In This Issue …

In this issue you will find a feature on 10 talented directors who translate stories from the page to the stage and screen. One, Kevin Sullivan ’76, is famous for his work on major motion pictures such as the Bernie Mac-Ashton Kutcher hit Guess Who. Another, Bart Sher ’77, received two Tony nominations for best director for the Broadway musicals The Light in the Piazza and Awake and Sing! The Intiman Theatre, where he works as artistic director, received the Tony for Best Regional Theatre.

Each of the 10 have varying levels of fame and success, but all have something in common: They are storytellers.

Every story has deep within it a small spark that, if properly fanned, will flame into life and light, and they know just how to do this.

We celebrate their accomplishments because we know the importance of stories. They serve us best, I think, when they help us make sense out of chaos. That’s why so many movies and plays and television shows deal with death and loss. (Just how many CSI shows are there? I’ve lost count.)

Recently, I’ve relied on stories to help me deal with recent tragedies.

Last August the SI community lost Steve Cannata ’66 after his second bout with leukemia. I attended his packed funeral at St. Ignatius Church and heard story after story that reminded me of this man’s goodness and love. (Genesis V published Steve’s obituary in the last issue; if you missed it, I encourage you to read it through our online edition.)

Steve’s last case, one against Lockheed Martin, involved industrial espionage and the bribery of government officials in Korea. A month before his death, he learned that he had won the trial. He also won the affection of everyone involved in the case, including Judge Maureen Duffy-Lewis, who, on Dec. 15, held a memorial service in a courtroom crowded with his family and members, and he set about to do just that. Thanks to him, the Fathers’ Club membership increased dramatically. Come to the next Crab-and-Cards night or Welcome Back Barbecue, and you’ll see the Carlin Commons packed with men, many new to the SI community, who feel welcomed and at home.

This is Steve Cannata’s legacy to SI. And the stories remind us that his good work will live on for years to come.

Last September another tragedy rocked the SI community when classmates Zachary Roche-Balsam, who attended SI in his freshman year, and Boris Albinder ’05 were killed in separate incidents on the same night.

I went to another friend, John Goldberg ’75, captain of SFPD’s Mission Station, to hear stories, once again, to help make sense of this darkness. I asked questions that had no good answers: Why did these young men die? What could have been done to prevent their deaths? John, in an interview printed in this issue, did his best to explain the roots of violence and to offer concrete advice that you might want to read and share with your own children.

We tell stories not only to understand tragedy but also to celebrate, and SI has much to take joy in this year, from league and sectional football championships (breaking a 39-year drought) to the construction of a new hall of music, a key component of the Genesis V campaign.

I like my job as editor because I get to do the same thing that these directors do — tell stories. In essence, it’s what all the teachers and coaches at SI do. They offer direction to the current crop of Wildcats by telling stories, ones that are timeless, ones that help us mourn, ones that shed light, make us laugh and remind us of who we are. These stories make us feel as if we’re all actors on the same stage and, sometimes, as part of the same audience, experiencing the catharsis that helps us go on.

— Paul Totah ’75
**Development News**

Genesis V: New Horizons well underway • Investment Committee’s wise stewardship helps SI’s endowment fund grow • SI’s classrooms get a high-tech makeover • Bonino Family creates performing arts scholarship • Teatro Sant’ Ignazio Fashion Show dazzles.

**Feature Articles**

SI’s Directors: Bartlett Sher makes his mark on Broadway • Kevin Sullivan’s Guess Who defies odds • James Houghton appointed Juilliard’s director of drama • Ron Lagomarsino prefers stage to screen • Jon Moscone knows the power of tragedy • Bill Quinlan has a bit of Andy Hardy in him • Gregangelo Herrera spins tales through Velocity Circus.

**School News**

SI volunteers help New Orleans pick up the pieces • Looking for answers in the wake of death • Sophomore Kylee Lin is MISS TEEN CALIFORNIA • Working on the railroad with Charles Franz • Parents of Asian Students form club • Kayla Gogarty receives patent for handy invention.

**Alumni News**

Sara Templeton succeeds at the business of dance • Mike Michalske improvises madness for a living • Peter Schmitt makes chocolate that’s good in so many ways • CCSF’s George Rush is coach and mentor.

**Sports Highlights**

COVER STORY: Varsity Football Wildcats makes history with CCS title • Boys’ Cross Country win four league championships • Happy coaching couple leads water polo teams • Sports Roundup.

**Departments**

Keeping in Touch • Births • In Memoriam • Calendar • Back Page

On the Cover: The Varsity Football Team poses after winning the CCS Championship game at Foothill College. Photos by Paul Totah ’75 & James McKenzie ’79.
The Genesis V: New Horizons campaign is a year old and already more than a third of the way to meeting its $50 million goal.

To date, generous donors have committed more than $18 million in gifts and pledges, with a third of that earmarked to help needy students afford an SI education.

Tuition assistance is just one of the campaign’s four goals. The others include the completion of a choral arts building, a retreat center and two additional athletic fields.

Construction is well underway on the Mary Ann and Jack Gibbons Hall of Music, the Columbus Piazza and the Doris Duke Wall Choral Room, thanks to lead gifts by Jack Gibbons ’37, Monica Devereux and Chris Columbus and Dr. C. Allen Wall ’46.

The $12 million complex also includes four classrooms, the Dana Family Batting Center with two underground batting cages and a weight room. Devcon Construction expects to complete the project by September 2007, and SI plans a gala opening in October.

For the retreat center, SI revised its plans to build at St. Vincent’s School in San Rafael after extensive study.

“As it turned out, it would be less expensive to construct a brand new building on another site than to go forward at St. Vincent’s,” said SI Board of Trustee Chairman Mark Cleary ’64.

The school is now hoping to build a new retreat center by purchasing a 30-acre parcel in either Marin or Sonoma Counties, and several sites are under consideration.

The final part of the Genesis V campaign involves adding artificial turf to two fields near the school. Workers have already completed construction on one site adjacent to Pollicita School in Daly City. SI is in negotiations with both Daly City and San Francisco for a second site.

Already, soccer teams have practiced and competed at the Pollicita field, and later in the year the lacrosse and field hockey teams will make good use of this site, as well.

“All of these will be beautiful additions to the campus,” said Development Director Joe Vollert ’84. “We’re looking to new horizons to the north, south and west of the school that will expand our ability to serve current students and generations yet to come.”

Corrections
In the fall Annual Report, Linda Grimes should have been included in the Father Carlin Heritage Society. Also, the Grace Caldwell Magill Memorial Scholarship was incorrectly listed.
thanks to great advice from a talented investment committee, SI's endowment fund has grown substantially.

In fact, according to the Commonfund Benchmark study, of more than 700 educational institutions, only 10 had ranked in the top quartile in any three of the past four years. SI did even better, finishing in the top decile for five of the past six review periods.

Overall, SI’s investments have an annualized return of 11 percent over the past four years, ranking SI in the 14th percentile of the Total Fund Universe of the Independent Consultants Consortium — a universe of more than 8,000 funds made up of the accounts of 17 independent consulting firms across the U.S. as well as the custodial accounts of State Street Bank and Trust.

Adele Berwanger, a managing director of Cantebury Consulting and the consultant to SI’s investment committee, attributed the success to several factors, “including the strength of the committee as a whole and the leadership of Committee Chairman Tom Bertelsen.”

She also cited the committee’s relatively small size, with 10 members most of whom are “experienced investors who have expertise in institutional and individual investing. This committee consistently lists, discusses and is able to make smart decisions.”

For example, adds Berwanger, “the committee was early for a fund of its size in investing carefully in real estate, hedge funds and private capital. The investments in these areas, as well as the diversification of the total fund, has allowed for excellent returns.”

The endowment’s value stood at approximately $53 million last October. Each year, the school draws down .5 percent of the market value in order to ensure the fund’s growth to support scholarships in the future.

“Our objective is to provide an intergenerational sustainability so that we’re not favoring today’s students over tomorrow’s,” added Bertelsen.

He attributed the committee’s success to “the fact that we diversified more extensively than a comparably sized endowment and tried to emulate the success that we saw at Yale University. We carefully chose fund managers, including Dodge & Cox, who proved extremely successful as our value manager.”

Bertelsen also praised the members of the committee. “Each brings extensive investment experience in areas such as venture capital, private equity and real estate. And they understand that our primary role is to maintain a constant level of scholarship funding in real dollars, adjusted for inflation.”
All it takes is a push of a button to re- 

mind students that they now sit in 21st century classrooms.

Screens descend from walls; ceiling-mounted LCDs project images from laptop computers with Wi-Fi connections to the Internet; songs erupt from wall-mounted speakers.

After the lessons, students slide their modular chairs and tables out of straight rows and form tables and groups for discussion, while around them they see the fruits of their work neatly mounted on tack-board walls.

Welcome to the new SI.
Boninos Create Performing Arts Scholarship

Longtime math teacher Michael Silvestri ’67 praised the new equipment, which he uses each day. “The digital presenter allows students to project their homework onto the screen. They then stand in front of class and use a pointer to show how they solved a problem. It’s far more entertaining than using a blackboard and chalk.” Silvestri also projects images from his computer onto the screen, and he can save those lessons and email them to absent students or post them on his web site. “I’m handling a ball,” he added. “The new equipment is just great.”

“The purpose of the classroom renovation is to incorporate current technology into the curriculum,” said Director of Development Joe Vollert ’84, who also praised SI Regent Karen Rollandi for leading the drive to raise money to name each of the remodeled classrooms.

If you are interested in making a gift to the school, contact Vollert at (415) 731-7500, ext. 319, or email at jvollert@siprep.org.

Both Tony and Linda are grateful for their daughter’s devotion to the arts. “Had it not been for her, we probably would not have developed as much of a passion ourselves nor attend as many plays, concerts and recitals as we now do on a regular basis,” added Linda.

Tony still has fond memories of his time at SI, with two years spent at the Stanyan Street campus and two on 37th Avenue.

“The great traditions of SI seemed everywhere at the old school. Everyone went to the rallies, and thousands of fans went to the football games at Kezar.”

SI, he added, “taught me to the value of giving back to those who gave me so much. SI gave me confidence. The teachers taught us to achieve, and we respected them because they were larger than life. I still remember students making way in the halls for Fr. Becker, Mr. Corwin or J.B. Murphy.”

SI is grateful for the Boninos for their generous gift, one that will help SI keep its promise never to turn away a qualified applicant for financial reasons.

If you are interested in starting a scholarship to give the gift of education to a deserving student, contact Joe Vollert ’84, director of development, at (415) 731-7500, ext. 319, or send him an email at jvollert@siprep.org.
Donors Honored at Luncheon

Students who received the honor of a named scholarship gathered in September to meet their benefactors. Pictured below are members of the Cannata, Moore and Toboni families along with students who are receiving the Steven D. Cannata Scholarship. Pictured above are Jack Mona, Til Mossi, Don Holsten and Dick Wall, all members of the Class of 1952, which awards nine scholarships each year. Also at the table is Dr. Robert Wall '50, representing the Charles A. & Albina Rossi Wall Scholarship.
Over 70½ and Love SI? New Law May Help You

Age has its privileges especially if you like to make charitable gifts. For about a year-and-a-half, a new law will allow individuals aged 70½ and older to transfer up to $100,000 per year directly from an IRA to public non-profit organizations such as SI without triggering a federal income tax. The law expires Dec. 31, 2007. “For years, non-profit organizations have been asking Congress to encourage gifts like this,” said SI’s Director of Development Joe Vollert. “This new legislation gives some of our donors a window of opportunity to make a very tax-effective gift.”

In the past, any donor attempting to roll over retirement account funds to good causes would be subject to tax on the entire amount transferred. The charitable deduction did not always offset the tax.

The new law solves that problem for those over 70½ by allowing tax-free IRA withdrawals of up to $100,000 as long as the full amount goes directly to a qualified public charity such as SI. For a written summary of the new law and to whom it applies, contact Vollert at (415) 731-7500, ext. 319 or jvollert@siprep.org.

Michel and Mary Orradre paid a visit to SI in October. The Orradre Chapel and Courtyard are named after Michel’s brother, Stephen who died in a car accident in 1964.

New Members Join Board of Regents

Ramzi Dudum ’07, Student Body President
Mary Kay Leveroni, Learning Specialist, Stuart Hall
Gerald Simon ’72, Retired Fire Chief, City of Oakland

Paul Gaspari ’70, Fathers’ Club President
Leo McCarthy ’48, Former Calif. Lt. Governor
Robert Szarnicki, Surgeon, CPMC

Nanette Gordon, SI parent
Paul Mohun ’84, Assoc. Gen. Counsel, real estate, Gap Inc.
Barbara Talavan, faculty representative

John Jack ’73, President & CEO of Fortify Software, Inc.
Theresa Moore, Ignatian Guild President
Gregory Vaughan ’74, Managing Director for Morgan Stanley & Co., Inc.

The Orradre’s at Orradre Chapel

Michel and Mary Orradre paid a visit to SI in October. The Orradre Chapel and Courtyard are named after Michel’s brother, Stephen who died in a car accident in 1964.
Teatro Sant’ Ignazio Fashion Show Dazzles

This year’s Ignatian Guild fashion show — Teatro Sant’ Ignazio — promised “fashion, chaos and cuisine.”

The Nov. 4 dinner gala and Nov. 5 luncheon delivered on that promise, offering fashions by some of the city’s leading boutiques along with an after-dinner show featuring a whirling dervish and contortionists now performing with Cirque du Soleil.

The party began a week earlier when SI parent Mara Fritz hosted a cocktail party to honor the show’s benefactors.

“The event has become not just a fashion show but a theatrical experience that incorporates fashion,” said Susan Woodell-Mascall, one of the three chairwomen of the event.

While Mrs. Woodell-Mascall managed the runway entertainment, Barbara Rambo and Pam Wroolie managed all aspects of the show that occurred off the runway, ensuring a financial success for the scholarship fund. So far, the show has netted a record $235,000, with additional funds to be raised in March at the Fathers’ Club Playland at the Prep. At that event, two walk-on roles for one of Chris Columbus’s upcoming films will be auctioned off on behalf of the fashion show thanks to a donation by the Devereux-Columbus family.

These three chairwomen organized a host of volunteers and committee heads who raised record levels of underwriting and advertising support and created show-stopping decorations and gift baskets.

The volunteers also acquired one-of-a-kind raffle offerings, sold raffle tickets, organized models, coordinated with stores and coordinated professional and student entertainers.

“The best part was watching all the pieces of the puzzle come flying into place,” said Mrs. Wroolie. “The experience was comparable to hosting a party at home, obviously on a much grander scale. The generosity of time, talent and attention to detail by all involved was so impressive. The resources...
and experience that our committee chairs brought to the Teatro team was overwhelming and a huge factor in the success of the event.”

The fashion show was such a success, added Ms. Rambo, “because the show reflected the wide spectrum of people who make up SI. Every imaginable talent and experience was generously offered. Those new to the SI community worked side-by-side with families who have had kids here for years. There seemed no limit to the types of resources and skills people were willing to donate to the cause. I’m pleased that the event touched so many people in the school community.”

The show’s theme, suggested by Ignatian Guild President Theresa Moore, also proved a big draw. The three event chairwomen and Moore went to Teatro ZinZanni in July to find inspiration. Later, through Suzanne Shimaneck and Susan Mallen, they heard of Gregangelo Herrera ’84, the founding director of Velocity Circus. (See the article on Gregangelo in this issue.)

He put together an after-dinner show that included his own whirling dervish act, a singer and three young contortionists — the Mystic Pixies — who drew a standing ovation for their unique performance. (They performed their new act for the first time at SI before heading to Toronto to join Cirque du Soleil.)

The fashion show gala dinner began with a cocktail party that featured Thunder, the Warrior’s Mascot, who promoted the raffle prize of a luxury suite at a Warrior’s game. Students also dressed in costumes to advertise other raffle prizes that included a weekend at the 2007 NBA All Star events in Las Vegas, concerts by the Rolling Stones and Dixie Chicks and a trip to Florence.

Once inside the Commons, guests watched circus-themed movie clips and a parade of fashions from a host of city stores. In between the fashion numbers, guests enjoyed performances by student dancers (with choreography by Lizette Dolan ’94), student and faculty singers (with Ted Curry ’82 singing “Wilkommen” from Cabaret) and student jugglers and acrobats.

Mrs. Woodell-Mascall thanked the Gap for donating the clothes used in the fashion show, which the school distributed to needy students. She also thanked Mrs. Shimaneck,
a former model, who went to all the fittings to help choose fashions for each model and to offer advice on how to walk the runway.

She praised Susan Mallen for serving as stage manager, Heidi Leupp for organizing hair and make-up people, Rick Hern for his work with video and lighting and Monique Kelleher for arranging costumes for the dancers.

All three women thanked Tom McGuigan, assisted by Deb and Lee Dahlberg, for his four-course dinner and for providing a delicious lunch to a sold-out crowd the next day. The women also thanked Katie Kohmann and Tom Casey for providing support from the school.

Mrs. Wroolie thanked Alice Seher, Judy de la Torre and Mary Casey for their wonderful decorations, and Ms. Rambo praised freshman parent Toni Kalpakoff for her raffle acquisitions, Brenda Maxwell for the gathering and assembly of gift baskets, Colleen O’Meara for advertising, Laura Baldwin for underwriting, and the trio of Jennifer Kockos, Kirsten McCarthy and Gail Diserens for all the publications work.

The women also sang the praises of Rick Seramin, the owner of Abbey Rents, for not only delivering cost effective event equipment but also becoming a vital part of the onsite team from start to finish.

“Most people think of fashion shows as having a narrow focus,” added Ms. Rambo. “Actually, this proved to be a clear example of what the SI community is all about. What might normally be a limited event turned out to have broad-based appeal. That was a wonderful surprise, and it made our support of the student scholarship fund all the more rewarding. We were grateful to so many people who were generous with their time and resources.”
Why do so many SI grads go on to become talented and successful directors? It’s not that they like to be bossy. They will tell you that being successful in their profession involves a great deal of humility and collaboration.

The 10 directors featured in this issue are, in order of graduation, Peter Devine ’66, Ron Lagomarsino ’69, Kevin Sullivan ’76, Bill Quinlan ’76, Jim Houghton ’76, Bart Sher ’77, Jonathan Moscone ’82, Ted Curry ’82, Gregangelo Herrera ’84 (pictured here in his Whirling Dervish act at the fashion show) and Meredith Cecchin ’97.

All of them point to SI’s phenomenal theatre arts department as one of the reasons they entered show business. There they learned how to work with others to tell a story using all the magic of stagecraft. They also discuss the importance of drama as more than mere entertainment. Stories, they remind us, are the mainstay of our culture, tradition and identity. They return us to ourselves.

We hope you enjoy the show! — PT
Bart Sher '77 defies just about every stereotype of a famous director.

Nominated twice as Best Director for the 2005 and 2006 Tony Awards, Sher is glad that the honor went to others. Also, while other directors were drawn like moths to the flames of Broadway footlights, Sher came to directing in a roundabout way — through his love of rock concerts and writing.

Finally, just consider the *New York Times*’ headline on a Nov. 5 feature on Sher. It reads “Can’t Read Music. No Italian. Directs Opera,” referring to Sher’s new role as director of *The Barber of Seville*, which opened last November at the Metropolitan Opera.

It might seem odd for anyone to express joy at being passed over for a Tony Award, as he was in 2005 for *The Light in the Piazza* and again for the 2006 revival of *Awake and Sing*! “But I’m a little superstitious,” he says. “I’m in no rush to win anything. I was just happy to be there to root for the actors in my shows.”

Sher might have to start worrying a little. He did win big in one category in 2006 — Best Regional Theatre — for the Seattle-based Intiman Theatre where he serves as artistic director.

Sher’s journey to Seattle and Broadway started at SI where he followed in the footsteps of his older brothers Tom ’66, Jeff ’67 and Peter ’71. They introduced him not to the plays and musicals at SI but to Winterland and the Grateful Dead. Watching those frenzied spectacles, said Sher, “hooked me and made me want to create similar experiences for audiences.”

Sher didn’t set foot on the stage at SI until his final semester, when he joined the chorus of *The King and I*. “I had no talent other than an ability to dance, and that came from being an athlete. I joined the chorus only because I wanted to meet girls.”

He did find himself drawn to the Jesuit style of education. “My teachers, like Fr. Drendel and Fr. Dodd, taught me to draw connections between ideas from different disciplines. I think that’s why I’m good at theatre, because it asks us to do the same thing. I learned from the Jesuits that religion, art, politics and life are all integrated and connected. The more we understand the depths of these connections, the less likely we are to be deceived by our leaders. We carry our history with us to remind us of who we are. The Jesuits taught me how to think and armed me with the tools to be an artist and a connected citizen.”

Sher found that same philosophy at the Jesuit Holy Cross College in Massachusetts where he majored in English and began writing plays. He directed his first play only when he graduated from college and returned to SI at the tender age of 22. “I wasn’t worried about directing for the first time. During my interview for the job, I told Fr. Prietto, ‘It can’t be that hard.’”

For two years, he taught five English classes and directed plays and musicals, including *Ten Little Indians*, which starred Jonathan Moscone ’82, who would later become a close friend and fellow director. (See the feature on Jonathan in this issue.) He also directed *Working*, a musical of Studs Terkel’s famous book.

“The theatre at SI was the first one I ever ran. I found myself directing some amazing kids and working with a brilliant crew, some of whom are now with companies like Disney.”

Still, Sher believed in defying the stereotype of the typical high school director. A member of SI’s golf team as a student, he went head-to-head with Fr. Prietto and Bob Drucker ’58 at the end-of-the-year faculty golf tournament. “I was determined that the drama coach not look like a geek.” Sher beat Drucker with a 25-foot put at the final hole.

After SI, Sher first moved to San Diego to help build the Plus Fire Performance Group, which later became the San Diego Public Theatre, and then traveled to England for his master’s degree at the University of Leeds. There, he defied another stereotype. When Sher was 15, he discovered that his father was Jewish and that he had hidden that part of his identity to gain entry into his college fraternity. At Leeds, Sher’s best friend was a Palestinian from Beirut, and from him
— and the other students, many of whom were African — Sher gained an exposure to international theatre and Third World perspectives.

Sher returned to the U.S. and worked as the resident director of the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis. He moved to Seattle seven years ago to serve as the artistic director of the Intiman Theatre.

Seattle, said Sher, “reminds me of San Francisco when I was growing up. The people here are smart and liberal and still know that life and art have a relationship to each other.” At the Intiman Theatre, he added, “I have a home of my own where I can build relationships and communicate ideas with a community in which I’m rooted. I feel, in some ways, like a parish priest.”

At Intiman, Sher directed *Cymbeline*, which later went to New York and earned him the 2002 Callaway Award and Lortel and Drama Desk nominations as best director. His Intiman directing credits also include *Richard III*, *Nickel and Dimed*, *Our Town*, and Craig Lucas’ adaptation of Chekov’s *Three Sisters* as well as the world premiere of Lucas’ *Singing Forest*.

Another work by Lucas and composer Adam Guettel (the grandson of Richard Rodgers) helped Sher make his mark on Broadway. Lucas had adapted the 1962 movie, *The Light in the Piazza*, starring George Hamilton and Yvette Mimieux, into a musical. He brought the piece to Sher, who directed it at the Intiman before bringing it to the Guthrie and then to the Lincoln Center Theatre.

“Both Craig and Adam are extraordinary artists, and the work is so great that I wanted to provide them with a home to develop the piece. They hoped to create a musical in the style of Rogers and Hammerstein that took you to a faraway place” — in this case, Florence — “where we set a love story. The main character, a young woman in her 20s with the mind of an 8-year-old, feels what we all feel — that we don’t deserve to be loved. The play affirms the opposite, that we are all worthy of love.”

Sher also staged this play as a small, intimate musical to counteract the musical spectacles that typically dominate Broadway. “This isn’t a story with big noise; instead, we decided to tell it gently.” The show went on to win six Tonys, the most for any show that year. It is currently on tour, and, in August, came to San Francisco’s Orpheum Theatre. Sher came back to San Francisco, too, where he was the featured guest at a reception hosted by SI’s Alumni Office.

At the Tony Awards, Sher found himself worrying about others from *The Light in the Piazza* who had been nominated and not about his own nomination. “That was my good Jesuit education kicking in.”

The following year, he was nominated for Best Director for *Awake and Sing!* which went on to win the Tony for best revival. “To be honest, I wasn’t worried about winning for myself, though it did make me think, ‘Hey, I’m pretty good at this.’”

Another reminder of his talent came from the same awards ceremony, when his Intiman Theatre picked up the Tony for Best Regional Theatre Company in America.

Sher’s latest venture is *The Barber of Seville* at the Met. He approached this project — his first opera — the same way he approaches all of his shows. “I love great storytelling, and the best thing about this opera is that it’s a hilarious story with a subtle and transformative message. It teaches us that our servants are as good as we are.”

He is now working on a revival of *South Pacific*, set to open in 2007 at the Lincoln Center and is looking forward to telling a love story set against the epic landscape of World War II.

“All great plays last because they combine entertainment with a wonderful message that pulls you along. I’m just happy to be able to tell these stories.”
Kevin Sullivan’s ‘Guess Who’ Defies Odds

Kevin Sullivan ’76 may be African American and the director of movies dealing with the black experience, but don’t make the mistake of calling him a black director. The director of Guess Who, Barbershop 2, How Stella Got Her Groove Back and Soul of the Game, Sullivan says he enjoys “exploring the African-American experience. I have a great deal of passion about this subject, but I make all of my movies based on the themes of the human condition that I respond to as a man.”

For example, when directing Guess Who, the remake of Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn’s Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner, Sullivan found the core of the movie in the fears of the character played by Ashton Kutcher.

“This young man worried that he didn’t have the stuff to be a good father,” said Sullivan. “His own father had abandoned the family early on; his fiancée’s parents, on the other hand, are about to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary.”

Sullivan adds that he didn’t want to make a movie that “traded on race jokes. I didn’t think the movie should be a race play, even though it reverses the races of the cast of Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner. The movie needed to speak to the human condition and transcend the obvious.”

Sullivan’s instincts proved right on the money. The film opened at number one in 12 of the 55 countries the weekend it opened and made $40 million overseas and more than $100 million worldwide.

“Hollywood thinks that American comedies with black actors don’t play well overseas. We shattered that myth with this movie. There was something in this story that all people could relate to. I prefer making universal films rather than parochial ones. That’s my passion.”

Sullivan knows something of how to put the human experience onto the stage and screen. His credits span a 40-year career beginning at age 7.

While growing up in the Fillmore, Sullivan played basketball at the Buchanan YMCA. An acting troupe practiced in the same building, and Sullivan would stand in the doorway to watch them rehearse. One day, they invited him to take their class in improvisational acting.

He later joined ACT’s Young Conservatory Theatre and began performing in commercials and local theatre. He even landed a role in KGO’s production of Wee Pals, based on the comic strip of the same name, which aired on Sunday mornings in the Bay Area. When Sullivan turned 13, Sesame Street broadcast a live show from San Francisco and asked him to host that episode.

At SI he performed in Teahouse of the August Moon and directed a play as part of a Black Student Union theatre night. He also had inspiring teachers, such as Charlie Dullea ’65, “who offered me encouragement and empowered me as a writer.”

He attended college for two years in Oregon before feeling the itch to jump-start his professional career. He moved to Los Angeles and was cast in More American Graffiti, Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan, Night Shift and The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension. He also landed a regular role in the last four seasons of TV’s Happy Days.

At 22, he made a name for himself as a writer with scripts for two episodes of Fame and a feature screenplay based on the Virginia Hamilton novel The Planet of Junior Brown.

The quality of the screenplay made people take notice of Sullivan. “Suddenly, I was in the game. Once I showed I could write, my life was very different in Hollywood. I could generate work on my own without having to wait for someone to hire me.”

ABC offered him a chance to create his own primetime drama, and Sullivan served as executive producer, writer and director for Knightwatch while also writing for Boy Meets Girl and Moe’s World.

Sullivan’s work caught the eye of George Lucas, who hired him to write the screenplay for Red Tails about the Tuskegee Airmen, and Norman Jewison, who asked Sullivan to help him adapt the play The Good Times Are Killing Me for the screen.

Sullivan is most proud of his work directing the 1996 HBO movie Soul of the Game about Satchel Paige and Jackie Robinson.

“It was a huge challenge to make a period baseball film on a budget of $6 million,” said Sullivan. “It took every ounce of ingenuity I had to recreate the 1940s
and shoot the film in 29 days. The movie looks like it cost $50 million to make.”

After the movie aired, Sullivan received a call from Ron Howard, whom he met while on the cast of Happy Days. “He was so excited about the film. Since that call, we have met regularly, and he has schooled me about how the feature film game is played. He told me the two most important things a director needs are development — to keep scripts in the pipeline — and a pair of good shoes. Directors are on their feet for most of the day, and the job is more physical than people realize. It’s not all glamorous; it’s a ‘tote that barge’ kind of job. Now I always have good shoes when I go to work.”

Sullivan’s success with HBO led to an offer to direct How Stella Got Her Groove Back. “There’s nothing that compares to directing a studio feature film. You have tremendous resources to back up your creative inspiration. Studios have a number of people on staff to make you look good.”

The movie opened in 1998 and swept the NAACP Image Awards that year, earning that organization’s Outstanding Motion Picture honor.

Sullivan directed TV for six more years for shows such as The West Wing, The Guardian and Watching Ellie before returning to studio films with Barbershop 2: Back in Business in 2004 and Guess Who in 2005.

He attributes his success, in part, to his SI education. “You can’t do anything in this business without keeping your nose to the grindstone. SI taught me how to do that because the Jesuits are fantastic taskmasters. My parents also taught me that victory doesn’t come because you’re special but because you can persevere and stay committed to a process. That keeps me going in a place like Hollywood where I have to reinvent myself once a job is over. No one is going to hire me unless I bring fresh, creative energy to each job.”

Sullivan’s work ethic once had him at odds with Guess Who star Bernie Mac. “When we were shooting the final scene, I handed a microphone to Bernie while I set up the shot. He proceeded to launch into a standup routine in front of 150 people. The song ‘Look Good’ was playing. ‘I’m looking good,’ he said, ‘and I’m going to make sure the audience is going to look good.’”

“I am thrilled and honored to be part of the long tradition of excellence at The Juilliard School, and I am grateful to President Polisi and the selection committee for my appointment,” said Houghton.

“On the occasion of its centennial, The Juilliard School is celebrating its extraordinary past while looking bravely to a future filled with exciting potential. I’m looking forward to being part of that future and working together with the tremendous talents that fill the halls of this remarkable school.”

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Ron Lagomarsino Prefers Stage to Screen

A sk Ron Lagomarsino ’69 if he prefers directing for the stage or TV, and he will readily tell you that theatre lights shine more brightly for him than any glow from an LCD screen. His main gripe? Product placement.

He directed one TV movie for Disney and was told to include an air freshener prominently in one scene.

“Here I am, working on a tight schedule and trying to figure out a way to do this seamlessly. We decided that one character would have a strong body odor while another character tries to ward him off with air freshener. This is all in the name of a product being hawked by Disney.”

Directing for theatre “is so much saner than directing for TV,” said Lagomarsino, whose stage credits include the first production of Driving Miss Daisy, Alfred Urhey’s Tony-Award winning Last Night of Ballyhoo, a musical adaptation of My Favorite Year for the Lincoln Center (with Tim Curry, Lainie Kazan and Andrea Martin), and ACT’s production of The Gamester.

“I love being in a room with actors and developing ideas over a period of time. With TV, there’s little time for rehearsal and far more concern about the ratings than about the work itself. On top of this, live theatre is far more exciting than anything on TV.”

Lagomarsino felt that excitement while developing Driving Miss Daisy. “It’s an episodic play, with only three characters built around small moments. I wasn’t sure if these moments were adding up to anything big. During rehearsal, I started to lose confidence in myself that I was directing it correctly.”

During the first preview of the show, Lagomarsino chose a 70-seat off-Broadway theatre. “The last row was only four rows back, and the audience was 15 feet away from Morgan Freeman and Dana Ivey. The show was both funnier and more moving than any of us had dreamed it would be. From this first preview, we knew we had made magic.”

Lagomarsino has also spent 12 years with the Sundance Theatre Lab. Each summer, a group of directors chooses six plays and one musical to be developed over a three-week period. “It’s an intense time of rewriting and development, but shows like Gray Gardens and The Light in the Piazza have come out of there in recent years.”

Through this lab, Lagomarsino developed and directed a musical based on Kind Hearts and Coronets — a 1949 movie starring Alec Guinness — and the show is scheduled for readings in New York and a possible Broadway run.

Despite his preference for the stage, Lagomarsino is justifiably proud of his work for TV directing for shows such as Thirtysomething, My So-Called Life, Once and Again, Shark, The Unit, What About Brian, Love Monkey and Ghost Whisperer.

Of all this work, he is most proud of his TV movies and pilots. He has directed eight pilots, including Homefront, which earned a “Best Series” Emmy nomination, and Picket Fences, for which he received the Director’s Guild Award in 1992. The show itself won two Emmys for Best Drama.

Lagomarsino does more than just direct these pilots. He helps develop the shows to help get them on the right track. “I find it far more satisfying to develop a script and create characters than doing a string of episodes for an established series.”

His made-for-TV movies have earned him notice as well, such as My Sister’s Keeper, which featured Kathy Bates, Lynn Redgrave and Elizabeth Perkins. That work has dried up in recent years with the move to reality shows. “CBS has abandoned its Sunday Night Movie, and even though the cable channels are making movies, you have film directors vying with TV veterans for directing jobs. Spike Lee directed the pilot of Shark. That’s my competition now. There’s no stigma anymore to directing for TV, and with the flood of new directors and producers into the TV market, it’s now a trickier game.”

Lagomarsino is fortunate as he can direct for the stage when TV work becomes hard to find. He’s also looking to branch out to feature films and is working on a quasi-autobiographical story tentatively titled Fish Sticks. “Growing up, we all ate Mrs. Paul’s Fish Sticks on Fridays. With a title like that, you can tell there must be some Catholicism in the movie somewhere.”

He’s also returning to San Francisco this spring to direct The Imaginary Invalid for ACT. For Lagomarsino, directing this famous play by Molière in San Francisco is a return to his roots in more ways than one. In his senior year at SI, he starred in Molière’s The Would Be Gentleman.

Lagomarsino does find the life of a freelance director exhausting at times. “Every time I do a project, I find that the highs are higher and the lows are lower. I tell myself I can’t do this anymore, and then something will happen to energize me. The project taps into all my creativity and assures me that I have something to offer. The pendulum swings wider now than it ever has.”

He hopes to continue directing “in part because there are so many great stories left to tell, and the need for storytelling is as dire as ever. We need to help people of different cultures and religions understand each other, and this can happen through the theatre. Otherwise, their stories are rendered into war or trivialized by politics. Our job is to shed understanding while entertaining an audience.”
Jonathan Moscone '82 knows something of tragedy. He and his brother, Chris '80, were students at SL when their father, San Francisco Mayor George Moscone '47, was murdered in 1978.

The story of Mayor Moscone, Harvey Milk and Dan White had all the high drama you’d find in one of Shakespeare’s plays.

For the past seven years, as artistic director of the California Shakespeare Theater, Moscone has had much time to examine the nature of tragedy and use Shakespeare’s plays as a touchstone for current events.

For example, his production of *Twelfth Night* opened five days after the attack on the World Trade Center, and his last production, *As You Like It*, closed in October during one of the bloodiest months in the Iraq war.

*Twelfth Night*, Moscone says, “spoke to the sadness we all felt after Sept. 11. The play is filled with desolation and death. I took the play on because the characters attempt to find life and love amidst the ruins. That theme resonated with the community.”

Moscone had chosen *Twelfth Night* long before the tragedy of Sept. 11. “I had no idea what would be happening when the show opened,” he noted. “I pick plays that resonate with me and with other artists. A classic work will find its relevance in any particular time, and that’s especially true with Shakespeare. Some aspect of each of his plays will seem utterly relevant at any given moment. His plays remind us of the effects of good and bad government and of the social issues of the day.”

In his recent production of *As You Like It*, Moscone found the plot also relevant. In the play, a woman is banished from her society, and a young man banishes himself to escape a fascist state. For Moscone, this spoke to the struggle between individual and the state.

“These characters make life happen in a natural environment away from civilization, and the world rights itself through this natural harmony. It’s a play about how love is the most dramatic journey any human can undertake and one that can resolve society’s ills. For Shakespeare, love has power beyond any government.”

Despite his attention to Shakespeare’s tragedies, don’t think that Moscone is a dour man. He also loves the Bard’s comedies “because they show fantastic, impossible worlds. I favor these because they go to my romantic heart.”

Moscone began his stage career as a freshman at SL in shows directed by Peter Devine ’66. When Devine left in Moscone’s senior year, Bart Sher ’77 stepped in and cast Moscone in *Ten Little Indians*. (See the story on Bart Sher in this issue.)

“He directed the hell out of the play,” said Moscone. “He challenged us to be as good as any professional.”

At Williams College in Massachusetts, Moscone majored in English and Theatre but didn’t try his hand at directing plays until his senior year. It didn’t take him long to decide to become a director. “In the end,” he noted, “I didn’t love acting. I thought I was good but not great.”

He hoped to find a job producing plays and returned to San Francisco to work for Carole Shorenstein Hays before moving to New York to assist Joe Papp, the founder of the New York Shakespeare Festival. There, he saw hundreds of plays, many of which he didn’t like.

That experience led him away from producing and into directing where he wanted to be someone who “made theatre” rather than just a critic of plays.

Even though he didn’t have many direct credits, Yale accepted him into its prestigious master’s program. There he studied under Anne Bogart and JoAnne Akalaitis, who proved to be “exceptional

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Bill Quinlan Has a Bit of Andy Hardy In Him

Bill Quinlan '76 loves the New York theatre world so much that it took a disaster to make him think about moving.

Quinlan had acted in more than 150 plays and musicals and directed another 30 throughout his career. Most of these plays were staged in Manhattan, a stone’s throw from Quinlan’s home in New Jersey.

Then, on Sept. 11, 2001, he stopped at the World Trade Center on his way to work just as he did every weekday. He got onto his subway 30 minutes before the first jet hit.

“It was a harrowing experience being in the city that day. My wife and I decided soon after that we wanted to raise our children in a different place. I’ll always love and miss New York, but we were interested in getting back to some basic family roots.”

The two moved to his wife’s childhood hometown of Toledo, Ohio, but he brought his love of theatre with him. After six months of jumping through legal hoops to acquire not-for-profit status, Quinlan founded the Harvest Theatre of Toledo and hopes to make it a regional theatre of national stature over time.

The reviews thus far have been glowing. Quinlan opened his theatre with Night by Michelangelo, a world premiere production about a woman suffering from breast cancer. One paper called the show “a prodigious undertaking … that brings something fresh and vibrant to Toledo.”

With five shows already to his credit, Quinlan has four shows planned for the rest of this season, including Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol and Mrs. Bob Cratchit’s Wild Christmas Binge!

“The traditional theatres in Toledo are showing A Christmas Carol,” said Quinlan. “We wanted to show two wild, irreverent comedies and go beyond the traditional. Last year we presented Inspecting Carol, another very funny look at Dickens’ classic story.”

Quinlan first staged his plays at a converted convent and school but now uses the theatre at the Collingwood Presbyterian Church. He hopes that they are the beginnings of an acting company. For now, the Harvest Theatre is the only paying gig in town for Toledo’s actors.

Quinlan’s biggest challenge is the limited talent pool in Toledo. Recently, he had to cast himself in Harvest’s production of The Country Girl for lack of qualified actors. Still, a core group has acted in or worked on most of his shows, and he hopes that they are the beginnings of an acting company. For now, the Harvest Theatre is the only paying gig in town for Toledo’s actors.

Quinlan has also spent much of his time training actors and stage crew. “I’m working with tech crews that have never worked in theatre before. Last year, for Inspecting Carol, we needed a flimsy set that would fall down repeatedly during the show and not hurt anyone. I told the crew to build it as thin as possible, and they ended up building a behemoth on par with the Titanic. We had to use it because we had no time to rebuild it. I crossed my fingers every night, and while it never hurt anyone, it ended up putting a hole in the stage.”

He faces another hurdle in getting people in Ohio to understand his theatrical aims. “We compete with two community theatres that have been here for many years. We don’t want to do the kinds of standard shows that they put on — the Neil Simons and the Fiddlers — and people in Toledo are just now starting to understand what we’re about.”

Quinlan was able to advertise his theatre at Toledo’s Artomatic — an art showcase based on the original in the nation’s capital in which dozens of artists exhibit in cubicles inside a large warehouse.

“We solicited one-page plays from all over the country and produced 40 of them during Toledo’s Artomatic. These performances packed the house, and we’ve been invited to perform in the Artomatic show in Washington, DC. San Jose has also asked us to consider bringing our plays there.”

Quinlan is the first to admit that his venture seems like something out of an Andy Hardy movie. “I often feel like Mickey Rooney and have to keep myself from saying, ‘Hey, Jimmy’s got a barn. Let’s put on a show!’”

But it’s just that Andy Hardy, small-town feel about Toledo that makes Quinlan glad he made the move. “Toledo has a slow, relaxed atmosphere, and that’s nice. At times, it drives me a little crazy though. I’m a fast-paced person and am used to people responding to my e-mails within five minutes. Here, people take three days before getting back to you.”
For some, life imitates art. For Gregangelo Herrera ’84, his home and his business imitate his art.

For all of his adult life, Gregangelo has made his living as a Whirling Dervish, performing a spinning dance that tells the story of the creation of the universe and all of the spiral galaxies and spinning planets.

Walk inside his home and you’ll soon find yourself in a different kind of vortex — one that spins itself into 22 rooms that nearly defy description. The rooms lead you, like a spiral, to the still heart of his house where you’ll find his pyramid bedroom decorated with stars, galaxies and luminescent strings. Sit there, and you feel as if you’re in the eye of a hurricane.

Other rooms depict different times of day. His breakfast room is done in dawn themes, and one bedroom, with its green walls and sun mural, depicts the green flash of sunset.

The real magic starts upstairs, past a secret entryway and through a “spinning vortex,” where each triangular room holds the works of a variety of artists, set designers and costumers, each of whom work for Gregangelo’s company.

Several national networks have already featured his house, including the Discovery Channel, Bravo and HGTV. “I’ve had people from Brazil tell me they saw my house on TV there,” said Gregangelo.

His house is a regular tour-stop for the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau, which will send journalists and travel writers to Herrera’s home to give them a taste of the city.

Gregangelo grew up in that home and eventually bought it from his mother, “who made me pay full market price,” he noted with a laugh.

Herrera’s success as a businessman as well as an artist is rooted in his philosophy “to follow your dream with passion, say yes, and give back to the community around you.” He is the founder and artistic director of Gregangelo & Velocity Arts and Entertainment and of the Velocity Circus — a loose confederation of 275 performers whom Herrera calls upon for public and corporate shows and private parties. His clients have included PeopleSoft, Univision, Warner Brothers, Starbucks and numerous other international companies and non-profits.

Herrera began his career in show business while a student at SI, acting in plays, working in stage crew and performing after school with the Aswan Dancers, — a Mediterranean troupe.

Herrera — who describes himself as half Mexican, half Lebanese and all San Franciscan — learned that the group needed Whirling Dervishes. “I was still young enough that I was whirling for fun, so I agreed to learn.”

Over the years, he turned his art into a four-and-a-half minute act, which he has performed in the US, Canada, the Caribbean and India.

Because of his success, both financially and artistically, other performers asked him to help them make the plunge to become full time professionals.

Herrera found himself helping so many performers that “I had a business before I knew I had one,” he says. “I have a burning desire to help other artists make a viable living.”

His Velocity Circus, which also employs costumers, riggers, singers, dancers and technicians, now performs 250 shows a year. Herrera tries to make each performance different, tailored to the needs of his clients.

Herrera makes it clear that he loves to entertain people; he also enjoys teaching through his Whirling Dervish dance. “Whether you’re a mystic, a poet or a scientist, you understand that spinning is the basic principle of the universe and a very sacred thing. It’s what circuses, with their basis in circles, are all about.”

Herrera’s act tells the story of the creation of the universe, from the birth of galaxies to the creation of the first man and woman. Like all the acts in Velocity Circus, it’s meant to be a joyful spectacle for the audience as well as a mystical event for the artist.

Herrera performed at the Teatro Sant’ Ignazio fashion show along with two of his Velocity Circus acts: the Mystic Pixies — a troupe of young contortionists on their way to a new Cirque du Soleil production in Montreal — and singer G.G. Bridges.

When his acts aren’t performing, he has them create art around his house, “The Gregangelo Museum,” which has become a local attraction. These artists work on new
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electas. All this time, the clock is ticking as this scene is starting to cost more and more. I tried to be patient, but I had to eventually take the microphone from him even though he had everyone rolling on the floor laughing. Those studio accountants are some serious cats, and you don’t want to mess with them.”

Sometimes, however, that attention to the bottom line can lead to even greater creativity. “One day, when Bernie was ill, we finished our work in four hours. I was still thinking about those accountants, as I had already paid for the day, so I asked Ashton Kutcher to have some fun. The screenplay refers to 33 messages that he leaves on his fiancée’s voice mail. I told him to improvise those messages, and this unscripted bit is one of the funniest moments in the movie.”

Sullivan also credits his success to growing up in San Francisco in the 1960s and 1970s. “Think of what we saw, the good and the bad, living in the Fillmore, from the birth of the Black Panthers to the Summer of Love in the Haight. It was an amazing convergence of people and ideas and events. Anyone paying attention was bound to be creative.”

Sullivan directed two pilots since Guess Who and has a number of projects in development including a 15th century romantic comedy that he wrote for Sony Pictures.

“Hollywood keeps asking me to direct movies about the African-American experience,” said Sullivan. “But I think my next batch of movies will expand beyond that to include a variety of universal stories that people have longed to hear ever since they started gathering around fires millennia ago to be entertained.”
SI Directors’ Work Goes Beyond Student Drama

You don’t have to look far to find talented alumni directors. SI has three faculty members who have impressive directing credentials — Peter Devine ’66, Ted Curry ’82 and Meredith Cecchin Galvin ’97.

Devine directed 100 plays in 25 years at SI before retiring from the drama department (but not the English classroom) in the 1990s.

In addition to his work at SI, he has directed shows at the Bohemian Club and for ACT’s Young Conservatory.

Devine was honored numerous times in his distinguished career, including a 1999 Presidential Citation, two awards by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and a 2003 honor from Stanford University. He even earned accolades from Herb Caen for his production of My Fair Lady.

Curry has also earned his share of awards, including nine nominations from the Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle and a Best Director Artie Award from Solano County in 1995; he was also nominated for seven other Artie Awards. Also, the Contra Costa Times named him best musical director in 1998.

Before coming to SI, Curry started his own professional acting company, T.K.C. Productions, Inc., which produced an interactive dinner-theatre called Entrée to Murder. He also directed for various theatre companies throughout the Bay Area including Contra Costa Musical Theatre Company and Broadway by the Bay.

At SI, Curry has directed Pippin and Dead Man Walking, and his production of The Sound of Music will open this spring.

Galvin began her directing career at SCU and returned to teach dance at SI in 2001. In addition to directing the annual dance concerts (assisted by choreographers Ted Curry and Lizette Dolan ’94) and serving as choreographer for a number of SI musicals, Galvin directed last year’s production of Once Upon a Mattress and this year’s An American Daughter.

Galvin also works with San Francisco Recreation and Park Department’s Young People’s Teen Musical Theatre Company where she directed Stephen Sondheim’s A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum in 2005.

Jonathan Moscone, continued from page 19

teachers, expansive in their thinking about what a director can do.” At Yale, he also found lifelong friends and colleagues with whom he still collaborates.

Moscone traveled to Texas after leaving Yale and served as the Associate Artistic Director of the Dallas Theater Center where he fell in love with the idea of building a relationship through theatre with one place.

“I’ve always been drawn to working in a community instead of working as a freelancer who moves from city to city. I am interested in how a work relates to people in one place. I learned this lesson at SI — that we all have a responsibility toward our communities.”

Six years later, in 1999, the Berkeley-based California Shakespeare Festival (which later changed its name to the California Shakespeare Theater) offered him the job as its artistic director.

There, Moscone has deepened his love of Shakespeare and turned the organization into one of the Bay Area’s leading theatrical companies. He has earned a trophy case of awards, including Best Director honors from the Bay Area Theater Critics Circle and top-ten honors from both the Chronicle and the Oakland Tribune.

“Shakespeare’s plays are as close to epics as the Western canon comes,” said Moscone. “They are both timeless and timely. They are all thrilling poetic works that demand strong, thoughtful and brave interpretation. I continue to wrestle with the depth of his thinking about humans and the ambiguous, contradictory universe in which we live.”

Moscone finds the plays “as fresh as the day they were penned. They are also so big and complex that a director is never going to get them right or answer all the questions they pose.”

His success in the East Bay has led to invitations from other theatres. He has directed for Sher’s Intiman Theatre, Berkeley Rep, the Dallas Theater Center and Intersection for the Arts, and he will be directing Long Day’s Journey Into Night at the San Jose Repertory Theatre.

“I can do these other projects at the right time of the year when my theatre can survive without me. It’s healthy for me to expand beyond the one play a year I normally do.”

Moscone also makes sure that his theatre grows, too, by expanding beyond Shakespeare’s canon. His 6-hour production of Nicholas Nickleby last year was his company’s most successful play, both critically and financially, and proved a watershed experience for the community.

For more on Moscone’s upcoming season, go to www.calshakes.org.
I sent seven students to New Orleans last summer, along with faculty member Justin Christensen and Katie Hennessy (a graduate student at the JSTB), as part of the school’s immersion program.

In the first week, they built a house in the 9th Ward as part of a joint project between Habitat for Humanity and the Baptist Crossroads Project.

For the second week, they traveled through other neighborhoods to talk to residents and understand the far-reaching impact of Hurricane Katrina.

As Ignatians, they were moved by this experience to educate others about the overwhelming task that faces New Orleans today and, more importantly, the hope that sustains its residents and volunteers such as Jocelyn Sideco ’95. Here are their stories.

Translated it for us: “Toxic Flood Water.” She told us how rescue teams cleared houses and painted their findings on the outer walls to inform others. The searchers wrote the date on top; on the bottom, they wrote the number of the bodies they discovered inside.

When Hurricane Katrina hit, water pooled in the basin of New Orleans. Alarming evidence showed that the water was ten times more toxic than approved EPA levels. The EPA found traces of dangerous bacteria in the submerged areas of New Orleans. Our immersion group arrived 10 months later, when entire communities still lacked electricity, stores and, most importantly, signs of life.

— Kelsey Hannegan

In the 9th Ward, our group worked with a partnership between Habitat for Humanity and Baptist Crossroads Project to build a house from the ground up for Lucretia Taylor and her three children. We worked from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for five days in the scorching southern heat, something we had never experienced in the Sunset District.

After the first day, each of us collapsed from exhaustion caused by the heavy lifting and back-breaking work. But we came together as a group and fought through the pain to complete our project.

We were not the only ones who lent a hand to help the New Orleans cause. By working with locals and people from all over the country, we gained more from this experience than we had anticipated.

Everyone who worked on the house with us took time off from his or her full-time jobs to help out. One man who stood...
out in our group was Dan, our project leader from Louisiana. Although he could be controversial at times, he taught us about Southern culture and was very interested in our California culture as well.

The people of New Orleans told us to share their stories, and we will never forget them. This is a picture of our whole group in front of 1813 Alvar, the house we set the foundation for.

— Mike Bellings

This is a picture of me having a conversation during a construction break with Floyd, who is the definition of a “man for others.” This was not his first experience with helping fellow locals. Just after Katrina hit, he and his son-in-law jumped in their boat and searched for anyone in need of help. They were turned away by authorities who feared looting.

Floyd persisted in trying to help. Ten months later, he traveled from his home well outside of New Orleans to our construction site to aid us in building Lucretia’s home.

If there is a man who knows everything, it’s Floyd. He talked to us about gumbo, cars, college football and even Louisiana slang. (If you want a sandwich with everything on it, tell the deli to “drag it through the garden.”)

No matter what challenges came up during construction, Floyd had the answers. He could have built that house by himself had he wanted. He always had a smile on his face, except when he missed a nail and threw his hammer out a window. I pray that I can have Floyd’s compassion, humble personality and joyful disposition when I am his age.

— Brett Hansson

In the second week, we spent an afternoon with a family in St. Bernard Parish. Before going to this neighborhood, we returned to the 9th Ward to see the progress of the house we had built.

As we drove away, we laughed and felt proud as we reflected on what we had accomplished in the first week. After we crossed a bridge and entered St. Bernard Parish, we felt slowly sapped of energy as we passed by houses sitting in the middle of the street and the cars tossed onto rooftops.

We lost our voices and could only nudge each other to point out the remnants of a once-vibrant neighborhood. Then we met Craig, the father of a former student of our leader, who welcomed us into his family’s home.

The street was void of any signs of life except for his house and the FEMA trailer beside it. He gave us a tour of his home that he had been rebuilding for the past nine months.

He played a DVD of video and images taken by his firehouse where he had worked before his retirement. Moved by his story, I started taking pictures of his house. Craig’s enthusiastic demeanor suddenly changed as he called me outside and asked, “Why are you taking pictures?”

Horrified at the thought I’d offended him, I stuttered as I explained that I was taking pictures so we could tell his story. He looked at me silently for a few moments, turned around to get something from the trailer behind us, and silently handed me an object. I unfurled it to discover it was the official t-shirt of the St. Bernard Fire Department.

He asked me to bring it to San Francisco. I was stunned by the emotional significance of the gift. (The members of St. Bernard Fire Department were the first responders after Hurricane Katrina.) He said nothing more. There was no need. I thanked him again and asked if I could take his picture to tell people about his story. He agreed.

— Mr. Justin Christensen

Driving down the streets of St. Bernard Parish, we were baffled as we passed by what looked like half a house. A minute later, we saw another piece of a house and realized that the two halves had once fit together. The brick house had been ripped from its foundation and had floated down the street.

I was outraged at the lack of progress made in New Orleans in almost a year. We had not expected to see such a powerful image in a mostly white, middle class neighborhood.

We felt that the media was misleading us in its portrayal of the help being administered in the city. We knew that African-American
neighborhoods, such as the 9th Ward, where we had spent the first week, had been decimated. We had not known that St. Bernard Parish, a primarily white neighborhood, was also in bad shape.

The government’s abandonment of these middle class, hard working Americans has left that community bitter and depressed. Someone needs to tell the truth about New Orleans. There is so much work that needs to be done all over New Orleans. Everyone’s lives were changed forever, and everyone is struggling to get New Orleans back on its feet.

— Emily Schwartz

This is a picture crest of Archbishop Philip M. Hannan High School, which opened in St. Bernard Parish in 1987 and operated there until Hurricane Katrina hit. This crest was in the main entrance of the school where we found it under inches of caked mud.

Hannan was the first and only Catholic high school in St. Bernard, a working class community with roots reaching back to the 1780s. The school was completely destroyed; about 90 percent of the parish population still has not returned because St. Bernard has been virtually uninhabitable since Katrina. Archbishop Hannan High School will reopen on the north shore of Lake Ponchartrain where the greatest number of Hannan’s former students (slightly less than half) have settled and where the desire for Catholic education has been great. St. Bernard Parish will not have a Catholic high school until the population rebuilds.

I spent my first two years as a teacher at Hannan, where I experienced a group of people fiercely committed and loyal to their community and extremely proud of this school that they had long hoped for.

I know that the people of St. Bernard Parish feel that their story has been overlooked in the aftermath of the storm. Keep your eye out for stories about St. Bernard in the news and visit the parish when you travel to New Orleans. I think that you will be as moved by their stories as we were.

— Ms. Katie Hennessey

We met many New Orleans residents and found this an important part of our immersion experience. We had the opportunity to go to Sunday Mass at St. Augustine’s, which has an important history because it was one of the first churches to allow all races to worship together.

Afterwards, we joined a communal gathering, and Mr. Christensen encouraged me to introduce myself to someone and have a meaningful conversation. With some trepidation, I approached an older man who introduced himself as Ben. After chatting about the basics, the conversation took off into amazing new directions. He openly expressed his feelings about some of the issues surrounding race relations after Hurricane Katrina. For example, we discussed how the more popular and wealthy areas have already received attention and repair while the poorer districts, such as the 9th Ward, have barely seen any improvement.

I was surprised and appreciative of his comments because no one had approached our group about these sensitive issues. Building our house was important, but even more significant was the discovery of how people felt. Because of Ben, I came home with a fuller understanding of the issues and problems facing the people of New Orleans.

— Frederic Madigan

One night, we saw a staple of New Orleans culture when we watched the New Orleans Zephyrs, a minor league baseball team. (We were fortunate enough to see Mark Prior pitch in a rehab assignment.) During the game, I made a connection with a woman sitting behind us. The conversation started when she recognized the “St. Ignatius” on the back of my shirt. She took an interest in me because her son is a student at the local Jesuit High School, which received SI’s donations with great gratitude. Our conversation continued over three innings. She told me that she had never caught a ball despite her loyal attendance of baseball games, and she spoke about life after Hurricane Katrina. She was one of the many wonderful people I met while in New Orleans.

At the end of the game, Frederic Madigan caught the game ball from pitcher Jerome Williams (a former San Francisco Giant). As we headed toward the exit, Frederic paused, turned around and put the ball in the woman’s hands. She was stunned by the kind gesture and thanked us profusely for her first game ball. It was our gift to her for
taking the time to thank our high school and share her story. For us, an evening at a baseball game turned into an unexpected moment of solidarity.

— Kevin Tow

This immersion would not have been possible without Jocelyn Sideco ’95, the coordinator of our trip. She and three other women left their jobs to move to New Orleans and help the relief efforts. Jocelyn, Meg, Stacey and Jessica started a volunteer network for Jesuits to help find places for people to stay and volunteer. On our very first day, after a red-eye flight, everybody was exhausted, but we met Meg and Jocelyn in the French Quarter for a tour anyway.

As we drove through the many districts of New Orleans, we saw the contrast within many of the city’s neighborhoods. Some parts were still in ruins while other parts appeared untouched.

Jocelyn and the others have opened their home to volunteers and dedicated their time to rebuilding New Orleans, returning it to the fun, spirited Big Easy. They have founded the non-profit Contemplatives in Action to continue their shared ministry.

— Heather Mui

Jocelyn Sideco Organizes New Orleans Relief Efforts

Jocelyn Sideco’s turning point came in El Salvador the summer between her junior and senior year at SI. On this immersion trip, faculty members Barbara Talavan and Bea Wenstrup led Sideco ’95 and other SI students in a meditation.

“They told us that it doesn’t matter what material possessions we have or don’t have,” recalls Sideco. “All that matters is if you live your life facing the poor. Otherwise, you’ll find yourself facing the other direction, where you just want more and more and more. If you want your life to be informed by faith, you must face the poor.”

Sideco took that lesson to heart. She now faces the poor every day with her job as pastoral associate for relief ministries for the New Orleans Province of the Society of Jesus, coordinating the hundreds of volunteers who come to rebuild a city torn asunder by Hurricane Katrina.

Her work has earned her much praise, especially from the woman who hired her — Mary Baudouin, assistant for social ministries for the New Orleans Province.

“Since last March, Jocelyn has been such a gift to not only the Jesuits here but to the City of New Orleans,” said Baudouin. “She has facilitated the involvement of more than 1,000 students and colleagues from Jesuit institutions in the rebuilding of New Orleans and has done so with great enthusiasm, decisiveness and compassion. She has a rare combination of pastoral care and organizational skills, and we in New Orleans needed both. Hiring her was the smartest decision I’ve made since I came to work for the Jesuits.”

Sideco helps volunteer groups who come to New Orleans to gut homes that have been damaged by water, stripping the walls of waterlogged sheetrock to the bare studs to prepare the homes for reconstruction.

She also provides volunteers with a house for prayer and reflection. “Volunteers find this work grueling, and unless we create a space for prayer and thoughtful, quiet response, they won’t last long. This work will eat you alive. Combining work and prayer is just what St. Ignatius did when he asked his
followers to be contemplatives in action.” She also coordinates communal prayer, calling upon priests to say Mass or lead services for volunteers as they reflect upon their work.

In addition, she trains local people to serve as tour guides, driving volunteers through the city to show them how much work remains to be done.

Sideco took a circuitous road from San Francisco to New Orleans. At SI she excelled at tennis and softball and received the Brophy Award. At SCU she majored in political science and joined ROTC but was asked to leave after marking that she was a “conscientious objector” on one form. She served on SCU’s student council every year including a year as student body president, and she helped to form living/learning communities among students in the dorms, including one devoted to multicultural learning.

After college, she worked as a Jesuit Volunteer in Atlanta with an African American community center, and she helped people with AIDS.

She then worked at USF and St. Agnes Parish while earning a master’s in theological studies from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley. In 2002, she moved to Milwaukee to work for Marquette University’s campus ministry program.

Two months after Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Louisiana and Mississippi, Sideco organized a group of Marquette students to work in New Orleans. She returned in November to help Catholic Charities begin gutting the 160,000 homes damaged by floodwaters. An expert at organization, Sideco saw the need for better communication among the various agencies and volunteers working in New Orleans, and she sent her suggestions to Catholic Charities.

She returned again the day after Christmas with a group of Jesuit Volunteer alumni, including her sister, Tonilyn ’99. There she met Mary Baudouin from the province office who asked her to supervise a group of volunteers from SCU and Wheeling University later that month.

Baudouin was so impressed by Sideco’s organizational skills that she offered her a full-time job, telling her to write her own job description. Sideco initially told her no. “New Orleans saw a 00-percent hike in unemployment after Katrina, and I told Mary she should hire from within the community. But the minute I hung up the phone, I felt as if I had made a mistake. I couldn’t say no to that offer. I knew this was my next step.”

Sideco’s experiences in New Orleans also sealed the deal. She recalled helping an 82-year-old man and his wife, who was nearly blind and suffering from dementia.

“After we removed the debris from his home, he made a point of sending me a card to thank me and the student volunteers. Two months later, Catholic Charities chose his as the second house to rebuild. He became the human face to persuade me to make the move to New Orleans and work here full time.”

As a result of her work with the Jesuits, Sideco began to minister to those who care for the people of New Orleans. Contemplatives In Action’s ministry began last June with the help of two of her colleagues from other Jesuit universities. Together, they launched a newsletter called The Lifeline to “tell the real story about what is happening here, especially regarding the weakened infrastructure that includes the loss of professionals. We need people to return and to share their talents so that New Orleans can be rebuilt.”

They have also housed and coordinated the efforts of volunteers, including a contingent of SI students led by faculty member Justin Christensen and Katie Hennessey who worked in New Orleans last summer. (See photo essay accompanying this piece.)

If you want to learn more about Sideco’s work and to find out how you can help rebuild New Orleans, go to www.norprov.org/katrinarelief or www.contemplativesinaction.org.

These cars were tossed by Hurricane Katrina and the flood waters into a house in St. Bernard Parish. This was a common scene even 10 months after the devastation.
Looking for Answers in the Wake of Death

T
wo SI classmates — Boris Albinder ’05 and Zachary Roche-Balsam (who attended SI in his freshman year) — were both murdered on Sept. 16 within hours of each other.

Shortly after midnight, Albinder drove to a party at Third and Geary where he saw a friend of his in a fight with five men over a parking place. Albinder rushed out of his car to protect his friend and was stabbed in the heart. He died later that morning.

Roche-Balsam died two hours later after an altercation at a party in the Inglewood Heights area. Members of the SFSU wrestling team hosted a party, and someone sent word out through Myspace.com of the location. A group of young men, whom police describe as possible gang members, came uninvited. They were initially welcomed but eventually were asked to leave after causing some commotion.

Once outside, they began robbing people at gunpoint. Roche-Balsam then said, “You have what you want. Why don’t you just leave?” At that point, shots were fired that hit Roche-Balsam twice in the abdomen. He died at the scene.

We offer our condolences to the families of these two fine young men, and we ask some hard questions: Why are these two, and so many others, the victims of violent crimes? What might these innocent victims have done differently? What caused the perpetrators to commit these terrible acts?

Genesis V editor Paul Totah asked these questions of his classmate, John Goldberg ’75, the captain of SFPD’s Mission Station. Goldberg, who received a gold medal for subduing a robbery suspect in the 1980s, is a 27-year veteran of the force who has served as captain of two other stations. His daughter, Lauren, graduated from SI in 2004.

Q

Is violence in San Francisco different today than when we were kids?

A

When we were in school, a kid in a fight might end up with a black eye. Now, many kids feel compelled to be armed. If there’s a fight, occasionally, guns come out. A bullet is very unforgiving. I believe part of the problem is a culture of violence and a proliferation of weapons. If one group is armed, then a rival group feels compelled to do the same. When there are so many weapons on the street, what might have been a verbal confrontation becomes dangerous very quickly. Once someone pulls out a weapon, all bets are off.

This violence is devastating to families. It is devastating to the community at large. Tragically, the homicides have occurred disproportionately in communities that are poor and underserved. Communities that need the most help are the ones suffering the most from these tragedies.

I believe there are far more guns and knives on the street now than there were 20 years ago. Although there are many causes, one reason may be the lack of consequences. Ten years ago, San Francisco sent 1,400 people to state prison. Last year we sent only 400. That is an additional 1,000 felons on our streets. Incarceration isn’t the only answer, but it can save lives. It is chilling to see how many victims and suspects were on probation or parole at the time they were involved in a fatal confrontation.

Appropriate punishment sets the right tone: It says that there are consequences for actions and that San Francisco is serious about addressing its crime problem.

Many people arrested in San Francisco don’t live here. They don’t work here. They don’t shop here. They come here to commit their crimes because there is a perception that San Francisco juries are more forgiving and that our penalties are not as harsh as neighboring counties. Our narcotics officers tell of suspects who insist upon crossing the county line into San Francisco from San Mateo County. That way, if there is an arrest, the prosecution will not occur in San Mateo County, where the penalties seem to be more harsh.

Meaningful punishment makes sense in a time of limited resources. Just today, I was reading a report of a suspect who was arrested with 10 separate warrants for the same type of offense. Clearly, this is a person for whom the consequences are insufficient to change her behavior.

Br. Draper gave me a pass once when the "L" Taraval was late. When the "L" was late again, the problem was mine. There was no “get out of jail” free card. There was, however, an afternoon in detention, and I learned to take an earlier streetcar.

Our officers spend a great deal of time arresting the same people over and over. If we only had to deal with a suspect once, officers could move on to new issues and new problems. We could devote more time to crime prevention and be more proactive.

Above: Capt. John Goldberg ’75 offered his insights into the roots of violence in San Francisco. Below: Boris Albinder (left) and Zachary Roche-Balsam were pictured together at the SI senior prom in 2005. Little over a year later, their lives were cut short by violent crimes.

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instead of reactive. One arrest often results in solving a series of crimes.

**Q.** The homicide rate has been the focus of much attention. How does it compare to the rate 20 years ago?

**A.** Although violence remains a tremendous concern, the city’s homicide rate is lower today than it was 20 years ago. That is important to remember. Some is attributable to advances in medicine. San Francisco General is a tremendous community resource, and the staff there saves people who would not have been saved 20 years ago. Even though some credit goes to modern medicine, I believe that the city is very safe on the whole, and there is less random violence now than there was 20 years ago. Much of the violence is centered on gangs and drugs. For that reason, many of the city’s resources and police attention have been focused on those problems and specific areas.

**Q.** Why are there so many gangs on the street?

**A.** A gang is nothing more than a social structure that, in some cases, fills a void. Community resources, like the Boys and Girls Clubs, compete for those same kids and provide a positive alternative to gangs. Sports programs and after-school activities are so important because they keep kids engaged and involved. Parents can help steer their kids in these healthy directions. Kids look for acceptance and a place to belong. If they don’t find it at home or in school, they look for it elsewhere.

**Q.** Can you speak to the correlation between poverty and violence?

**A.** I am not a social scientist, and I am not going to say that there is a direct correlation between the two. There are disproportionately more poor people who, despite their struggles with poverty, have wonderful families and raise great kids. Are their challenges greater? I think so, but the vast majority overcome those challenges, and we should do everything we can to support them.

**Q.** What advice do you have for those who find themselves in situations similar to Boris’ and Zachary’s?

**A.** I don’t know the specifics of those two tragedies, and I don’t want to second-guess the actions of those two young men. There may have been nothing different that they could have done.

When there is a choice, the advice is simple: Try to avoid situations where violence might present itself. Sometimes problems can be anticipated. When you see a party getting out of hand, the smart thing to do is leave, even when you’re having the most fun. Everyone has a sixth sense. When you feel the hair standing on the back of your neck, trust your senses. If it doesn’t feel right, and you feel uncomfortable, get out.

When weapons are involved, there are no good alternatives. Get away and call the police. Every situation is different, so it is hard to offer blanket advice, but calling attention to a situation is generally a good option. Scream, shout or honk your horn. Hopefully, someone will see what is going on and call for help. Those involved in the violence will stop what they are doing and want to get away.

**Q.** What can parents do to protect their children?

**A.** Young adults need guidance and direction. Parents should know where their kids are and whom they are with. Parents need to ask questions, and their kids need to have good answers. With cell phones, there is no reason to lose contact with your child. Parents should seize every opportunity to talk to their kids. The lessons that parents teach are the lessons that the kids carry with them when they leave the house.

Parties should not be advertised on Myspace or other websites. The host loses control of who comes over. Everyone is polite and smiles at the door, but that demeanor can change quickly once inside a home. Parties need to be chaperoned by a responsible adult. Anyone not known personally should not be allowed in. Ideally, you want to make sure trouble never gets a chance to start.

The phone number of cab companies can be programmed into cell phones so that a ride is always available. As an alternative, the police will come if someone is scared or in trouble and will arrange to get the child to a safe place.

**Q.** Is there one factor, in general, that causes young men to turn to lives of crime?

**A.** That is a complex issue, but if I had to identify one cause, I believe it would be the breakdown of the family unit. Basic conduct, values and social skills all start at home. Some troubled kids come from the best of circumstances; however, troubled kids generally come from troubled homes.

When there’s a strong family structure, parents know where their kids are and who their kids are with, and they enforce rules of conduct, including being home at a certain time. I would argue that one cause of crime is our decaying social standards.

**Q.** The cliché is that “society is to blame” for kids who choose to commit crimes.

**A.** To some degree, society is to blame. We live in an age where anything goes, and many segments of society don’t want to accept responsibility for choices they or their children make. If Johnny doesn’t do well in school, some parents don’t want to admit that Johnny didn’t do his homework. The fact is that Johnny and the parents may have some responsibility.

**Q.** What’s the solution to this?

**A.** We need to enforce consequences for bad behavior. There needs to be consistent discipline at home, at school and in society. That doesn’t happen the way it should. In some segments of society, there is clearly an absence of value-based education and parenting. If you go on myspace.com, you’ll see pictures of young kids flashing gang signals and holding weapons — kids who can’t tell the difference between a real or fake gun and who don’t understand the damage a bullet can cause. They think it is fun. The problem is that older siblings and even parents are in these pictures. I would argue that some kids are not learning the difference between right and wrong.
Kylee Lin couldn’t believe that anyone would want her autograph, especially the little girl who asked for it at the premiere of *Santa Clause III*, where the film’s star, Tim Allen was also appearing.

“It was so surreal, walking the red carpet while the media were snapping photos,” she said. “I still can’t believe people think of me as a celebrity.”

But for many, Lin’s signature is a royal one, as she is the newly crowned MISS CALIFORNIA TEEN USA® and will compete this summer in the MISS TEEN USA® Pageant.

Lin doesn’t fit any stereotype regarding beauty queens. In fact, she entered her first pageant only last year, taking fourth place in the MISS CALIFORNIA TEEN contest in Palm Springs.

“I received the application and was curious about what kind of world this was,” she said. “I’m always up for a new adventure.”

She didn’t think she would make the final 10 and was shocked to finish fourth and take home the Miss Photogenic award.

The contest includes an evening gown and swimsuit competition and a three-minute interview before a panel of 10 judges, who “fired questions at me to get to know my personality and to see how well I spoke.”

The only time she was nervous, she said, was after she had been chosen as one of the top five and had to answer questions on stage in front of thousands of people.

The contest is open to girls 15 through 19, and the judges loved Lin’s sincerity and youthful, multiethnic look.

“Most people can’t figure out what I am,” said Lin, whose father is Chinese and mother, Italian. “Some people think I’m Hawaiian. But I don’t associate myself with either culture. I am who I am.”

Lin was ready to make last year’s contest her first and only one, but when the organization decided to hold this year’s event in the Marin Civic Center, a stone’s throw from Lin’s home, she decided to give the pageant one more try.

Once again she found herself up against tall, blond 18-year-olds who looked like models. “Those other girls looked so much older than I am,” she noted. “I looked like a third grader in comparison.”

But that youthful look won over the judges, who gave her the title and crown last October.

Throughout the process, Lin found the girls friendly and helpful. “I was worried about girls trying to sabotage each other by slashing dresses or stealing shoes, but I never experienced any of that. Everyone was very supportive. We helped each other learn choreography, find lost articles of clothing and give that last supportive smile to someone before she went onstage.”

The other contestants, she added, were “confident young women, not ditzy girls. You need confidence to stand on stage and present yourself to an audience. These girls have goals and are working to achieve them.”

Lin, inspired by her dentist father, hopes to become an orthodontist. Until then, she is using her crown to make public appearances to support local charities such as Seeds of Peace, Best Buddies, Mothers Against Drunk Driving and Girls on the Run.

She will also get to enjoy the glamour of her new role. She hopes to attend the Teen Choice Awards next summer along with several other red-carpet events. She is also looking forward to meeting Donald Trump, the man behind the MISS USA Pageant.

In the meantime, she is living the life of a normal teenager at SI. She is involved in sports, works with SI Radio and volunteers as a counselor at a Girl Scout camp each summer.

She is also putting up with good-natured ribbing from her friends. “After I won the contest, they all wanted me to teach them how to wave like a beauty queen.”

Each year the National Council of Teachers of English holds a writing contest for the nation’s top 2,500 juniors. This year, Gina Perlite (left) and Katie Woods (now seniors) were among the 680 students selected for this honor.
Most people at SI are used to seeing junior Charles Franz in black, in his formal attire playing piano at the Winter Pops accompanying the Chamber Singers.

On weekends, Franz prefers a different kind of basic black — soot and axle grease and pig iron — the stuff of real steam locomotives.

A volunteer at Niles Canyon Railway near Fremont, Franz has put in more than 500 hours of community service by working on historic engines.

During the steam season (from April through September), he will put in 1-hour days every Sunday, showing up as early as 5 a.m. to serve as hostler — the person who fires up the locomotive, pulls it out and gets it ready to go.

“The engine is literally alive,” said Franz. “Our locomotive at the canyon is funny. It has its own personality and a mind all its own. Sometimes it will spit out oil and steam on people in its way, be a pain in the ass to work on and refuse to run. On other days it will decide to have fun and run great. It’s rewarding for me to conquer all of its idiosyncrasies and be able to show it off to the public.”

Franz recalls playing with his Lionel trains as a child around his Christmas tree and watching Shining Time Station. His fascination with trains picked up speed when, at 14, he started volunteering at Tilden Park’s scaled down railroad. He worked his way up to road foreman and taught new engineers to run the trains.

After a year and a half in the Oakland Hills, Franz wanted to move to the big time. He recalled riding the Niles Canyon line with his grandmother, but learned that volunteers needed to be 18 or older. He emailed the volunteer coordinator to ask for an exemption. That person was impressed with his credentials, and Franz traded in his four-inch wrenches at Tilden Park for four-foot tools.

Franz admits that his first love is not the trains themselves but the idea of historic railroading. “I do love steam trains, but very few people my age know that railroads played a huge role in building our country.”

At Niles Canyon, Franz finds himself talking to three kinds of train enthusiasts. “The kids come because they are enthralled by the power of the steam engine. We also have middle-aged ‘foamers’ (as railroaders like to call them) — the adult railroad buffs who like to take photos of trains. But my favorite are the old timers who look at a steam engine and think of their childhood.”

Franz spends most of his time in the locomotive shop maintaining the steam engine, though he also works on the diesel engine when called upon. “I know how to start a diesel, but it’s not the same as firing up a steam engine. For the diesel, all you have to do is open the valves and flip the switches, and they’ll start up every time. They may be dependable, but it’s not the same experience as working on steam.” Franz is also helping to restore a second steam engine, which he and the other volunteers hope to have running by the summer.

The trains at Niles Canyon are part of the original Transcontinental Railroad, but now the trains only make an hour-long roundtrip run on six miles of track between Niles Canyon and Sunol.

Franz admits to feeling a bit sad when he looks through books on railroad history. “I wish, sometimes, that I had been born 70 years earlier. It’s staggering to think of the number of rail lines that crisscrossed the state back then, including the Northwestern Pacific that ran up the California coast. That line was five minutes from my home in San Anselmo. No matter where you live, I can guarantee that there was a train running in your area back then.”

Franz is thinking about studying mechanical engineering or history in college and later becoming a chief mechanical officer for one of the historic railroads. “It won’t pay much, but it’s important work, and I love it.”

He admits to also being attracted to medicine. “I can always do something else with my life and still volunteer at a railroad.”
SI Football Team Sends Care Packages to Soldiers

Thanks to the SI varsity football team, 70 soldiers in three units in Iraq have received care packages that include everything from batteries to microwave popcorn.

Each player donated $20 to cover the costs of the items and shipping and included a personal note to a soldier along with a team picture.

It took the players and a dozen volunteer parents an hour to prepare the care packages, which also included white socks, playing cards, lip balm, wet wipes, a note pad and pen, powdered hot cocoa, dried fruit, nuts, beef jerky, gum, cookies, razor blades, magazines and Power Bars.

“The boys really seemed enthused about the project,” said Marg McCaffery, team mom and mother of QB Chris McCaffery ’07. “Everyone felt that they had done a good deed and had acted as men for others.”

One of the recipients was 1st Lt. Phil Downs ‘99, whose mother helped compose a list of typical supplies needed by the troops. The team also sent a package to a young man stationed in Iraq whose mother is a close friend of Mrs. McCaffery. His war stories inspired her to spearhead the project.

She discussed the idea with Head Varsity Football Coach Steve Bluford ’84, who gave it his full support.

The boys on the team also had a chance to hear firsthand about the lives of soldiers in Iraq. Before he shipped for his third tour in September, Downs spoke with the team, telling them that, as a soldier, he used some of the lessons and themes he learned playing football at SI.

An American Daughter

This year’s fall play, An American Daughter, written by Wendy Wasserstein, was directed by Meredith Cecchin Galvin and featured Katie Woods, Sumner Fontaine, Ryan Meredith, Jessica Rizzo, Arianna Papalexopoulos, Jessica Times, Richel Briones, Alex Carleton, Connor Callaghan, Max Hartman, Keelin Woodell, Audrey Torres, Tim Green, Colin Woodell, Robby Lucchesi, Gabriel Kenney, Madison Kelleher, Gianna Puccinelli, Rachel Cunningham, Phoebe Quinlan and, pictured from left, Joe Tursi, Carolyn Naughton, Clancy McCartney and Brendan Neville.
Parents of Asian Students Form Club

Three years ago, the Parents Association of African American Students formed to recruit students of color to attend SI and to help them succeed once they enrolled.

This year, a new group, the SIPAC, has formed to spur involvement by parents of Asian American students.

Thus far, the group comprises about 20 members, but the founders plan to reach out and expand membership over the next few months.

The group had its first meeting last July when David and Cecilia Kim (parents of Austen ’07 and Melissa ’00) invited eight other parents for lunch at their home.

“We all noticed that there hasn’t been much participation in past fashion shows and auctions from the Asian American community,” said David Kim. “We wondered why, especially considering the fact that nearly a quarter of the student body is Asian. We hope that this club will help parents come together and increase our numbers at these events.”

Louis Chan participates and supports this club even though his children, Karen ’97 and Oliver ’00, are no longer at SI. “Asian American parents may be reticent about coming to school events because they don’t see other Asian parents,” said Chan. “We’re here to tell them to come because these events are so much fun. We want parents to experience the high school years along with their children, as SI can be a fun place for parents as well as their kids.”

Kim admits that he didn’t come to parent events at first, but after he did come to his first father-daughter dance and father-son night, he wondered why he had waited so long.

Alice Seher, whose daughter, Zoe, is a junior, also praised the mother-daughter night and mother-son dance as wonderful opportunities for parents. “The women in the Ignatian Guild are so nice,” she added. “I’m having the best time being a part of this group.”

Members of SIPAC also bought a table at the Ignatian Guild fashion show, contributed a basket for the raffle and served as volunteers. They hope to do the same for the Fathers’ Club “Playland at the Prep” auction in March.

Kim hopes the club will become a social network where Asian parents can build relationships, share experiences and extend knowledge about the school and student life at SI. He also believes the club will enhance the school experience for both Asian students and their parents and ultimately produce greater levels of participation and contribution to the school.

The group held a meeting in December and a holiday celebration in January to get the word out to even more Asian American parents, and they hope to continue to solicit membership through email and letters.

For more information, contact David Kim at dskim1vcap@yahoo.com.

Learn to Swim at the Herbst Natatorium

When the Herbst Natatorium opened on the SI campus in 1994, it immediately became available not only to the swim teams and students but also to the Sunset neighborhood. Since its opening, more than 15,000 students have used the pool to learn to swim or become stronger swimmers.

This busy pool, located south of the main entrance on 37th Avenue, offers swim classes and recreational swimming to the public year round.

Last summer, the pool registered more than 1,000 new swimmers who took advantage of an accelerated 8-week program. The accelerated summer program shows tremendous success because the swim lessons are offered during the weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., giving the swimmers an opportunity to attend more often and practice their skills.

Aquatics Director Diane Davis coordinates the swimming program, including training for the instructors and life guards. Many of the instructors are from SI and a host of other city schools. “These instructors are wonderful,” said Davis. “They make it happen.”

One instructor, SI senior Johnny Yam, started swimming at the pool when he turned six. He swam through the ranks and then joined the Hammerheads, a competitive swim team for children 7 to 18. Once at SI, he joined the swimming and water polo teams and then started teaching swimming during the summer and weekends.

He recalls teaching one young boy who was afraid to put his head under water. “I got him to go down gradually, little by little, until he was completely immersed. Then he came up and squirted me. I was so surprised, and it reminded me of why I like teaching so much.”

Diane Davis praised Yam for him commitment to helping the neighborhood children. “This is a tangible way for Johnny and other students at SI to serve the community. They can save lives and make life more enjoyable for so many people.”

Davis, who is also a swimming coach, likes to say that swimming is a lifelong sport. If you have thought about learning to swim or getting back in the water, the Herbst Natatorium has a program to fit your schedule, and its friendly staff is ready to welcome you. For more information, call (415) 682-5044 or look for information online at www.siprep.org/pool.
Kayla Gogarty Receives Patent for Handy Invention

S

I junior Kayla Gogarty discovered that pain can also be the mother of invention.

Five years ago, while on vacation in Tahoe with her family, she burned her hand touching a fireplace. For the rest of her stay, she had to keep her fingers immersed in a bucket of cold water to speed healing and to ward off the pain.

While staring out the window at the snow, she wondered why no one else had come up with this idea, so she contacted a patent attorney — Larry Vierra — whose daughter also went to OLA.

“Kayla's invention was a unique solution to an everyday problem,” said Vierra. “Often, some of the best inventions come from people with no preconceptions, who find new ways to combine common objects.”

Inventors often have to wait years to receive a patent, and, according to Vierra, “99.5 percent of all applications are rejected after the first submission. Some negotiation needs to happen between the applicant and the Patent Office.”

Gogarty’s invention proved no exception. The Patent Office asked to see how Gogarty’s glove differed from an existing mitt that also kept hands cold. Vierra worked with the Patent Examiner to point out the usefulness of Gogarty’s gloves and how they differed from earlier attempts to solve this problem. The two then waited more than a year for a response.

Finally last spring, they heard the good news from the U.S. Patent Office.

Vierra believes that the device has a commercial value. “It will be up to Kayla to find the right company to help manufacture and market it at a reasonable price.”

Gogarty, who does plan to market her cold-glove, wants to become a pediatrician or work in business after graduating from college.

With one medical invention already under her belt, she has already made a strong start towards both of those careers.
Sara Templeton Succeeds at the Business of Dance

Sara Templeton ’97 believes that good art can also be good business.

“We can choose to be starving artists, but it need not be a mandate,” says Templeton. “I acknowledge art’s value by paying those involved in my projects.”

Thus far, she has produced two works and is raising money for a third. “The fundraising issue means I might only show once a year,” said Templeton. “That can limit my visibility, but right now I’m willing to take that risk. I feel strongly about the arts being prosperous, so I choose to put in the time to create that foundation.”

A gifted entrepreneur as well as a talented choreographer, Templeton has a number of business endeavors which finance her work. Currently, she is developing an online business where dance artists can sell merchandise to help fund their projects and raise money for other local arts organizations they want to support.

Templeton has presented work through the Oberlin Dance Collective School and Theatre (ODC), which twice selected her as one of six choreographers for its Pilot program.

Her first Pilot-sponsored work premiered in 2005. Her dance was well received, and the process gave her valuable insight into the realities of marketing, strategic planning and fundraising.

Meanwhile, she discovered that her patrons, as well as her coworkers at Davis Langdon (where she works as a project administrator), wanted to know more about her choreographic process. To help them understand, Templeton published in September 2005 her first book in her Memoirs of A Dance series, a behind-the-scenes narrative and photo journal of her last premiere.

By April 2006, Templeton had raised enough money to produce her second work through the Pilot program. She followed it with her second Memoirs of A Dance, available through www.lulu.com.

Unlike many other artists, Templeton rarely pursues public funding through grants. “There just aren’t enough resources to go around,” she notes. “But I like to think that there is room for us all. I try to use my own talents to bring in money and treat grants as a last resort. This allows other choreographers more opportunity.”

Templeton’s choreography is influenced by a variety of forms. At SI, she was one of the first members of the Dance and Drill Troupe, and outside of school performed with various hip-hop companies. But by the time she enrolled at Loyola Marymount University, she found her focus shifting towards modern dance and ballet.

“I used a lot of anger with hip-hop, and by the time I was in college, I just wasn’t interested in that anymore.”

While studying at LMU, she taught locally and worked with her school’s dance department on several community arts projects. She also interviewed Cyd Charisse for LMU’s dance archive and designed a web site for legendary choreographer Bella Lewitzky.

By the end of her college career, Templeton had been honored as an outstanding graduate in dance and had also earned a degree in economics. While dance and economics don’t seem to go together, she credits that combination with making her better at the business of art.

After college, she returned to San Francisco and worked as a convention staffer before landing at Davis Langdon. Three years ago she reduced her hours there to pursue choreography more seriously.

She has since discovered just how multifaceted the job of a choreographer can be. “Most people think it only involves stringing together movement in a studio. That’s part of it, but ultimately it’s much larger. For me, being a choreographer is about orchestrating creativity in the broadest sense, because dance-making is an entrepreneurial, personal, logistical and spiritual endeavor. Being skilled in all of those aspects is a big deal.”

As for Templeton the performer, you will sometimes see her in that role. “Dancers certainly work harder when the choreographer is next to them. And it’s great being on stage with other artists. But I like it much better when I can watch. It just feels like a bigger, braver gift for all involved.”
Never tell Mike Michalske '00 your deep dark secrets. They might end up on stage.

One friend made the mistake of telling Michalske that his mother had breastfed him until he was 2. He then attended one of Michalske's improvisational shows and saw himself parodied as a 15-year-old boy on stage being breastfed by his mother.

Michalske, one of four members of Revolving Madness, believes that "if you take yourself too seriously, you won't have any fun in life. If you think you're too important, you'll die of stress."

Revolving Madness performs about eight shows a month around the Bay Area. But when you think "improv," don't picture Whose Line Is It Anyway, people with giant Q-Tips pretending to be gladiators or comedy sports performers.

"Those people play games with their audiences and with each other. They try to find the joke in five lines. We'll spend 20 minutes telling the stories of a variety of characters and watch how the action comes full circle. We won't know until just before the end how the story will be funny. Then, at the end, instead of a chuckle, the audience gets a belly laugh for several minutes. They can't believe we're making up a story on the spot. For a year, my own mother didn't believe that we improvised our stories."

Revolving Madness has had its share of success. The San Francisco Chronicle gave the group a prominent write-up, and the troupe performed sold-out shows at the San Francisco Fringe Festival and the Toronto International Improv Festival.

Given the group's history, it's no surprise. Each of the four studied under John Cleese of Monty Python fame at UC Santa Barbara, where they learned the nuances of comedy.

"Cleese came in to substitute for our teacher, who was about to leave to direct a show. We were shocked to see all 6-feet, -inches of him standing in the room, directly behind our teacher, imitating his mannerisms. He taught us comedic rhythm and cadence and how to fine-tune our work; even moving one finger half an inch to the left would make a scene funnier. He was like a fairy godfather to us."

Michalske met the other three Revolving Madness performers — Andreas Riter, Christina Daly and Lauren Pizzi — through the bachelor of fine arts program at UCSB where they all studied classic theatre. When one of their friends produced an improvisational TV show, Michalske discovered that he enjoyed doing something completely different.

"We had no idea if our work was funny, so we invited our class and a few professors. They laughed hysterically, and we ended up as a comedy troupe."

The group went from eight to six to four members as individuals went separate ways. While the group is successful, Michalske hasn't quit his day-job yet. He teaches yoga in the city and has also labored alongside his father, Dan Michalske '72, who has worked backstage at several theatres throughout the city.

When Mike Michalske was four, his father would sit his son on his lap and let him run the lights for Sunday in the Park with George. "The stage manager walked in and saw a 4-year-old working the lights and nearly died."

Thanks in large part to his father, Michalske has acting in his blood. He recalls Annette Benning at ACT mussing up his hair during one show and watching from the wings along with artistic director Bill Ball as Sydney Walker performed.

At 9, Michalske joined the Magic Theatre and began his acting career. At SI, he performed in nearly every play and musical, sang with the Chamber Singers and played with the jazz band and orchestra.

He hopes to find work in feature films and television, and he has already done voice-overs for the Discovery Channel.

In the meantime, he's following the advice that he heard in college — that an actor needs to make his own work, and the best way to do this is by starting a theatre company.

For more information on the group's shows, go to www.revolvingmadness.net.
Chocolate That’s Good in So Many Ways

Never has doing good tasted so good. Thanks to a unique Christmas gift from his wife, Peter Schmitt ’94 is now one of the Bay Area’s premiere chocolatiers.

And because Schmitt makes his artisan truffles with fair trade, organic and sustainable ingredients, you may indulge yourself without guilt.

Schmitt and his wife, Rosie ’95, are both graduates of SI and SCU. Both active in theatre at SI, they met during a production of Lady in the Dark.

After college, they worked as teachers — Peter at Mitty High School and Rosie with the Cupertino School District — and also kept active in theatre, which, oddly enough, led them circuitously toward their current passion for chocolate.

The two decided to quit their teaching jobs and work for Royal Carribean as youth activity coordinators. At the various ports of call, they discovered chocolate more flavorful and richer than any they had ever had before.

They also discovered the dark side of the chocolate industry. For a typical 60-cent candy bar sold in the U.S., cacao growers earn about 1 cent, according to Transfair USA, which offers fair trade certification. According to this group and environmental writer Umbra Fisk, most cacao farmers live in “extreme poverty, often earning just $30 to $100 a year,” in an industry that brings in annual earnings of $60 billion.

Fisk also notes that the plight of cacao growers “is exacerbated by the sometimes wildly fluctuating prices for cacao on the world market and by exploitative middlepeople who buy from farmers for a pittance and then make a tidy profit by selling to traders or multinationals.” Making matters worse, Fisk adds, about 300,000 children work gathering cacao in the four African nations that make up the bulk of the cacao trade.

“Growers, for the most part, are so poor that they can never afford to buy a chocolate bar and taste the finished product,” says Schmitt.

When the two returned to the Bay Area, Schmitt received a surprise from his wife for Christmas — lessons in chocolate making.

Alumni basketball athletes returned to SI the day before Thanksgiving for SI’s annual homecoming game. Pictured above and right are the men and women who played the varsity boys’ and girls’ basketball teams before a standing-room-only crowd. After the games, SI hosted a reception at the United Irish Cultural Center where they were entertained by the Ring of Fire, a Johnny Cash tribute band.
from legendary chocolatier Michael Recchiuti.

“I took his classes and appreciated his old world charm and his philosophy toward chocolate making,” says Schmitt, who brought his first creations to several parties. “My friends loved my chocolates, so I decided to expand and open my own company.

Schmitt named his new venture PS Chocolates after his initials rather than his name to avoid people confusing his company with Joseph Schmidt Chocolates.

Schmitt, who had taught religion at Mitty and who believes strongly in the Ignatian values he learned at SI and SCU — “both places taught me to think globally as well as locally” — wanted to ensure that the growers he had met in fair-trade cacao plantations in the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Peru would profit from his business.

“The growers at these co-ops pay two-to-three times the typical livable wage for their country, offer health care and practice sustainable farming.”

By buying from these co-ops, Schmitt is also helping to preserve some of the finest cacao plants in the world. “The large companies only care about quantity,” he notes. “But the growers I buy from plant forastero trees, the rarest of the cacao trees. These don’t produce much cacao, but what they do produce has a strong flavor. Because these trees weren’t considered profitable, they were almost wiped off the face of the earth.”

While the cacao must come from far away, Schmitt makes a point of buying his other ingredients from local farmers and creameries and using seasonal produce. Last fall, for instance, he created pumpkin-infused truffles from locally grown pumpkins.

“In the end,” Schmitt adds, “consumers won’t pay much more for sustainable, organic and fair trade chocolate than they would pay for the mass-produced product, but they will discover a huge difference in taste and know that they are helping growers here and in developing nations.”

While Schmitt now sells between 2,000 and 3,000 truffles a month, it’s not quite enough for him to give up his job as an event planner, but it is enough to make him feel as if he and his wife are making a difference.

“The Jesuits taught us to give back and to promote social justice,” says Schmitt. “I’m happy we have a chance to do that. And I love seeing the looks on peoples’ faces when they bite into one of my truffles.”

They are able to make some of their truffles at their Redwood City home, but for large orders — such as the 3,000 pieces he made for an AIDS Foundation event — he has access to an industrial kitchen in San Francisco, and he brings in a crew of five to help prepare his hand-rolled French truffles.

Schmitt’s wife helps by packaging all the chocolate — “I’m the one who ties the ribbons on all the boxes” — and taste-testing her husband’s new creations. “I represent the voice of the untrained palate. If something is too strong, I tell him to tone it down. Some flavors are fantastic strong and others are better subtle.”

For one of his more powerful creations, which he calls Xocolatl, Schmitt elaborates on a traditional Mayan recipe, mixing cinnamon, cayenne pepper, nutmeg and chili with 68 percent organic single origin chocolate from Costa Rica.

If you want to taste some of Schmitt’s chocolate for yourself, you can purchase truffles from Chocolat in San Francisco and San Anselmo or from Draeger’s in Los Altos. Within a few months, the Draeger’s in San Mateo and Menlo Park will also carry Schmitt’s chocolates.

You can also order from his website at www.ps chocolates.com where you will find a detailed description of the 10 types of truffles that he currently sells.

Tim Russert Speaks at SI’s Downtown Business Lunch

Tim Russert, host of NBC’s Meet the Press, spoke to more than 400 members of the SI community at the Four Seasons Hotel on Oct. 17. He regaled the audience with stories of politicians, his own Jesuit education and his father, whom he wrote about in his bestselling Big Russ. Russert came thanks to his nephew, Kevin Swanson, a junior at SI, and his family. The event raised more than $90,000 to benefit a new Alumni Association scholarship.
CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO LOST THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP DEC. 9 IN FRESNO TO EL CAMINO 49-35 AFTER QUARTERBACK ZAC LEE ’05 LEFT IN THE THIRD QUARTER WITH A KNEE INJURY.

Coach George Rush ’65 was disappointed, but he can look back with pride on a remarkable 30-year career as CCSF head football coach.

You can measure his success with numbers: 246 wins, 16 conference championships, 9 NorCal titles, 5 state championships and 5 national titles.

You would get a better measure of Rush by hearing him tell the stories of the young men he has coached over the years. Their pictures crowd the walls over his cluttered desk; many of those men went on to successful careers in college and in the NFL.

These young men are the reason Rush stays at City College despite offers to coach at high-profile universities.

He explains his reasons for staying by telling the story of Alfonzo Browning, who played at CCSF in 1990 and 1991.

“One day he came to me in hysteric,” said Rush. “While Alfonzo was practicing, his mother, a crack addict, sold all of his clothes for drugs. All he had were the clothes on his back. Four days later, while the team was suiting up for the conference championship game, I noticed that Alfonzo was missing. He was the leading receiver in the conference.”

Rush then received a call from the police who told him that Browning had been picked up the night before on charges of possessing an illegal weapon and narcotics.

Rush spoke with a judge who offered to release Browning on his own recognizance to let him play that day.

“I thought about it long and hard. Then I told the judge to let him stay in jail. After we won the conference, we drove by the Hall of Justice on our way back to school. I thought, ‘He should have been here with us, not over there.’”

The only people who showed up for Browning’s trial were Rush and the assistant coach. The judge sentenced Browning to six months in county prison, where Rush visited him regularly.

“He told me how sorry he was for making a mistake. I told him I would give him another chance, but if he didn’t keep his word, I would make sure he never played college football again. He respected that.”

The next season, Browning once again became the leading conference receiver and, thanks to a recommendation by Rush, was recruited by the University of Kentucky.

Browning eventually went on to play for the ’49ers and earn a Super Bowl ring. After a career with the Canadian Football League, he married and had twin daughters. He is now coaching high school football in Kentucky and raising his family.

“When Alfonzo comes to San Francisco, he always makes a point of coming here to say hello,” said Rush. “The best part of the story is that before his mother died, he helped her beat her addiction and move out of the projects.”

Rush has more stories like Browning’s. “My players are good kids. All they needed was a chance to succeed. This school gives them academic, athletic, financial and emotional support so that they can have their chance.”

Rush found that same support when he was a player at CCSF. A quarterback under Vince Tringali at SI, Rush went to SCU where he played for Pat Malley ’49. After a wrist injury sidelined him, he transferred to City College.

He found CCSF “a life-changing experience.” He tried out for Dutch Elston’s football team, and after seeing Rush play, Elston yelled over to Alex Schwartz (Elston’s assistant and the former athletic director at SI), “Hey Pop, I think we found ourselves a football player.”

At CCSF, Rush entered a world far different from his old school on Stanyan Street. “My closest friends on the team were African-American players and a few guys from SI. They gave me a whole new perspective on diversity that I had never known.” Along with teammate O.J. Simpson, Rush helped CCSF take the conference championship in 1966.

Rush went on to play at San Fernando Valley State College before coaching at Wake Forest and the College of the Canyons in Valencia. Between those jobs, he married Jane Carlson and the two (now together 37 years) had a daughter, Tammy, and two sons, George Rush, Jr. ’92, and Gibril, who has started as safety for the past three years with the New York Giants.

Rush specializes in helping student athlete, such as Zac Lee, who didn’t catch the eyes of college scouts.

Zac’s father, Bob Lee, also played at CCSF and went on to a 12-year career in the NFL. Zac excelled as a quarterback at SI, but colleges didn’t fall over themselves trying to recruit him.

That changed after two years with Rush. As the top-ranked junior college quarterback in the nation, Lee found himself courted by many colleges, and he eventually signed with Nebraska. He will be heading east soon to start spring drills with his new team.

“Zac has every quality you want in a quarterback,” said Rush. “He’s a first-class person and a great leader. He threw for 325 yards in the first half in the state championship against El Camino, and odds were in our favor to win had he not gotten hurt. He’ll do well in Nebraska because he backs up his confidence with performance.”

It’s this kind of success story, repeated again and again, that draws the best athletes in the Bay Area to Rush’s team, which averages 17 division 1 scholarships each year. One year, 25 players earned DI scholarships.

“I’m proud that both my sons attended here,” added Rush. “City College is one of the best kept secrets in the Bay Area.”
At the CCS championship game against Los Gatos Dec. 1, Coach Bluford paced the sidelines more ecstatic than worried.

Then, after a key fumble, the guilty party walked with head hung to hear from his coach.

“I told him to relax and just have fun,” said Bluford. “At that point, there’s no more coaching you can do. When players get uptight, they don’t perform as well as they can. I wanted him to relax, have fun and let the game play itself out.”

By the end, the game did just that, and the 2006 SI Varsity Football Team made history by beating Los Gatos 35–0 to take the sectional crown for the first time since the CCS inaugurated the regional competition in 1972.

That win, as glorious as it was, paled in comparison to the 6–0 victory over Bellarmine Nov. 11 to guarantee SI’s league co-champion status, which the Wildcats share with Serra. That victory ended a 39-year drought, as the last time the ’Cats won the WCAL title was in 1967 when Dan Fouts ’69 led the team as quarterback. (Fouts went on to a famed career playing with the San Diego Chargers, earning entry into the NFL Hall of Fame.)

For Head Coach Steve Bluford ’84, the championship trophies are ones that need to be shared with SI teams of the past.

“I am blessed with a great tradition of Wildcat football,” said Bluford. “My assistant Rob Unruh ’64 was a center for Coach Ray Calcagno ’64. They both played for Vince Tringali and Jim McDonald ’55. Joe Vollert ’84 and I both played for Ray. And our linebacker coach, Paul Tonelli ’76, played for Coach Gil Haskell ’61.

“I am the recipient of 40 years of coaching wisdom. These men are the ones who earned it along with all the Wildcats who wore our jerseys and who played AMDG but who were not able to win the league title. I’m happy my name is attached to this trophy, but it’s one for the program and for all these players and coaches.”

From left: Allen Kham, Chris McCaffery, Chris Martin and Hank Verdunmen after the CCS championship game.

The ’Cats finished 10–2–1 overall and 5–1 in league thanks to several key players, including seniors Chris McCaffery at quarterback, offensive lineman Matt Summers-Gavin and linebacker and co-captain Tommy Kilgore.

McCaffery had a phenomenal year, throwing only one interception throughout league play. He earned WCAL Player of the Year honors, and High School Sports Focus named him CCS Offensive Player of the Year.

(McCaffery, a star pitcher for the Wildcats, signed with USC to play baseball in The Southland.)

“Chris is very competitive and thorough,” said Bluford. “He understands the game and how to manage the offense. He can throw anywhere with various degrees of touch, from a bullet to a finesse pass.”

Also instrumental in the team’s success was Summers-Gavin, one of the top-ranked high school athletes in the nation, who played in the Jan. 6 U.S. Army All American Bowl in San Antonio. “At 6-foot, 4-inches and 285 pounds, he has speed, power and quickness for his position. The head coaches from Cal and Notre Dame both paid a visit to SI to recruit him for their schools.”

Kilgore was key to SI’s defense. “He’s smart, tough and intense,” said Bluford, “and he loves the sport and his teammates. He’s a great, selfless leader.”

Bluford also praised Derek McDonald, Chris Bloom, Jake Lawson and Ryan Kirkpatrick, all of whom proved vital to both offense and defense.

Just as important to the team’s success were the individuals who didn’t get recognition in the press, from the scout teams to the student managers.

Bluford also praised assistant coaches John Regalia ’93, Paul Tonelli ’76, Josh Frechette, Rob Unruh ’64, Brian Kelly, Jeremy Dickmann and Gino Benedetti ’01. “We work well together. We’re passionate about football and motivated to improve as teachers of the game. I am lucky to coach alongside them.”

A week after capturing the CCS title, the ’Cats learned that CIF officials chose Palo Alto over SI to represent NorCal for the state championship.

“Playing for and winning the state title would have been the icing on the cake,” said Bluford. “But we ended post-season play on a high note. I was happy that we accomplished something that had never been done in SI history.”
The boys on SI’s cross country team have their own way of ending summer vacation.

They pay a one-week visit to Dr. Pain’s Running Camp.

While most of the boys begin training in early June to prepare for their fall racing season, their training isn’t complete until they spend seven days at Portola Redwoods State Park near Pescadero in August.

For a week, the boys run twice a day for a total of nearly 70 miles, with each workout followed by 20 minutes in the frigid waters of Pescadero Creek to ice down.

This year, the pain paid off. The four boys’ cross country teams — freshmen, sophomores, JV and varsity — each took first in the West Catholic Athletic League (with the frosh sharing the crown as co-champs). The varsity went on to beat schools to win the Central Coast Section Division III title and earn a shot at the state championship, where the team finished sixth.

Head Coach Chad Evans credits the success, in part, to the rigorous training. “The boys both love and hate Dr. Pain’s Running Camp,” said Evans. “They hate it because the runs are hard, and the creek is cold. But they also love it because they know they are doing something more challenging than anything else they’ll be up against all year.

“Distance runners love testing their pain threshold, and having raccoons eat their food and running a week without showering is all part of how they test their limits. The boys leave camp with a feeling of real confidence. Throughout the season, they joke that running up Strawberry Hill is nothing compared to Butano Ridge, the longest, hardest run of our week in the woods.”

Evans also noted that the teams succeeded this year despite the lack of any standout runner. “We won not because our first guy was the fastest, but because our third, fourth and fifth place runners were faster than their competition. Cross country is not an individual sport, as most people think, but a team sport.”

Evans also credits the depth of the entire program, which includes 73 boys and 95 girls, who make up 12 percent of the student body. “We fill three charter buses whenever we travel to a meet, even though cross country is not the sport at SI that gets the most attention from fans. These kids are working hard anonymously for six months, and it’s great for them to receive this success and attention at the end of the season.”

SI’s cross country team also flew under the radar of the local media, which didn’t peg the school to win either the league or section. Not until the state meet did the media catch on, when SI was ranked second.

You can also find success stories among the individual runners. More than 30 boys ran 300 miles or more this summer, including sophomore Devin Dunn. Last year, he finished 25th, 21st and 22nd in three races. This year, he took second, fourth and second at the three league meets, in part because of the 400 miles he put in June, July and August. “He passed 20 runners from last year just by putting in the miles,” said Evans.

Junior Michael Quinones also shaved three minutes off his times last year, and he shared the JV’s Most Improved Award with junior Chris Warner, who went from 10th last year to finishing in the top five. Senior captain Matt Roman, the winner of the Riley Sutthoff Award, spent his freshman year at the back of the pack at Crystal Springs with a time of 22 minutes. As a sophomore, he ran 19.50 and then 17.46 as a junior. This year, he ran the course in 16.59. “He beat runners who had more talent just by working harder. He also earned his spot at captain by caring for the younger guys. I was proud to coach them.”

Evans also praised fellow coaches Al Berrin, Matt Farley, S.J. (a two-time state champion in both cross country and track from Jesuit High in Sacramento), and Oliver Chan ’00, who started his running career only in his senior year at SI and who now runs 50K ultra marathons.

“I feel lucky to be part of a program that is as strong, vibrant and healthy as cross country,” added Evans.
Happy Coaching Couple Leads Water Polo Teams

You could say that Katy Ashby-Dumas and her husband, Scott Du mas, get along swimmingly.

Katy serves as an assistant to the JV girls’ water polo team, and Scott is in his first year as head coach to the boys’ varsity water polo team.

Katy, who is a three-year veteran at SI where she teaches world history and economics, met Scott at SCU where they both played water polo. Scott also coached Katy’s club team there and the two were instrumental in moving the girls’ water polo program to official school status by the time they graduated.

They share ideas with all the coaches in the water polo program, including girls’ varsity head coach Paul Felton, girls’ JV coach Ann Ginotti ’00, and boys’ coaches Kyle Broderick and Dan Ashley ’99.

They also find themselves discussing water polo and watching film on their off hours at home. “We share stories of players, exchange ideas for drills and practices and form game strategies,” said Scott.

On occasion, Scott will coach one of Katy’s students, as he did with Columbus Leonard, a junior on the boys’ varsity team.

“Columbus didn’t know how to swim until the summer before his freshman year at SI,” said Scott. “Then he decided he wanted to play water polo. At his first practice, he could barely make it from one end of the pool to the other.”

Despite his inexperience, the team took a chance on him partly because he stood over six feet tall as a freshman. Now at 6 feet, 4 inches, he is a star goalie on the team.

“He has wonderful intuition,” said Katy. “He can predict pretty accurately where a shot will go. He’s also a wonderful all-around athlete who plays baseball and basketball and who represents SI so well.”

The boys’ team has never been a powerhouse in the league, but Scott hopes his team can build on the success they had this year. SI beat Mitty for the first time since the start of the boys’ water polo program and lost to Valley Christian in sudden death. Had SI won that game, the boys would have made it to CCS play.

Scott was also impressed by his team’s strong showing against Bellarmine, despite the 12–9 loss. “The WCAL is the strongest league in the CCS, and we have an uphill battle against teams from the Peninsula and Marin where kids swim year-round.”

The girls’ program turned in a strong showing, with both the varsity and JV girls tying for second place and the varsity qualifying for CCS play.

The only problem Katy and Scott have is that they don’t get a chance to see each other’s teams compete given their conflicting schedules.

“But he makes me watch his games on tape all the time,” she added. “Our fall is all about water polo.”

Girls’ Tennis Competes Overseas & With Pros

The SI Girls’ Tennis Team had a successful season finishing second in the league and ending post-season play with a hard fought loss to Mitty in the quarterfinals of the CCS competition.

In the individual league tournament in Mountain View’s Cuesta Park last Nov. 1 and 2, five Wildcats entered the final rounds, the most from any school — Carmen Lam, Janice Lam, Natalie Dillon, Danielle Sabalvaro and Natasha Mendoza with fourth, third and second place finishes.

Some members of the team also had several first-time highlights, including participation in the International Children’s Games in Thailand, the American Tennis Association Nationals in San Diego, and a professional tournament in San Francisco.

In August, Mendoza and Dillon competed at the International Children’s Games in Thailand after qualifying in Golden Gate Park during the summer. They finished well, and after they returned, Dillon competed and won the American Tennis Association National singles and doubles titles in San Diego.

Also participating was senior Lorenzo Cabrera, who placed third in the boys 18-year-old division and won the doubles title in San Diego.

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Some members of the team also had several first-time highlights, including participation in the International Children’s Games in Thailand, the American Tennis Association Nationals in San Diego, and a professional tournament in San Francisco.

In August, Mendoza and Dillon competed at the International Children’s Games in Thailand after qualifying in Golden Gate Park during the summer. They finished well, and after they returned, Dillon competed and won the American Tennis Association National singles and doubles titles in San Diego.

Also participating was senior Lorenzo Cabrera, who placed third in the boys 18-year-old division and won the doubles title in San Diego.

Happy Coaching Couple Leads Water Polo Teams

You could say that Katy Ashby-Dumas and her husband, Scott Du mas, get along swimmingly.

Katy serves as an assistant to the JV girls’ water polo team, and Scott is in his first year as head coach to the boys’ varsity water polo team.

Katy, who is a three-year veteran at SI where she teaches world history and economics, met Scott at SCU where they both played water polo. Scott also coached Katy’s club team there and the two were instrumental in moving the girls’ water polo program to official school status by the time they graduated.

They share ideas with all the coaches in the water polo program, including girls’ varsity head coach Paul Felton, girls’ JV coach Ann Ginotti ’00, and boys’ coaches Kyle Broderick and Dan Ashley ’99.

They also find themselves discussing water polo and watching film on their off hours at home. “We share stories of players, exchange ideas for drills and practices and form game strategies,” said Scott.

On occasion, Scott will coach one of Katy’s students, as he did with Columbus Leonard, a junior on the boys’ varsity team.

“Columbus didn’t know how to swim until the summer before his freshman year at SI,” said Scott. “Then he decided he wanted to play water polo. At his first practice, he could barely make it from one end of the pool to the other.”

Despite his inexperience, the team took a chance on him partly because he stood over six feet tall as a freshman. Now at 6 feet, 4 inches, he is a star goalie on the team.

“He has wonderful intuition,” said Katy. “He can predict pretty accurately where a shot will go. He’s also a wonderful all-around athlete who plays baseball and basketball and who represents SI so well.”

The boys’ team has never been a powerhouse in the league, but Scott hopes his team can build on the success they had this year. SI beat Mitty for the first time since the start of the boys’ water polo program and lost to Valley Christian in sudden death. Had SI won that game, the boys would have made it to CCS play.

Scott was also impressed by his team’s strong showing against Bellarmine, despite the 12–9 loss. “The WCAL is the strongest league in the CCS, and we have an uphill battle against teams from the Peninsula and Marin where kids swim year-round.”

The girls’ program turned in a strong showing, with both the varsity and JV girls tying for second place and the varsity qualifying for CCS play.

The only problem Katy and Scott have is that they don’t get a chance to see each other’s teams compete given their conflicting schedules.

“But he makes me watch his games on tape all the time,” she added. “Our fall is all about water polo.”

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Also participating was senior Lorenzo Cabrera, who placed third in the boys 18-year-old division and won the doubles championship.

The next month, five SI girls played in a tournament to get a chance to compete against pros in the San Francisco Tennis Classic hosted by Tim Harper and Peanut Louie. Dillon and Sabalvaro made it to the finals held at the Golden Gateway Tennis Club.

“I loved this season,” said Head Coach Craig Law ’84. “We have such a talented group of girls, and the years to come look promising and exciting. The girls had fun, and that was the bottom line.”
**SPORTS ROUNDUP**

**GIRLS’ GOLF**
Coach: Julius Yap; **Assistant:** Bill Olinger  
League Record: 10–0  
**Highlights:** WCAL Champions; 3rd Place CCS Tournament where Megan West shot 79; eighth place NorCal High School Regional Championships where Rosalie Tolentino shot 80.  
**League Awards:** WCAL Tournament Medalist: Rosalie Tolentino, 78; All WCAL First Team: Rosalie Tolentino, Megan West  
**Team Awards:** Wildcat Medalist Award: Megan West; Wildcat Award: Rosalie Tolentino; Spirit Award: Renee Eligio

**BOYS’ FOOTBALL**
Coach: Steve Bluford; **Assistant:**s John Regalia Jeremy Dickmann, Paul Tonelli, Rob Unruh, Brian Kelly, Josh Frechette and Gino Benedetti  
League Record: 5–1 (WCAL Co-Champions); Overall Record: 10–2–1 (CCS Champions)  
**Highlights:** First Seed in CCS Medium Schools Division. Defeated Aptos 28–14, Los Altos 33–14, and Los Gatos 35–20 in championship game, with Ryan Kirepokkex rushing for more than 200 yards.  
**League Awards:** WCAL Player of the Year: QB Chris McCaffery; WCAL Lineman of the Year: Matt Summers-Gavin; WCAL First Team All League: Chris McCaffery, Matt Summers-Gavin, Willy Jaquier, Tommy Kilgore, Chris Blohm, Dave Schaeffer and Jake Lawson.

**GIRLS’ VOLLEYBALL**
Coach: Greg Nunley; **Assistant:** Shelby Hamm  
League Record: 2–5; Overall Record: 24–8  
**Highlights:** CCS tournament qualifier for 4th consecutive year. Defeated Live Oak in quarter finals (3–0) before losing to Sacred Heart Cathedral in semifinals (2–3)  
**League Awards:** Second Team All–WCAL: Erin Grady  
**Team Awards:** Fighting Spirit Award: Kerry Grady; Team Award: Michaela Rizzo; Coaches’ Awards: Diana Nomicos

**BOYS’ WATER POLO**
Coach: Scott Dumas; **Assistant:**s Ron Assadurian  
League Record: 1–5; Overall Record: 4–6  
**Highlights:** John Butler led team with 11 goals in WCAL play  
**League Awards:** WCAL First Team: David Kolenda  
**Team Awards:** Coaches’ Award: David Kolenda; Most Inspirational Player: Jack Ostler; Most Improved Player: Jared Muscat

**GIRLS’ WATER POLO**
Coach: Paul Felton  
League Record: 4–2; Overall Record: 17–6  
**Highlights:** Qualified for CCS Tournament; leading scorers: Kandis Canonica 56 overall, 11 in WCAL play.  
**League Awards:** WCAL First Team All–League: Gina Castagnola, Kandis Canonica, MacKenzie Campbell; WCAL Second Team All–League: Lauren Padilla, Susanah Groh  
**Team Awards:** Wildcat Award: Kandis Canonica; Coaches’ Award: MacKenzie Campbell; Most Inspirational Player: Lauren Padilla
**BOYS’ CROSS COUNTRY**

**Coach:** Chad Evans; **Assistants:** Al Berrin, Oliver Chan, Matt Farley, S.J.

**Highlights:** All four levels were league champs, and the varsity was the CCS champion; in league, Matt Snyder finished fifth, first and first; Greg Innes finished second, second and ninth; and Sean Reavey finished sixth, 10th and seventh. In CCS meet, Matt Snyder finished third, Greg Innes sixth, and Sean Reavey eighth.

**League Awards:** All–WCAL First Team: Matt Snyder and Sean Reavey; Second Team: Greg Innes and Alex Esparza

**Team Awards:** Riley Suttoff Award: Matt Roman; Wildcat Award: Robbie Anicetti; Most Outstanding Runners: Matt Snyder, Sean Reavey

**GIRLS’ CROSS COUNTRY**

**Coach:** Elizabeth Regalia; **Assistants:** Trixia Kennedy, Anne Stricherz

**Highlights:** Sophomore Katy Daly finished first in each of the three WCAL meets. Bambi Seltenrich had a 10th and 15th place finish. Jaqueline Sun finished 13th, 13th, and 19th respectively in the three WCAL meets. Daly also finished first in the CCS meet while the team finished sixth. Sasha Martinez finished 29th in the CCS meet. At the CIF State Division 3 Championships, Daly finished in third place.

**League Award:** All–WCAL First Team: Katy Daly

**Team Awards:** Julius Yap Award: J.J. Fritz; Most Improved Runner: Sasha Martinez; Outstanding Runner, Katy Daly; Coaches’ Award: Monica Coen

**GIRLS’ FIELD HOCKEY**

**Coach:** Kori Jenkins; **Assistants:** Michelle Magdycz; **Moderators:** Mike Thomas, Danielle Devencenzi

**League Record:** 2–6–3; **Overall Record:** 8–10–5

**Blossom Valley League Highlights:** ties with Mitty and St Francis.

**Team Awards:** Wildcat Award: Claire McGovern; Most Inspirational Player: Libby Reiser; Most Improved Player: Nicole Grazioi

**GIRLS’ TENNIS**

**Coach:** Craig Law

**League Record:** 11–3

**Overall Record:** 18–3

**Highlights:** Qualified for CCS Tournament. Defeated Harker Academy 7–0 before losing in quarterfinals to Mitty 2–5.

**League Awards:** WCAL First Team: Natalie Dillon; Second Team, Nataly Mendoza, Carmen Lam; WCAL Individual Tournament: Natasha Mendoza Singles–4th place; Natalie Dillon–Danielle Sabalvaro Doubles 3rd Place; Carmen Lam, Janice Lam, doubles 2nd Place

**Team Awards:** Artie Lee, S.J. Award: Natasha Mendoza; Magis Award: Carmen Lam; Wildcat Award: Aimee Bigeainberry

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**Water Polo Alumni Game**

SI held its first alumni water polo game in August, with alumni playing the boys’ varsity team. The alumni who attended included Tobias Koehler ’95, Dave Tudor ’96, Kevin Chuck ’97, Eddie Pan ’97, Eric Sweeney ’97, Jaime Lynch ’98, Marty O’Leary ’98, Chris Roth ’98, Dan Ashley ’99, Dan Figoni ’99, Brendan Raven ’99, Joey Sheehy ’99, Eric Pan ’00, Andrew Potselueff ’00, Mark Perlite ’01, Brian Gilmore ’02, Dan McDonnell ’02, Alan Chee ’05, Jeff Gilmore ’05, Steve Hindley ’05, Matt Lai ’05 and Mike Yee ’05.
Henry Fagundes celebrated his 90th birthday. He and his wife, Veronica, have three children, eight grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Manuel Medina Jr. and his wife, Marianne, are enjoying retired life in Graeagle, Calif.

The Class of 1944 meets every third Thursday of the month at the United Irish Cultural Center for lunch at noon. Feel free to join your classmates.

Fr. Harry “Dutch” Olivier, S.J., was feted by the Phoenix Jesuit community and by Brophy College Preparatory Sept. 5 on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Merlin “Bud” Henry Jr. had a wonderful Danube River cruise this summer beginning in Bucharest and ending in Budapest with stops on the Black Sea, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia and Hungary. Also, his 16th grandchild arrived in November 2006.

Members of the Class of 1951 celebrated their 55-year reunion in September. They marked the occasion by presenting Humanitarian Awards to classmates Gordon Getty, Dr. Peter Kane, Leo Koulos, George Leal and John Moriarty. “This was an award to our classmates from our classmates, and is the highest honor we offer,” said Skip MacDonald.

James Weiss recently retired and is now living in Central Point, Ore., after working 33 years for the Department of Defense as an electronics engineer. James is enjoying traveling around the U.S., boating and fishing.

Alex Golitzin, founder of Quilceda Creek Winery, received a score of 100 from the Wine Advocate for both his 2002 and 2003 Quilceda Creek Cabernet Sauvignon. This is the first time any wine from Washington state has received a perfect score.

Five members of the Class of 1958 in October visited the Piemonte area of Italy, where they were hosted by Gianni Fassio, who lives there. From left are Jim Downey, Gianni Fassio, Jack Casey, Al Zavattero, Mike Callan and Mike Carroll. The group took a cooking class at the International Culinary School of Foreign Chefs and visited several wineries.

Paul Pelosi has the distinction of being married to the first woman ever to become Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi.

Howard Eggers is a professor of law at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Phil “Fritz” Tomasello continues to race his bicycle in masters’ competition. He won the 2006 State Championship for California and Nevada, the Senior Olympics, the SoCal Series Cup and the USA Cycling Nationals in Pennsylvania, where he won three medals. The season highlight was winning the state championship jersey on youngest granddaughter Olivia’s third birthday.
66
Don Dana, a vice president at Wells Fargo, was featured in the Marin Independent Journal for his archeological expedition, traveling by “skin boat” up the east coast of Russia, trying to prove that ancient tribes could have migrated from Russia to Alaska across the Bering Strait by boat.

67
Paul Contreras has the lead for the Redding City Musical Theatre’s production of South Pacific.

68
Chris Collins’s play Victorian opened in Hollywood at the Hudson Guild Theatre last October. The story revolves around the struggles of a San Francisco working class family.

73
Paul Kolling, founder of Nana Mae’s Organics, was featured in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat last August. Paul, his wife Kendra, and their five children, tend to 500 acres of apple trees in Sonoma County. Thanks to his success, the International Slow Foods Society invited Paul and Kendra to be the U.S. delegates at last October’s Terra Madre Conference in Turin, Italy.

Ken Pulskamp, who attended SI until 1971 when his family moved to Fresno, was selected as the most influential person for the City of Santa Clarita by The Santa Clarita Valley Signal. The newspaper credited him for helping the city to run “like a well-oiled machine.” Dan Masnada ’71 was also featured in that issue for his work as general manager of Castaic Lake Water Agency.

75
Tom Stack is Broker Associate with Caldwell-Banker in Orinda.

77
David Churton, after a three-year sabbatical in Kristiansand, Norway, with his wife and their three children, is back in San Francisco working for Jones Lang LaSalle, a global real estate consulting and money management company with 600 employees in Northern California. David is the firm’s international director and market leader responsible for new business development and transaction management.

Eugene Gloria read from his new book of poetry, Hoodlum Birds, at City Lights Bookstores in San Francisco on Nov. 9.

Pat Hughes and his wife, Dawn, have three children. Their daughter, Melissa, started at Harvard last fall. Their older daughter, Jackie, is a senior at UC Santa Barbara, and their son, Mike, is a high school junior in Pleasant Hill. Pat, an area manager for AT&T, has worked with the company for 28 years.

Kevin Mayer is a partner and civil attorney in the Los Angeles office of Steptoe & Johnson LLP. He continues to practice in the field of toxic and mass torts and environmental and OSHA litigation. Over the past two years, Kevin has been named one of the “Best Lawyers in America” by Woodward/White, Inc., and as a “Southern California Super Lawyer” by Los Angeles Magazine. His recent article in the Defense Research Institute’s For The Defense, “Debunking the Expansion of Defendants Theory,” received a 2006 Burton Award for Legal Achievement. Kevin and his wife, Donna, reside in Pacific Palisades with their three sons.

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Vincenzo Pierotti worked as a molecular biologist for 18 years, including a stint from 1998 to 2002 living and working in Paris with his wife, Elizabeth. After returning to their home in San Francisco, they adopted their first child, Julian, from South Korea. Since retiring from working with the invisible, he has focused his efforts on things he can actually see, namely remodeling a couple of homes, investing in real estate and trying to convince his son who is in charge. He greatly regretted missing SI’s sesquicentennial celebration, but he was in San Diego running his first marathon (since trumped by a better run this year).

The Class of 1966 (top) held its reunion Sept. 16 at SI, and the Class of 1971 (below) held its on Oct. 28.
Chuck Nan is the author of *Fifty Years by the Bay*, which celebrates the golden anniversary of the San Francisco Giants, with memories, stories, anecdotes and statistics from their time in the Bay Area. Look for more on this book in the next issue of *Genesis V*.

Giles Miller is the new major gifts officer for Catholic Charities CYO. He is the former director of alumni relations at Saint Mary’s College in Moraga, where he developed and managed alumni outreach and events, major donor cultivation and stewardship for the college.

Joe Morris, who raises grass-fed beef in San Juan Baptista, was featured in the *Chronicle* in September.

Mario Donati has been elected to the board of directors of the Ferrari Club of America and was appointed president of the Italian American Community Services Agency. Mario and his wife, Anthy, are living in San Francisco.

Brian Jeffrey is practicing pathology in Tampa. Kids are Mary, 19, who will attend Florida State in the fall; Chris, 16; Emily, 10; Nick, 9; Jeremiah, 5; and Max 3.

Paul Merrill married Beverly Ann Howe at sunset on the beach in Maui on April 29. It is the first marriage for both. Having met while living in Juneau, Paul and Bev bought a home and relocated to Bellingham, Wash. This summer, Paul will start a new job as a ship pilot with the Southeast Alaska Pilots’ Association in Ketchikan. Drop him an email at marinesvcs@gmail.com if you’re coming to Alaska on a cruise.


Chris Krueger lives in Sacramento with his wife, Kristine Burks, and sons Henry and Daniel. In July, Chris, who works in the California Attorney General’s Office, argued the State of California’s position in four cases challenging the state’s ban on same-sex marriage before the California Court of Appeal. In October, the Court ruled in favor of the State.

Patrick Quinn has been employed with the *San Francisco Chronicle* for the past 16 years. He and his wife, Darcy, have two children, Isabel, 4, and Michael, 2.

Vincent Sweeters is the new principal of St. Monica Elementary School in San Francisco.

Daniele Maraviglia married Margaret Catherine McPeake Aug. 4 at St. Ignatius Church in San Francisco. In attendance were Allen Lew ’86, James Farrell ’86, Thomas Ling ’86, Joe Leonetti ’86 and the groom’s cousin, Erica Grassini ’95. The happy couple will live in Healdsburg.

Conor Sheridan formed his own financial advisory firm called Sheridan Capital Management.
Brad Angeja, MD, after 12 years at UCSF, is in his third year of cardiology practice at Cardiovascular Associates of the Peninsula in Burlingame. He lives in San Francisco with his wife, Alea, and their son, Andrew, born December 2005. Jeff Pon his wife, Gillian, celebrated their daughter Cordelia’s first birthday on Oct. 2. Jeff is the head of human resources for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Marco Campagna was featured in Santa Clara Law as one of 24 graduating law students who earned the Public Interest and Social Justice Law Certificate from SCU’s School of Law. The article praised Marco for his work with the Northern California Innocence Project and for serving as president of the Environmental Law Society.

Four members of the Class of 1991 spent their summer vacation in South Lake Tahoe along with their families. From left are David O’Connor with Aidan and Jack, Christian Molinari with Francisco and Santiago, Matt Collopy with Carli and Kyle, and Michael Mulkerrins with Michaela and Colin. Mulkerrins is the new head coach for the varsity girls’ basketball team at St. Ignatius College Prep.

Lt. Michael H. Cheng, USN, married Jennifer M. Watson on Aug. 28 in a small civil ceremony in the presence of immediate family members. Fellow alumna Greg Rougley ’91 was in attendance as well as his sisters Sabrina Cheng ’93 and Nathalie Cheng ’96 and friends Michael Watson ’94 and Katie (Watson) Lindell ’97. He left for deployment to the Middle East last October.

Anthony Kozuch married Ana Maria Zavala of Arlington, Va., on July 1 at San Miguel Arcángel Church in Escazú, Costa Rica. SI alumni in the wedding party included Anthony Christen ’91 and Dennis Melka ’91. Ted Henning ’91, Rob Kellogg ’91 and Jeffrey Burstein ’91 were also in attendance. The couple lives in the Washington, DC, area where Anthony operates Communiqué Conferencing, Inc. and Ana Maria is Associate Head of Academic Programs at the National Gallery of Art.

Benjamin Chan’s band, Bigyellowband, will release a single next year and will perform at the Linbury Theatre (London’s Royal Opera House) in February. That same month, he will attend a Chinese New Year’s party at the House of Commons. Last October he played organ in a quartet for the Pope’s ambassador to the United Kingdom, and he performed to 500 in the City Showcase Festival in central London. Last November, he spoke at his first International Conference in London, discussing his innovative work on Collaborative Working Enquiry Portals, which was a finalist for the 2006 International Information Industry Awards. He was married in July 2005 to Adeline McKenzie at the Bellagio with James Cavanagh ’92 as best man. His daughter, Tamra, is a year old. Mark Gottas married Stacy Hartmann in San Francisco Oct. 14. Dan Gottas ’86 was the best man, and groomsman included Kevin Perotti ’92, Joe Hallisy ’92, Damian Crosby ’92 and Kevin Zeidan ’91. Also in attendance were Ren Riley ’92, Louk Stephens ’92, Derek Anthony ’92, Steve Malouf ’91, Brian Murphy ’94, Fred Formosa ’94 and Mike Mulry ’94.

Kirsten Hetzel is now Kirsten H. Wilson, having married Tim D. Wilson Jr. in a candlelight ceremony in Houston on Nov. 18. The couple resides in Houston, where Kirsten practices law with the International Arbitration section of Fulbright & Jaworski LLP. SI alumni attending included Chris Stecher ’92, Amy Narvaez Stecher ’93 and Oliver Mar ’93.

Matt O’Donnell is a firefighter, EMT and rescue technician with the Ebbetts Pass Fire Department in the Sierra foothills. He is an instructor in High Angle Rope Rescue for other firefighters. Chris Zonnas completed a short film with Aaron White ’92 as his cinematographer. Go to www.strangerthefilm.com for a preview. He plans to submit his work to film festivals in the Bay Area, New York and Los Angeles.

James Evangelista married Aimee Antonio at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Palo Alto. Serving as groomsmen were classmates Joe Chu and Eric Valle. Other class of ’94 members present attending included Mikey Ang and Ashley Sakai. Pictured, from left, are Eric Valle, Ashley Sakai, James Evangelista, Mikey Ang and Joe Chu.

Mike Mibach married Kara Seklecki at St. Pius X Church in Tuscan, Ariz., on Sept. 16. They met when Mike was working in Tucson at KVOA. Mike’s brother, Bruce ’88, and Nate Barulich ’94 were in the wedding party, Brandt Hazen ’88 and Brendan Jacobsen ’94 were also in attendance.

Capt. Jay Vallario and Capt. Pat Faye are serving together in 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. Pat is an infantry officer serving as the commanding officer of Lima Company. Jay is a Harrier Pilot serving in a non-flying role as the Air Officer to the Battalion. The two have been in Iraq since early September and are scheduled to return to the states sometime in April.

Tom Callen married Jenny Jenkins in Hawaii on Sept. 23.
Juliet Chiarella completed her master’s degree at UC Berkeley and is teaching English at Albany High School.

Anthony Jew recently left the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in New York to join J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. in New York as a vice president and assistant general counsel.

Cassidy Raher, after three years living in Los Angeles and working as an academic advisor for student-athletes at USC, moved back to San Francisco and took a job working as an academic advisor for student-athletes at UC Berkeley. Housed in Cal’s Athletic Study Center, he is one of seven advisors working to increase graduation rates for student-athletes at Cal.

Rayfil Wong, after graduating from UC Berkeley, has been in corporate marketing. Currently, he is the managing partner of his own start-up company, Shoppingbuffet.com, the first discount shopping site with life coaching tips such as reducing stress.

Christopher Eddy graduated with Spanish language honors from Thunderbird, The Garvin School of International Management, in May of 2006. He received his MBA in international management from the school.

Derek Drummond recently moved back to San Francisco after eight years in Boulder, Colo. with his wife Jillian. Derek is a partner at a boutique investment firm specializing in Hedge Fund portfolios.

Roderick Garcia and Evelyn Ho ’98 were married Aug. 27 at the Tsakopolous Library Galleria in Sacramento. In attendance were best man Christopher Garcia ’92, groomsman Alex Ha ’97, bridesmaids Fiona Ho ’05 and Amelia Ho ’08 along with Darren Ho ’01, Kristina Szeto ’98, Arel Gonzales ’97, Matthew Cano ’97, Michael Scheerer ’97, John Saito ’97, Cesar Vergel de Dios ’97, Kevin Cronin ’01, Peter Cronin ’08 and Joey Duggan ’08.

Marianne Pons married Paul Badawi Sept. 2. Pictured with Marianne (at left) are classmates Teresa Huddleston, Eileen Vollert, Julie Vidosh, Jenene Roberto, Danielle Devenzenzi and Genny Poggetti.

Sara Templeton published her second book in the Memoirs of A Dance series (www.lulu.com/content/402398). This book takes readers on a largely candid, moderately philosophical, and often humorous journey through the making of a comedic work that she premiered in April 2006. (See story in this issue.)

Greg Chiarella is teaching history and religion at Seattle Prep.

Angela Leus is the manager of motion picture music at The Weinstein Company/Dimension Films, the new company started by Harvey and Bob Weinstein, with whom she also worked for at Miramax/Dimension Films for four years. Angela has worked on such films as Chicago, Gangs of New York, the Scary Movie series, Clerks 2 and School for Scoundrels. She has also acted as co-music supervisor on the independent film In Memory of My Father, which won the Grand Jury Prize at the Cinevegas film festival in 2005.

Alnette Dela Rosa received her DDS from UCLA last June and is now practicing general dentistry in San Francisco with her father, who is also a general dentist, and her sister, Jacqueline ’94, who is a pediatric dentist.

Greg Teshara has been installed as president-elect of the Alumni Board of Directors for St. Mary’s College.

Christine Abalos graduated from UCLA in June 2006 with a degree in psychology. She received the Chancellor’s Service Award at graduation. Over the summer, she volunteered as a counselor for UCLA’s Unicamp, a camp for economically underprivileged kids. She now lives in Marina del Ray and works at Cypress Retail Group, a commercial real estate group serving Southern California.

Martine Darwish graduated from UC Davis with a bachelor’s degree in biotechnology in June and is working at Genentech in South San Francisco.

Corey Pallatto graduated Phi Beta Kappa

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Charlene Abalos graduated with a bachelor’s degree in accounting in 2003 from SCU. She is now working as a home mortgage consultant for Wells Fargo in San Francisco.

John Cranston is in his second year at the Stanford Business School.

Marisa McCarthy’s essay was selected for Twentysomething Essays by Twentysomething Writers, published by Random House last August.

Georgina Anton graduated with honors from Northwestern University in 2005 and is now living in Washington, DC, where she is the senior paralegal specialist in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Environment and Natural Resources Division, Law & Policy Section. She is also a lay Episcopal minister at Washington National Cathedral, and she works part-time at the Cathedral’s Center for Global Justice and Reconciliation.

Pat Callaghan, after graduating from Fordham in 2005, completed a year of service in the Nashville Jesuit Volunteer community, where he worked with ex-offenders by helping them find employment, housing and treatment for alcohol and drug abuse. He now works in the campus ministry office at Fordham while pursuing his Master of Social Work degree. He hopes to continue working with the offender population.


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from UC Berkeley in May with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. She is currently working at the San Francisco Bay Area Center for Cognitive Therapy and is planning to attend graduate school.

Karen Tumaneng graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in September 2006 with a bachelor’s degree in counseling and family psychology and a minor in child development. She is engaged to her longtime boyfriend, Jordan Wilmes, and they plan to wed in July 2008. She is currently working for the Superior Court of California.

03

Pat Downs, a senior at Denison University in Granville, Ohio, playing offensive tackle for the varsity football team, was chosen as one of the “top 10 players to watch” by The Plain Dealer. At the end of the 2005 season, Patrick was named All Conference Honorable Mention for the North Coast Athletic Conference and Outstanding Offensive Lineman for Denison University.

Heidi Tuason is in her fourth year at UC San Diego, double majoring in biochemistry/cell biology and ethnic studies. After studying in the Philippines the summer after her first year, she has been involved in the Filipino community on-campus and in the San Diego area. For the past three years, she has been teaching at the UCSD student learning center OASIS, teaching calculus and biology. She is involved in an on-campus Christian fellowship and bible study. She also works part-time in a molecular biology lab and as an intern at the UCSD Cross Cultural Center as a diversity peer educator. She hopes to work in public health in minority communities before pursuing a master’s degree.

04

Four friends from the Class of 2004 met in Florence, Italy, in the fall. From left are Sam Madison (Fordham), Elizabeth Harris (Boston University), Brittany Harrison (UCLA) and Carly Rayburn (Boston College). Harris is studying with Gonzalez’s Florence program along with Harrison Worner ’04 (SCU). Rayburn flew in from Australia and Brittany from Spain for this reunion.

Lisa Fike is attending USC with a double major in political science and English literature. Curtis Hayden is studying abroad his junior year at UC Davis’s program in Rome. Elizabeth Maslia is in her third year at Boston University majoring in psychology.

05

Greg Mangan, a sophomore quarterback at Oberlin, set a school record for passing yards in only his second start.

Zac Lee, quarterback for CCSE, took his team to the state championship where he threw for more than 350 yards. He has committed to play for Nebraska University.

06

Jeff Cosgriff, a freshman at SCU, was chosen WCC All Conference Freshman First Team. Top Drawer Soccer named him to Soccer Men’s College All-Rookie Team, a national honor. In the game against Indiana University in round 16 of the NCAA tournament, Jeff volunteered to take the sixth penalty kick. He slid the ball into the right hand corner of the net after sending the keeper the other way, helping SCU move into the quarterfinals against Wake Forest.

Jaclyn Kurtela had an article published with Women’s International. She credits English teachers Tim Reardon ’86, Kate Denning and Jim Bjorkquist ’65 with inspiring her to write and publish. She is now at the University of San Diego.

Alanna Pinnel performed along with Lawrence Papale ’06 and Reed Campbell ’08 in the ACT Youth Conservatory’s production of Charley’s Aunt at the Zeum Theatre.

Melissa Pun, a freshman on the Williams College volleyball team, was named to the 2006 AVCA All-Region (New England) team.
**Births**

79
James M. Sweeney and his wife, Anne, a son, Aidan Matthew, born July 21, 2006.

81
Michael De Benedetti and his wife, Kim, a son, Marco Miyahara, born Oct. 18, 2006. Marco joins older brothers Matthew and Anthony.

84
Martin D. Murphy and his wife, Marie, a daughter, Sierra Skye, born Sept. 27, 2006.

85
Mike Farrah and his wife, Maya, a son, Finnegan Abraham Draisin, born June 18, 2006.

86
Jeff Bryan and his wife, Peggy, two sons and a daughter — Bobby, 3; Ruth, 4; and Darius, 5. They join Christina and Claire. The family will be moving in the spring to Pullman, Wash., where Jeff will be an Assistant Professor of Veterinary Oncology.

87

88
Chris Dunn and his wife, Michelle Jondreau, a son, Ian Michael, born Oct. 29, 2006.

89
Damon Anthony Valla and his wife, Amy, a son, Anthony Eugene, born June 8, 2006.

90
Mario Alioto and his wife, Amee, a son, Mario Frank IV, born Aug. 28, 2006.
Khang Do and his wife, Rebecca, a daughter, Elizabeth Presley, born March 3, 2006.
Stephen Wynne and his wife, Jessica, a son, Webb Garrett, born Sept. 10. Webb joins big brother Hunter.

91
Tom Burns and his wife, Allison, a daughter, Colleen Nora, born Oct. 18, 2006.

92
Bryan Ruane and his wife, Heather, a son, Brody Martin, born Sept. 26, 2006, in Gilbert, Ariz., where they have lived for more than two years.

94
Kelly (Murphy) Reaud and her husband, Sylvain, a daughter, Madison Emilie Elisabeth, born on Aug. 18, 2006.

95
Aaron Molinari and his wife, Katie (Hall) ’95, a son, Shane Murphy, born Aug. 18, 2006.

96

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**Boys-State Reps**

Boys State Reps
Every year, the various American Legion posts in San Francisco sponsor nine SI students for Boys State in Sacramento, held in the third week of June. Students run for office from governor on down and write and pass legislation in this model-government workshop. Fr. Paul Capitolo, S.J. ’53 (center), has served as the group’s moderator for the past 33 years. Attending this year, from left, were Ryan Aguirre, Nicholas Suhr, Hal David Cope, Danny Tate, David Kolenda, John Stanley and Frederic Madigan; inset are Christian Habelt and Hunter Leese.

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**In Memoriam**

32 John P. Horgan
32 Charles R. McNamara
35 Raymond J. Roque
36 Rev. Roger D. McAuliffe, S.J.
37 Alfred E. Crescio
37 Thomas L. Tasso, Sr.
38 Rinaldo F. (Ray) Ritchie
38 Hugh J. Barsotti
40 Richard M. Roche
41 Joseph G. “Jerry” Bussiere
41 Dr. John R. “Ray” Hyde
42 Robert H. Keenan
46 Richard H. O’Brien
46 James E. Furrier
48 William (Bill) Briare
49 Daniel P. Donovan
55 Dr. R. Jerome Ennis
56 Francis K. “the Hub” Hubner
57 Lloyd A. Ritter Jr.
57 Daniel J. Flynn
59 Robert K. Crawford
59 Thomas O’Neill
60 Charles W. “Chips” Maurer
61 Daniel I. O’Callaghan
63 James V. Kinavey
64 Paul E. Bergez
66 Wade A. Francois
70 Kevin E. Scharetg
05 Boris Albiner
(05) Zachary Roche-Balsam

Former faculty
Rev. George M. Twigg-Porter, S.J.
Alex Schwarz (athletic director & coach)

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52 GENESIS V
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Saturday, March 3, 2007

go to www.siprep.org for more information

Don Mancini, Auction Chairman
Brit Hahn, Auction Vice Chairman
## Calendar 2007

### January 2007
- 3-4: Faculty Retreat, no classes
- 5: Classes resume 8:30 a.m.
- 6: SI Entrance Exam 8 a.m.-noon
- 9: Ignatian Guild Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- 16-20: Dance Concert, Wiegand 7 p.m.
- 21: Ignatian Guild Day of Recollection 10 a.m.
- 25: Father’s Club Crab and Cards, Commons 5:30 p.m.

### February
- 4: Mother-Student Communion Breakfast 9 a.m.
- 6: Sophomore Parent College Night 7 p.m.
- 10: Class of 1986 Reunion, SI 5 p.m.
- 13: Ignatian Guild Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 14-15: Dramatic Arts Festival 7 p.m.
- 19: President’s Day Holiday
- 20: Board of Regents Meeting, Library 4 p.m.
- 23: Tentative Magazine Holiday
- 25: Christ the King Award Mass & Reception 10 a.m.
- 27: Board of Trustees Meeting 4 p.m.

### March
- 3: Fathers’ Club Auction 6 p.m.
- 8: Faculty In-Service, no classes
- 9: Quarter Break
- 13: Ignatian Guild Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 20: College Night
- 23: Father-Daughter Night, Commons 8:30 p.m.
- 30: Mother-Son Night, Commons 6:30 p.m.

### April
- 3: Ignatian Guild Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 5: Easter Break Begins
- 6: Holy Thursday Service, Orradre 7:30 p.m.
- 7: Good Friday Service, Orradre 7:30 p.m.
- 7: Easter Vigil, Orradre 8 p.m.
- 15: Golden Diploma, Chapel & Commons 10 a.m.
- 16: Classes resume 8:30 a.m.
- 17: General Parent Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 20: College Case Studies Program 1 p.m.
- 23-28: Spring Musical 7 p.m.
- 28: International Food Faire 4-8 p.m.

### May
- 1-5: Spring Musical 7 p.m.
- 2: Board of Regents’ Meeting 4 p.m.
- 3: Father-Son Dinner, Commons 6 p.m.
- 8: Counseling, Transition to College Night 7 p.m.
- 7: Ignatian Guild Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 12: Class of 1977 Reunion
- 15: Ignatian Guild Installation Mass & Reception 11 a.m.
- 16-17: Choral Concert, Bannan 7 p.m.
- 17: Father Harry V. Carlin Heritage Society Luncheon noon
- 18: Fathers’ Club Barbecue, Commons 5:30 p.m.
- 19: Counseling, Transition to College Night 7:30 p.m.
- 21: Faculty In-Service, no classes
- 22: Senior Day Off
- 23: Ignatian Guild Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 24: Board of Trustees 4 p.m.
- 25: Transition Liturgy, Holy Name Church 8:30 a.m.
- 25: Awards Assembly 8:30 a.m.
- 25: Class of 2007 Alumni Lunch 11 a.m.
- 28: Memorial Day Holiday
- 29-31: Final Exams 8:30 a.m.

### June
- 2: Graduation, St. Ignatius Church 10:30 a.m.
- 4: Fathers’ Club Installation Lunch 11:30 a.m.
- 8: All-Alumni Golf & Dinner, Commons

## FATHERS’ CLUB EVENTS

### Prayer & Scrambled Eggs

The Fathers’ Club sponsored its annual Father-Student Communion Breakfast in October. Pictured here are Fr. Walsh and Club President Paul Gaspari ’70 along with members of the board and their children.

### Welcome Back BBQ

The Fathers’ Club held its annual welcome back barbecue in September. Fathers of freshmen met veteran dads at this sold out event and heard a talk from incoming President Robert Walsh, S.J. Pictured above are Fathers’ Club volunteers who prepared the meal.

## SPIRITUS ‘MAGIS’:

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Summer Stones
Story & Photo by Paul Totah
Editor, Genesis V

I’m too much the English teacher. I go on vacation, and I look for themes. It’s how I enjoy myself. Others want beaches and summer books. I want ideas and integration. It’s a problem, I know.

Last July my family — my wife, Kathy, and our children, Lauren ’07 and Michael ’10 — divided three weeks between Italy and England, celebrating World Cup mania in the one and West End musicals in the other.

I began my theme hunt in the greatest theme park in the western world — Rome. If I couldn’t find meaning among the ruins here, then I’d best call it a day.

In Rome we soon found ourselves in the only free museum in town — the Forum. Its finest attraction — and Rick Steves may disagree here — is a simple stone covered with wilted flowers and hid beneath a tin roof. On this spot, those who loved Julius Cesar cremated him, turning his ashes into empire. This spot became a fulcrum, with 500 years of a grand republic descending on one end of a vast seesaw and, on the other, 500 years of Roman dictatorship rising and then falling again, as empires often do.

Amid the weathered arches, we saw icons of conquest. On one, a soldier holds a menorah, something he lifted from the temple during the Roman sack of Jerusalem. Carved on another arch, an emperor leads a prisoner in chains back to Rome to a life of slavery. Here was naked empire, advertising what empires are about — stealing treasure and manpower from wherever they can.

The Romans were not alone in their lust for goodies. The Vandals and Visigoths, although lacking an empire, had their eyes on the prizes of Roman homes, temples, baths and treasuries, and came to claim their share of the loot.

So far, I wasn’t too impressed with this theme. If I had to grade myself, I’d give this a pity B-. Empires rise and fall. No surprise here. I wanted something grander, original and beyond the obvious comparison between the Roman and American empires and our current quest for Middle East loot and overseas manpower (oh so cheap and oh so unburdened with workers’ rights).

England helped my theme quest a bit. We saw the same braggadocio in England as in Rome, where Windsor Castle and the British Museum held the trophies of the British Empire — everything from the facades of Grecian temples to a life-size statue of a golden tiger, captured from some king who dared stand up to Victoria’s military might.

But I also heard other echoes between these two empires. In Rome and Assisi, I found churches with the same name — Santa Maria Sopra Minerva. Above temples to Minerva, the Roman goddess of medicine and healing (as well as warriors, poetry, wisdom, crafts and commerce), the early Christians built churches to Mary. Perhaps they saw in this great saint the same kind of healing powers Romans saw in Minerva.

Later, in Bath, colonized by the Romans about 40 years before Mary’s journey to Bethlehem, I had a chance to look at Minerva (at least a bronze mask of her) in the eye.

Here, on the fringes of the nascent Roman Empire, soldiers saw hot water streaming from the ground and decided to build a grand bath. They also discovered that the locals worshipped a goddess named Sulis — a healer — and they built the Temple of Sulis Minerva, merging these two goddesses as they sought health in the mineral waters rising from the underworld.

The bronze head of a statue to Minerva (once gilded) now stares back at us as in Rome, where Windsor Castle and the British Museum held the trophies of the British Empire — everything from the facades of Grecian temples to a life-size statue of a golden tiger, captured from some king who dared stand up to Victoria’s military might.

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