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Dear Alumni and Friends of Serra,

I am honored to have served as the Chairperson of the Advisory Board of Regents for the past two years. We are blessed to have such a hard working and talented board that is making significant contributions towards Serra’s advancement. We will continue to strive to ensure our actions keep Serra standing tall as a premier educational institution, forming young men of faith, wisdom and service.

In addition to attending a board retreat and four board meetings during the year, each board member is responsible for membership on a standing committee. These working committees, with representation from key Serra Administrators, play a large part in the success of Serra High School.

In particular, I want to express special thanks to the members of the board’s Strategic Planning Committee. They have done a fantastic job reviewing and providing input to successive drafts of the Self-Study report the school is writing in preparation for the March 2009 WASC accreditation visit. The fruit of this effort will be an Action Plan that will strategically plan Serra’s future growth. Members of this committee are:

James Fox (Serra, 1960), San Mateo County District Attorney
Angelo Siracusa (Serra, 1947), Former Executive Director, Association of Bay Area Governments
Fr. David Ghiorso, Pastor, St. Charles Parish
Larrec Renda, Executive Vice President, Safeway Corporation (current parent)
Mike Murphy, President, the Bodega Group (alumni parent and current grandparent)

I want to thank all the members of the Advisory Board of Regents who offer so generously their time and talents. I look forward to working with the entire Board in meeting the aggressive goals which we have set this year.

Sincerely,

Kathy Lavezzo
Chair, Advisory Board of Regents
Dear Alumni and Friends of Serra,

As the calendar turns from 2008 to 2009, our nation faces tremendous challenges: The economic prospects for 2009 look very dim, and the situation on the world stage is not much better. That said, our nation will draw from its deep wellsprings of talent, diversity, wisdom and experience to face these challenges head-on and without fear.

At times like these we truly appreciate the contribution Catholic schools make to the common good. In their 1972 vision statement for Catholic Schools, *To Teach as Jesus Did*, the words of the Catholic bishops of the United States ring prophetic today:

*Proclaiming the Gospel is a perennial joy for the Church of Jesus Christ. Rarely, if ever, has it been more pressing a need, more urgent a duty, and more ennobling a vocation than it is in these times when humankind stands poised between unprecedented fulfillment and equally unprecedented calamity…Through education the Church seeks to prepare its members to proclaim the Good News and to translate this proclamation into action.*

At Serra we take these words to heart. Across the curriculum we challenge our students to look at current events—local, state, and national—with a critical eye. We encourage rational discourse and learned debate on a wide variety of issues students face as teenagers in their lives, as well as issues that we all face in the global village. As a Catholic school, teaching and learning at Serra is accomplished in the context of the Gospel and our Catholic faith. The dignity of the human person is the beginning and ultimate goal of all our conversations and activities.

Never has this work been more important.

As you read through this edition of *Traditions*, you will be gratified to see that Serra’s programs are thriving and expanding in wonderful ways. Despite these tough times, we are not shrinking from our mission to educate Men of Faith, Wisdom and Service. In the pages that follow, you will see that today’s Padres, like their alumni brothers, are leaders making a difference for the good in the lives of others.

Your support is vital to Serra’s mission. On behalf of our students thank you for your gift of time, talent, treasure and prayers for this great school.

Sincerely,

Lars Lund
President
Congratulations to all of our Advanced Placement teachers for their continued hard work and dedication. Last spring, 293 students took AP exams and earned an 81.6% passage rate, which is far above state and national pass rates—as well as that of our other local Catholic high schools. In addition, we received notice from the College Board that we have a total of 48 Advanced Placement Scholars. These students received passing grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams. Eight of these students are AP Scholars with Honor for receiving an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Fifteen students are AP Scholars with Distinction for receiving an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP exams and grades of 3 or higher on five or more exams.

The ability of our students to master rigorous AP courses is both a testament to the quality of education at Serra and the extraordinary effort and preparation on the part of our teachers and our students. Successful AP students are prepared to enter college, while earning credit or advanced standing at most of the nation’s colleges and universities. Our teachers inspire, teach and prepare our young men not only for higher education, but for life.

Jordie Littell ‘09 Conquers Triathlon

Senior Jordie Littell recently participated in the Silverman 2008 Half Iron Man Distance Triathlon, which is said by many to be the world’s most grueling triathlon. Although it was his first triathlon, Jordie did tremendously well—placing first in his age group. More than 300 competitors participated in this year’s event, which was held at the Green Valley Ranch in Las Vegas. The competition consisted of a 1.2 mile swim, followed by a 56 mile bike ride and a 13 mile run. Jordie’s overall time, 6 hours and 11 minutes, placed him in the upper quartile of all participants in the event.

Following the event Littell stated, “It was exhausting, but I felt a great sense of accomplishment. I was extremely exhilarated and happy with my performance.”

Jordie was cheered on by his parents, Judy and Bill, his sister Jacie, his aunts, uncles and several cousins. As the youngest athlete to participate in the event, Jordie received special attention as he was interviewed by several reporters and his story appeared on national news.

For Jordie, the Silverman is only the start of his career as a triathlete. He plans to run a marathon soon, participate in the Escape From Alcatraz Triathlon and hopes to eventually participate at the Iron Man Championship in Kona, Hawaii.
The Tradition continues

Thirteen freshmen whose fathers are also Serra Padres are part of this year’s capacity enrollment.

Serra currently has a total of fifty-three alumni sons in the student body. In addition, there are two freshmen whose grandfathers graduated from Serra, and a total of ten students who are third generation Padres.

The 2008-2009 school year began with a freshman class of 259.

Mentor Michael Worry, CEO of Nuvation Research Corp & President of CM Robotics (a winning combat robot team), leads a brainstorming session with the Serra Robotics Team. In the foreground is the robot chassis and a game piece for the 2009 FIRST competition.

Bechtold and is mentored by Serra faculty members Liz Keate, Greg Gump and Michael Patterson. The real force behind the team, however, is a group of young engineers from a South Bay electrical engineering design firm called Nuvation. The CEO of Nuvation, Michael Worry, is so completely committed to encouraging the engineering aspirations of the young men from Serra that he and six of his colleagues are working nights and long weekend days to help the Padre-botters become design specialists. The team has six weeks to ship their contraption for review by the game challenge judges before the FIRST Regional Competition kick-off starts up at San Jose State, March 13-15. The team has been meeting since October and includes about thirty seriously committed Padres who are on the mechanical, electrical, software, game strategy, and marketing teams. Besides the technical engineering and shop skills of robot design, the team is learning great project management skills as the Padre-botters try to bring in their vehicle on time.

While the Padres have every intention of winning an award their first time in competition, the incredibly generous contribution of Michael Worry and his band of brilliant engineers has already been a big win for Serra. The mission of the national organization FIRST is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills. Furthermore, the inspiration to be innovative is also meant to foster well-rounded life skills including self-confidence, communication, and leadership. As a rookie team, the challenge the Padres will face is to establish a level of competence and competitiveness in a very short period of time. The goals the Serra team has set for themselves this year are ambitious—to compete at the national finals as an invited “alliance partner” of another excellent team, by demonstrating strong fundamental skills in regional qualifiers, and to win the Rookie All Star award. With our experienced Nuvation mentors and strong support from the Serra community, the men of Serra are gearing for success on a pretty slick national stage!

Serra Robotics Team Gears up to Drive on Lunar Regolith

On January 3rd, the new Serra Robotics Team geared up for its inaugural season, when the 18th Annual FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) delivered, via nationwide satellite media feed, this year’s robotics challenge. The challenge will be to compete in a ball game in an arena against other wheeled robotic vehicles developed in high schools all across America. The robots must travel on an almost frictionless surface, while robots and other human competitors attempt to score points by launching balls into the trailer each opponent must pull. The tractionless surface design of the arena commemorates the 40th anniversary of the NASA lunar landing. The lunar surface has about one-sixth the gravity of the Earth’s and so, NASA engineers had to design the lunar module to function on that greatly reduced friction surface of regolith, much like our young Serra engineers are designing their robot to function now on the arenas simulated regolith.

The Padre team was recently founded by junior Nolan McPeek and is mentored by Serra faculty members Liz Keate, Greg Gump and Michael Patterson. The real force behind the team, however, is a group of young engineers from a South Bay electrical engineering design firm called Nuvation. The CEO of Nuvation, Michael Worry, is so completely committed to encouraging the engineering aspirations of the young men from Serra that he and six of his colleagues are working nights and long weekend days to help the Padre-botters become design specialists. The team has six weeks to ship their contraption for review by the game challenge judges before the FIRST Regional Competition kick-off starts up at San Jose State, March 13-15. The team has been meeting since October and includes about thirty seriously committed Padres who are on the mechanical, electrical, software, game strategy, and marketing teams. Besides the technical engineering and shop skills of robot design, the team is learning great project management skills as the Padre-botters try to bring in their vehicle on time.

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Mark Vorsatz ’72 was presented with the 2008 Junípero Serra Award during the school’s first Mass of the year held in early September. The ceremony took place in the gym, packed full of close to 1,000 young men, faculty and staff members, and Vorsatz’ family members.

The Junípero Serra Award is presented to an alumnus who best exemplifies through his life the mission of Serra High School. To this end, President Lars Lund spoke about the many contributions and positive impact Mark Vorsatz has made on the local community. As founder and CEO of Wealth and Tax Advisory Services (WTAS), Vorsatz works with clients on income tax and estate planning strategies, as well as preserving wealth. Recognizing the importance of donor education, he has lectured extensively on estate planning, taught in the graduate tax program at Golden Gate University, and lectures regularly at Hastings College of Law in San Francisco.

Encouraging clients to consider investing in the community is rewarding to Vorsatz. It’s a win-win situation with the client receiving a charitable donation and the community benefitting as well. Many of his clients receive no greater satisfaction than seeing the direct benefit of their charitable dollars at work in the community.

Humbled by his award, Mark praised his teachers who educated and helped guide him through his four years at Serra.

“This is not just a school; it is a culture,” Vorsatz added. “I learned respect, tolerance, discipline, integrity and how to treat other people. I learned it is important and part of my responsibility to give back to the community and there is no community that I care more about than Serra High School.”

Returning to Serra to preside over the Mass was Padre alum and San Francisco Auxiliary Bishop William Justice ’60. Bishop Justice shared with the students that his class was the first to walk the halls on the 20th Avenue campus. He also spoke about the great Padre spirit he recalled during his days at Serra.

“I remember the Bellarmine rallies when John Horgan ’60 was Rally Commissioner,” Bishop Justice recalled. “Everyone in the gym would be very, very quiet—then the Captain of the football team would walk out with a prune and a sledge hammer.”
Each year, Serra sees a quarter of its students (the seniors) swapped for a new batch of freshmen. Often, there’s even a new face or two in the faculty at the dawn of each new term. One member of the Serra community, however, has been a constant for the past 25 years—a track record few can boast. You’re probably wondering, “Who is the stalwart?” It’s me, fondly known as Sherman, a South American Red-footed Tortoise. I am a relatively young 60 years of age and expect to easily reach 100 and outlive most of my colleagues here at Serra.

A quarter century ago, a student found me near death in his neighborhood. He brought me to the Science Department Chairman Rob Solari, who nursed me back to health with a 6-month regimen of antibiotics and the introduction of a healthy diet. Because I am from the environs surrounding the equator, I can’t survive in the cold; I live in the science lab in a climate-controlled terrarium during the cooler winter months and putter around in the Solari family backyard during the summer months. Ask Mrs. Solari and she will tell you I am her favorite gardening companion. Have you ever seen a tortoise blush? I hear that’s what I did when Mr. Solari said, ‘He has quite the personality and loves our biology teacher, Ms. Bohnert.’

I have met countless students over the years including my good friend, current senior Eric Foard. I heard him talking as he led a tour group of eighth grade families through the biology lab during Open House saying, “Sherman is among the Serra community’s most well known members, ranking up there with Tom Brady and Barry Bonds...or at least with Mr. Stapleton. Every student for the past 25 years knows who he is! That’s thousands of people! If one thing’s for certain, it’s that Sherman will have the tortoise demographic at Serra covered for many years to come.”

Boy, with that kind of praise, it makes me feel incredibly blessed to be part of the Serra community.
This past summer, I traveled almost 3,500 miles to the small island of Hispaniola (lying between the islands of Cuba to the west, and Puerto Rico to the east) as a volunteer with Amigos De Las Americas. Amigos is a non-profit organization that sends young people abroad to empower youth leaders, advance community development and strengthen multicultural understanding. Volunteers are sent to countries such as Costa Rica, Paraguay, Mexico and my personal favorite, the Dominican Republic, where I resided for eight weeks.

My experience as a volunteer was invigorating and entertaining, but it was also challenging and required a ton of adapting on my part. I was placed in a small community called Sabana Alta in the province of San Juan. I was blessed to live in a small, relatively nice house with my host mom and dad, a nineteen-year old host brother and a six year-old host sister. They are the nicest people in the entire world. They took in a sixteen-year old American and stuffed him full of mangoes, yucca, rice and beans. It is truly amazing how welcoming and generous Dominicans are. They went out of their way to make all of the volunteers as happy and comfortable as possible.

I had an American partner in my community that I had never met before arriving in the Dominican Republic. We were completely disconnected from the States, as well as any other adult Americans unless there was an emergency. My partner, John, was a sixteen-year old from Denver. At first, both of us thought that this summer would be a long one due to our differences, but that soon changed. The minute we sat down and started talking, we found out we weren’t as different as we first expected. We instantly became best friends. We became inseparable and quickly became one of Amigos’ most successful volunteers.

Of course, my trip was not all fun and games. My partner and I had to run “campamentos,” little day camps for the young children in our community. These camps are extremely important because they instill organization in the lives of young kids in which organization is unfamiliar. Aside from the camps, we worked with the local baseball team. We ran training sessions with the kids to help them work on fundamentals and held fund raisers throughout our city to earn money for baseball jerseys.

One of the most memorable moments on my trip was when we had the opportunity to pass out the new jerseys to our young baseball team. The kids were so excited; it made me feel like I was on top of the world. All the hard work I put in, along with the struggle of the language barrier, finally paid off. The whole baseball team sprinted from the town’s center (a half mile) to the baseball field, yelling and screaming with excitement. When the team rushed onto the animal covered field (their natural lawn moving system), I felt overwhelmed. I had never seen kids so excited in my life; it was incredible.

“\nMy trip was a life changing experience. I got the opportunity to become part of a truly amazing culture and live the incredible life of a Dominican. It also opened my eyes to see how lucky and fortunate we are."

Luca Ponti ‘10
“Billy the Kid” Grows Up

Four teenage boys from San Mateo suburbia are tasting the beginnings of musical success — and what a sweet taste it is.

Three-and-a-half years ago, “Billy the Kid” started out as a few seventh graders having fun. Today, while fun is still first priority, the high school juniors’ accomplishments have translated into their first full-length album, Nefarious Evildoings.

“We didn’t think it would last more than a few months,” vocalist Johnny Villar ’10 beamed beneath his striped fedora hat, speaking of the pop-punk-rock band itself. After years of playing shows at several battle of the bands competitions, local venues and even the 2008 San Mateo County Fair, however, “Billy the Kid” has grown up.

“We’re finally starting to make revenue from CDs and shows,” said guitarist Robert Boscacci, “so we can start paying off our parents.”

Drummer Dante Bertana, bassist Owen McInnis, Boscacci and Villar have been buds since kindergarten. Like the famous teenage outlaw who supplied the band’s name, the members of “Billy the Kid” have taken a few risks to get noticed.

At their first battle of the bands in Hayward, the group learned the pleasure of performing. A gig at an elementary school that started with one 6-year-old fan turned into waves of excited, screaming children.

One show at Castilleja, the all-girls high school in Palo Alto, holds a special place in the band’s performance memory. “They invited us to their dance a week later,” said Villar of the highly satisfying event.

The boys are thankful for the support of their families. “We owe everything to our parents,” Villar said.

“Billy the Kid” identifies their music sound with the likes of the Jonas Brothers and Green Day. The band’s amusing sense of humor surfaces throughout Nefarious Evildoings. The all-original songs praise everything from video game nerds to pirates fighting ninjas.

The album’s uplifting tunes and genuine lyrics were inspired by true events. When the band started working on the album a year ago, Villar and Boscacci would walk around their neighborhood and the Hillsdale Shopping Center on weekends, jotting down lyrics as they went.

During the fall, “Billy the Kid” plays nearly one show a week. Check out the band and their upcoming performances at www.myspace.com/btktheband.

Excerpts taken from an article written by Maggie Beidelman, Daily Journal Correspondent
The 2008 Annual Benefit Auction “Viva Las Vegas” was certainly a jackpot of an evening with the big winners being the young men who attend Serra High School. Special Events Coordinator Theresa Stoye led the way, along with dedicated co-chairs Joan Dentler and Robin Strombom and their entourage of volunteers. Together, they all worked their magic transforming Serra High School into a city of bright lights and shining stars. Thanks to the tremendous generosity and hard work of parents, alumni and friends of Serra, we raised over $160,000.
AROUND THE HALLS

Padre Rockers of the 60’s to Judge
SERRA BATTLE OF THE BANDS 2009

For the past four years, Serra has hosted a “Battle of the Bands” competition for student musicians who play in a band . . . AND are ready for the challenge.

Student Activities Coordinator Patti Ferretti decided to make this year’s event even more exciting by commemorating our Serra “rockers of the 60’s. The panel of judges will include pioneer Padre rockers from the Class of 1968 Tony deAlcuaz, Mike Curotto, and Mike Curotto—all who have performed professionally.

Each band who competes will be requested ahead of time to make at least one of the songs they perform a cover from the 1960’s in whatever style they would like.

The competition will be held on Saturday, April 4 at 1:00pm in Serra’s Gellert Auditorium. Admission is FREE to any Padre alum who wishes to attend.

Junior Andrew Comstock was invited to attend a charity benefit reception last October, where he met Award Winning Actor and Humanitarian Martin Sheen. The benefit reception was sponsored by a local charity known as the “Shelter Network,” whose mission is committed to providing housing and support services for bay area homeless families. The network is currently working with over 7,000 homeless individuals in San Mateo County. Sheen was the keynote speaker for the benefit, which was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Burlingame. Andrew, also a humanitarian, continues to volunteer countless hours at Seton Medical Center, as well as several other charitable organizations. Andrew also has the distinguished title of being the youngest ambassador for the Daly City-Colma Chamber of Commerce.

“Humanitarian Heroes”
Starring
Martin Sheen & Andrew Comstock ’10

Samba Serra
APRIL 5TH 2009

This year’s fashion show is expected to be a sell out.
So mark your calendars now!

Please watch your mailboxes for further information in 2009.
If you are an alumnus, please be sure to register with the Padre Online Alumni Community, so that you will receive information via e-mail.
Visit Serra’s website at www.serraks.com and click on “Alumni.”
The Serra High School Athletic Department, in conjunction with the Serra Alumni Association, held its 2008 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Banquet on September 12th at the Crowne Plaza in Foster City. The ceremony was an evening of humility, gratitude, motivation and plenty of laughs as the award recipients reminisced about memorable moments of their days at Serra.

Athletic Director Kevin Donahue continued his traditional role as Master of Ceremonies by introducing the seven new outstanding Hall of Fame members. The Athletic Hall of Fame exists to honor graduates who, during their years at Serra, exhibited extraordinary athletic achievement or who attained outstanding success at the collegiate or professional levels. The Hall of Fame also recognizes the contributions of others (coaches, teachers, parents) who, through their tireless efforts, have contributed to the excellence of the Serra athletic program.

The 2008 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees:

- **Gabe Esposto ’95**
  - Swimming & Water Polo

- **Bob Kane ’60**
  - Baseball & Football

- **Rob Leary ’82**
  - Baseball & Football

- **Ian Loveseth ’70**
  - Swimming, Water Polo, Special Category (Rugby)

- **Jim Walsh ’75**
  - Baseball, Basketball, Football, Track & Field

- **Jim Monahan**
  - Special Category (Coaching)

- **Sean McGee ’91**
  - Basketball

**JIM MONAHAN – Special Category**

Jim Monahan has touched the lives of student-athletes from the moment he walked on the campus in 1959 until his retirement in 1998. Jim was an outstanding teacher who took on the role of preparing young Padres for the future. He was a longtime freshman coach in football. He created a sense of pride and enthusiasm in his players, as well as the basic fundamentals of the sport. He did a great job of preparing his players for the next level. Success at the freshman level is not measured by wins or losses, but how prepared the athletes are to move on to the next level. Jim excelled in this area. He created a passion in his players for the sport and a sound foundation of fundamentals. In 1976, his freshman team was undefeated. Jim’s coaching was not limited to football. He became the head soccer coach in 1978 and won the WCAL title in 1980. The 1980 team were CCS Region I Champions and ended up third place in the section. Jim also led the freshman B basketball team to an undefeated season in 1974. Jim Monahan dedicated his life to the students of Junipero Serra High School. He was an outstanding teacher both in the classroom and on the field. He had a tremendous impact on his students and prepared them not only for the field of athletic competition, but also prepared them for life.

**BOB KANE ’60 – Baseball, Football**

Bob Kane was an outstanding two-sport athlete in baseball and football for the Padres from 1958-1960. Bob was the starting quarterback for the football team and the starting right fielder for the baseball team. Bob’s football accomplishments earned him many honors, including First Team All-San Mateo County in both his junior and senior years, Second Team All-CAL as a junior and First Team All-CAL as a senior. Kane is in the Serra record books as fourth best in most career passing yards (1,973), fourth in most career completions (148), fourth in most passes attempted (300) in a career, and fifth in most touchdowns in a career (17). Bob also has the third longest pass play teaming up with Bob Garratt for 87 yards against Mission in 1958. As a senior, Bob Kane was named by his teammates as Most Valuable Player. Following his career at Serra, Bob Kane accepted a football scholarship to Marquette University. When Marquette dropped football in 1960, Bob transferred to San Jose State. On the baseball field, Kane was a member of championship teams both his junior and senior years. He started in right field for Padre baseball teams that were 39-12-3 overall and 20-4-1 in the Catholic Athletic League during a two year period.
IAN LOVESETH '70 – Swimming, Special Category

Ian Loveseth was a three-year varsity swimmer and a key member of the Padres championship squads during those years. He is also being inducted in a “special category” for his accomplishments in rugby after his swimming career ended. Ian set a WCAL record in the 100 yard freestyle in 1970 with a mark of 48.8. He was also a member of the record breaking 400 meter relay team which also set a WCAL record with a time of 3:19.6. The 400 meter relay team won the WCAL and they were crowned champions of the Central Coast Section. In the sectional championship they defeated then national power Santa Clara who had several Olympians on the roster. Loveseth earned All-American recognition for his efforts as a senior.

ROB LEARY '82 – Baseball, Football

Rob Leary started Serra as a quarterback on the football team and a catcher on the baseball team. His contributions went beyond his accomplishments on the field; he was also a leader and highly respected among his teammates. Baseball is where Rob excelled. During his junior year, he was the starting designated hitter, earning All-WCAL honors. As a senior, he was the starting catcher on a team that went 24-7 and named All-WCAL. Other post season honors included All San Mateo County & Honorable Mention All Northern California. Recognizing his outstanding leadership qualities, Rob was honored by his teammates by being named the recipient of the Dan Frisella Award. Moving on to CSM, Rob earned All Golden Gate Conference recognition as a catcher. He received a scholarship to play baseball at Louisiana State, where he was the starting catcher for the Tigers earning All SEC honors. He led his team to its first College World Series appearance in 15 years garnering All-Regional recognition. His teammates elected him captain during his senior year. Rob was drafted by the Montreal Expos in 1986 and worked his way up the ranks reaching the AAA level, one step away from the majors. Leary finished his playing career as a player coach for the Rockford Expos of the Midwest League. In 1996, he was voted into the Rockford Athletic Hall of Fame. The qualities that Rob showed as a player coach paved the way for his move into a career of coaching, scouting and teaching the game that he loved. In his 20 years of professional baseball, Rob has earned three World Series rings, with his last two being with the storied franchise of the Boston Red Sox.

SEAN McGEE '91 – Basketball

Sean McGee’s accomplishments in basketball cannot be summed up by statistics, awards and recognitions alone. Sean was the key to the success of the varsity basketball teams of 1989-90 and 1990-91. Sean not only excelled on the court with his skills, but it was his leadership and competitiveness that set him apart. Coach John Grosey calls Sean “A winner, plain and simple — His leadership, tenacity, work effort and ability to motivate his teammates to become better were the reasons Serra was successful on the court.” During Sean’s junior year, the varsity team finished second in the WCAL while being picked to finish last. As a senior, the team won the WCAL Round Robin. The 1991 team went on to become the first Serra basketball team to win a Central Coast Championship and the first Serra team to win a Northern California game. Once again, it was Sean’s leadership the paved the way. Sean was Honorable Mention as a junior and a Second Team All WCAL selection as a senior. McGee holds all of the school’s assist records. He has a single game record of 16, a season record of 158 and a career record of 260. He was also named First Team All-county, Second Team All Peninsula and Third Team All Metro as a senior. He was also Co-Most Valuable Player for basketball for the 1990-1991 season.

JIM WALSH ’75 – Baseball, Basketball, Football, Track

Jim Walsh was an outstanding all-around athlete at Serra, lettering in four varsity sports — an accomplishment that few are able to achieve. He was a two-year letterman in football. During his career, he rushed for 1,268 yards placing him 10th on the all time list. His single season total of 931 yards places Jim 5th in the record books. He was a work horse in the backfield, carrying the ball 240 times in his two-year career. Jim was named First Team San Mateo County & Honorable Mention All-CCS. He also had an outstanding track career for the Padres. Walsh was WCAL Champion in the 220 yard sprint and a member of the WCAL Champion 4x110 relay team in ‘74. He was San Mateo City Meet Champion in the 100, 220 and 4x100 relay. The 4x100 relay team set what was then a school record with a time of 43.6. Jim also played varsity baseball and basketball, being named basketball’s Most Inspirational Player his senior year. He started his collegiate football career at UC Riverside, where he was conference leader in kick off returns, averaging 23.8 yards per return. He was named UC Riverside Rookie of the Year in ‘75 as member of the CCAA Championship team. UC Riverside dropped football after his rookie season and Jim transferred to CSM, where he continued his career in football & track. He earned All GGC honors and was voted Most Inspirational Player by his teammates in ‘77. After CSM, Walsh enrolled at San Jose State and was a two-year letterman in football. He made Second Team All-PCAA, led the team in receptions with 46, was team leader in carries, 5.6 per game, and rushed for over 200 yds in a single game. In 1980 Jim Walsh signed with the Buffalo Bills and finished his career with the Seattle Seahawks in 1981.

GABE ESPOSTO ’95 – Water Polo, Swimming

Gabe Esposto is arguably the greatest water polo player the Padres have ever produced. His exploits in the pool catapulted him into the collegiate ranks, where he became a standout for the University of Pacific. As a two-year starter for the Padres, Gabe was a key to Serra’s reaching the Central Coast Section’s Division I championship games in 1993 and 1994. Gabe was Second Team All-WCAL as a junior, while leading the team in assists and was second in scoring. He was also named Honorable Mention All-CCS. As a senior, he set a school record for most career goals (278), while being named the team’s Most Valuable Player and captain. He was named First Team All-WCAL, Second Team All-CCS and Fifth Team All-American. The summer prior to beginning his collegiate career at the University of Pacific, Gabe played for the Stanford Water Polo Club. Once again, he was named team captain and led the club to a second place finish in the 1995 U.S. National Junior Olympic Championships. At UOP, Gabe became the starting hole-set during his sophomore year. As a junior, he was the leading scorer until an injury cut his season short. During his senior year, he was named team captain and led the team in scoring with 43 goals. Gabe was tenth in the league in scoring, first in percentage on goal, and first in assists. He was named all conference and became the third water polo player in UOP history to be named All-American.
For a parent, the agony of losing a child at any age is unparalleled. There is no age or point in time that makes it any easier. It is an event that is totally contrary to the natural order we expect life to follow. The heartbreaking loss carries with it the loss of the future, the hopes, dreams and potential that can never be fulfilled.

Casey Turturici ‘91 passed away on Memorial Day 1996, after a courageous five-year battle with cancer. Casey grew up in San Carlos with his older brother Matt ‘88 (currently a San Mateo Fire Captain) and young stepsister Dena Presotto (NDB ‘97). He attended St. Charles Elementary School and played Little League baseball, where many of his long-term friendships began. As a matter of fact, according to childhood friend and Padre alum Mike Wolger ‘91, several future Padres are featured in an eighth grade “All-Star Baseball” video he still has in his possession. Star players included Casey, Gavin Baugh, Matt Bazzani, Troy Dooley and perhaps more.

It was during these formative years that Casey started thinking about attending high school at Serra. But it wasn’t until he witnessed a WCAL Championship game and watched his idol Tim McKercher ‘84 play catcher, however, that Casey knew he was destined to be a Padre. Several of Casey’s classmates from St. Charles joined him at Serra, while others went on to St. Francis High School in Mountain View. Casey made it a point, though, to maintain his relationship with friends from both schools.

Although Casey struggled with his studies at times, he enjoyed his days as a Padre and embraced the “brotherhood” completely. He worked hard in order to make the cut on Coach Jensen’s baseball team and wanted more than anything to be a varsity starter. One afternoon, as Casey got out of his car after returning home from practice, he could hear the words of John Fogerty blasting from the inside of his house. His father had purchased Fogerty’s 1985 hit, “Put me in Coach; I’m ready to play” as a way to inspire him— what is exactly what it did.

I met Casey’s father Mike Turturici ‘63 (aka Mr. “T”) days before the Thanksgiving holiday this past November. He had been invited back to Serra by former Principal Mike Peterson, who had set up a meeting to discuss the generous donation his foundation has made to Serra’s Academic Resource Center. Also present at the meeting were former ‘91 classmates Gavin Baugh and John Crowe, as well as communications assistant Pam Robbins.

Although it has been over a decade since Casey has been gone, it was difficult for his father to hold back his tears as he spoke about his beloved son. Happiness and sadness co-existed in the same moment as Mr. Turturici described how Casey had a way of “lighting up a room and how people would simply gravitate towards him wherever he would go.” He spoke about his contagious smile and fun-loving personality that allowed him to make friends easily with everyone he came in contact with. Not only did he love to laugh, but he truly cared about others— especially his family.

Gavin and John’s comments about their friend mirrored those of Mr. Turturici. “Casey was a great person and he just got along with everybody,” said Gavin.

Upon graduation from Serra, Casey moved to Chico to attend school, but it wasn’t long before his lymphoma was diagnosed. That was also around the time that golf began to play an important part in Casey’s life. According to his sister Dena, Casey was a natural athlete and “golf was very therapeutic for him.”

As Casey’s cancer treatments progressed, he eventually returned home to the Bay Area. He worked as a golf-pro at San Jose Municipal, where he provided group lessons. During his therapy sessions at Stanford, he would sneak off to the golf course almost every day to play the same four holes, sometimes twice.

Shortly after Casey passed away, family and friends organized the Casey Turturici Memorial Golf Tournament. This year will mark its 13th year and although the theme, format and prizes change from year to year, the true theme, “Friends Getting Together With Friends” remains the same. Many long-time friends and supporters refer to it more fondly as “The Bug” tournament,” after Casey’s nickname and the tournament’s official logo.
Casey received his nickname from his father, who called him “scooter bug” as a baby because he would crawl backwards all the time. Eventually, it was shortened to “bug,” “buggy,” or just “The Bug.”

Past organizers of the tournament include many former Padre classmates, as well as Casey’s high school girlfriend Trina “Burns” Dean, who remains close to the family and continues to play an integral role in its success. Family and friends take to the greens each year from all over the Bay Area and from as far away as Connecticut. Participants have more than doubled in size since the first tournament held at San Jose Muni (Labor Day 1996) to its current home at Poplar Creek. At the 10th Anniversary of the tournament, the entire Serra baseball team was in attendance. This very special day each year serves not only as a warm reminder of Casey’s life, but as a wonderful way to stay connected to the many people whose lives Casey has touched.

The tournament also keeps alive Casey’s spirit of giving back. Proceeds raised each year continue to benefit the local community. The foundation has offered assistance to a young man, out of insurance, with his cancer bills. A donation has been made to DeAnza College’s new state-of-the-art planetarium, which is ranked as one of the two finest in the U.S. Another year, they supported the Menlo-Atherton campus radio station. Recently, Mr. “T” informed me that they will be sending some help to another individual without insurance who requires surgery to remove a tumor.

“It’s really amazing what a group of people can do by getting together and enjoying each other’s company, having a lot of laughs and kicking in a few bucks,” said Turturici.

The decision to support Serra’s Academic Resource Center was made after Mr. “T” learned about the program and its mission from Michael Peterson. The success of the ARC has helped students with learning differences become successful learners and develop the tools necessary to succeed in college.

“Casey really could have used such a program when he attended Serra,” said Turturici. “I know that his four years could have been more enjoyable had he been provided a mentor and accommodations to help him out. The students today are very fortunate to have this great program.”
CAMPUS MINISTRY

This season of Christmas is one that allows us to deliberately stop for a moment in the midst of schedules and meetings, practices and homework, fights and forgiveness to recognize the power of our God. God’s love for us manifests itself in flesh and bone in the coming of Jesus into the world. Among many things, the mission of Jesus was to establish peace on our earth. It is not unusual to see this message even in the most secular of places like the mall — a cut-out sparkling script of a window display that reads “Peace on Earth.”

What is this peace that Jesus embodied? In the biblical sense, it is shalom or “right relationship.” It is about more than just affording people their rights as human beings made in the image and likeness of God; it is about working to heal brokenness in the human relationship.

Pope Paul VI made this blatantly clear in his Day of Peace message on January 1, 1972 when he re-configured the words of the prophet Isaiah (Is 32:17) and said, “If you want Peace, work for Justice.” True and lasting peace comes when we do the hard work of living in and bringing about healthy relationships, especially when there is a history of oppression in those relationships.

Four students and five adults from Serra did this very work during the weekend of November 21-23. They traveled with an equally-sized group from Notre Dame (Belmont) to Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia. Joining with 20,000 others, many of whom were high school and college students, this group learned, dialogued, and prayed about the formerly named School of the Americas (now called the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation). This school has a history of involvement with training Latin American soldiers who have been indicted on human rights abuses in Central and South America, including the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero in El Salvador in 1980.

The weekend was comprised of a teach-in (complete with workshops), a protest, and a vigil to remember those killed by S.O.A. graduates. Perhaps the best description of the weekend experience comes in the words of some of the students who participated. They are written in the form of a guided meditation which invites the reader to put themselves in the scene being described.
“You hear stories of how inhumane the working conditions are in third world countries . . . Then you listen to this man who has been there and has seen it first hand . . . He tells you that the people working can’t even have three full meals a day with the wages they receive. They tell you of the excuses the corporations put out to keep selling their $300 sneakers when it only takes $20 to make . . . You realize the things you spend your money on doesn’t go to the workers, but to the leaders of these corporations.”

( Bernard Lee ‘09 )

“Mass starts, the mass of thousands of people start singing and humming . . . Your heart is filled with the love of strangers; your spirit is overflowing with the power of Christ; your ears are being serenaded by the voice of a thousand; your eyes are being bombarded with light and with the faces of those around, the smiles glistening . . . You feel happy . . . Happy . . . You’re curious; you have never felt this feeling before, so pure, so true, the love of Christ has finally come upon you. It is as if all these thousands of people lay hands on you and it literally worked . . . the holy spirit was in you and you feel it filling up your lungs, heart, mind, arms, legs, stomach; you feel it all.”

(Max Kaindl ‘09)

As we watch the window displays in the mall hastily replace “Peace on Earth” with “Happy Valentine’s Day,” let us be less quick to forget the message of peace that Jesus shares with us. “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (JN 20:21) We are each called to bring about peace by working for justice, even when the Christmas decorations are put away.

“You stand and face down the gate [of Fort Benning] . . . After a meditative moment, you turn around and proceed back with your group . . . A few feet, so many yards, maybe miles, and possibly equator-length spans pass as you walk silently back . . . You sit down on the concrete with the group, and stare back at the fence . . . It is its own impenetrable world that you just exited . . . An electric thrill races down your body as you realize you just participated in what may have been the most consequential, meaningful gathering of your life . . . You stand up, distancing yourself from the heady stupor you were in . . . There’s still work to be done.”

(John Hawkins ’10)

Students also visited the Martin Luther King National Historic Center, where they stood on the front steps of King’s childhood home.

“Visiting his house was powerful because it really humanized him. I felt as if I was right there with him, like he wasn’t just some great, grand figure who had liberated a whole people. He was a human just like me; he was a kid that sabotaged his piano in order to get out of playing, a kid that never cleaned his room, and a kid that had to do work and go to school.”

Max Kaindl

Pictured L to R: Max Kaindl, John Hawkins, Bernard Lee and Brian McAtee
Under the guidance of Co-Presidents Sammy Runco and J. P. Rastrullo and moderators Kyle Lierk and Kim Bohnert, Big Brothers spent a Saturday morning in early December shopping for twenty Adopt-A-Families. Approximately 30 juniors and seniors were assigned a family, provided a gift wish list (including clothes sizes), and a budget. The group, along with Serra staff volunteers, completed the shopping with the assistance of store personnel and then delivered the gifts to the Serra Chapel. These gifts, along with food donations, household supplies and clothing, were sorted and packed and delivered the following week to 20 Adopt-A-Families in the San Mateo area.

The Serra Big Brothers have held pizza and Jamba Juice sales every Friday during the first semester, relied on donations and used proceeds from a student council dance to raise money to help these struggling families. Runco was involved in five of the home deliveries and told a story about one of his visits commenting, “It’s cool to see the looks on the faces of the family members when we drop off their food and gifts. We knocked on one door where the mother was so excited to see us and so grateful. Her little boy, who must have been three or four, came running to the door and was smiling, laughing and shouting when we gave him a football and a basketball.” Runco concluded, “It was really an amazing feeling to be able to help these families.”

Serra’s Big Brothers number about seventy, some of whom were involved in the preparation and shopping, while others helped out with the delivery. The Big Brothers also serve the school during Freshmen Orientation, providing a variety of activities to help incoming freshmen acclimate themselves to Serra and to feel welcome.
Students Serve at Second Harvest Food Bank

San Carlos’ Second Harvest Food Bank is a popular stop for members of the Serra Community. The Serra Fathers’ Club regularly sends groups of dads and students to help out. In recent months, small groups of students have donated their time on an individual basis at the center. Prior to the Thanksgiving holiday, a group of eighteen students joined faculty members Mike Peterson, Randy Vogel and Pam Robbins to volunteer at the food bank to help sort and package food to be distributed to San Mateo County families during the holiday season. The group worked for an evening sorting food, bagging fruit and making boxes for the hungry of San Mateo County. Along with volunteers from Sacred Heart Prep and Carlmont High Schools, as well as a couple of local organizations, the Serra group sorted more than eight tons of food and packaged several thousand oranges that evening. The students were eager to give of their time to assist others in their community, especially during the holidays.

Many of the students working that evening expressed thanks for all their blessings and realized how fortunate they are. Sophomore Matt Silvestri, who has helped at the food bank in the past, summed up these feelings commenting, “When you realize how many people living in your community don’t have some of the basic things that we take for granted, you are happy to do what ever you can to help make their lives better.” He added, “It makes me feel good inside to know that I’m helping a good cause.”

Vogel noted, “Assisting at a non-profit agency such as Second Harvest Food Bank does make a significant impact on many of those who help and, as a result, it often motivates each of us to consider additional opportunities to help others at a future time.”

Serra Students Help Fill Toy Boxes

For the tenth consecutive year, Serra students collected toys and donations to benefit “A Very Special Toy Box,” a non-profit program which supplies hospitals with toys for children undergoing cancer treatments. This year’s drive had a special twist. Theology teacher Ed Taylor instituted a raffle, with the winner getting to shave off Mr. Taylor’s goatee. He also promised that if more than $1000 was collected from the raffle, the winner would also have the privilege of shaving Mr. T’s head.

The raffle drive was extremely successful, netting more than $1200. Besides the raffle, additional donations from students, faculty and parents added another $850 to the total. Art teachers Peg Farrell and Sr. Celeste supported Nancy’s toy box with a generous cash donation from the proceeds of the Winter Art Show.

On the Friday before finals, the main lobby was packed to witness raffle winner Andrew Buckley ’10 “Snip the Goatee off Mr. T.” Andrew also won a five pound Hershey Bar from Mr. T.

The “Toy Box” program was established by Nancy Torres thirty years ago when her husband built the first toy box, which was placed in the oncology ward at Kaiser Hospital in Redwood City. Mrs. Torres currently serves twelve hospitals, eight in Northern California, all equipped with pediatric oncology units treating children with cancer. Following each treatment, children can unlock the toy box and select a new toy. Motivated partly by losing her father to cancer many years ago and by her love for children, Nancy quietly operates “A Very Special Toy Box” out of her Redwood City home.

Executive Council member Zack Alspaugh and sophomore Eddie Velado assisted Mr. T in shopping for toys and found the experience rewarding. “I liked helping out,” commented Alspaugh. “I am glad we can do something to make a difference in the lives of others.” Additional toys this year were collected through Mr. T’s theology classes and the math classes of Bruce Anthony and Randy Vogel.
A Standing “O” at the Sydney Opera House

Serra’s Men Chorus Performs at World Youth Day 2008

by J. Jordan

We can live together. It was 4:30 a.m. on what was soon to be our third morning in Sydney, and I awoke with the chorus of a song running through my head. Fumbling for a pencil and paper in the unfamiliar hotel room, I jotted down the lyrics before trying to get a little more sleep. This promised to be another exciting day as we were scheduled to rehearse with Geoff Bullock, the composer of the three songs we would be singing at the Evening Vigil. At present though, my only thought was “have I heard this song before?”

It was hard to imagine that over a year had passed since the flyer from Heritage Festivals inviting performing groups to be part of World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney, Australia came across my desk. Heritage, one of the most respected names in the huge industry known as “performance travel,” typically invites groups to compete in their festivals at “destination” cities all over the world, including Sydney. This event was different, though. Instead of competing, participating groups would be part of World Youth Day events, including those attended by Pope Benedict XVI. I had not been aware of World Youth Day prior to this opportunity, but I came to learn that World Youth Day was established by Pope John Paul II in 1986 as an annual event to reach out to young people—and that it had grown into the largest gathering of Catholic youth in the world (4 million people attended WYD, Manila in 1995). Representatives from Heritage were told by WYD organizers in Sydney that they expected at least 400,000 people to attend, making it potentially the largest public gathering in Australian history, bigger even than the 2000 Olympics. I also heard from Serra’s Assistant-Principal of Student Services Marybeth Ortiz, who had attended WYD in Denver in 1993, that for her it was a once-in-a-lifetime, transformative experience.

At the time I received the Heritage flyer, the Serra Men’s Chorus was basking in the glow of their second consecutive “Unanimous Superior” rating at the California Music Educators Association festival. From the first mention of the trip, there was great interest from the chorus members and, most importantly, an enthusiastic pledge of support from the administration and the chorus parents. As the details of the trip itinerary evolved over the ensuing months, it looked like it was going to be quite an experience: a performance in the world-famous Sydney Opera House and two performances at WYD, one at the Evening Vigil the night before Pope Benedict celebrated Mass, the other at the conclusion of WYD.

The trip got off to a rocky start with a flight delay—not a couple of hours, but an entire day! This meant that we were going to miss the opening ceremonies for WYD and that we would be doing the Opera House performance the day we arrived, jet lagged or not. Upon arrival at 6:30 a.m. Sydney time, Qantas did their best to get us through Customs quickly by assigning personal customs agents to our group of fourteen students and seven adults. We were then whisked straight to the Opera House for a 7:30 a.m. sound check. We missed it by minutes as the venue, the main concert hall, had to be set up for a WYD Catechesis (think “retreat rally”). Oh well.

After a sneak peak at the stage, we departed for our hotel in Macquarie, about twenty minutes outside Sydney. Then, following a quick shower and rest, it was back to the Opera House for the performance. Flashing their newly acquired backstage security passes, the chorus was visibly excited as we were escorted to dressing rooms that have been occupied by some of the most famous musicians in the world. As we were being ushered to the stage of the concert hall, the largest venue in the massive Opera House complex, we had no idea how many people, if any, would be there to hear us. When the chorus walked out on stage, they were greeted by whoops and hollers and thunderous applause from nearly 2,000 teenagers from all over the world—and we hadn’t even sung a note yet! We later learned that WYD participants were being referred to as “pilgrims” and the ones on hand for our 30-minute set were the most incredible audience we could have hoped for.
respectfully listening to every song and going wild at the end of each one. When we finished, we received a lengthy standing ovation. As the boys left the stage, one of the chaperones noticed that they were literally shaking with excitement. Throughout the rest of our week in Sydney, pilgrims who recognized our tour jackets would point and yell “Opera House, Opera House!” The day ended at a restaurant on the harbor where many of the boys ordered seared kangaroo. It was hard to imagine that the best was yet to come.

The next two days were spent enjoying some of the planned WYD activities and rehearsing. We spent the second morning at the Sydney Entertainment Centre for our own Catechesis. Imagine a venue the size of H.P. Pavilion, three-quarters full of WYD pilgrims, singing, chanting, waving their country’s flag, listening to the Word of God, and, more than anything else, enjoying being there. I looked around the venue and, holding back tears, thought, “this is the world, right here, these young people proving that we can live together.”

For the Pope’s arrival later that day, we were stationed at a large park called “The Domain,” watching his arrival by boat in the harbor on giant video screens. He would eventually drive by in the Pope Mobile less than twenty feet from where we were standing. In the meantime, with the park full of pilgrims, there was singing, dancing and waving of flags. We met people from as close to home as San Jose and as far away as Qatar, China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Italy, England, Ireland, Germany, South Africa, Spain, France, Puerto Rico and many from New Zealand and Australia.

I had never heard of Geoff Bullock. In the weeks leading up to our departure, we were informed that, along with the Notre Dame (Belmont) Chorus, we would be part of a larger chorus that would be accompanying him on three of his songs. As the details of the performance came together, Jackie Love and Margaret Urlich, two well-known Australian pop singers, were added to the bill. The songs, “The Great Southland (of the Holy Spirit),” “This Kingdom,” and “The Power of Your Love” were all well-crafted praise songs and the choirs embraced them—especially “The Power of Your Love.” During the bus ride from the airport to the Opera House the morning we arrived, I was informed that there was no “larger chorus.” The Serra Men’s Chorus and the Notre Dame Chorus would be the only two American choirs performing at the Vigil ceremony. Darn, I wish we’d practiced the songs a bit more!

We spent the evening at Barangaroo, WYD central, a huge abandoned wharf at Darling Harbor, watching the beautifully produced Stations of the Cross. Using live actors, live and canned music and narration, and theatrical lighting the Stations were presented at fourteen stops along Darling Harbor and broadcast to video screens and speakers covering all of the harbor and Barangaroo. It was one of the most spiritual moments of the trip followed by one of the most memorable.

When the event ended, we faced a 30-minute walk back to the bus. As we hurried along in the brisk night (it was winter in Sydney) the boys began to sing “Doo Wah Diddy Diddy,” “The Lion Sleeps Tonight,” and any number of “oldies.” Gradually the entire throng near us, who were also hustling to their destinations, joined in. Before long the Serra “pied pipers” had attracted quite a bit of attention and, when they reached the bridge that crosses Darling Harbor, they were asked to stop and sing one of their own songs. Naturally they obliged, much to the consternation of the police officer whose job it was to keep everyone moving. Mary McInnis, our head chaperone, gently cajoled him into letting them finish the number. Throughout this entire escapade, I was but a bemused bystander, neither instigating nor quashing the proceedings.

“The Power of Your Love” was selected to be the finale and would include Love and Urlich singing lead, Bullock at the piano, violinist Glenn Rhodes, and the combined choruses singing backup. It was great fun collaborating on the musical arrangements that were, more or less, being created on the spot. Geoff Bullock turned out to be one of the kindest people I’ve met, not to mention a fantastic songwriter.

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“Come to the Music” (our festival opener), and our combined choirs accompanying Geoff Bullock on his songs. “The Power of Your Love” was selected to be the finale and would include Love and Urlich singing lead, Bullock at the piano, violinist Glenn Rhodes, and the combined choruses singing backup. It was great fun collaborating on the musical arrangements that were, more or less, being created on the spot. Geoff Bullock turned out to be one of the kindest people I’ve met, not to mention a fantastic songwriter.

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Finally, the day of the “big gig” arrived. WYD itineraries typically include a pilgrimage walk and an evening vigil, after which pilgrims spend the night camping out until the Papal Mass the following morning. In Sydney these events were to take place at the Royal Randwick Racecourse (renamed “Southern Cross Precinct” for WYD), a plush horse race track outside of the city. At great expense (the prized horses had to be relocated for the week) the racetrack was converted into a massive, outdoor venue, complete with a gigantic, multi-tiered stage with full-scale concert lighting and sound, and enough jumbo video screens and sound towers so that one could see and hear everything no matter where they were. We arrived early in the morning for a sound check and immediately got a taste of the level of security employed whenever the Pope is in the vicinity. Bags were searched and scanned, as were individuals, and everyone in our group had to sport security passes that allowed us to be within 100 meters of the Pope. From the stage, we could see the earliest-arriving pilgrims, who had walked an average of 10 kilometers, way off in the distance, in the venue but nearly a quarter of a mile away!

Both choruses were assigned a conference room to use as our dressing area on the University of New South Wales campus, adjacent to Royal Randwick Racecourse. Though we were not scheduled to perform for several hours, we really had no choice but to stay there as the entire area was steadily filling with pilgrims and it would have been impossible to leave and come back. After lunch the Men’s Chorus napped on the floor of the conference room, lying with their heads together in a circle in a sign of unity, another unexpected special moment. When we finally moved out, our entire entourage, choruses, chaperones and Heritage personnel, was escorted back stage, moving through several security checkpoints where everyone had to show their passes for clearance. As we approached the racetrack from a hill behind the stage, we got our first glimpse of the crowd, which had grown to an estimated 350,000 pilgrims. It was overwhelming. While we waited to go on we watched the Matt Maher Band, a great Christian Rock band from Mesa, Arizona, on the JumboTron. The Notre Dame girls seemed particularly smitten with the lead guitar player and were thrilled when he, and the rest of the band, hung with us during the set change for our performance.

It was twilight when the Men’s Chorus hit the stage. Standing in the cool evening breeze, they didn’t appear nervous in the least, even though they were looking out on the largest audience any of us had ever seen. To be honest, it was hard to feel connected to the listeners because there were so many of them and they were so far away, again due to the restrictions in place for the Pope. But all of us remember the last note of our song. As the chorus sang a hearty “Alleluia,” we heard the note being passed from one sound tower to another across the expanse of the racetrack, at least eight repeats in all. The rest of the set went smoothly. I’ll always remember the look of pure elation on the faces of the Notre Dame and Serra chorus members as I conducted the “Power of Your Love” finale. When we finished, we had to play “hurry up and wait” at the security checkpoints as we made our exit because Pope Benedict was on his way. Though we didn’t sing with him seated on his chair on the stage, we were sure he heard our collective message of devotion. During the bus ride to dinner, another special moment occurred as the still-excited chorus serenaded Leslie, our incredible Heritage guide, with a rousing version of Queen’s “Bohemian Rhapsody,” complete with vocal harmony and simulated guitar solos. The bus driver did his part by adding flashing light effects at the appropriate moments.

Our second performance on the Randwick stage was scheduled for later the next day, as part of the post Papal Mass entertainment. When we dropped off our formal wear at the UNSW dressing room, we discovered that we were sharing the area with the clergy who would be on stage with Pope Benedict, a group of three hundred or so Bishops and Cardinals from all over the world. Before going to the Mass, the chorus members had a great time chatting with them and we could tell that they were as excited as we were. We attended as much of the Mass as we could before having to report back to the dressing room to prepare for our performance. The threat of rain kept Taz, our other Heritage representative, on the phone constantly with the stage manager who was making alterations to the program as necessary. While we were waiting backstage, pilgrims learned that the next WYD would be held in Madrid; not two hours earlier, we had been talking with the Archbishop of Madrid who, obviously, knew he was to host the colossal event but was outwardly calm and friendly.

Our performance went well, but the venue was largely deserted as most of the emotionally and physically spent pilgrims had departed. Nevertheless, the Serra and Notre Dame Choruses will always be able to accurately claim that they closed WYD SYD 2008.

The remainder of the trip consisted of sightseeing experiences, a full day in Sydney and three days in Cairns in the tropical north of Queensland. There were many adventures including a harrowing sailboat ride to the Great Barrier Reef in stormy seas and a tram ride above the rainforest. Though we had no performances scheduled for this leg of the trip, the Chorus did an impromptu set at Tjapukai Aboriginal Park at the request of the wonderful indigenous performers.

As we said goodbye to Australia the next day by singing “Homeward Bound” in the airport, we all felt that we had accumulated enough memories for a lifetime. And, as for the mysterious song with the chorus that woke me from my sleep, it eventually came to life as a tribute to the pilgrims of World Youth Day, Sydney who showed the world that, if we just look to the example of our children, we can, indeed, live together peacefully.

Epilogue
Special mention must be made of the countless alumni, faculty, friends and staff who made donations to our “Singing Our Way to Sydney” fund raising campaign. It was especially great to hear from the many music alumni from years ago. A heartfelt “thank-you” to all.
Tri-School Productions (Mercy Notre Dame Serra) once again packed Serra’s Gellert Auditorium during their Fall performances of “Dead Man Walking.”

This stirring adaptation of the book by Sister Helen Prejean was written by Tim Robbins, the well-known Hollywood actor and director, who also wrote and directed the film that earned a Best Actress Oscar for Susan Sarandon.

The play follows Sister Helen through her emotional journey as she gives counsel to death row inmate Matt Poncelet, discovering in the process facts and fallacies about the death penalty and, ultimately, the spiritual path that has been laid out for her.

The cast of twenty-five students from the three schools starred Notre Dame junior Hannah Ruwe as Sister Helen and Serra senior Tyler Gilliam as Matt Poncelet.

Shortly following their last performance, the cast, crew, and directorial staff received a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet the real Sister Helen Prejean. Sister Helen was in the Bay Area as a guest speaker for the College of San Mateo’s President’s Lecture Series. She was more than generous with her time and good wishes as the entire group had the chance to meet with her at a reception following her speech.
PADRE FOOTBALL

**VARSITY**

The ‘08 football program provided a year of excitement for the Padre faithful. Coach Walsh’s team entered the season with several returning impact starters, including quarterback Cody Jackson, Doug Caldwell, Joey Cheso, Pat West, Mark Baker, Greg Biddle and Andy De Luca. Juniors Matt Vinal, Adonis Smith, Don Andre Clark and Paul Bevilacqua were immediate play makers as well.

The Padres faced one of the toughest schedules in the area, as they opened their season in early September against Westmont. Serra showed big play potential and star power winning decisively 56–0. Field general and quarterback Jackson showed what he and the Padres were capable of on offense as he ran for three touchdowns and completed a 68 yard pass to Clark for another score. Clark added a 65 yard scoring run to boost the total.

Next, they faced national powerhouse De La Salle in what turned out to be one of the most heart breaking losses in years. The Padres were up by a single point in the fourth quarter after a De La Salle touchdown and only awaited the game-tying extra point to get the ball back and make a final offensive march for a win. However, after a bad snap on the extra point, the De La Salle PAT holder dashed for the corner of the end zone for a surprising two-point conversion to put the Spartans on top by one — giving them the needed momentum to ensure the 29–28 win.

After the painful loss to the then third ranked team in the nation, Serra went on the road making the long drive to Reno to face perennial power McQueen High School. The Padres fought hard, but the size and power of McQueen proved to be too much for the Padres, losing 24–7 to the eventual Nevada State Champions.

Serra opened WCAL play against a strong Valley Christian team. Once again, Serra could not finish late and had another heart breaking loss, 23-21. The Padres’ fortunes were looking gloomy. With a 1-3 record and six more games left in a very tough WCAL league season, there were questions if the 2008 Padres would be the powerhouse they had hoped to be. It was at this time that the true Padres emerged.

On a Friday night in early October, Sacred Heart Cathedral traveled to Freitas Field for Serra’s Homecoming game under the lights. Serra came out with resolve and intensity and shut down SHC’s Cal bound running back Desarte Yarnway, surging to a convincing 41–14 win. The Padres set a school record for most total yards with 570.

The Padres then faced long time rival St. Francis where Serra’s defense dominated the Lancers. The Serra offense did its part as well, leading the Padres to a 35–3 win—the greatest margin of victory ever against St. Francis. Braun ran for two touchdowns and defensive back Vinal grabbed a fumble and ran it 43 yards to the end zone highlighting the Padre scoring. Caldwell, DeAlba and Cheso all played an outstanding game defensively.

Now, 2-1 in WCAL play and solidly in second place, the Padres traveled to San Jose City College to face first place and undefeated Bellarmine who were ranked third in California and number one in Northern California. Serra walked onto the field with intensity, determination and the confidence necessary to win the game. In one of the most memorable games in school history, the Padres played to their potential and handed Bellarmine their first and only loss of the season. It was truly an emotional and hard fought team victory. Jackson rushed for three TDs; workhorse Braun picked up 122 yards on 24 carries; Smith ran for 73 yards and Biddle caught six passes. The offensive line of David Bakhtiar, Bevilacqua, DeLuca, Vince Stewart and Baker, along with tight end Patrick Bowler, were sensational. With the solid 31–23 win over the Bells, Serra was in a tie for first and had their WCAL fate in their own hands needing to win their last three games to claim the title.

With a huge amount of momentum built up, the Padres hosted St. Ignatius the following Saturday afternoon in the pouring rain. Despite the strong running attack of SI, the Padres came out with a 28–13 win, with three touchdowns by Jackson and one by Braun. Zack Alspaugh caught a key 26-yard pass for a first down to provide the Padres with momentum during a critical part of the game. Leading tacklers for the defense were DeAlba, Caldwell and Nick Ertola.

On Serra’s traditional “Senior Day,” the Padres faced rival Riordan and pulled out a decisive 34–7 win to bring them to within one game of a WCAL title. Smith ran for two touchdowns, while Braun found the end zone three times in the second half.

The last game of league play came against last place Archbishop Mitty who, despite their record, were a serious threat. With great preparation
and solid play, however, the Padres closed with a 6-1 league record and took home their share of the WCAL title with a 33–14 win. Clark and Braun each scored a pair of touchdowns.

Serra entered CCS play as the seventh seed against the number two seed, Gilroy, who boasted one of the most prolific offenses in Northern California. The game started out in Gilroy’s favor, as they went into half time with a 14–3 lead. It was then that the Padres woke up and rose to the challenge scoring 42 unanswered points in a second half explosion to demolish Gilroy’s hopes of a CCS title. The Serra offense gained a total of 521 yards, with 352 of the yards coming on the ground, ending the game with a 45-14 victory.

The following week, Serra traveled to San Jose City College once again to face number three seed Bellarmine in the semi-finals. Bellarmine came out to play an outstanding game unfortunately ending Serra’s season with a 24–7 victory.

The 2008 Padre team added several entries to the record books. The total of 336 points scored is second most in school history; the 52 touchdowns is also second most, while the 4,119 total offensive yards gained was third best in school history. Jackson and Guttas both made the career list of top-ten leading scorers with Jackson finishing with 186 points for third place and Guttas 151 points for sixth place. Guttas took over the career lead in most extra points with 127. Jackson broke into the top five of several career passing categories, including most yards (2488), most attempts (336), most completions (182) and most touchdowns (22). Jackson’s (2315 yards) and Braun’s (1448 yards) career rushing totals placed them third and ninth respectively in Serra history. Jackson, who was named 2008 Player of the Year by the “Daily News Group,” finished with 31 career touchdowns, one behind career leader DeLeon Eskridge ’07 who completed an outstanding freshmen year at University of Minnesota.

Serra had many of its players honored as All–League members. Jackson, Braun, Biddle, Cheso, Vinal, Chris Miller, Caldwell and Baker were all awarded first team All–WCAL honors. Smith, De Alba and De Luca were named Second Team All–League and Clark, West and Bakhtiari were awarded honorable mention. Jackson earned Quarterback of the Year honors for the second time and Greg Guttas received Kicker of the Year honors for the third time.

**JUNIOR VARSITY**

The JV football team ended the year with three straight victories including one over the eventual league champ St. Ignatius. The Padres approached the game each week with heart and determination and did their best to excel in playing the sport that they love. This team grew and improved as the year passed and this was evident in the excitement of the games. They built a strong foundation to carry with them to the varsity squad next year. Several members of the team contributed to the success.

The offensive line went both ways as either defensive linemen or linebackers, including Michael Tatola, Ben Parodi, Zack Swimney, Cameron Ciano and Kyle Rudolph. They were helped at the skill positions by quarterback Andy McAlindon and offensive standouts Scott Simpson, Juan Rodriguez and Mark Peruzzaro.

**FRESHMEN**

The 2008 freshmen football team finished off an outstanding season with a 6-2 record (6-1 in the WCAL). The young powerhouse team was not daunted by the significant amount of injuries, scoring a total of 252 points over the season. Antonio Freschet (Team MVP) led the offense with 11 touchdown runs, while Erich Wilson (Most Valuable Offensive Back) showed his intensity with nine touchdowns of his own. Matt Falk threw for eight touchdowns over the course of the season to receivers Collin Theroux and Stephen Grosey. Kicker Travis Roberts never missed a PAT all season. The Padres scored an average of more than 30 points a game, a shocking statistic for a freshmen team. Head Coach Eric Morin and Coaches Brian Callahan and Ray Baldonado, combined to perfect the offensive machine.

Defensively the Padres proved their excellence week after week. Credit goes to Coach Jason Hardee for developing the brick-walled defense that will lead the Padres in future WCAL seasons. Joey Erdie (Defensive MVP) lead the defense at safety with an average of six tackles a game. Bradley Northnagel, Daniel Gavan, Darren Sabean, Terrence LeGrande and Tim Glaninger continuously stopped runs at the line, intimidating the opponents’ running game. The Padres finished the season with a 49-0 shut out over Archbishop Mitty, and allowed only an average of 16 points a game. They’re looking forward to competing for the WCAL championship next season.

Other freshmen honored with year end awards included Livai Holani (Most Valuable Defensive Back), Luke Longinotti (Most Valuable Offensive Lineman), Marty De Alba (Most Inspirational), Brian Clifford (Most Improved), Sabean (Iron Man Award) and Northnagel (Most Valuable Defensive Lineman).
The Padre water polo players were hopeful as fall rolled around—the year bringing with it yet another interesting three-month season. Over the course of those three months, the Pads battled against some of the toughest teams from throughout Northern California in league games, scrimmages and tournaments. This year’s team finished fourth in the always tough WCAL with an impressive .500 season and a record of 3-3 in league, while going 13-15 overall.

The Padres then went on to play very competitively in both the WCAL playoffs, as well as in CCS. Head coach Bob Greene credited the team’s success to the group effort that was put forth by the players and the unity that they showed day in and day out. The team was guided this year by senior captains Zac Chierici, Danny Marchette and Ben Faoro who led the team in goals and assists. Chierici finished with 109 goals on the season, giving him a total of 171 career goals and ninth place overall on Serra’s all-time scoring list. Defensively, the team was led by junior goalie Matt Pritchett, who finished the year with a record 276 saves. Pritchett was aided by Faoro and junior Quinn Curl who collectively led the team in steals.

In addition to finishing fourth in both the WCAL and in CCS Division I, the Padres also received several post-season individual awards. Chierici was named to First Team All-WCAL and First Team All-CCS. He was also named this year’s MVP for Coach Greene’s squad.

Pritchett and Faoro were named Second Team All-WCAL, and Pritchett was also honored with Second Team All-CCS while Faoro received an Honorable-Mention.

Both the freshman and frosh-soph teams competed well this season, as they developed their knowledge and skills of the game. The frosh-soph was led by MVP Jake Folan and goalie Alex Simon. At the frosh level Con O’Leary and Kyle Baker show a lot of promise for upcoming seasons. Padre water polo has a bright future at Serra High.

Thanks to, Marty De Alba ’12, Matt Falk ’12, Matt Garcia ’09, Matt Pritchett ’10, Benny Robbins ’09 and Sam Schneider ’09 for contributing to our Padre Bench fall sports articles.
The Padre cross country team completed the fall season in a strong fashion with a fourth place finish in the WCAL followed by a fourth place finish at the Division I CCS meet at Toro Park in Salinas. This year’s Padre harriers were led by senior Mitchell Council. Sophomore Daniel Colom made the move up to varsity for the last two races of the season and finished first for the team at the CCS meet. Seniors Kyle Costanzo and Sam Schneider as well as juniors Brandon Norwood and Andrew Gattis were also very consistent scoring members for this year’s team.

At the Junior Varsity level, Seniors Kevin Corley and Chris Navarro lead their team to a second place at the WCAL finals while Ford Milligan, Stephan Sester and Andrew Menzel lead the sophomore team to second place in their division at the league finals. Freshman Carstenn Stann, who had ran with the sophomore team for a majority of the season, lead the freshmen runners to a second place title with freshman standouts Avery Turzanski and Patrick Hagmann also contributing to a fine season.

Worley Wins Tourney

Serra senior Ray Worley recently won the Santa Cruz Tennis Academy Junior Open Tournament held at Cabrillo College. He defeated Brooks Baldinger of San Jose 3-6, 6-2 & 10-1 (tiebreaker) in the finals after downing John Michael Hansen and Kyle Miller in earlier rounds. The San Mateo resident’s national ranking rose from 477 to 416 with the tourney win.

Four student athletes signed National Letters of Intent during a press conference held on campus in November. Three Padre baseball players have received scholarships to play at the Division I level next year—Tony Renda (Cal), Tim Quiery (SJS) and Danny Chavez (USF). The fourth Padre to sign was tennis player Spencer Talmadge who accepted a scholarship to the University of Notre Dame.

Serra senior football player Greg Guttas has given a verbal commitment to play at Columbia University next year. Guttas was selected as the WCAL Kicker of the Year for three consecutive seasons.

“He was one of our defensive stars,” stated Coach Walsh. “Over the past three years, his booming his kickoffs into or out of the end zone took away any chance an opponent had of a long game changing return.”
This past fall, Serra proudly announced its new Alumni Director, Padre alum Bob Greene ‘85. Born and raised in San Mateo, Bob attended Serra where he participated in both water polo and swimming. After graduation from college at Chico State University, he began his coaching career at Aragon High School and quickly established himself as one of the top water polo coaches in Northern California. Bob took over the reigns of the Padres in 2005 and quickly worked his magic by taking the Padres to the semi-finals of the Division I CCS Playoffs.

\[\text{“The past four months as Alumni Director has been more fulfilling than I could have ever imagined. All of the fall events were well attended, and the spirit of the Serra community shined through, making me even more proud to be a Padre.}\]

We started the year off with the Father & Son Breakfast, followed by homecoming weekend (featuring the Alumni BBQ), bi-annual Hall of Fame dinner and the class reunions, which had a packed house at the Crowne Plaza.

The Thanksgiving holidays were celebrated with the alumni sports week, where hundreds of fans and alumni participated and reconnected with friends and family. A special treat was the 50-Year (plus) Luncheon held at the original site of Serra (now St. Bartholomew’s Church), where close to fifty alums shared their memories of Serra life.

Looking forward to the rest of the year, we are working on the implementation of the Class Rep system intended to facilitate communications and drive attendance for upcoming events. In progress are plans for Career Day in March and the Alumni Golf Tournament scheduled for June. For both events, we have some exciting alumni presence planned and are excited about their success. We hope to see as many of you as possible at future events and encourage anyone who wants to get involved to contact me."

GO PADRES!

Bob Greene
bgreene@serrahs.com

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CLASS REPS NEEDED!

We are looking for class reps to help us stay connected, organize reunions and plan special events.

If you are interested in helping out with your class, please contact Alumni Director Bob Greene at (650) 573-9935 ext. 191 or e-mail: bgreene@serrahs.com.

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LOG ON TO SERRA’S WEBSITE & RECONNECT WITH PADRE ALUMS

WWW.SERRAHS.COM

Hundreds of Padre Alums have already registered with Serra’s new Online Alumni Community and have started reconnecting with old classmates.

Your log-in ID is the number located directly above your name on the address label of this edition of Traditions. That’s all you need to begin catching up with your Padre pals. Just follow these four easy steps:

1. Log on to www.serrahs.com
2. Click on Alumni
3. Click on Online Alumni Community
4. Click on Register Here. (You will need to enter your last name, choose your class, and enter your Log-in ID.)
SERRA’S MOST WANTED!  LOST ALUMNI!

We are searching for Padre alums whom we have lost track of for one reason or another. If you know the whereabouts of any of the lost alums listed below, please provide us with current contact information by calling Alumni Director Bob Greene at (650) 573-9935 ext. 191 or sending an e-mail to bgreene@serrahs.com.

'64 Al DaDalt
'64 Charles Galea
'64 Richard Mondon
'64 John O’Connor
'64 Anthony Ramos
'64 Stuardo Sinibaldi
'64 Patrick Frank
'64 Pasquale Fiore
'64 Alfred Corrigan
'64 Richard Heslin
'64 Thomas Green
'64 Charles Haasis

'64 Richard Hessel
'64 Stephen Hjelt
'64 R. Terry Hudkins
'64 Bruce Jobson
'64 Robert Loomis
'64 Lawrence Lynch
'64 James Mackey
'64 Timothy McBreen
'64 Melvin Menegaux
'64 Richard Millang
'64 Stephen Mulready
'64 Lawrence Psicoff
'64 John Roberts
'64 William Roberts
'64 John Ryan
'64 Terry Sullivan
'64 Daniel Sullivan
'64 Jeffrey Tone
'64 John Trotter
'64 Victor Walsh
'64 David Wilkinson
'64 Raymond Wootan

'69 Robert Yates
'69 Vincent Williams
'69 James Utigard
'69 Gary Timmons
'69 Daniel Swain
'69 Kevin Shrieve
'69 William Roby
'69 Rick Revetria
'69 Michael Pehrson
'69 David Padilla
'69 Frank O’Sullivan
'69 David Padilla
'69 Michael Pezron
'69 Rick Reveria
'69 William Roby
'69 Kevin Shrieve
'69 Daniel Swain
'69 Gary Timmons
'69 James Utigard
'69 Vincent Williams
'69 Robert Yates

'74 Pedro Aguilar
'74 Stephen Barrett
'74 Paul Botelho
'74 Robert Brown
'74 Blaise Buckle
'74 Daniel Bues
'74 John Burgos
'74 Edward Cassidy
'74 Edward Day
'74 Robert Drake
'74 Gregory Elvander
'74 Thomas Gadd
'74 Donald Gile
'74 David Hanson
'74 Richard Holman
'74 Ronald Jackson
'74 Richard King
'74 Stephen Lipinski
'74 Darrell Little
'74 Richard Maldonado
'74 Daniel McElligott
'74 Thomas Mihalyi
'74 Stephen Murphy
'74 Steven Palladino
'74 Kelly Parker
'74 Ivan Rossi
'74 S. Sappingfield
'74 Michael St Clair
'74 David Tamura
'74 William Teich
'74 Walter Topper
'74 Bryant Van Beckum
'74 Robert Von Husen
'74 Peter Wisnom

'84 Roy Fraties
'84 Rodolfo Gardey
'84 Arthur Gates
'84 James Larrison
'84 Robert Lewis
'84 Kevin Lyons
'84 Matthew McCloskey
'84 Timothy McNaney
'84 Daniel McNamara
'84 David Miller
'84 Richard Moffat
'84 Jeffery Nolan
'84 Miguel Ongpin
'84 Christopher Paterson
'84 Scott Rolon
'84 Anthony Sailer
'84 Michael Stevens
'84 Christopher Stone
'84 Mark Stoscher
'84 Michael Vellandi

'89 Ernesto Basyle
'89 Brian Coldrick
'89 Robert Corpuz
'89 Carlos Cosenza
'89 Robert Crowe
'89 Brian Dempsey
'89 Paul Ferro
'89 Carlo Galutera
'89 Antonio Gillette
'89 Erick Herrmann
'89 Michael Higashi
'89 John Kousoulakis
'89 Michael Lane
'89 Alfred Leon
'89 Albino Marsetti
'89 Tim McNamara
'89 Antonio Montalban
'89 John Nelson
'89 Jason Pitts
'89 Jason Stamps
'89 Leonel Tingin

'99 Alexander Zernitsky
Known by some Serra classmates and teachers as the ultimate sports fanatic and by others as the “life of the class,” Scott Phelps’ (’98) ascent as a freelance sports producer, editor and cameraman should not surprise anyone. The journey traveled by this creative and daring Padre alum has brought him to the center stage of some of the world’s top sporting events, including the 2008 Olympics.

As a freelance producer, Scott was hired by NBC to work on a variety of Olympic segments in Beijing with host Julia Mancuso, a gold medalist in downhill skiing from the 2006 Olympics in Turin, Italy. Scott, along with Willie Ebersol, son of NBC Sports Chairman Dick Ebersol, served as Julia’s writers, editors, producers and cameramen. Together, they worked on some “out of the ordinary” segments aimed at experiencing the summer games through the eyes of a Winter Olympian. They covered life in Beijing and the surrounding area from culture to food to sights, followed and interviewed Olympic athletes and elicited the views and opinions of fans on a variety of topics.

In each piece, Phelps tries to “create a story and paint a picture for the audience.” Emotions are an important part of his stories and Phelps feels you can mix laughter and poignancy in putting together a successful piece.

Scott also produced a daily blog while in China, originally designed for friends and family. It turned into more than that, as it received numerous unexpected hits and became a popular website covering everything from his arrival and set up in Beijing to behind the scenes at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. He provided photos, video and stories featuring intriguing interactions at the events and with athletes.

One particular segment was a feature story on how many events Julia could cover in a day. Scott stated, “We went to nine events including Michael Phelps’ Olympic/World record 400 meter medley. The events started at 9 a.m. with Handball, Phelps’ gold at 10 a.m., then Archery, Field Hockey, Badminton, Gymnastics, Diving, Beach Volleyball, and, finally, USA vs. China Men’s Basketball which started at 10 p.m. Unbelievable! We battled thunder, lightning and rain all day, but what an incredible experience.”

Early in the Olympics they did a piece with the beach volleyball team and Gold Medalists Kerry Walsh and Misty May. Another day they shot a piece at the Great Wall before launching themselves on a downhill toboggan ride to add some laughs to the segment.
then it got crazy. He threw his tennis racket into the crowd and some how I came up with it. UNBELIEVABLE!! I must have taken 40+ pictures with numerous Serbian and Chinese fans who wanted to hold it. A Serbian guy offered me $3,000 Euros ($5,000 US) for the racquet, but I turned him down. I play tennis with my father in-law on occasion so I won’t have to borrow his racket anymore. Our final event of the day was the Men’s 100m final. Without any exaggeration, (I have the pictures to prove it), we sat in the front row, 10 yards behind the finish line. Everyone has said it is the fastest 10 seconds in sports and it is.”

Other segments included meeting Gold Medalist wrestler Rulon Gardner (who taught Julia how to wrestle) and the Beijing Water Park where gold medalist Cullen Jones taught Julia how to swim. Afterwards Scott and one of his crew members, Mike, took some time for a little fun “taking part in a few water activities with Mike and I winning the first ever ‘Summer Tandem Luge’ event.”

Near the end of the Olympics, Scott’s blog carried a photo and caption under the headline “Phelps Meets Phelps.” Scott and fourteen-time gold medal winner Michael Phelps met for an interview at the NBC executive offices. Scott commented, “Great guy. What a busy few weeks he has ahead of him.”

Scott called his work at the Olympics “a once in a life time experience.” “Being able to work with sports on a global level was especially exciting,” he added.

Scott Phelps has enjoyed a multitude of experiences in the media and communications field since earning his degree from UC Santa Barbara in 2002. Following graduation from college, Scott landed a job with ESPN’s “Rome Is Burning,” a sports conversation and opinion show. He worked with the quick-witted and sometimes abrasive host Jim Rome as a camera and editing specialist. He shot, edited and produced segments on the Patriots’ Tom Brady ‘95 and Rodney Harrison, along with the A’s Eric Byrnes. This gave him additional credibility in the industry and resulted in a job at “ESPN Hollywood” as a segment director, producing interviews on Hollywood and sports celebrities including Justin Timberlake, The Grateful Dead, Kobe Bryant, LeBron James and Serena Williams.

After the cancellation of “ESPN Hollywood,” Scott decided to freelance as a cameraman, editor and producer launching his own production company SMPTV. This brought him to elite sporting events and venues throughout the world, earning jobs with Major League Baseball, NBC Sports and the NFL Network. He covered and produced pieces on the 2005 World Series between the White Sox and Astros, the 2006 US Open at Winged Foot Golf Club and the ESPY Awards. In August of 2006, Scott began a stint with the NFL Network which culminated in working on the network coverage of Super Bowl XLII. He edited numerous pieces for the network, including a one-on-one interview with two-time Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady ’95. After than, NBC hired his production company and Scott was off to work the Beijing Olympic Games.

While at Serra, Scott. along with classmate Chris Murphy ’98, created a popular sports/humor column for the Serra Friar called the “One Minute Clinic.” A take off on Serra baseball Coach Pete Jensen’s “Coaching Tips,” a series of spots that ran on the local cable Fox sports television station, Phelps and Murphy would feature photos in their column of notable members of the Serra community with “one foot on the bucket.” It was an amusing take-off on Jensen’s television clips, where he used a bucket to assist in balance during his instruction of pitching techniques. Among those honored in the Friar with “one foot on the bucket” were the venerable Rev. John Zoph (Serra teacher and librarian from 1944-1999), local newspaper sportswriters such as the late Merv Harris of the Examiner and the San Mateo Times’ Michelle Nolan, along with Pete Jensen and his wife Robin.

Another shot featured a gorilla, of all things, with his foot on the bucket! It can now be said that Scott was one of those responsible for quietly orchestrating one of the greatest Senior pranks of all time at Serra…anyone remember a story about a gorilla at a rally? His columns would usually create some lively discussion and could be considered, in part, the groundwork for his current journalistic adventures. Phelps credits Serra for helping him in a lot of ways to get where he is today.

“Much of what I do now involves communication and dealing with people, commented Phelps. “Serra provided me with support and a great foundation for college and beyond.” Bold and never bashful during his days at Serra, Scott was known to have snuck onto the Colorado Rockies team bus after a Giants game, make his way into Dodger Stadium ticket-less (working his way down to the dugout area using the media elevator), and get into the owners booth to visit with actor Rob Schneider at an Anaheim Angels game. These were all long before he earned any legitimate sport credentials, those magical passes that gain you entrance almost anywhere at a sporting event.

Scott and his wife Helena recently moved from So. California back to the Bay Area, which they now plan to call home. And yes, when Scott and Helena (Boje) were married in August 2005, Scott sent along a wedding photo to Serra of 1998 Padre classmates Matt Callicotte, Chris Murphy, Steve Mooney and himself with their “foot on the bucket” (Traditions: Volume 32 Number 1 Winter 2006).

It is certain that we will continue to hear from freelance producer Scott Phelps on a regular basis. As Executive Producer of his own company, Scott’s ultimate goal is to produce his own shows for sale to network television. No question, Scott Phelps enjoys life and he plans to continue to pursue his passion of sports. Those interested in taking a look at some of Scott’s sports adventures over the past few years, both through photos and video, are invited to check out his website at smptv.com.
Homecoming Week was a fun-filled series of events commencing on Wednesday, September 10th, with the Junípero Serra Award Mass and ceremony. This year’s award was presented to Mark Vorsatz from the Class of 1972 (more on pg. 8). On Friday, September 12th, Serra held its Athletic Hall of Fame Induction ceremony at the San Mateo Elks Lodge, where eight new members joined the ranks of standout Padre athletes (full story on pg. 14).

The homecoming football game vs. De La Salle took place on Saturday afternoon September 13th, followed later that same evening with the 2008 Reunion Gala at the Crowne Plaza in Foster City. Alums from the classes of ’47 & ’48, ’68, ’73, ’78, ’83, ’88 and ’98 reunited for a night of reminiscing, dinner, and dancing. Golden Diplomas were presented to the Class of ’58, as they became the newest members of Serra’s 50-Year Club.
A REUNION CELEBRATION SPANNING THE DECADES

Class of 1998 Padres Omar Gonzalez and Ricky Lechleitner
Celebrate their 10-Year Reunion

Class of 1958 Padres Joseph Fedrigo and Joe Cosgrave
Celebrate their 50-Year Reunion!

Class of 1988 Celebrate their 20-Year Reunion

Archbishop Francis T. Hurley (former Serra faculty member (1954-57) and retired Archbishop of Anchorage) was presented with a check in his honor in the amount of $20,000, representing the establishment of a new scholarship fund established in his name. Padre alum Dennis Lucey ’58 played an integral role in setting up the fund, along with several classmates and friends of Serra.
What a great turn out for Serra’s 50-Year Club Celebration Luncheon held on Friday December 12th at St. Bartholomew’s (the original site of Serra). Our distinguished group of Padre alums enjoyed lunch together and spent time renewing friendships and refreshing old memories of their high school days at Serra.

50-Year Club Padre guests included:  
Class of ’47: George Mutto;  Class of ’48: Rev. Daniel Cardelli (first alum to be ordained), Gene Giannotti, Dan Miller, William Murphy, Clement Schablaskie;  Class of ’49: Dr. David Stronck;  Class of ’50: William Campbell;  Class of ’51: Robert Ughe, Robert Sheehan;  Class of ’52: George Andreini, James O’Donnell;  Class of ’53: William Aston, Mario Buttignol, Donald Casella, Richard Iori, Henry Maher, Thomas Nelson, Bernard Reichnuth;  Class of ’54: Fred Bertetta, James Danielski, Len Fregosi, Michael Laramie, Donald Rojas;  Class of ’55: Robert Kidwell, James Prickitt;  Class of ’56: Rich Bona, Robert Eppler, Stuart MacKenzie;  Class of ’57: Ed Trucco, Jr, Martin McCormick, Italo Peruzzaro, James Roberts, William Tuck;  Class of ’58: Dr. Robert Birdi, Lawrence Cardon, Crisanto Castro, Patrick Kopp, John Sheehan, Carl Welte

SUPPORT SERRA BY MAKING A DONATION ONLINE

Visit the Serra Website @ www.serrahs.com
& Click on “Online Giving” from our Alumni or Development page.

Gifts to Serra Are Tax Deductible.
I am currently in Afghanistan based out of Bagram Air Base, which is about 25 miles north of Kabul at 5000 ft. and surrounded by gigantic mountains. I arrived on May 1st and am scheduled to depart in mid-February with my unit, B Company 1-126th Aviation (part of the California Army National Guard based out of Stockton). I am the acting Commander of our CH-47D “Chinook” Company, comprised of about 65 air crew members and 60 maintenance personnel. Normally, I am a flight platoon leader. My daily duties include mission planning, sync meetings, fixing personnel issues, and flying as an Aircraft Commander. The missions we fly in northeastern Afghanistan are mostly comprised of “Ring Routes,” in which we fly two Chinooks in formation to different Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) providing rotary-wing resupply and personnel movement. Much of this country is inaccessible except by dirt roads, so virtually everything that goes anywhere is moved by helicopters — primarily Chinooks since we can carry over 32 people or 14,000 pounds of cargo and have over 10,000 horsepower between the two rotor systems. The average mission lasts about seven hours, but I have flown a couple 9.5 hours missions, which makes for an amazingly long day in the cramped cockpit. While flying, we have to wear a bullet-proof vest, underneath our survival vests, making about 30 pounds of bullets and equipment just on the front of the chest.

Other than ring routes, we fly VIPs around, conduct air assaults and do countless external load (sling load) operations. Since May, I have met and flown a few celebrities and politicians including the First Lady of the U.S., Hamid Karzai (President of Afghanistan who prefers to only fly on Chinooks), St. Louis Rams cheerleaders, Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders, Milo Ventimiglia (from the show Heroes), Osi Umenyiora (NY Giants), Roger Goddell (NFL Commissioner), Drew Brees (N.O. Saints QB), American Idols, Jack Lengyel (former Marshall coach), General Louis Antonetti (Commander of California Army National Guard) and many others. But, like I said, the normal Ground FOB day consists of flying to places you’ve been to many times before and supplying the soldiers with “Beans and Bullets.” The guys who are not so close to a major hub, like Bagram, are the ones who really have it the toughest, especially to the south where the elevations range from 7,000 to 9,500 ft. above sea level. We fly long and difficult missions during all conditions, including wearing night vision goggles in order to keep the ground soldiers fully mission capable.

I’ve compiled over 350 combat flight hours over the past six months with over three months remaining and love every minute I am in the air working with my crew to get the mission accomplished. I started flying airplanes my senior year at Serra out of San Carlos Airport and continued flying at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where I earned a commercial flight certificate and my Bachelor of Science Degree in Aeronautical Science and minors in Aviation Weather and Defense Studies. I left there as a Second Lieutenant and moved back to northern California prior to flight school. After flight school and before deployment, I flew the Chinook to air shows in Sacramento and San Carlos (a very neat experience to fly at an air show in my hometown), training with Navy Seals in Nevada, paratroops with Special Forces, British Royal Marines in the Sierra Nevadas, and fighting fires with a 2,000 gallon water bucket in the summer of 2007. When we return, I am scheduled to be a Chinook instructor pilot and work at the Stockton Army Aviation Support Facility as a Federal Technician.

While I was home on Rest and Recuperation Leave (R&R), I was able to meet up with my Serra buddies and even go to the wedding of a fellow Padre Keenen Hird ’00. I am still very good friends with just about all of the same guys I was with back at Serra, and cherish the times we spent together back then.

“His education at Serra prepared him well for the Academy,” wrote John’s mother Ann. “I just returned from visiting him and am very proud of whom he has become.”

John Minahan ‘08 was sworn in to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis in August.

Nathan Woodside ’96 recently returned from his third deployment to Iraq, serving the last seven months as an embedded military advisor to an Iraqi Army infantry brigade in the Al Anbar province. His small team of Marines, Navy corpsmen and interpreters was responsible for training, mentoring and advising over 2000 Iraqi soldiers.

“Our Military Transition Team (MiTT) enjoyed countless dust storms, mounted patrols, and lamb feasts with our Iraqi counterparts,” wrote Nathan in an alumni e-mail update.

“An alumni update from Ben Bowman ’00 1LT, Aviatino, U.S. Army”

“Men of Service

ALUMNI NEWS

[L] Captain Nathan Woodside, USMC ’96 with (R) Iraqi brigade commander Colonel Hamut
More than 100 alums participated in this year’s Annual Alumni Games, with fans and supporters packing the stands at all events. This year’s games included basketball, water polo, soccer and crew.

**Basketball**
JV 49 – Alumni 45: Alumni scoring leaders included Paul Ferrari ‘76 with 16 points and Blair Calhoun ‘79 with 11 points.
Varsity 73 – Alumni 62: Alumni scoring leaders included Paul Shamieh ‘02 with 21 points and Eric Farrell ‘06 with 10 points.

**Soccer**
The varsity soccer game ended in a tie. The competition was fierce with the alums taking an early 2-0 lead. Varsity came back strong to take a 3-2 lead. In the last five minutes of the game, the alumni scored the tying goal. Goal scorers for the varsity team were Nick Carrara, Andrew Lucha and Mason Martinez.

**Water Polo**
There were twenty-seven alums in their Speedos playing some good water polo on Thanksgiving morning. Alums Nick Poggetti ‘06 and Matt Heagy ‘05 put on a great show for everyone in attendance. Spencer Healy ‘05 had double figure blocks to pace the odd year alums to defeat the even year alums 16-13. Brian Bell ‘83 scored his first and only goal in the third period and proved that after 25 years he’s still got it!

**Crew**
The Crew team took to the waters in their eight-man boats and did some competing of their own. Four boats would race on the chilly Friday morning waters to see who would come out on top. In the third and final race, the alumni showed that they are kings of the water. Some of our rowing alumni standouts were Billy Scherba ‘07, Sam Walsh ‘05, Bryce Welsh ‘06 and Matt Horn ‘08, just to name a few.

‘08 Alums Malak and Dutto Join Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Hanna Malak in front of the Rosary Basilica in Lourdes

Shortly after graduation, ‘08 classmates Hanna Malak and John Dutto embarked on a ten-day youth pilgrimage to Lourdes sponsored by the Order of Malta. Their time abroad consisted of both service and worship.

Service for the two Padres meant either lending their hands at the train station assisting the elderly and handicapped or working in the Piscines. The piscines are the pools of Lourdes where pilgrims come to bathe in the waters from the Grotto and pray to be healed.

“The work was physically and emotionally demanding, yet very rewarding,” added Hanna. We worshipped often, had Mass every day, went to confession and, in the evenings, took part in a candlelight procession.”

The young men also participated in the Taize Prayer, where music and many different languages are used to reflect both the international and ecumenical nature of the community. The prayer serves as a reminder that we are all part of one, universal Church of Christ.

“This was one of the best experiences I have ever had,” said Hanna. “I had so much fun meeting new people and being able to help those in need. This trip helped remind me of how lucky I am to be blessed with great health. Seeing how hopeful the muladas (sick) were in Lourdes strengthened my faith.”

Malak and Dutto at train station in Lourdes
Stephen Twomey ’69 is constantly being asked the same question when he is out socializing a guide dog in training: “But how can you give the dog back after being with her for so long?” His answer is quick: “Yes, it is heartbreaking. But when I present the dog to the visually impaired partner, I am reminded of how that dog is going to completely transform that person’s life into one of independence they have never enjoyed before.”

For the past six years, Stephen has been a raiser for Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael. Volunteer raisers like him pick up a puppy at two months old and return them to the school about thirteen months later. Stephen’s primary role is to nurture the puppy in a safe and clean environment, and to introduce the puppy to the world around them through a process called socialization. The puppies are exposed to all the potential sights, smells, noises, and distractions they may face with a visually impaired partner.

Stephen is currently raising “Skittle,” a female yellow Labrador. He has raised three other dogs — Tricia (working as a guide in Southern California), Suzie (an ambassador dog for Guide Dogs for the Blind), and Dasha (a breeder for Guide Dogs). Stephen plans to continue as a volunteer raiser for many years to come.

Chris Sfarzo ’91 has taken his musical talents in a different direction and decided to follow his dream of writing and recording Christian music. Former drummer for the Bay Area Rock Band, “Liquid,” Chris has always enjoyed writing and composing music that touch the heart and soul. He has written and recorded songs with his parents (also song writers) for many years. Their family song, “In A Child’s Eyes,” was performed in Washington DC for Missing Children’s Day.

Chris’ most recent song “I’ve Crossed The Bridge” has received great reviews. The lyrics about victory and accomplishment were written by Chris and his good friend Robert Alexander. Featured on vocals and guitar is Robert Berry, best know for his work with Keith Emerson of Ambrosia and most recently with the Greg Kihn band. The song is featured in an Olympic Tribute video, which Chris also produced. Chris’ work is available on iTunes and Amazon.
Padre alum Bryan Bishop ’96 walked away with $100,000 after appearing on the popular television game show “Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?” Bryan started in the “hot seat” on Friday, December 5th, where he made it up to the $16,000 question by using his “Phone A Friend” lifeline. He continued as a holdover contestant on the following Monday’s show, where he started by looking at the $25,000 question with three lifelines left.

Bryan used his “Ask The Audience” lifeline on the $25,000 question, which the audience answered correctly for him. Unsure of the answer to the $50,000 question, Bryan decided to use his “Ask The Expert” lifeline. Bryan connected with “Expert,” Pat Kiernan (morning news anchor for NY1 in New York City), who was able to lead Bryan to the correct answer.

For the $100,000 question, Bryan used his “Double Dip” lifeline. The question was the following: When filled to capacity for a game, what college’s football stadium temporarily becomes the third largest “city” in its state? A: University of Nebraska, B: University of Wisconsin, C: University of Alabama, D: University of Tennessee.” He only needed one guess, however, as his first guess “A” was correct!

Out of lifelines and unsure of the answer to the $250,000 question, Bryan decided to walk away with the guaranteed $100,000.

Bryan currently lives in Los Angeles and works as one of Adam Carolla’s sidekicks on the syndicated radio program “The Adam Carolla Show.” Bryan loves his job and is affectionately known as “Bald Bryan” on the air. Just two days after receiving word that he was going to appear on “Millionaire,” Bryan proposed to his girlfriend Christie. He said that if he won big on “Millionaire,” he would pay for his upcoming wedding, finance his dad’s dream of opening a BBQ restaurant and put a down payment on a house.

Spencer Blank ’06 is continuing to pursue his musical career at the University of Oregon, where he is studying classical piano performance with a minor in classical voice. He spent the previous two years at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

During the summer of ’07, Spencer was the Assistant Music Director for Broadway By The Bay’s Conservatory and played with Ohlone College Summerfest, Peninsula Youth Theatre. During the 2007-08 school year, he was the conductor of OperAltena — a new, alternative opera company — in their premiere production of Henry Purcell’s “Dido and Aeneas.” He was also a vocal coach for the Opera and Musical Theatre Divisions of the CUA School of Music. Last summer, Spencer went to the Brevard Music Center in North Carolina and worked with “big-wigs” in the music world such as Yo-Yo Ma and Keith Lockhart (the conductor of the Boston Pops). He is currently the Assistant Conductor and Intern for the Eugene Opera and a vocal coach for U.O. Opera Theatre.
Shane Wehr ’86, who has worked in the maritime industry since graduating from Serra, was recently promoted to the San Francisco Bar Pilots Association.

For more than a century, the San Francisco Bar Pilots have ensured the safe and efficient movement of the largest vessels that traverse the San Francisco Bay and adjacent bays and tributaries, including Monterey Bay. Their services are essential to the flow of goods between the bay and the world, moving more than 9,000 vessels a year. Despite narrow channels and rivers, shallow shoals and sand bars, shifting currents and tides, the San Francisco Bar Pilots possess the expertise necessary to move seagoing vessels in one of the most dangerous pilotage areas in the country.

Joining Shane in his promotion are his wife Susan, daughters Nicole 4, Natalie 3, and brother Grant ’87.

Adam Markovich ’06 was recently awarded the first annual Rudy R. Miller Business-Finance Scholarship at Arizona State University.

Rudy R. Miller, Chairman, President and CEO of the affiliated group of Miller entities, established the scholarship to express his firm’s support of ASU, in particular the W.P. Carey School of Business, and to encourage and recognize academic excellence in outstanding students. The scholarship is based on merit and will be awarded annually to a Junior or Senior pursuing a degree in Finance or Business Administration.

“We are extremely pleased to award our first annual scholarship to Adam Markovich,” said Mr. Miller at a presentation luncheon held at their corporate headquarters in Scottsdale. “We were impressed with Adam’s academic achievements, as well his strong interest and background in the financial and investment markets. We feel honored to provide Adam a financial reward that will assist him in this pursuit and we look forward to following Adam as he progresses throughout his career.”

“Serra helped prepare Adam for the strong academic success he is having as a finance major at ASU’s Carey Business School,” added Adam’s proud father Peter.
Groom Josh Berta ‘98
& Padre Groomsmen
Josh Berta ‘98 married Tara DeCrisoferi on August 2nd in Redwood Shores. Josh’s groomsmen included several Padres. Pictured from L to R: Jake Azevedo, Brian Reardon ‘98, Eddie Montague (attended Serra 1994-1997), Mike Balestreri ‘97, Ryan Melconian ‘98, Josh Berta ‘98 (groom), Chris Scrogings ‘98 (Best Man) Greg Hoffert, Christopher Nettles, Michael Andreacchi and Jason Mostasisa.

Nick Galletta ‘03 is currently the World Champion Power Lifter for his weight class after competing at the World Association of Benchers and Deadlifters International (WABDL) Championship held in Las Vegas in November. Nick won his class by benching 556.5 pounds and is still the California State Record Holder. The WABDL is an association of lifters who enjoy competing in the single-lift bench press and deadlift on state, national, and international levels. They are a drug-free organization and all meets are drug-tested. Picture above with Nick are proud parents, Carol and Joe. “I no longer have any power over him.” Carol commented jokingly. “Good thing I nagged a lot when he was little.”

Four Decades of Padres Attend Klobuchar Wedding
Michael Klobuchar ‘90 aka “Coach K” of the Serra Wrestling team married Georgette Dakis (NDB ‘92) on October 7, 2007 at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Belmont. Coach K is the nephew of Gail Defoe, former admissions secretary at Serra.

Four decades of Padres were in attendance, including Best Man John Klobuchar ‘86, groomsmen James Defoe ‘87, Chris Waizenegger ‘89, Kip Taylor ‘90, John Defoe ‘91.

Other Padre guests included Andrew King ‘90, Garrett Torres ‘08, and Chris Harrington ‘76. Padre wrestling coaches in attendance were Paul Bristow (former coach), Dan Vogl, Harold Lorber, Bob Marshall and Steve Hemuili.

Klobuchar ‘90 & Dakis Wedding
Your 50-year reunion is just around the corner! Look for more news in upcoming mailings.

Brian Morton and Mark Massey are both currently coaching freshman basketball at Serra. Mark coaches the “A” Team and Brian coaches the “B” Team.

Your 40-year reunion is just around the corner! Look for more news in upcoming mailings.

Roy Malatesta and his wife Stephanie welcomed their third daughter Allie Michelle on August 27. Allie joins her two sisters Amanda and Morgan.

Your 40-year reunion is just around the corner! Look for more news in upcoming mailings.

John “Tony” James is a Group Manager for MJDII Architects in Addison Texas, where he lives with his wife Giovanna and two children Alexandra and John.

Your 25-year reunion is just around the corner! Look for more news in upcoming mailings.

Shane Wehr was recently promoted to the San Francisco Bar Pilots, where he will be navigating ships in and out of San Francisco Bay.

Your 30-year reunion is just around the corner! Look for more news in upcoming mailings.

Chris Sfarzo’s recent song entitled “I’ve Crossed The Bridge” has received great reviews. (More about Chris on pg. 39.)

Your 30-year reunion is just around the corner! Look for more news in upcoming mailings.

Peter Feinberg and his wife Briana welcomed a son, Christopher, in September.

Mike Klobuchar aka “Coach K” of the Serra wrestling team married Georgette Dakis (NDB ’92) on October 7th at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Belmont. Coach K is the nephew of former Serra faculty member Gail DeFoe.

Your 20-year reunion is just around the corner! Look for more news in upcoming mailings.

Mike Langridge and his wife Coleen welcomed twin boys, Tillman and Payton, on October 6th.

Chris Sfarzo’s recent song entitled “I’ve Crossed The Bridge” has received great reviews. (More about Chris on pg. 39.)

Your 20-year reunion in just around the corner! Look for more news in upcoming mailings.

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CLASS NOTES

‘96

Jim Biernat and his wife Kristen celebrated their daughter Cecelia’s baptism in November. Padre classmates Brian Affrunti (with his twin boys Blake and Chase - 15 months) and John Walters with son Harrison (6 months) joined in the celebration.

Bill Duplissea is in his 3rd season with the Kansas City Royals as the club’s bullpen catcher. He spent 2004-05 as an assistant coach at CSM, helping lead the Bulldogs to conference championships in both seasons. Prior to his coaching career, Duplissea caught for five seasons in the Dodgers’ Organization. He was a standout player at the college level for both CSM, playing under current Royals pitching coach Bob McClure, and the University of Santa Barbara. Bill and his wife Tiffany are expecting their first child.

Captain Nathan Woodside recently returned from his third deployment to Iraq. More info about Nathan can be found in our Alumni News section.

‘97

William Barron works for Loral Space Communications in Palo Alto. His wife Greta is a teacher at Monte Vista High School in Cupertino. The couple will soon be moving to Kailua on the island of Oahu where they purchased a home.

Dr. Nicholas Bronzini completed his board certification by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.

Bill Peavey married Abigail Phelps on August 2nd in Newport Beach.

‘98

Josh Berta married Tara DeCrisofieri on August 2nd in Redwood Shores.

Andrew Ho and his wife Andrea happily announce the birth of their twin sons, Ethan and Deven, born on April 7th.

John Loftus and his wife Christine welcomed a son, John Joseph, on July 24th.

Patrick Peavey and his wife Elisha welcomed their first child, Jace Michael, on August 1st.

‘99

Your 10-year reunion is just around the corner! Look for more news in upcoming mailings.

Andrew Clifford graduated from the San Francisco Police Department Academy on September 19th. He is doing his field training in the Mission District.

Douglas Li finished his first Ironman in August honoring his good friend Alison Huber NDB ’99 who passed away in 2001 from leukemia. Alison was the brother of Kevin Huber ’02.

Daniel Stoloski and his wife Laura welcomed a daughter Gianna Lauren on September 10th. Gianna is the granddaughter of Serra staff member Teresa Stoloski.

Matt Tigri and his wife Sarah welcomed a daughter, Cheyenne, on August 22nd.

‘00

Ben Bowman is currently serving in Afghanistan based out of Bagram Air Base (about 25 miles north of Kabul). Find our more about Ben’s service to our country in the “Alumni News” section.

‘01

Noah Serbin placed second in a bench press competition to raise donations for PARCA, a Burlingame based non-profit that serves people with developmental disabilities. Noah benched 310 repetitions of 135 lbs. in the a hour time limit.

‘03

Jonathan Fone graduated from Rose Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana. He is currently working as a civil engineer for Fryer and Laureta of San Mateo.

‘04

Daniel Bocanegra earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Albany. Daniel was also one of 22 college football players named to the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team, an honor which recognizes off-the-field achievements.

‘06

Spencer Blank has transferred to the University of Oregon, where he is studying classical piano performance with a minor in classical voice.

Ryan Svendsen was presented with Sigma Nu “Talent of the Year” award this past summer. Ryan’s incredible trumpeting skills earned him a trip to Austin to perform in front of the Grand Chapter, which included over 2000 representatives from Sigma Nu chapters across the nation. Ryan is currently a music major at UCLA.

Jeff Thomas is currently playing linebacker for Foothill College. In a write-up after the Owl’s season opener, Jeff was referred to as “Baby Urlacher” for being “everywhere on defense.” He had 12 tackles, 5 for a loss and 6 solo.

‘07

Adam Markovich was awarded the first annual Rudy R. Miller Business-Finance Scholarship at ASU. The scholarship is based on merit and awarded annually to a junior or senior pursuing a degree in Finance or Business Administration.

Phoenix O’Rourke is currently a sophomore at SF State, where he is a member of the men’s basketball team. During the 2007-08 season, Phoenix was selected to the Academic All-CCAA Team and scored 97 points while playing in all 29 games. He his majoring in Business Management.

‘08

John Thomas Minahan is in currently in his first year at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis.
The Father Serra Heritage Society

The Father Serra Society has been established to recognize and honor those individuals who have acted to provide support in order to ensure the future of Serra High School. It honors those who make provisions for Serra High School in their estate planning through bequests, trusts, life income gifts, retirement plans, life insurance policies or other planned giving vehicles. From time to time, the school holds special events to honor Father Serra Society members. The school publicly recognizes and honors those individuals listed below as founding members of the Father Serra Society. The generosity of the following Founding Members of the Father Serra Society is gratefully appreciated:

- Anonymous
- Anonymous ’63
- Janet & Frank Abbott, Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. Jack Allain ’53
- Mr. and Mrs. Bart Araujo ’61
- Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bankovitch, Sr.
- Mrs. Laverne Barrett
- Mr. and Mrs. Russ Bertetta ’67
- Mr. and Mrs. Tony Cisarich ’69 (RIP)
- Mr. and Mrs. Walter Chang
- Mrs. Nancy Desmedt
- Mr. and Mrs. Steve Difu ’60
- Mr. Jerry Dricoll ’49 (RIP)
- Mrs. Ellen Einarsen
- Mrs. Eleanor Figoni (RIP)
- Mrs. Pam Fressello
- Mr. Bob Grassilli ’66
- Mr. Ed Keller ’47
- Ms. Kathy Lavezzo
- Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Lucey ’58
- Mr. and Mrs. Lars Lund
- Mr. and Mrs. Michael McGinley
- Mr. and Mrs. Steven McLaughlin
- Mr. and Mrs. Carl Moroney ’60
- Mr. Jim Oakes ’58
- Mr. and Mrs. Michael Peterson
- Mr. Kevin Ragan (RIP)
- Mr. Ben Reichmuth ’53
- Mr. and Mrs. Ferencz Sipos (RIP)
- Mr. Randy Vogel
- Mr. and Mrs. David Whitney
- Mrs. Clare Carey Willard

If you have already made Serra High School part of your estate plan and your name is not listed above, or if you would like to learn more about Serra’s Planned Giving Program, please contact Mike Peterson at (650) 345-0150 or e-mail: mpeterm@serrahs.com. You may also find more information by logging on to Serra’s website at www.serrahs.com and clicking on our “Development” section.

In Memoriam


Marjorie Bay, mother-in-law to John Caselli ’75 and grandmother to Chris ’06 and Kathryn (NDB ’08) passed away on September 7, 2008.

Carol Byrne, mother to current Serra student Tim Byrne ’10 passed away on September 15, 2008.

Dennis Byrne ’55 passed away in September 2008.

Donald Byrne ’55 passed away on October 16, 2008.

Angelina Ciucci, daughter of Don and Debbie (former Serra library assistant) and sister to Matthew ’03 passed away on October 29, 2008.

Gary Gavello ’63 passed away on August 21, 2008.

Debra Glaister, mother of Robert Tolleth ’09 passed away on January 8, 2009.

Gordon Kullberg, father to Mark ’89 passed away on November 23, 2008.


William Malone ’55, former Serra School Board member and father to Tony ’80 and Pat ’86 passed away on August 26, 2008.

Richard McAdam ’64 passed away in June 2008.

Steven Mooney ’65 passed away on June 13, 2008.

Alice C. Musante, mother to George ’66 passed away on June 28, 2008.

Bernard Retchless ’51 passed away on December 28th.

Karen Spillane Gay, wife of Anthony Gay ’82 passed away on September 15, 2008. She was the daughter of the late James Spillane ’59, brother of Joe Spillane ’84, and sister-in-law of Cris Gay ’86. Karen is survived by two sons, Tony and James.

Larry Tetreault ’77 passed away on November 5, 2008.

Edward Tuite ’57 passed away on August 13, 2008.

Loriann Turek, wife of Ric Turek ’88 passed away on November 4, 2008.

Reverend Albert Vucinovich, retired Pastor of St. Catherine’s (Burlingame) and former Serra faculty member (1970-1979), passed away on August 14, 2008.
SAVE THE DATE!
Serra Alumni Career Day 2009
Friday, March 6, 2009
Keynote Speaker:
Peter Barsocchini ’70
Writer of
“High School Musical”

Interested in Participating?
Contact Alumni Director Bob Greene
at (650) 573-9935 ext. 191 or e-mail:
bgreene@serrahs.com

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, October 17, 2009
Reunion Gala
Classes of 49, 59, 69, 79, 84, 89, 99
Sheraton Gateway Hotel
Burlingame

FREE ALUMNI COUPON!
GOOD FOR 1 FREE ADMISSION TO A SERRA HOME BASKETBALL GAME
Restrictions:
Coupon must be used by a Serra Alum
Does not include:
Serra vs. SI (Jungle Game)

FREE ALUMNI COUPON!
GOOD FOR 1 FREE FOOD ITEM AT A SERRA HOME BASKETBALL GAME
Restrictions:
Coupon must be used by a Serra Alum

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
June 22, 2009
JUNIPERO SERRA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION’S
22nd Annual SERRA GOLF CLASSIC
Peninsula Golf & Country Club

Help Fund Their Dream
SAVE THE DATE!
Wednesday, April 29, 2009
Fund A Dream Scholarship Luncheon

Keynote Speaker
Serra Alum & New York Times Best Selling Author
Bill Keller ‘66

For more information, log on to www.serrahs.com
OR e-mail: mgoddard@serrahs.com
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 TRADITIONS ‘Padre Family Photo Album.’ You may send printed photos or digital images to:

JUNIPERO SERRA HIGH SCHOOL Development Office
451 West 20th Avenue  San Mateo, CA 94403

Attention: Michelle Wilkinson, Communications Director or e-mail mwilkinson@serrahs.com
Capturing the Spirit & Brotherhood of a Padre!