done in preparing my son not only for success in college but, more importantly, for success in life.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wilkinson, Editor

America Troops Respond to Padre Support

In the winter edition of TRADITIONS, we featured letters and Christmas cards that were written by Serra students and sent overseas in an effort to express support to the young men and women who have dedicated their lives for our freedom. These cards and letters were well received by our brave soldiers, and many of them took the time to write back and express their appreciation. Here are a few samples of what some of them had to say:

Dear Friend,

Thank you. Words cannot express the gratitude my fellow soldiers and I have for what you have taken the time to do. It is so nice to get letters, cards, and care packages from the states. I am so happy to have things to give to the soldiers, many of whom never receive mail, whether from lack of family or the family having a lack of money enough to send them anything. I love to see the looks on some of their faces when they get things like their favorite candy. You would not believe how great a pack of skittles is to a guy who hasn't seen one in months. Seeing all we have seen gives us an appreciation beyond anything I could convey to you in writing. All of the trite issues are so distant now. Celebrity murder trials, election results and everyone being offended by everything all seem to fly out the window when you see a child drinking out of a dirty mud hole, just happy to have water. America is the greatest country the world has ever known. I am proud every time I put on my uniform. I am proud every time I see that flag on my shoulder because I know that I am not only fighting for the greatest nation in the world, but I am fighting for the greatest people in the world.

God Bless You

Greetings,

I'd like to start by thanking you so very much for your support. Your kindness lifted me and my soldiers' morale tremendously. You are a true American treasure. It's an awesome feeling to receive support and genuine concern from complete strangers. Okay, we're no longer strangers. Your act of kindness makes me feel as though what I'm doing is worth while. I have a wife and four children and leaving them was by far the most difficult thing I've ever had to do. My unit consists of 18 people. We are responsible for running an air field here in Iraq. Being here makes me appreciate the little things in life.

To Everyone at Junipero Serra High School,

Thanks very much for the holiday greetings. I am from North Dakota (no, I don't sound like the people in the movie " Fargo "). I am married to a wonderful woman and we have two daughters. I have been in the military for almost 19 years. I am a squad leader in my platoon, which means I am in charge of 8 people. Again, thanks for the Christmas wishes. I passed them on to everyone here. We will come home safe.

Peace

Dear *****,

Thank you so much for the Christmas card. I enjoy getting mail and knowing I have support from folks like you. My home state is Alabama and I miss my two girls very much. I have a 21 year old and 13 yr old. They miss "mom," but seem to be doing okay from the letters I get from them. I hope your Christmas was good, and I hope you are doing well in school and making good grades. Take care and thanks again for the card.

Go with God Always

Dear *****,

Thank you very much for the Christmas card. The thought of total strangers taking time out of their lives to write soldiers letters really makes my days run a lot smoother.

Thank you.

Dear *****,

Thanks for the card and support buddy! Trust me, I have no problem keeping my head down when I need to. A little about me . . . I am 23, originally from the state of Iowa. I will be living in Texas when I get out. I hope to go to college. I want to become a cop or a teacher/coach. I love sports. I like basketball, football, baseball, and running. Thank you for your thoughts and your thoughtfulness.

A friend in Iraq.

CAMPUS MINISTRY CENTER RENAMED



Pictured (L to R): Kate-Marie (friend), Julie McMillan (wife of Bobby), Katherine McMillan (daughter), Mrs. Katherine McMillan, Bobby McMillan '80 (son), Sean McMillan (grandson), Kenny McMillan (grandson), Mary McMillan (daughter)



Pictured (L to R): Michael Peterson Mrs. Katherine McMillan Student Body President, Aven Wright '05

On Sunday, February 13, 2005, a mass and reception was held in honor of Alumni mom and Serra's only "Homecoming Queen," Mrs. Katherine McMillan. Serra's Campus Ministry Center has been renamed in dedication to Mrs. McMillan for her unwavering support and service to Serra High School.

BISHOP IGNATIUS WANG CELEBRATES MASS WITH PADRES

Students listened intently as Bishop Ignatius Wang spoke to them about the significance of living a life of faith and service, and the importance of making good decisions.

Ignatius Wang was born in Peking, China, in 1934. He is the fifth of eight children in a Catholic Chinese family. His parents were relatives of a Manchurian Emperor, the rulers of the last Chinese dynasty. Wang was ordained in Hong Kong in 1959, but was unable to serve China due to the Communist regime's lack of tolerance. There are 2.5 million Catholics in 90 dioceses in China; however, the church is forced to operate largely in the shadows.

Bishop Wang is the first bishop of Asian ancestry in the United States. He was appointed by Pope John Paul II and ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral in 2003.



FINDING THE TIME TO SERVE

by Patti Ferretti

It is with great pride that I will watch the Class of 2005 receive their diplomas. My job as Assistant Campus Minister/Christian Service Coordinator began in August of 2001 -- the same time the current seniors walked through our doors as young freshman. I remember the "dazed" look on their faces after learning about the 80-hour graduation requirement. *"How am I going to find the time to do that?"* a student shouted. To be very honest with you, I don't know how they find the time either, but they do. Even this late in their final year, they still continue to serve.

To date, the Class of 2005 has accumulated over 53,118 hours of service. Despite their busy schedules, they still manage to find the time to help others. They show constant concern for those here in the Serra community and for those less fortunate. Many have gone over and above the call of duty.

Our boys are making a difference in other peoples lives, and they have definitely made an impact on mine.

In a world full of selfishness and lack of commitment, it's wonderful to acknowledge so many responsible and caring young men. I receive numerous evaluations and letters of thanks regarding the service that our boys have preformed in the community. When I read these letters, I feel overwhelmed with pride. Our Padres constantly surprise me with their dedication and willingness to travel outside of their comfort zone. The following quotes are just a few of the many positive responses I receive on behalf of our wonderful students.

"We commend the boys of Serra High School. Their energy is a great asset to our program. The children feed off of their positive attitude and spontaneity, and were more open to taking risks. Their creativity and passion are greatly appreciated by the staff, and the campers respond to them with great enthusiasm. They are natural in front of the kids, and I think that some of these boys may have found their calling." (Leadership Team at Caritas Creek Environmental Education Program)

"Bryce is a natural with the kids. He has a warm heart and knows how to communicate with this age group on their level. Bryce was a true pleasure to have as part of the community this week. Bryce is a model cabin leader that we would love to have every week if we could. He has great potential in the field of child-care and I look forward to having another opportunity to work with him as a cabin leader in our program." (Caritas Creek program Supervisor in a letter about Bryce Doherty '05)

"Steven has emulated Christian value more so through his actions than anything else. Steven has been a valuable leader in the OLA B.L.A.S.T. (Believe, Love, And Serve Together) Ministry for 3 years and has truly been a gift to the program. The amount of time and energy Steven has invested over the years has made the program what it is today. Steven has organized and led retreats for his peers, focusing on leadership and prayer. Steven not only understands and lives the words St. Francis taught us, but he inspires his peers to do the same. God Bless Steven for the gift that he shares and the gift that he is." (Kevin Asher, Our Lady of Angels Youth Minister, who wrote about Steven Buller '05)

"Sergio spent a week as a volunteer junior counselor at Camp Wonder 2004, a medically staffed summer camp for children with serious and terminal skin disease. He cheerfully performed many functions including helping set up the camp, assisting children at check in, and leading activities. I was most impressed with Sergio's attitude toward these children. Skin disease had left many of them badly scarred or disfigured. Some were in wheelchairs. Sergio had no problem with this whatsoever. His focus was on the Child beneath the bandages. It was clear to me, and many of the staff noted, that Sergio volunteered out of a generous desire to help these children." (Donald Tenconi, Secretary & CFO of the Children's Skin Disease Foundation, who wrote about Sergio Quilici '06)

"A unified team is made up of players with mental or developmental disabilities as well as a unified partner with no disabilities. It is the role of the unified partner to teach and develop the skills of the Special Olympic athletes. Kent has been a wonderful influence, working with the athletes as individuals as well as part of a team.... I'm proud to be associated with such fine volunteers." (Bonnie Silverman, Coordinator for Special Olympics, wrote about Kent Eubank '05)

"Although they were the youngest members of our bike tour, they exemplified a commitment to our mission and a maturity level that impressed all of the staff and the other riders of the tour. They are truly an example for young adults everywhere. The Arthritis Foundation is very grateful for Billy and Diego's efforts to help us fulfill our mission: to improve lives through leadership in the prevention, control and cure of arthritis and related diseases. I'm proud to know them and have them involved with our organization." (In a letter from Amy Robinson, Campaign Director of the Arthritis Foundation, she commented on Billy Luden and Diego Nevado's participation in the fundraising event called the California Coast Classic Bicycle Tour)

"I just wanted to take a minute to thank you for your time and dedication this past basketball season. Your hard work and dedication paid off by your team showing improvement throughout the year. And most of all by the fun that they had during the season. I know that all the athletes respected and looked up to you and admired your coaching. Thank you for your time and dedication in making our athletes better basketball players. I hope you will consider coaching again next year. I thank you on behalf of all our athletes for your help and expertise." (Angel Sheridan, Sports Manager for the Special Olympics wrote about Ross Silverman)

"I've been particularly impressed with Pancho's insights and skills in working with the members. It is very natural for him to take a deep interest in children and their emotional, as well as their educational, well being. Pancho serves as a positive role model and has gained the respect of all members from a variety of backgrounds. Pancho has been a great addition to our program as he has the determination, the sensitivity and the skills to complete all projects as scheduled." (Representing the Mid Peninsula Boys and Girls Club of San Mateo, Cindy Taylor wrote to praise Pancho Pimentel for his efforts working with the Boys and Girls club since February 2004)

Although Christian Service starts out as merely a graduation requirement for many of our students, I am happy to report that it doesn't take long before it becomes a natural way of life. I hope you will enjoy reading some of the service stories shared by our students in the following pages of this edition of TRADITIONS.



POVERTY UNHEEDED

BY

DREW GOODIN '05



St. Anthony's is a modest looking building that wraps around the corner of Jones Street and Golden Gate Avenue in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco, commonly overlooked by all but its devoted volunteers and the some 2,400 poverty-stricken faces that wait patiently in line for a free meal 365 days a year. The renowned "Dining Room" has recently announced serving its 30 millionth meal since its opening in 1950. There are no qualifications to eat in the "Dining Room;" the Foundation advocates the omission of social classes that all of us have become so accustomed to. In addition to the dining service, St. Anthony's provides aide in the areas of healthcare, employment and housing.

Volunteering at the Foundation is open to anyone interested in helping

the less fortunate. Last July, as part of a youth group retreat at Our Lady of Angels (OLA) Parish, I spent five days in San Francisco working and interacting with the impoverished at St. Anthony's under the coordination of Young Neighbors in Action, a nationwide organization that brings together youth groups from around the country to a given service. Also on the retreat were groups of similar composition from San Diego and the East Bay. We were harbored at St. Emydius Parish, sleeping on the hardwood floors of classrooms – probably a humbling tactic used to prepare us for the next five days of self-sacrifice.

The days that ensued were somewhat grueling, but greatly fulfilling at the same time. Each group was dispersed around the Foundation and even other parts of the city – some at the Dining Room, others at the Senior Center or Children's Playground, a daycare center for parents who cannot afford to pay for childcare.

I was lucky enough to be stationed at both the Playground and the Dining Room at different points throughout the retreat. They were each exceptionally personal experiences for me; however, one occurrence in the Dining Room remains engraved in my memory. All volunteers are encouraged to take a tray and wait in line

with the rest of the patrons and sit down at a table with unfamiliar faces. During my 45-minute lunch break, I did exactly that. I took a seat at a table surrounded by seemingly unfriendly guests, and all but one of them held true to that assumption. The man I was sitting next to was the incarnation of something I didn't think still happens. He was married, with a child, and was simply laid off of work. His sole income provided for the entire family and barely sufficed, and now he was left with nothing but the security of a good meal that St. Anthony's provided. In fact, as we were conversing about his situation, his daughter was at the playground while her mother was looking for work.

I finished that day with a profound feeling of contempt for whatever institution that man worked for and how they could see him as just another statistic that drains resources. I then realized that many others have a similar story, many probably equally unjust. Meanwhile, this feeling cowered in light of the emotional toll that was taken from me; tens of thousands of homeless live minutes away and I felt grateful I was given the opportunity to help a handful. I hope to continue the spirit of service as I move through life. ■

CHRISTIAN SERVICE MEXICO TRIP

BY

ALEX TARTAGLIA '05

While attending Serra High School for the past four years, I have become involved in many areas of Christian community service and school service. I have helped with all sorts of different school activities such as Open House and Freshmen Interviews, and I have had many different service experiences outside of school such as Habitat for Humanity and helping the poor. The most memorable and outstanding service project I participated in was the Mexico Mission Trip I went on with my St. Charles youth group, "Charlie's' Angels," for two consecutive years.



This trip to Mexico involved a large group of community youth and adult volunteers who go down to small, deprived towns near the Tijuana area and help build houses for three families. On each worksite, the family of the home is with us -- working with us to build adequate shelter to live in and giving us a chance to interact and see how appreciative each member of the family is for our service. To follow the customs and traditions of the families, being as respectful as we can, we are not allowed to use any power tools which helps us relate more to the conditions of the people in the poor areas of Mexico. Generally, the families we helped included a mother, father and one or more small children. After a week of work, the homes for the three families are finished, giving all of us a feeling of success and accomplishment while helping others not as fortunate as we are.

Seeing the smiles of the families when their houses are completed and knowing how much joy they get because of being able to sleep under a reliable roof reminds me of how much this volunteer work means to them. By providing our assistance for one week, we were able to significantly change the lives of three families on each of our trips, which is the reason why I went on the trip for two consecutive years, and is why I recommend this trip to others who find it pleasing to help those who are in great need. ■

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY

RICARDO ROQUE '05

As a community, we need to love and support each other. By “we,” I do not mean San Mateo, or Junipero Serra High School, but the entire world. It can be difficult to maintain a world community, but that dedication shows we care for the well-being of more than our individual selves. If our actions reflect what is in our hearts, then serving others keeps the community alive and thriving.

Many times, the immediate effects of service are not apparent. When serving the Samaritan House, I packaged food and wrote Thanksgiving cards. I never saw the faces of the families that received the packages, but I can picture them smiling when that bundle of food arrives. They give thanks to those who cared about them on this Thanksgiving Day. When I work with the Youth Group at church, or lead retreats at school, I will not see how the children or teens will grow. Instead, I try to make a difference to them, whether I lead them once or once a week. I use my personal example to encourage honesty, respect, integrity, and care in my groups. After I have physically left them, I hope my influence lingers, shaping the young men and women into moral, just, and upstanding members of the community. Maybe then I would remember teaching them one Tuesday evening about always showing concern for others.

When I witness the immediate effects of my service, I know I have made a difference in someone’s life. At the Safe Harbor House in San Francisco, I remember the residents rejoicing the students who volunteered to serve food, pour drinks and socialize. Wheelers, a program that helps disabled persons bowl, taught me that even those who seem “disabled” have many abilities and talents. Working with any group of people, whether feeding the homeless, spending time with someone, or playing a game with a disabled person, improves not just their day, but their entire outlook on life.

Even on a local level, service makes a difference. Helping a teacher, working at a summer camp, volunteering time at a swim school, and preparing the gym for a school wide mass are all simple, local activities. Underneath this straightforward path, however, lies something deeper. No matter how small or trivial a service project may seem, it improves the world community. Service, care and devotion to others reveal a love for fellow humans that words only wish they could reach.■



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A WHEELERS VOLUNTEER

BY

JORDAN FRENCH '06

At the beginning of my freshman year, I saw a flyer in the hall requesting volunteers for an organization called Wheelers. Mindful of Serra’s 80-hour Christian service requirement, I decided to get started right away. I knew from previous experience that volunteering could be fun so I didn’t mind. What I didn’t anticipate was how much I would receive from those I would be helping.

I learned that Wheelers is an organization of people with a wide range of physical disabilities who get together to bowl with assistance from volunteers. The assistance we provide depends on each person’s individual needs. Severely disabled and wheelchair-bound persons need the ball brought to a rack so they can push it down the alley.

Others need help to balance themselves or the ball. Sometimes, we’re needed only to keep score.

While I initially saw Wheelers as a way to earn service hours, I also liked the

idea of helping people who I perceived as less fortunate. I believed I was making a difference in their lives, and I felt good about my contribution. However, it didn’t take long for me to realize that these individuals also had a contribution to make to me, one that was less tangible but far more powerful.

The persons I’ve met through Wheelers are unfailingly enthusiastic and ready for fun, regardless of disability. Their positive attitude has put my own worries and minor frustrations into perspective. For example, after breaking my collarbone and having to limit use of my left arm, I realize how much I take for granted the ability to do simple, everyday tasks. Knowing that my ‘disability’ is a temporary one, I’ve gained even more respect and admiration for my fellow bowlers whose disabilities and challenges are life long. More importantly, I’ve learned to look beyond the surface to accept each person’s individuality and appreciate their

inner character, the way my new friends have done with me. Finally, I realize that everyone has something important to contribute. I never expected that my trying to make a difference for others would lead to their making a positive impact on my life.■



IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BOND WITH MY DAD

BY

ROB BARTOLI '05



The Fathers' Club is an organization comprised of Serra dads. They have many events throughout the school year, such as assisting at Second Harvest Food Bank, cooking for the faculty, running the Pot O' Gold fundraiser, working at the Rebuilding Together program, and an end-of-year father-son picnic. At many of these events the sons are invited to join their dads.

Over the last four years here at Serra High School, I have been an active participant with the Fathers' Club. The

activities that my father and I have worked on through this group have left me with a great sense of pride and accomplishment. Two of the events that have had the most lasting impression on me were helping at the Second Harvest Food Bank and the Rebuilding Together Project.

Once a month, the Fathers' Club members along with their sons, go to the Second Harvest Food Bank in San Carlos. We help sort, box, and prepare for delivery, the food that has been collected. This food is then later distributed by Second Harvest to needy families in San Mateo County.

As part of Rebuilding Together, the Fathers' Club volunteers every year to help a family in need repair their house. We are assigned one house and work on it the entire day. Some of the things we do to the house include mowing the grass, cutting trees, painting and cleaning out

the garage. It is truly amazing to me to see the transformation that takes place in a matter of hours with a lot of hard work. The best part of this is that the owner of the house is there to see this happen. It is really something special to see how much the owner appreciates the work you have done for them.

I have truly enjoyed being involved with the Fathers' Club during my time at Serra. The fathers put a lot of time and effort into working on these projects. It is a great time to bond with your father and other classmates while making a difference in the community. ■



CAMP ARROYO

BY

SERGIO QUILICI '06



I decided my sophomore year that I would try to complete my service hours over summer. It so happened that just a few weeks before finals, my cousin, who had founded a camp for children with skin diseases, contacted me and asked if I would be interested in serving as a counselor for the camp. I told her I was interested; however, the more I thought about the camp, the more I questioned my ability to handle such unfortunate kids.

The camp would run for a week. My duty as a counselor would be to act as a chaperone and friend who could walk the kids around to different places and activities. Upon arrival, I was greeted by my cousin, Francesca, and introduced to the other counselors. When the kids began to arrive, I had a hard time dealing with the physical ailments they had. Children, who could not be older than ten, came in on wheelchairs because their condition forbade them to walk; their faces and gums infected with boils and sores that made them look as if they had been fire victims. Though their bodies showed pain and sadness, the expressions on their faces were so beautiful. With every child that came in, there was a sense of hope in their eyes, a sense of acceptance. After a week of living with these kids, I learned that this camp was their whole world. When they were there,

they did not have to dwell on their physical differences from the rest of the world. Some kids who had no friends back at home came to the camp and had more friends than I could count.

At the conclusion of the camp, I became overwhelmed with feelings of compassion for these kids who looked up to me as a role model. I wished I could take their pain away. I did not want to leave their sides. This experience taught me that I am a rare type of person to be able to live in comfort and acceptance in such a superficial world. I am trying to keep that in mind with every day that passes by. I feel that if I do not go back next summer, I am letting all those children down; besides, it is my duty as their counselor not just to be there for the camp, but to be there to guide them through life. ■



80 HOURS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE: A DAUNTING TASK?

BY DIEGO NEVADO '05 & BILLY LUDEN '05

During our first year at Serra when we were told that we would have to complete 80 hours of service we never thought we would be able to complete this daunting task. As we became more involved in the Serra community we noted that the 80 hours would not be very hard after all. Now, as we graduate, we have both surpassed those 80 hours and have both approached the 300-hour mark. Together we have completed most of our hours by participating in a 520-mile bike ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles to benefit the Arthritis Foundation. The cycling tour is called the Amgen California Coast Classic. With Billy's father (60 years old), we joined 170 other riders and embarked on a ride down the beautiful Highway 1. In addition to riding down Highway 1 for 520 miles, each rider had to raise a minimum of \$2800. Together we were able to come up with \$5600, which was only possible with the generous support of the Serra community. We came up with most of our money from bake sales we had on Friday mornings and individual donations.

Long before the fundraising began, we met a ten-year-old girl named Jordan, who at a young age was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis. "Team Luden" as we were known, rode in honor of Jordan in hopes of one day helping her overcome her debilitating disease. We expected to meet a little girl who had no motivation to move and who remained inactive. Instead, the first time we met Jordan, there was something special that struck our attention. We saw Jordan smiling and having fun. As we sat on the balcony of her house, we watched her enjoying the beauty that filled the day. She would follow the birds with her eyes; she would run around her house with her dog; she was happy. She had learned to live with the pain and, as a result, she had overcome the most debilitating aspect of the disease. After meeting her for the first time, we were truly inspired and motivated by her upbeat personality even when she was in pain, but it was her hopes and dreams that truly moved us. Before she went to bed after our first meeting, she asked her mom *"When the boys come home will I be cured?"* It was that innocent hope of a less painful future that kept our wheels spinning down the California coast. Since that time, Billy has ridden a total of three tours, and Diego has participated in two events.

As much as we have enjoyed our annual cycling tour, we have also found a regular monthly activity to be especially worthwhile. Three years ago, we again joined Billy's father to assist each first Sunday of the month at St. Martin De Porres in San Francisco. Martin's

is a non profit organization that provides tasty, if we may add, food to over two hundred people. Our service at Martin's starts at 7:30 a.m., where we assist the cooks in making rice, salads and beans. After several hours of cooking, we help in serving anywhere from 50-150 people during the late morning. Once everyone has been served, we continue to assist by washing all the dishes, spoons, cups and preparing the facility for later use. Our Sunday responsibilities normally end at 11:30 a.m. We have found that helping at Martin's food shelter has changed us in many ways. We have become more aware of the struggles that people have to go through and have gained a greater appreciation for what we are blessed to have. In both our cycling tour, and our work at St. Martin De Porres food shelter, we have gained great satisfaction in being able to make a difference in others people's lives. ■



13



YO MATEO

BY SAGAR PATEL '06

When I first came to Junipero Serra High School three years ago, I never believed that I could be the person I am today: a San Mateo County Youth Commissioner, Yo Mateo youth coalition member, Federation Indian Association captain commissioner and a proud junior at Serra High School. As a youth, I feel that service to my community and my school is essential in growing psychologically and physically. So, for the past three years, service has been one of my main aspirations.

For the past four years, I have been a member of the Youth Organizing San Mateo County (Yo Mateo). As a program of the Youth Leadership Institute, Yo Mateo is trying to fight "Big Tobacco" as it targets youth cigarette smokers. We have continuously held workshops, administered surveys, held media events, and conducted various projects to target large cigarette companies, merchants, and stores that sell cigarettes to young people. This group is the essence of pride, love, justice and fairness that San Mateo County requires.

The voice and impact of Yo Mateo on San Mateo County is priceless! With the help of our

allies such as the Tobacco Education Coalition and the Friday Night Live Youth Coalition, we have passed a Tobacco Retail Permit in San Mateo County, presented to the San Mateo County School Board to remove tobacco subsidiaries from vending machines and cafeterias, and much more. Being a member of Yo Mateo has shown me that our world isn't perfect; in fact, we don't tend to realize that the problems can be right here at home. Big Tobacco is a problem that teens face everyday. This coalition is just one step in the right direction to reveal the disguise of tobacco and fix its corruption on today's youth!



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

BY

MICHAEL NOCE '05

Do like to get your hands dirty? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to do some physical labor? How about lending a helping hand to make someone else's life better? If so, then the Habitat for Humanity Club at Serra High School is definitely worth checking out. This past year I have served as President of the Serra Chapter for the Habitat for Humanity Club.

I first joined the club as a junior in search of some much needed service hours. What I didn't know prior to joining the club was how much I would learn and mature throughout my time with the club.

The Habitat for Humanity Organization is a non-profit, world wide organization which builds houses for poor and low income families. Since being founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller, the organization has built more than 175,000 houses and sheltered more than 900,000 people in more than 3,000 communities worldwide. There are two different divisions of the organization with which our Serra chapter works -- the Peninsula Habitat for Humanity and the San Francisco Habitat for Humanity. With each of the divisions, our Serra Habitat for Humanity Club sends an average of eight students and two club moderators for every trip. The trips are one-day trips lasting from 8:30 in the morning to about 4:30 in the afternoon. As a club, we try to take part in at least three outings per year.

There is something for everyone when volunteering. On the trips in which I have participated, I have carried out a number of different tasks. Fellow club members and I have painted walls, hammered nails, dug ditches, built retaining walls, laid underground drainage pipe, put up siding on the exterior of houses, and so much more. After completing a day full of hard work, one cannot help but feel the sense of pride and satisfaction in the work they have done. The sense of accomplishment that I feel when I volunteer with the Habitat for Humanity Organization is astounding. It is the feeling of making a difference in someone else's life, which in the long run matters to a lot of families who can't afford their own home or shelter. The Serra Habitat for Humanity Club has been a great way for me and for other students to give back to the community.

EVERYONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BY

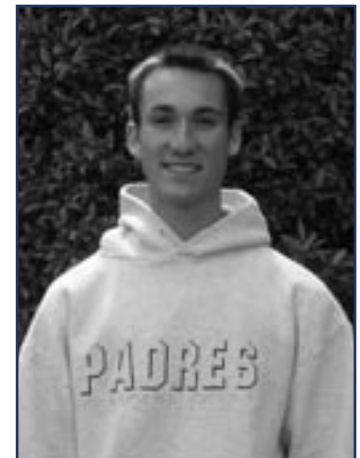
STEVEN BULLER '05

Over the past four years, service has become an important part of my life. I admit my motivation for first doing Christian Service was to complete the mandatory eighty hours required to graduate. However, I came to realize that service offers ways to learn much more, not only about the world I live in, but about myself as well.

During the summer before my junior year, I traveled to East St. Louis with my OLA Youth Group. There we worked with young children living in the projects. What struck me most about them was that although they were living in poverty, in many cases surrounded by drugs, violence and gangs, they were totally happy. In fact, they seemed to possess a greater love for life than people around here who seemingly have everything. I realized this was because they had lived in this setting all their lives and weren't aware of what was happening elsewhere. None of them had ever been outside the projects, so they didn't know how bad their situation was compared to the rest of the country.

I learned a lot from those kids, and when I came back to Serra I was able to apply this knowledge to what I was learning in Theology class and also to Campus Ministry events. My favorite activity that Campus Ministry offers is participating and leading retreats. As a freshman and sophomore, I was able to take a day off from the stress and responsibility of every day school life to get to know my classmates and myself a little better. And, as an upperclassman, I was given the opportunity to share my experiences as a leader with Serra's younger Padres.

I accumulated more than 650 service hours during my high school career, and I believe that the time I spent helping others has helped to shape me into the person I am today. There are so many different types of service opportunities available to Serra students, which results in a variety of ways to fill the school's service requirement. The large majority of Serra students have found it easy to go well beyond the required eighty hours. I know now that anyone can make a difference in another person's life, no matter how big or small.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

BY

ROSS SILVERMAN '05



The color and pageantry of 7000 athletes from 35 countries entering the stadium was spread out below me. It was the opening ceremonies of an Olympic competition, but not one being televised around the world. This was the World Special Olympics, and my older sister was one of the athletes. Growing up with my mentally disabled sister and watching her participate and compete has influenced my views of the human condition and led me to volunteer work that has been extremely rewarding.

This is my fifth year as the coach of the Special Olympics San Mateo County Unified basketball team. I started this endeavor in eighth grade with the hopes of teaching the athletes something about basketball, but instead the lessons I have learned far surpass the lessons of dribbling, passing, and shooting a basketball.

I have helped conduct regular practices with my team and have coached them in tournaments. Serra Senior Kent Eubanks has also been involved with coaching our team. We instruct the students on basic fundamentals and work on offensive and defensive skills during practice. It is so rewarding to see them compete during the games.

People often look down at the mentally disabled and feel a sense of sorrow because they will never have the same opportunities non-disabled people have. Though this might be true, and in many ways sad, it is not something to dwell over. Where the mentally disabled lack the ability to reach higher thinking and reasoning, or are unable to do many common tasks we do on a daily basis without thinking, they harbor great wisdom and display redeeming characteristics without even knowing it. One of my athletes was grossly overweight, but "for the team" lost over 50 pounds so he could better contribute, and enjoy himself more in the process. Through my sister and athletes, I have learned things about myself and about life that I will carry with me forever. The most important of these values are to simply enjoy life, and to do the most with what you have.

For any people who think that the mentally disabled don't know they are afflicted, be assured this is not true. Just like people in a wheelchair know they are disabled, so do those who suffer from mental retardation. What fools us into thinking that they don't know of their condition is the fact that they don't care. It would be easy for any one of them to sulk, wishing they could be "normal," but this is just not their way. They know they can never become Michael Jordan, Barry Bonds, or Peyton Manning, but it never stops them from having fun. This trait is why I admire these athletes so much. So many times us "normal" people stress about the smallest things, blinding us to the bigger picture. In order to truly enjoy life, I have learned that we must free ourselves from the restraints of self-consciousness and self-pity that tie us down.

More than anything, my sister and other Special Olympic athletes have inspired me to do more with my abilities. Seeing firsthand how fortunate I am compared to these people, I have reevaluated and adjusted my life. The biggest change, both in the classroom and on the football and rugby fields, is improvement of my work ethic. Challenging myself with honors and advanced placement courses, and asserting a leadership role on our football team are directly related to the inspiration drawn from Special Olympics. A Special Olympics motto is "Be a Coach, Inspire Greatness." I have been successful inspiring my sister and the players on my team and will continue to do so. In return, they inspire me to accept challenges, make the most of my abilities, and make my life and those around me enjoyable. I hope to continue working with Special Olympic athletes and the organization throughout my college career.

SERVING OTHERS

BY JOHNNY WISE '04

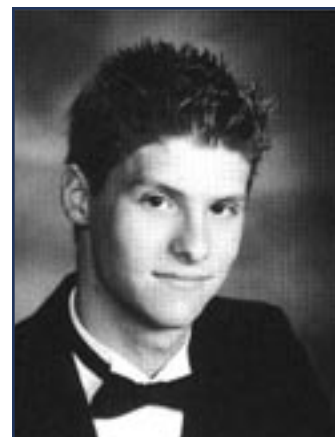
CURRENTLY ATTENDING UC DAVIS

Service had always been an integral part of my life. Coming to Serra enhanced my opportunities to serve others. Through my theology classes, I learned different ways to teach my children's liturgy class of third and fourth graders, which meets every Sunday at my parish. The young students, with their warming smiles and angelic innocence, have taught me more about my faith than I had ever imagined. I was also able to combine my Eagle Scout project with service to my church as I coordinated a landscaping project on the church grounds.

During spring of my junior year I took part in a ten-day immersion trip onto a Navajo Reservation in Arizona where we worked to assist the residents. On that trip I saw everything from decrepit living conditions to people stripped of hope barely making ends meet. We were able to stay in a traditional Navajo hut called a Hogan. We lived, worked and ate with these people for only a few days of our lives. Our tasks ranged from clearing the land to fetching water to various construction projects. When it came time for goodbyes, none of us wanted to leave. We felt we could stay and give so much more of ourselves. Seeing this gave me an entirely new perspective of my life. I returned home with a new appreciation for everything that I have been given.

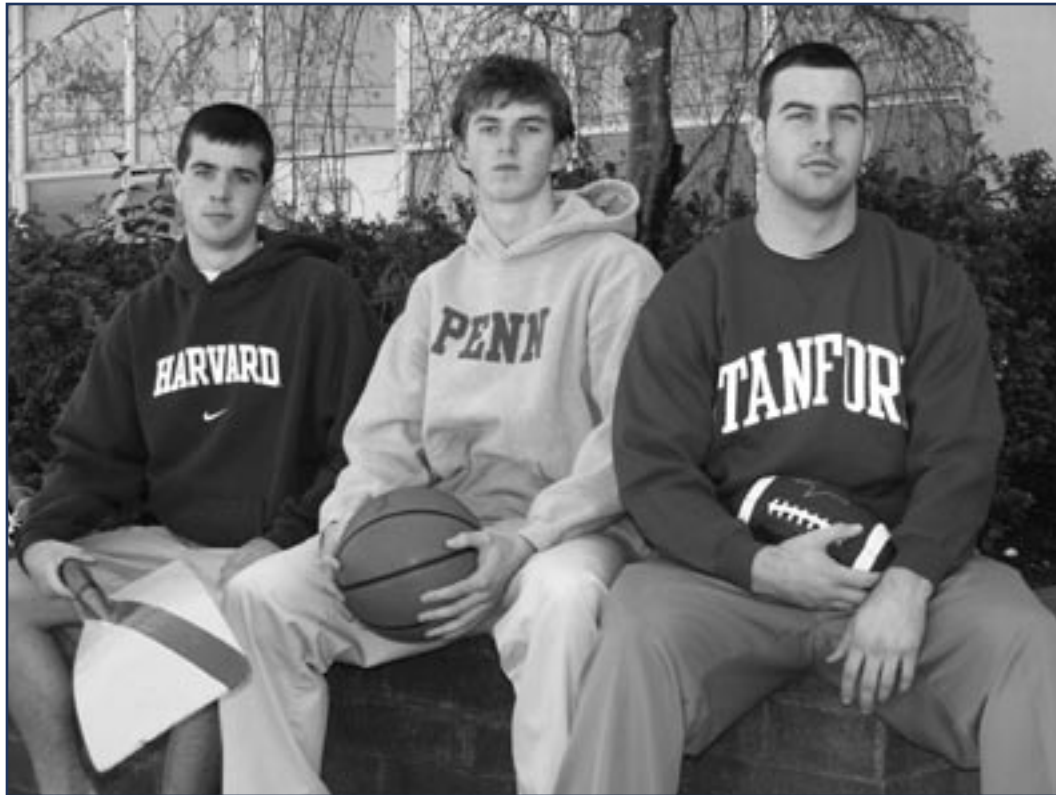
I always felt comfortable stopping by our Campus Ministry office to see if anything is going on or if there was a project I could help out with. I have enjoyed helping with Serra activities including assisting with open house, freshman interviews, orientations and various parent sponsored events.

With so much given to each of us, it is awesome to be able to give back, and to know my actions are helping others. I was able to accumulate more than seven hundred service hours during my four years at Serra. I doubt I will ever forget the experiences or changes I have made while serving. They become a part of you, and something about it makes you not want to let go. Through this I've learned that I can make a difference in the lives of others and these experiences will be something that I will carry with me through out the rest of my life.



BRAINS & BRAWN

by Randy Vogel



(L to R): Sam Walsh '05, Tom McMahon '05, Will Powers '05

Tom McMahon, Will Powers and Sam Walsh, all outstanding student-athletes from the Class of 2005, will be attending three of the most selective universities in the country. Basketball standout, McMahon, has chosen the University of Pennsylvania; football star, Powers, will attend Stanford University; and the top rower in the school's crew program, Walsh, is heading for Harvard University.

Besides being stellar athletes, this trio shares another trait. They are all outstanding scholars, among the elite in their graduating class. A look at their transcripts indicates numerous Advanced Placement and Honors classes for each of them. All three have taken challenging courses, including AP Calculus, Government, Physics, and AP English Literature. While being involved in athletics for four years, their course work has included Honors Chemistry, Honors Algebra 2/Trig, U.S History, and French or Spanish . . . just to name a few. At the same time, each of the three young men was active in other areas of the school and each contributed more than 80 hours of Christian Service to the community.

McMahon, named WCAL Player of the Year, was the all everything forward for the Padres' Third Consecutive WCAL Title squad and CCS Division I and Nor Cal Division I Championship basketball team. He decided during the fall early signing period to attend the University of Pennsylvania and play for Coach Fran Dunphy after receiving offers from UCLA, UC Santa Barbara and Princeton. McMahon said he felt comfortable on his recruiting visit to Penn and was told that substantial playing time as a freshman was a good possibility. McMahon has shown the ability to pop from three-point range, as well as being a force under the basket. In choosing Penn, McMahon stated, *"I really like the players and the coaches. It's a great academic school with one of the best business schools in the country."*

Tommy's overall academic success, his leadership skills, service and character resulted in his selection as a member of Serra's Chapter of the National Honor Society. Serra English teacher, Keith Stapleton commented, *"I taught Tom for two years in Honors English classes and found him to be an enthusiastic student who contributed frequently to class."*

Powers, All-County defensive end, 2004 WCAL and San Jose Mercury Player of the Year and First Team All-State for Cal-Hi Sports, verbally committed and later signed a National Letter of Intent to attend Stanford University during a press conference in the school's

continued on next page

gym in late January. After getting feelers from more than fifty schools, including Notre Dame, Nebraska, Oregon, Cal and Stanford, Powers narrowed down his decision to UC Berkeley and Stanford before making his final choice. He looks forward to playing for new Coach Walt Harris. *"In the end, Stanford just felt like the best place for me,"* commented Powers. *"You can't beat the academics there and I like the defense they play and how I'll be used."* Powers was also a dominant force for the Padres' WCAL, CCS Division I and Nor Cal Division I championship basketball team and was named WCAL Honorable Mention.

Mathematics Department Chairman Perry Carter feels confident that Will can handle the academic rigors as well as the athletic challenge that is ahead of him, having taught him in Honors Algebra 2/Trig and also having coached him in football. *"Will Powers is the type of student you want in class. He asks challenging questions that are not only insightful but also entertaining,"* stated Carter enthusiastically. *"He brings with him a strong will to work hard, a great personality that allows him to get along well with others and a great competitive spirit that keeps him committed to his endeavors."* This past year Will earned the Bank of America Mathematics Award and was named a CCS Scholar Athlete.

Oarsman, Sam Walsh, selected Harvard University as the school where he will continue his education and further his crew talents. Although numerous schools showed an interest in Walsh for both academics and crew, he applied to Harvard as an early decision candidate and was accepted. Sam, who won the prestigious San Francisco Olympic Club Foundation's 2004 Brian Ohleyer Award for demonstrating superior athletic and academic talents, along with exemplary leadership, service and character, earned a scholarship from the Olympic Club plus \$1000 for Serra's athletic program.

In February, Walsh competed in the International Indoor Rowing Championships in Boston where he grabbed first place in the nation and fourth place in the world for his weight and age group. This accomplishment is especially amazing considering that crew is one of the biggest inter-scholastic sports on the East Coast, a hot bed for some of the finest rowers in the nation.

Serra's crew Coach, Cassandra Cunningham, praised Sam's leadership stating, *"A mentor of mine once told me that actions speak louder than words. Do as you say. Sam sets goals and then gets the job done. It is simple to go after something when you have a goal."* Cunningham continued emphatically, *"The team now recognizes how hard work can pay off, but first you have to know what the goal is. The team wants to win. Sam has been able to influence the team's attitude showing that in order to succeed you must focus on three things: First set a goal, second train hard and third don't settle for anything less than the best."*

Sam is a member of the National Honor Society -- an organization based on outstanding academic achievement, service, leadership and character. He has received the Scholar-Athlete and Most Outstanding Student Awards while at Serra and this past year was honored with a Bank of America Award for social science. His AP English teacher Tom Sullivan stated, *"Sam is one of the top AP literature students this year. He is very insightful and contributes to class discussion as a thoughtful, mature young man. His writing is eloquent, complex yet graceful."*

These three young men, characterized by exceptional determination, intelligence, imagination, dedication and energy, have combined their outstanding academic and athletic talents to pave the way for extraordinary opportunities and the possibilities of unlimited potential for their futures.



Sam Walsh '05



Will Powers '05



Tom McMahon '05

“A graduate of Junípero Serra High School is a mat
who, like Blessed Junípero Serra, finds Christ in and brings

CAMPERS FROM CHILDREN'S SKIN DISEASE FOUNDATION AT CAMP ARROYO



Thanksgiving Food Drive



CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE



CHILDREN EXPRESSING APPRECIATION



SOCCER TEAM TUTORS



FAY



pure Christian who lives a life of faith and service and
Christ to the people with whom he lives, works and serves.”

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORKERS



READING THE GOSPEL
TO UNDER PRIVILEGED STUDENTS IN EAST ST. LOUIS



FROM NAVAJO RESERVATION IN ARIZONA



COASTAL BEACH CLEAN-UP VOLUNTEERS



OTHERS' CLUB REBUILDING TOGETHER PROJECT



TSUNAMI RELIEF DONATION PRESENTED TO
MONSIGNOR HARRY SCHLITT



Visual & Performing Arts



TRI-SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS PERFORMS MAGIC

"Tale as old as time. Tune as old as song" . . . Performing to packed houses was this year's magical performance of Disney's *"Beauty and the Beast."* Over 101 tri-school students participated in the cast, crew, and orchestra for this heart-warming fairy-tale. The story centers around a girl named Belle, who becomes the prisoner of a hot-tempered and hideous beast in a castle full of enchanted objects. The Beast is actually a transformed prince, cursed long ago by an enchantress. In order to break the spell, the Beast must learn to love and be loved in return.

From beginning to end, this fast, colorful, and sentimental performance by our talented students captivated both young and old audience members alike. According to Tom Sullivan, Production Manager, this was the most well-attended production in Tri-School history, seating over 600 people per performance -- with the closing weekend being a complete sell out!

LEAD ROLES (Serra Students):

Beast - Brendan Quirk '07
Gaston - Stewart Kramar '05
Cogsworth - Phillip Golding '05
Lumiere - Alex Maggi '08
Le Fou - Don DalBroi '07
Maurice - Patrick Neimeyer '07
D'Argue - Rico Roque '05

Directors: (Serra Only)

Jay Jordan, General Music Director
Tom Sullivan, Production Manager

SUPPORTING ROLES (Serra Students):

Mob Song Duet - Spencer Blank '06 & Alex Jordan '08
Book Seller - Alex Child '05

ENSEMBLE MEN:

Manny Angeles '05
Addison Goss '08
Robert Monk '07
Matt Rankin '07
Brad Satterwhite '07
Andy Seckler '07
Troy Talmadge '06

CHORUS (Serra Students):

Spencer Blank '06
Alex Child '05
Alex Jordan '08
Ryan McEnery '07
Scott Syme, Jr. '06

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Eileen Child (Serra Parent) - Costume Designer. Eileen organized a parent volunteer crew to create (*from scratch*) a complete costume design for a cast of 55. They spent literally thousands of hours designing, assembling, sewing, and repairing costumes throughout the run of the production.

Debora Goss (Serra Parent): Lead Scenic Artist, painting four full-size scenic drops and all set pieces.

Matthew Ferretti '02: Provided set design and served as second scenic artist, assisting Deborah Goss in painting scenic drops and set pieces.

Mark Bowles (Serra parent): Served as technical director overseeing the design and construction of all set/scenic elements.

Fashion Show 2005 *Magnifique!*

Mothers' Auxiliary Presents



Zack DiMaggio '05
Danielle Thompson (NDB)



Nick Rogers '05
Katie Rohrbach (Mercy)



Kareem Barghouti '05
Angela Stoloski (NDB)



Hisham Dahud '06
Vicky O'Brien (Mercy)



Phil Golding '05
Jackie Dal Broi (NDB)



Steve Erickson '07, Mike Noce '05, Jake Landholt '06, Alika Herrera '05



Richard Lyttle '05
Christine Fong (NDB)



Angela Stoloski (NDB)
Chuck Wargo '05



Josh Perri '06
Haley Nagle (Mercy)



Lindsay Walsh, Patrick Walsh (Varsity
Football Coach) & Baby Boy William



Chris Bruzzone '05
Kim Claypool (Mercy)

A PARENTS' LOOK AT THE RECRUITING ROAD

BY
VALERIE AND JIM POWERS



Picture (L to R): Matt Powers '00, Jim Powers, Will Powers '05
Valerie Powers, Varsity Football Coach Patrick Walsh

As parents of Will Powers '05, this has been a very long and exciting road for us and our entire family – one we would not have missed. It's hard to decide where it all began but as far as we're concerned, it has not ended.

Will began his football career at Serra. We're very fortunate that once he arrived at Serra, a new program was taking place with its awesome new leader, Patrick Walsh.

Will was moved to the varsity team for his sophomore year. It was kind of daunting, since he was only 14 years old at the season's beginning. However, he blended in well and was mentored by his coaches and peers. During May 2003, he attended the Nike Camp at Stanford. We had no idea what this was all about but have since learned a lot. It is similar to the NFL's "Combine" with various attributes tested as well as some skill drills. Many, many college coaches attend. It is an honor to participate. Of course, knowing Will, we didn't get much information on this when he arrived home – we only saw his sun burn.

During the summer before his junior year, Will started receiving interest mail from colleges. Nothing specific, just things like "looking forward to recruiting you." Soon after the national letter of intent date in early February 2004, Will received his first offer from UCLA. We were very excited and thought for the first time perhaps we wouldn't have to pay for college for him. Then the subsequent offers came from awesome programs such as Oregon, ASU, Arizona, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Stanford, and Notre Dame. The federal express man was pretty busy at our house for a couple of months.

We all met with Coach Walsh in early spring of 2004 to seek his guidance. He had spent a lot of time talking with Will already. We discussed qualities that we, as parents, were looking for in a school. Eventually our number one priority was that William be happy. Patrick also provided a spreadsheet of qualities to evaluate and suggested we weight the categories. Patrick also suggested we pick the top 5 schools by early summer so other programs he wasn't pursuing could be notified.

Our list was pared down to four based on several unofficial visits and two junior days attended. The original visits were to Stanford, Arizona, ASU, Nebraska, Cal, Notre Dame, UCLA, and Oregon. Based on personal preferences we made the difficult decision to eliminate UCLA, Arizona, ASU and Notre Dame from Will's original list.

Will did not want to miss any football games so official visits were delayed until December. During the fall season, Will eliminated Nebraska and Oregon and included ASU as one of his choices again. During the fall we attended football games at Stanford and Cal.

In late November, NCAA coaches were allowed to make in home visits. Our first visit was Assistant Coach Tipton from Stanford. This was kind of awkward since the head Coach, Buddy Teevens, had been fired the previous day. We also

had a visit from Coaches Koetter and Monachino from ASU – just a couple of days before our official visit there.

Our first official visit was on December 3, 2004 to ASU, which we attended with Will. It went really well and included time with the players, coaches, and a visit with the head coaches. ASU has a family oriented program that would have been a good fit for Will.

The next weekend we went to Cal. This visit was spent mostly at the stadium watching practice, meeting people, and visiting with coaches. One thing interesting was that there were very few parents with the recruits on this visit.

The first week of January we had an in-home visit with Stanford's new head coach Walt Harris as well as Defensive Line Coach Tom Quinn.

The first weekend in January we were at Stanford for our official visit. The visit included time for players and Will to interact, breakfast with about 20 faculty members, a basketball game, facility tours, and dinner at one of the faculty member's house. All but one recruit had at least one parent with them; most had both parents which was very different from the two other schools we have visited. Sunday morning was brunch at the hotel and a meeting with Coach Harris. From there we returned to campus for a presentation about football, the defensive scheme, and how Will would fit in.

With all visits completed, Coach Walsh suggested we try to make a decision. Cal made one more home visit with that included the head coach.

Coach Walsh encouraged us to make a decision since there really wasn't any more information to gather. He scheduled a press conference for January 21st. If a decision wasn't reached, we could reschedule. The initial signing date for the letter of intent was February 2 and we wanted to have things completed well before then.

Will was spending a lot of time by himself reflecting on his school decision. He was also busy with basketball and general schoolwork. By this time, ASU was out of the picture so it was a Cal/Stanford issue. Will was using the decision tree Coach Walsh suggested but essentially it came down to what your instincts feel as the best for you. As his parents, we felt Stanford was a good fit for him based on his personality, academic interests, and the type of students and athletes he would be associated with on a daily basis. Cal is a very good school also but it does not have the same admission requirements as Stanford does for its athletes and this was a concern of ours since Will has worked so hard to achieve his academic success.

After a couple of evenings of discussions, Will told us he wanted to attend Stanford. This was after our suggestion that he consider certain factors that we weren't sure a 17 year old would.

The next day was the press conference at Serra. We arrived at school early to call Coach Harris with the good news. It was a very pleasant call to make. Coach Harris and the rest of the staff were very excited to have Will joining them. The next call Coach Walsh and Will made was without us there. It was to Coach Tedford at Cal. Unfortunately you can attend one school only and there were a lot of disappointed people, but that is the nature of the recruiting business.

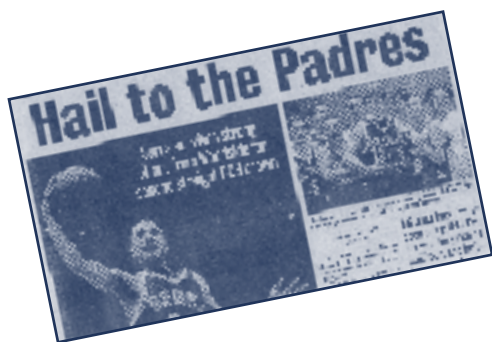
The press conference was very exciting with Will's grandmother, brother and sister attending. On February 2, Will signed his paperwork for Stanford. The caring atmosphere that was presented to us by Stanford as such a family oriented school reminded of our experiences at Serra.

Jim had said to me a few months before February 2 to get used to the idea of a big let down. We were prepared but fortunately for us basketball continued until March 19th so we were still on a roll. Now the fashion show, AP exams and graduation. What a way to end your high school career! It could not have been scripted better.

We are so proud of the way Will handled all of this. He never let this get out of control limiting calls from the blog and media writers and frequently just taking calls from coaches. During this time he also kept his grades up receiving all A's – this with two AP classes. All parents should be so lucky. It was a wonderful road and we're looking forward to his time on the farm and a visit to spring football practice. We learned a lot – recruiting is a business for these schools.

Our advice to other families – students do your best in the classroom so you have more options if you want to play at the next level. Parents, enjoy the ride and count your blessings. We owe special thanks to Coach Patrick Walsh for his work throughout this process. His support, dedication and advice were instrumental throughout.

Go Padres!!!



VARSIITY BASKETBALL MAKES SERRA HISTORY

AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY DOWN COURT

by Russ Bertetta '67

Last October 20, when Varsity Basketball Coach, Chuck Rapp, and his squad had their first practice of the season, the dream of playing late into March was on everyone's minds. The local press was practically conceding the WCAL title to the tall and talented Padres. Nearly every article mentioned that the 2004-2005 Padres had the talent to reach levels that no Serra basketball team had ever reached. Coach Rapp and his assistants, Bob Christensen and Scott Bricker, repeatedly warned the team that games were won on the court, not in the papers. Sometimes throughout the long season, it seemed as if these warnings fell on deaf ears. But on March 19, when the Padres took the court at Arco Arena in Sacramento to take on Westchester of Los Angeles for the State Division I Boys Championship, the team knew they had jelled, overcome obstacles, and had made Serra basketball history!

The reasons for the high expectations were quite real. Rapp welcomed back all-league forward, Tom McMahon '05, and all-league guard Chaz Thomas '05, who was making the switch to the point guard spot. They were joined by 6'6" junior forward, Decensae White, who had displayed his potential during the previous year's CCS title run, and the man in the middle, Will Powers '05, who had just finished a football season that saw him named as the *WCAL Player of the Year*. Add 6'5" senior wing man, Kent Eubanks, to the mix and you had the tallest, and possibly the most talented Serra squad ever.

Coach Rapp had put together a challenging pre-season schedule, hoping that strong competition would toughen the Padres for the always grueling WCAL season. They opened play in early December with a win over Monte Vista of Danville and then made their annual appearance

in the Vontoure Classic at De La Salle. After two wins, the Padres played host De La Salle in the championship game, losing to the Spartans, who were then ranked #1 in the San Francisco Chronicle poll, 54-45. Local rival Burlingame was next on the Padre schedule. Playing in front of a packed house at Serra, the Padres held off a furious Burlingame rally in the fourth quarter to win 52-47. But then it appeared that the wheels on the Padre Bandwagon began to fall off. A fifteen point loss to Woodside was followed by a 63-46 loss to eventual state champion, Santa Cruz led by former Serra coach, Pete Newell, Jr. People began to question the team's chemistry and say the team was over-rated. But Rapp never lost faith in his players and they never lost faith in their colorful coach. Winning the Tim Cole Classic in Fremont buoyed the team's confidence going into league play.

League play began ominously with a double over-time win over St. Ignatius in San Francisco. A solid win over Valley Christian was followed by another over-time game against Riordan. However, this one turned out to be a one-point Serra loss. The Padres put it all together for a 69-50 win over Mitty in front of another packed house in the "Jungle." Wins over Bellarmine, Sacred Heart Cathedral, and St. Francis put the Padres at 6-1 for the first half of league play. The annual "JUNGLE GAME" was another classic thriller. With the score tied at 50 with 1:55 left to play in over-time, Tom McMahon and Decensae White who had both left the game earlier with injuries returned to the line-up. McMahon hit the game winner with 1:15 left and added a free throw to ice the 54-50 win. An injury to Kent Eubanks forced junior, Dan Mavraides, into the line-up. His tenacious defense kept him in the starting line-up for the rest of the year. Eubanks would return as the key reserve for Rapp's squad. A post-Jungle game

letdown led to a loss at Valley Christian, but the team rebounded with one of its better performances of the league season with a 73-54 win over Riordan. That game may have been a key factor in the Padres post-season run, as Chaz Thomas was finally becoming more comfortable at the point guard position. His seven assists were part of a season high twenty-three assist night as the Padres played the kind of game that people had expected them to play. Another overtime game (the team's fifth) followed.

In a game that saw 67 free throws, Serra lost a heart-breaker at Mitty. A last second tip by Will Powers went in and spun out, providing the margin of victory for the Monarchs and Rapp's squad fell into a first place tie with Valley Christian at 9 and 3. Playing their "A" game, Serra crushed Sacred Heart Cathedral 64-47 as four Padres scored in double figures. That win combined with a Valley Christian loss put the Padres back on top of the WCAL with one game to play. Coach Rapp and his squad were not about to let a feisty St. Francis squad (coached by Padre alum Steve Filios '71) spoil their quest for a "three-peat" before another packed house in the Jungle. McMahon's season high 28 points led the Padres to a 75-51 rout of the Lancers. It looked like the team was peaking at the right time.

As always, the WCAL play-offs would be another story. The Padres began the tournament in strong fashion beating the Bells 59-41 behind McMahon's 23 point performance. That night Tom McMahon was named the *WCAL Player of the Year*. Tom averaged 16 points and 9 rebounds per game. He was joined on the All-WCAL first team by Chaz Thomas and Decensae White. The often over-looked and under-appreciated Will Powers, whose defense and rebounding were keys to the Padre success, received honorable mention

Continued on next page

Continued from page 23

honors. But, once again, a play-off crown would elude the Serra basketball team. The Padres could score only two first-quarter points (both free throws) and found themselves trailing Riordan 20-2 at the end of the first period. The Padres could not score a field goal until 2:59 remained in the first half. Rapp, however, would not let his team die as they rallied to cut the lead to three before running out of gas and time.

Since 1950 Serra has won the regular season title nine times. On all nine occasions, we have lost the league play-offs. *"It's getting to be like the St. Francis football streak,"* Rapp quipped after the game. Tom McMahon felt that this loss to Riordan was the turning point for the team, as they realized that another loss would end their season -- so the team vowed they wouldn't lose again.

With the evolution of CCS play-offs, it seems like even if you lose you still get to play again. That was one consolation for the Padres. Seeded #2 in Division I, the Padres routed Silver Creek of San Jose 80-41 in the opening game. A 66-44 drubbing of Menlo-Atherton followed and now Rapp's boys were making believers out of those who had doubted them only a week earlier. Next up was a powerful San Benito of Hollister squad which was led by Kyle Sharp, a 6'7" forward who led the CCS in scoring with a 28.5 average. Paced by McMahon and White, the Padres took a 9-0 and never looked back, winning 63-51 and advancing to the CCS finals against Woodside. Certainly Coach Rapp and his players had revenge on their mind when they journeyed to San Jose that Friday night to play Woodside who, back in December, had handed them their worst loss of the year. The game began like a heavyweight fight, with the combatants feeling each other out in the first half of a rather sloppily played game. Neither team could establish a good rhythm and the half-time score of 19-18 reflected that. But the Padres went on a 12-2 run to open the fourth quarter and held a 40-31 lead with 2:16 left in the game. Woodside responded with a run of their own and tied the game at 45 with 24.6 seconds left. Rapp called a time-out to set up a shot for either Thomas or McMahon. Chaz missed a long three-pointer with 3.4 seconds remaining and Woodside

snared the rebound and called time-out. Unfortunately for the Wildcats, they had no time outs left and were assessed a technical foul. Thomas, who admitted later he was a little nervous, calmly sank both free throws to win the game and the CCS Title for the Padres. A raucous celebration followed as over a thousand Serra fans celebrated a second consecutive CCS crown.

The long and winding, and sometimes frustrating, road would continue as the Padres advanced to the NorCal play-offs as the #2 seed. First up was Franklin High of Elk Grove and the sell-out crowd witnessed Padre basketball at its best. Rapp commented afterwards, *"We executed well on offense, played solid defense. We won doing the three S's-score, space and sharing. And we shot the heck out of the ball."* Indeed they did.

The Padres shot 64% for the game, converting on 33 of 52 field goal attempts. An 85-67 win would send Serra back to the NorCal semi-finals for the second straight year. The opponent was a powerful Newark Memorial squad who was ranked 5th in the state by Cal-Hi Sports. Before an overflow crowd at CSM, the Padres played one of the greatest games any local basketball buffs had ever seen. Newark, led by Kyle Spain, one of the best players in Northern California, took a 27-18 lead into the third quarter but the Padres gradually chipped away at the lead to tie the game at 47 with a thunderous dunk by White. Thomas hit a three-pointer to reclaim the lead 50-49 and from there, the lead changed hands four times. It appeared that Chaz had secured the win with two free throws to make the score 56-53 with three seconds remaining, but Newark also had no quit in them. After the free throws, Spain dribbled the ball up court while being harassed by McMahon. He launched a running shot about two feet in front of the half court line at the buzzer that found its home at the bottom of the net as time expired to send the game into over-time. An already drained crowd could not believe what they had seen. Most teams would have fallen apart under those circumstances, but not this Padre team who had already played six over-time games and had faced adversity all season. Decensae White scored four points in overtime and Thomas added two free throws with 8 seconds remaining to give

the Padres a two-point lead. However, Newark had the ball and the rowdy Padre fans were hoping that "déjà vu" would not happen. A three-pointer at the

Serra coach knows what it takes to win

buzzer clanked off the rim as time expired and nearly a thousand joyous Padre fans stormed the court to hail their young heroes. An emotionally drained Coach Rapp rightfully claimed *"This is the greatest win in Serra basketball history."*

Tom McMahon could only mutter, *"Amazing!"* A Northern California championship was now only two days and one game away.

Castlemont of Oakland was all that stood between the Padres and fulfilling their dreams of a Northern California title. Castlemont, a long time Oakland powerhouse, was now viewed as the Cinderella team of the tournament, having been the ninth seed and forced to play a "play-in" game against Galileo. Coach Rapp was optimistic about his team's chances and felt they were "destined" to claim the championship. Of course, he never let the team know his inner thoughts. Thousands of Padre fans traveled from all over Northern California to Arco Arena in Sacramento for this climactic showdown. Although the Padres trailed by one at half time, the coaching staff felt that the team hadn't played their best game. Both teams had shot the ball well considering that playing in an arena the size of Arco often plays havoc with shooting percentages. The Padres came out and owned the third quarter.

White, according to Rapp, *"put on a clinic. He was clearly the best player on the floor."*

In a 15-3 Padre run, Decensae scored 10 points, including eight straight to open the game up for Serra. Castlemont made a furious run to cut the lead to 57-54 with 1:30 left to play. They fouled Powers who sank two free throws to stop the bleeding and restore control of the game for the Padres. Thomas then took over the game as the Padres spread the court to run some



time off the clock. He controlled the ball, made great decisions, and played the way point guards are supposed to according to Rapp. *"He was great at doing what we call 'dribble, draw, and dish.'"*

Serra's "Big Three," Thomas, White, and McMahon scored 57 of the team's 65 points, but the unsung hero of the game may have been Powers. Not only were his two free throws crucial, but his physical defense of Castlemont's Pepperdine-bound Chris Oakes was outstanding. Despite giving away four inches to the 6'8" center, Powers held him to ten points and nine rebounds. As time wound down at Arco the Padre student cheering section said it all: **"NORCAL CHAMPS! NORCAL CHAMPS!"** The dream had, indeed, come true.

The following week was a blur of activity on campus. Alumni from all over the world sent messages to the team. Cliff Henry '78 sent one from Australia; Tony Severance '82 sent one from Texas; John Stein '83 e-mailed from Missouri; even Barry Bonds '82 sent an e-mail. All the messages said pretty much the same thing: *"How proud they were of the team and how proud they were to be Padres."* Bookstore Director, Sally Lockie, made a poster with all the messages which was given to the team at a rally on Friday. At that rally, three championship banners, one each from the WCAL, CCS, and NorCals were unfurled before a packed gym. Coach Rapp gave an impassioned speech and thanked the student body for the tremendous support the team had received all year and promised the team would compete the next night against Westchester.

The bubble did burst that Saturday

night against a big, talented and deep Westchester of Los Angeles, but not before the Padres, both on the court and in the stands, let everyone in Arco know that Padres never die. The first half was a battle and the Padres trailed by only four. They cut the lead to two by scoring the first basket of the second half, but foul trouble, especially for Thomas, and the outstanding talent of Westchester won out as the Comets went on a 17-0 run from which the Padres could not recover. The game ended in a 66-45 loss, but this team had made history and those of us who had the good fortune to see them on a regular basis will never forget this magical season.

The spectacular season also put a significant dent in the Serra record books. School records set during the season include most wins 26, most points at 2095, most team field goals 771 and most rebounds at 1139. Tom McMahon moved into third place as Serra's all-time leading scorer list at 916, while Chaz Thomas tied Sean MGee (1990-1991) for the season assist record at 158 and finished in third place for career three point field goals with 111.



(L to R) Back: Graduating Seniors: Kent Eubanks '05, Will Powers '05, Tom McMahon '05,
(Front) Chaz Thomas '05

Recently I sat down with Coach Rapp, McMahon and Thomas to get their thoughts on the season, the ups and downs of being together for over five months, and all they had accomplished. The first thing we talked about was the high expectations everyone had for the team and the pressure that came with those expectations. Tom thought that early on the pressure tore the team down a bit, but then helped the team come together -- as if they had to prove themselves to all the people who had criticized them. Chaz felt that the early season rankings were a motivating factor and showed that Serra basketball belonged with the *"big boys of Bay Area basketball."*

Chuck, quoting Phil Jackson, said that there is nothing harder than winning when you're expected to. He thought that early in the season the team was trying to make a highlight reel type of play every time down court rather than making the play that presents itself. *"We were a loose collection of individuals,"* he said. *"But that would change."*

McMahon talked about being on three championship teams in his three years on varsity, something only he and Will Powers have done, and the players who helped him develop. He remembered Andrew Kochevar '03 in tears after the CCS semi-final loss to Salinas, when Tom was a sophomore and how Andrew had told him *"he was passing the torch on to me"* and how I tried to live up to that. Then there was Kevin Ochoa '04 last year *"who played harder than anyone I've ever seen"* and wanting to win for Kevin. He believes that this year's team is a close-knit group who wanted to leave their mark on Serra's history. Chaz smiled as he talked about transferring

from Oceana after his sophomore year, learning about teamwork and tradition, and find out "what a real school is like!" Both players have fond memories of the rooting section and how "playing in front of our crowd is so much fun. It's fun to see how our guys just intimidate other players so much." Chaz recalled how he was so nervous playing his first game before the home crowd. "Playing 3:15 games in front of 100 or so people, I had never seen crowds like ours. I just wanted to prove that I belonged."

When I asked about Coach Rapp, they both laughed. Chaz said, "Coach and I didn't get along at first. We had some rough times. He wanted me to be more disciplined. But I could see that he cared about me. We developed a very close bond throughout this year. We talk all time, about a lot of different things-not just basketball. He's helped me a lot."

McMahon remembers being a young, scared sophomore participating in "Camp Rapp" -- the annual pre-season conditioning period -- and how tough Coach was on everyone. But the more time you spend with him, he said, "the more you learn about him and how much he cares about what he does. He believes in respect, not just respecting him as the coach, but people, our opponents, our fans respecting us. He made me the person I am today."

When talking about the season, Chuck reflected on how a season is a "process,

and that the great reward of coaching is watching as a team comes together. Nothing worthwhile is easily gained. The building of a championship team is a long, arduous process that does not happen overnight."

This season certainly proved that as he called it a "long and circuitous journey (you can see that Chuck is an English teacher) complete with pot holes and detours, but eventually all those roads led to Arco."

All agreed that the Newark Memorial game was the defining moment of the season. Tom said that towards the end of the game "I couldn't see straight. Everyone was playing so hard, the crowd was so loud. It was awesome."

Serra basketball had finally made it over the hump-into the NorCal finals. Using one of his boxing metaphors, Chuck likened it to two heavyweight fighters going toe-to-toe, and "it epitomized what high school sports is all about---competition."

Chaz recalls smiling and looking at the crowd after Newark had tied the game at the buzzer to send it into overtime. "This is great. This is why we play," he said. "I knew that our five other overtime games would help us. We weren't worried or crushed by the shot. We had been there before. Now we were going to find out who the true warriors

were. It turned out to be us!"

Local papers printed pictures of the team following the loss to Westchester. The pictures showed the emotional impact of the loss on Chaz and Tom's faces. The emotions are still there. They talked about never playing with their friends again, never having the pre-game meal before a Friday night game, of never playing in front of a crowd filled with your friends. Tom laughed when I asked him about Chuck's legendary pre-game talks. He said that after three years both he and fellow senior Will Powers knew them by heart.

"One of Coach's favorite lines that he used all the time was 'let's make this our finest hour.'"

After hearing this a bunch of times, I wondered how can each time we step out on the court be our finest hour. But I know now that every time we did step out on the court to play, it was our finest hour." ■



Chaz Thomas '05

Will Powers '05



Tom McMahon '05



GO PADRES!



Kent Eubanks '05



Jeremiah Masoli '05
celebrates with
Decensae White '05 (L)
and Marcus Pointer '07 (R)

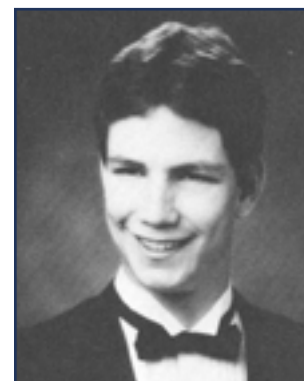


Back Row (L to R): Fielding Bohlken, Phoenix O'Rourke, Coach Scott Bricker, Decensae White, Travis Haynes, Will Powers, Kent Eubanks, Mario Favetti, Coach Sean Dugoni, Jeremiah Masoli, Marcus Pointer, Chris Cannizzaro, Drew TenBruggencate, Coach Mike Langridge, Coach Bob Christensen, Head Coach Chuck Rapp;
Front Row (L to R): Larry Viglizzo, Darrick DeLeon, Chaz Thomas, Tommy McMahon, Dan Mavraides, Eric Farrell, Coach Herb Yaptinchay

A 24-HOUR ROUND TRIP INTO THE PAST

by
BOB DICKSON '86

"I credit the preparation I received at Serra for helping me achieve my goal of becoming a professional writer."



It's been 18 years since I graduated from Serra High School — 18 years since I did many of the things I now make a living watching other young men and women do. In those 18 years, much has happened — some I expected, but most I did not.

The girlfriend I was sure I'd marry? Gone. The ability to eat an entire box of Twinkies in one sitting, guilt free? Gone. The millions of dollars I was going to make by my 30th birthday? Postponed a decade (my foolish optimism, on the other hand, has apparently survived the trip).

Truth is, most of us are nowhere near the people we were as high schoolers, which is all right. Those four years we spend learning trigonometry, the nuances of the five-paragraph essay and which acne lotions work best don't make us who we are. They just help form the base. Time and experience take it from there. But regardless of how far removed we may become from our high school experience, we can never escape it for good. I found that out last weekend in the most unlikely of places: The Arco Arena in Sacramento.

Actually, the journey began a few weeks earlier, while everybody in this valley was exalting over the achievements of the Hart boys basketball team. As the Indians were making their improbable run to a CIF-Southern Section title game, the basketball team at my alma mater was making a run of its own.

The Serra Padres of San Mateo, who lost in their own end-of-the-season league tournament, rebounded to capture the CCS Division I section title, then shocked everybody by winning their next three games to win the Northern California championship. Last weekend they faced mighty Westchester — ranked fifth in the country — for the state title in Sacramento. That's where I caught up to them and that's where I made my discovery.

The proposition of my attending the game was ridiculous — 900 miles in less than 24 hours, all for a 32-minute basketball game featuring a bunch of guys from a school I attended years ago. It wasn't even nostalgia that lured me to Sacramento. I was more interested in watching the game with my dad than in who was going to win. Or so I believed.

After only a few minutes in the arena, I realized my roots run deeper than I thought, and the soil of my high school experience is rich. In my mind, at least, those 18 years melted away in an instant. I heard the Padre cheering section begin their chants, and in my mind I was right there with them. The game began and suddenly I was just like everybody else in a Serra jacket, screaming at the refs and groaning after every missed shot. I was shouting encouragement to the players, even calling them by name, though I'd never seen them before.

Serra hung with Westchester for the first two quarters, but the Southern California champs broke out a full-court press in the second half and the result was a 21-point Comet victory. But not all was lost. I left the arena as I haven't left a prep sporting event in three plus years of covering high school sports: With a throat sore from screaming and hands numb from clapping. My team had fallen, but in the process, those young men had uplifted thousands along the way, including me. I walked out with my Serra Jacket, class of '86 on proud display. The bright yellow "S" on the front was there for everyone to see. And the best part about it was I didn't feel the least bit out of place. I was a Padre 18 years ago and on that night, I was a Padre again. On that night, I realized I always was.

Bob Dickson '86 writes for "THE SIGNAL," a daily newspaper in Santa Clarita, California (Los Angeles County). He has won an Associated Press Award for his work. Bob also teaches writing at The Master's College (also in Santa Clarita). He can be reached at bdickson@the-signal.com.

PADRE WHISPER HEARD AROUND THE WORLD!

It didn't take long for the news to get out about the success of our Varsity Basketball Team! Alumni Padres from across the GLOBE responded with overwhelming support via telephone calls, letters and e-mail.

"Went last week and saw Randy Vogel there. It was awesome to see the jungle lives and that Coach Rapp is doing so well . . . really made me proud."
ANDY BEATER '88

"Congratulations! I still read the Chron every morning on the internet. We have been following the Padres' great season up here in Seattle. I'll have the kids do a 'P.. P.. PAD.. R.. R.. RES' Saturday night." SCOTT PENNER '78

"The pride of being a Serra Padre has never been higher and I will be cheering from Arizona." MICHAEL CONTI '93

"I have been following the team's season very closely and am very proud of their accomplishments. I truly appreciate their win over Newark Memorial since I live in Newark. It's nice to have bragging rights." KEVIN SCULLY '78

"Considering I live in Austin, I will not be able to make the game. However, please let the team know that Padres from around the country and the world will be rooting for them!!" TONY SEVERANCE '83

"Go Padres! I am in Australia so I can't make the game, but my spirit is there." CLIF HENRY '78

JOHN METZCUS '88

"A SOURCE OF STRENGTH"

We all have someone we look to for inspiration and strength. Some choose a religious figure, a famous actor, a sports hero, or even a politician. In my family, we see my brother as the source of our strength.

John Metzcus ('88) was diagnosed with stage 3 rectal cancer in February of 2004. Like many cancer patients, he endured radiation treatments, chemotherapy and two surgeries. Throughout all of this, John always remained upbeat and positive. To outsiders, he did not appear sick. To his family and friends, he was his usual self. To his new "family" (his doctors and treatment specialists), he was always a source of sunshine. He'd bring Hawaiian music to the radiation center, so that there would be some fun music to listen to. The staff at the chemo center was always looking forward to his visits ... his charming personality ... flirting with the nurses and joking with the doctors had won them over.

In January of 2005, the aggressive treatment plan was deemed successful and John was given a clean bill of health. He is cancer free. He became involved with the American Cancer Society in his area and has been asked to be the Grand marshall for this year's "Relay for Life" in Belleville, Michigan. John has shown us that we don't need to look any further than our own family tree for strength and courage.

Shortly before his initial diagnosis, John and his girlfriend Michelle got engaged. We excitedly announce that their wedding will take place this July in Kauai. John will become a step-father to Michelle's daughter Santana.

On behalf of the Metzcus Family,
Stephanie Metzcus Ives (Mercy High School '87)



Serra Alum, Keala Keannaaina '93

Returns Home to San Mateo

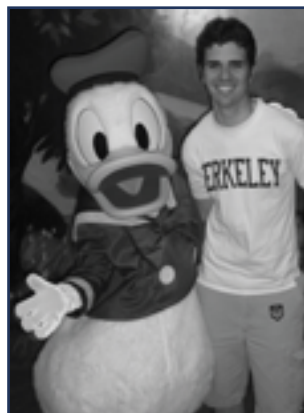


The San Mateo Police Department celebrated the hiring of Keala Keannaaina '93, one of its first two officers of Pacific Island descent. Keala hopes to assist with a growing youth gang problem in the Pacific Islander community.

Having grown up in San Mateo will give Keala a firsthand perspective on the various issues Polynesian youths face.

Dreams Really Do Come True

for Alum Steven Nordberg '03



Steven Nordberg '03 went to Florida recently for the Walt Disney World College Program to work as a "character greeter." However, upon his arrival, he was asked to audition to be a performer and received the role! Currently, as an intern, Steven is bringing the magic of Disney to hundreds of guests, where he is performing daily at the Walt Disney World Resort. He is involved in a variety of parades, shows, "meets and greets" and restaurant experiences.

"I have a feeling I'll be back to work for Disney after I complete my degree at UC Berkeley. Whether I end up at Disneyland or back here in Orlando, who knows? But, this already feels like home."

STAY IN TOUCH!

We want to keep you current on all the great things happening here at Serra, so we've made it super easy!

Just log on to our website @ SERRAHS.COM

Click on "ALUMNI" and "E-DIRECTORY" and provide us with your most recent home, e-mail address or any other news you'd like to send. We'd love to hear from you!

SERRANS in the DESERT

By Bill Miramontes '55

I'd begun looking for information on a possible 50th year class reunion, and was able to find John Arnold's '55 e-mail address in the Serra registry. I wrote to John and was happy to receive e-mail addresses for Jim Viano '55 and Richard Redmond '55, as well.

During this time, my wife, Mireille, and I were planning a trip to Galveston and then on to Palm Springs to spend the winter. I discovered that John lived in Houston; Richard in Palm Desert; and Jim and Suzy Viano had recently bought a place in Palm Desert, too.

Mireille and I made plans to see John and his wife, Diana, while we were in Galveston; and then visit with the others once we arrived in Palm Springs. Shortly afterwards, I obtained Jim Greening's '55 address in Montana, and learned that *he* was now planning to drive to Palm Springs for the winter to see us all! The thought of getting together with five guys that I have known for over sixty years was incredible. We were all together from 1st grade at St. Catherine's to 12th grade at Serra -- 62 years worth!

So, the ball was set in motion. Mireille and I drove from Picton, Ontario, to Galveston, and got together with John and his wife in January -- having made plans to visit the others while we were in Palm Springs. John and Diana thought it would be a good idea to join us all in Palm Springs for a few days. And so they did.

We had a great week reminiscing about both St. Catherine's and Serra, and catching up on one another's lives. Our wives, too, had a great time meeting one another. Although John and Jim Greening had gotten together occasionally, and John had been in touch here and there with Jim Viano and Richard Redmond, we mostly hadn't seen one another in 50 years. There was a lot to talk about.

We tried to find others from that 12-year era, got a couple of nibbles, but no takers. Maybe next time -- we five have decided that we should meet again for *Reunion Two*, at least.



(L to R) Richard Redmond '55, John Arnold '55, Bill Miramontes '55
Top of Tram in Palm Springs



(L to R) John Arnold '55, Jim Greening '55, Richard Redmond '55,
Jim Viano '55, Bill Miramontes '55



(L to R) Mark Mauro '92, Jack Samuels & Rob Drake

Mark Mauro '92 Welcome to the Major Leagues!

Mark Mauro '92 is currently in his 9th season of professional baseball, his third at the Triple-A level. Mark works as an umpire in the Pacific Coast League. The photo on the left was taken on April 3, 2005 at SBC Park in San Francisco -- a game between the San Francisco Giants and the Texas Rangers. This Spring Training Game was the first time Mark was called up to work in a Major League Baseball stadium!

ALUMNI NEWS



ELHIHI BROTHERS REUNITE

Lt. Mansour Elhihi (Class of '97) of the 60th Fighting Squadron, "The Fighting Crows" at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida is greeted by his two brothers Maher Elhihi (Class of '98) and Michael Elhihi (currently a junior at Serra) at Moffet Field on September 10, 2004.

Lt. Mansour Elhihi and five other pilots of the 60th Fighting Squadron at Eglin AFB were invited by the San Francisco 49ers to perform a F-15 fly-by over Candlestick Park for the 2004 season opener against Atlanta.

The opening ceremony was dedicated to the victims of 9/11 and to the soldiers who lost their lives serving our country in the War on Terrorism. Maher Elhihi is currently working on his MBA at Santa Clara University and is employed by R2 Technology as a sales operations specialist in Sunnyvale.



JEFF BACIGALUPI '93 - PLACE KICKER NIFL'S "KISSIMMEE KREATURES"

Serra Alum, Jeff Bacigalupi '93, is pictured above signing autographs as the placekicker for the "Kissimmee Kreatures." The "Kreatures" is a team participating in the NIFL, a relatively new Professional Arena Football League. The league was recently acquired by the NFL and will be referred to as "NFL-Indoor" next year.

The NIFL has a mission to donate millions of dollars to youth sports and education programs. They engage the community, holding many "meet and greet" functions, and encourage fans to come onto the field following games to meet the players.

Jeff graduated in 1999 from Florida State University, where he was the scout kicker for the Seminoles during the 97-98 and 98-99 seasons. He earned his degree in Criminology and is currently a Probation Officer for Ocoola County, Florida. Currently, Jeff has two full-time jobs -- his day job as a Probation Officer and his night/weekend job as a professional football player.

"His dedication and focus are skills acquired from his years at Serra," wrote his father, Paul. "My wife and I still talk about the wonderful experiences we had as parents of a 'Padre.' Serra High School will always hold a special place with us."

RICHARD KELLY '82 COACHING PADRE RUGBY PLAYERS

Richard Kelly ('82) lettered in soccer while at Serra and was also introduced to rugby. After playing rugby at Santa Clara University, as well as during law school, Richard went on to represent the Pacific Coast and United States in "7-a-side" rugby versus England, Canada, Scotland, Tonga and Trinidad-Tobago in 1993 and 1994. Kelly became certified to coach through USA Rugby and, in 1998, was a principal in starting up the Peninsula Green Rugby Football Club for high school age boys.

As the Northern California President for high school rugby from 1999-2002, Kelly was instrumental in working to spread the word about the father-sport of football; increasing the league from only two high school boys teams to nine teams for the 2005 season: College Park-Bellarmino; Los Altos High; East Palo Alto; Silicon Valley; Live Oak High; Valley Christian High; Aptos High; St. Lawrence Academy all play versus Peninsula.

The 2005 rugby season is promising for the Peninsula and the following Serra students are instrumental in the team's success:

Richard and his wife, Meaghan, have two children, Annamarie, four, and Erin, two. Kelly practices business and construction litigation in San Mateo.



Standing L-R: Jaren Abedania '05, Cesar Montolla-Garcia '05, Diego Nevado '05, Ross Silverman '05, Ryan Frank '05, Ryan Anson '05, Billy Luden '05, William Glasspole '05, Kelly '82,
Kneeling L-R: Matt Chirichillo '06, David Falk '05, Nick Mofsie '05, Marcus Collazo '05.



PROUD TO PRESENT 2005 Alumni Award of Merit Recipients

The Alumni Award of Merit was established to honor Serra alumni who have made outstanding accomplishments in their professional fields and have brought honor and distinction to their alma mater. The awards ceremony takes place every two years, alternating with Serra's Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony. The following distinguished alumni represent this year's recipients and will be honored at a school-wide assembly on October 5, 2005.

ARTS & LETTERS

JOHN LESCROART '66: Author of 15 novels, many of which have been on the New York Times Best-Seller List. His books which are crime/courtroom dramas deal with contemporary issues such as homelessness, MTBE gasoline additives, health care, euthanasia, and spousal abuse.

MIKE COLLOPY '76: Award winning photo journalist. His body of work is a "who's who" of the political, entertainment, and social scenes of the world. His most notable work, *"Architects of Peace"* captures the faces and words of people who have made a significant impact on the world such as Mother Theresa, Mikail Gorbachev and Cesar Chavez to name just a few.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

THOMAS O'HALLORAN '48: Physics Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois. Research Associate - Lawrence Radiation Lab; Research Fellow-Harvard University, Visiting Scientist-Lawrence Radiation Lab; Visiting Scholar-University of Utah; Guggenheim Fellow; Author of numerous articles on elementary particle physics to professional journals. He has produced serious work on the cosmic ray.

MALCOLM MCHENRY, MD '51: Noted cardiologist. Former director of Adult Cardiology, Sutter Community Hospitals; Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, UC Davis; Medical Director-Max Baer Heart Research Lab; Adjunct Professor of Electrical Engineering-Cal State Sacramento; author of numerous articles on cardiac care.

BUSINESS

KEN STINSON '60: Graduate of Notre Dame in Civil Engineering; MS in Civil Engineering from Stanford; Currently the Chairman of the Board of Peter Kiewit Sons', Inc., the 7th largest general contractor in the US. The corporation is also engaged in coal mining and offshore business and had revenues in 2004 of \$3.3 billion. Involved in a number of civic organizations in Omaha. In 2004 he was named United Way of the Midlands Citizen of the Year.

PAUL STEPHENS '63: Portfolio manager of The Orphan Fund; co-founder of Robertson, Colman, Stephens - an innovative investment bank, where he served as the Director of Corporate Finance Department. He later developed several funds which focused on investing globally in undiscovered or neglected growth companies. Robertson Stephens & Co. was later bought by BankAmerica Corp. and then resold to BancBoston. Long-time board member and past chairman of the Haas Business School Advisory Board at UC Berkeley and also served as Adjunct Professor of Finance at Haas. Served as a board member of Duke Management Company, which manages the Duke University's endowment fund. In 2002, he was named a Berkeley fellow.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ANGELO SIRACUSA '47: President & CEO Bay Area Council, a business-sponsored organization involved in analysis and advocacy on public policy issues affecting the nine-county Bay region. Issues of engagement are housing, transportation, land use planning, economic development, environment and governmental efficiency. He has served on several civic boards, was a gubernatorial appointee to the SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and served on the Board of Regents (including Chairman) of Santa Clara University.

GIL LOESCHER '63: Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame; graduate degree from the London School of Economics. World renowned expert on refugee issues and humanitarian crises. Regularly involved as a consultant and researcher for international agencies working in displacement and refugee areas. Author of several books on immigration issues. Senior fellow at London's international Institute for Strategic Studies. Was severely wounded in Iraq in 9/03 while working as a consultant to the UN on refugee matter.

'55

It's your 50-year reunion! Look for more news in upcoming mailings for specific date and time!

'65

It's your 40-year reunion! Look for more news in upcoming mailings and save the date of Saturday, **October 8, 2005.**

'75

It's your 30-year reunion! Look for more news in upcoming mailings and save the date of Saturday, **October 8, 2005.**

'77

Steve Venditti became the third and final brother in the Venditti family to be employed in the warehouse department at Mountanos Brothers Coffee Company. Steve is a 1982 graduate of Brown University and previously worked for Georgia-Pacific.

'80

It's your 25-year reunion! Look for more news in upcoming mailings and save the date of Saturday, **October 8, 2005.**

Kevin Giacomini is currently the Regional Sales Manager for Lincoln Mercury Division in the Detroit Region. He just celebrated 20 years with Ford last month.

'85

It's your 20-year reunion! Look for more news in upcoming mailings and save the date of Saturday, **October 8, 2005.**

John Flanagan is the General Manager of the classy restaurant "Myth," which is drawing crowds to the Jackson Square area of San Francisco.

Bobby Olson and his wife, Ann, are the proud parents of a new baby boy, John Robert (Jack). Jack joins his two sisters, Kaelyn, 5, and Meghan, 3.

Scott Taylor works for Bank of America as a Senior Business Analyst in Phoenix, Arizona, where he lives with his wife and ten year old son. He is also currently working on his MBA in marketing.

'86

George Husack is in his tenth season at Santa Clara University coaching the men's tennis team. This is his 3rd season as Head Coach, following seven years as an assistant. George recently attended a Serra Varsity basketball game and expressed how great it was to be back on campus. *"There's nothing better than hearing the Padre whisper P-P-P-A-D."*

Michael Conn exchanged wedding vows with Michelle Wright on October 17, 2004 in San Francisco.

Peter Colombo continues as the Varsity Baseball Coach at Palo Alto High School. Last spring, he led the Vikings to the best baseball season in the school's 120 year history and their first CCS Division I finals appearance since 1927. On their way to the finals, they upset nationally ranked St. Francis 4-3 and beat WCAL powerhouse Bellarmine 9-5 before falling in the championship game 5-4 to Wilcox.

'88

Brian Perkins and his wife, Sherri, welcomed a baby girl, Hazel Grace, on December 10, 2004. The happy family currently lives in San Jose, California.

KEEP US POSTED!

Your fellow Padres want to know what you've been up to! If you've recently married, just celebrated the birth of a baby, started a new job, or retired, let us know! Also, feel free to include a snapshot with your news or just for fun to add to our new "Padre Family Album" section of Traditions! Send news to the Development Office, 451 West 20th Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94403 or via e-mail to mwilkinson@serrahs.com

NEWS & NOTES

'90

Steve McLaughlin and his wife, Heather, welcomed a baby girl, Charlotte Anne, on March 11, 2005. She weighed 6 lbs, 12 oz, 19" long.

Phil Kilbridge recently received an offer to serve as Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity in San Francisco and Marin counties. He and his wife, Kelly, are very excited about this opportunity and will be returning to the Bay Area this summer from Massachusetts. Phil hopes that he will have the chance to work with Serra in this new endeavor.

'92

Matthew Wills and his wife, Theresa, welcomed a baby boy, Vincent Charles, on March 12, 2005.

'93

Dave Myhra married Michelle Lutticken of San Bruno on January 5, 2005. They were married in Kauai, Hawaii. His best man was his brother, **Dan '96**. Dave is currently in the Sacramento Police Academy.

'94

Dennis Wu graduated from NYU in January 2005, and beginning this spring will be an intern for the Washington Nationals, working from their player development/scouting offices in Melbourne, Florida.

Bernie Affrunti and his wife, Alison, welcomed their second child on April 6, 2005. Their baby girl's name is Stella Maria Gatto Afffrunti.

'95

It's your 10-year reunion! Look for more news in upcoming mailings and save the date of Saturday, **October 8, 2005**.

'97

Kevin Kopjak currently works for Charles Zukow Associates, a publication firm that deals with Theatre and Lifestyle clients, some of whom include "Beach Blanket Babylon," Santana Row, "Mamma Mia!," and "Cirque du Soleil."

'98

Henry Perez was recently chosen as the valedictorian for the graduation ceremonies at the University of San Francisco. In addition, Henry was nominated for Beta Gamma Sigma, which is the highest international recognition a business student anywhere in the world can receive.

'02

Paul McManus was recently elected President of his fraternity, Sigma Pi Alpha Omega Chapter, at San Diego State University.

'03

Nick deOcampo, currently in his sophomore year at UCLA, recently completed the Los Angeles marathon in 4 hours and 44 minutes!

'04

Dillon Barry has enlisted in the US Marine Corps. He is currently in basic training in San Diego and has not been assigned permanently yet.

In Memoriam

Margaret Buckley Brady, grandmother of **Tom Brady '95** passed away peacefully on February 2, 2005, at the age of 94.

Edward T. Cullen, father of **Bob '63** and **Kevin '66**, passed away.

Mrs. Gloria Doherty, mother of **Jim '74**, **Peter '77**, **John '84** and **Michael '86** passed away on April 27, 2005.

Blaise (William) Anthony Germano, father of **Michael Germano**, Serra faculty member, passed away on April 14, 2005.

John "Jack" Guiney '63 died suddenly on July 24, 2004, at the age of 58. He was the loving brother of **Jim '65**, **Tom '70** and **Pat '80**.

Kevin McKenna '00 passed away on April 24, 2005.

Joan Thomas, mother of **Tyler Thomas '06**, passed away on January 31, 2005. Joan was a graduate of Mercy High School, San Francisco.

PADRE FAMILY

PHOTO ALBUM



Ashley Marheineke
(Jim Marheineke, Faculty)



Hazel Grace Perkins
(Brian Perkins '88)



William Walsh
(Patrick Walsh, Head Varsity Football Coach)



Jane Blank (Faculty) & Son, Danny '04



Emilee, Katelyn, Cypress, & Julia Ghidossi
(Rick Ghidossi '99)



David Philpott '87 Wedding
(L to R) Christian Sullivan '88, Kevin Mullin '88,
David Philpott '87, Karen Ryan, Steve Philpott '93,
Brian Cook '87, John Philpott '85 & Will Maround '87



Mike Langrdige '91 (Faculty) with
Baby Daughter, Olivia



Kevin Giacomini '80 & Family



Grandsons of Larry Frost '64 - Born 12 weeks apart
Wyatt Rea (w/Wayne Gretskey - Left) &
Joshua Grau (w/Tony Esposito - Right)

SEND US YOUR FAMILY PHOTOS

If you would like to share your family photos with us, we would be glad to include them in our new "Padre Family Album" section of Traditions.
You may send printed or digital photos to: Serra High School Development Office ♦ 451 West 20th Avenue ♦ San Mateo, CA 94403
Attention: Michelle Wilkinson, Director of Public Relations or by e-mail to: mwilkinson@serrahs.com



(Pictured L to R:) Alex Maggi '08 as Lumiere, Brendan Quirk '07 as the Beast, and Phillip Golding '05 as Cogsworth

Junípero Serra High School

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