MICHAEL MARON ’77
CEO, HOLY NAME MEDICAL CENTER

BERGEN CATHOLIC IN
HEALTHCARE AND BEYOND
**2011**

**Upcoming Events**

**Friday, September 23, 2011 – Saturday, September 24, 2011**

**Class of 1961 50-Year Anniversary Reunion Weekend**

**Friday:** 12:00 P.M. Lunch and golf – Hackensack Golf Club, Oradell, NJ. Dinner reception to follow.

**Saturday:** 1:00 P.M. Varsity football game vs. Teaneck – Crusader Stadium.

4:00 P.M. Reception gathering and welcome – B.C. Library. Tours of Bergen Catholic High School given by current Crusaders.

5:00 P.M. Celebration Mass in the McKenna Lawrence Chapel.

7:00 P.M. Dinner reception – Bacari Grill, 800 Ridgewood Road, Washington Township, NJ.

**Saturday, September 24, 2011**

**Class of 1991 20-Year Anniversary Reunion**

1:00 P.M. Varsity football game vs. Teaneck – Crusader Stadium.

4:00 P.M. Reception gathering and welcome – B.C. Library. Tours of Bergen Catholic High School given by current Crusaders.

5:00 P.M. Celebration Mass in the McKenna Lawrence Chapel.

7:00 P.M. Dinner reception – Bacari Grill, 800 Ridgewood Road, Washington Township, NJ.

**Wednesday, September 28, 2011**

**Alumni Golf Outing**

Hackensack Golf Club – Oradell, NJ.

$295.00 per golfer, limited to the first 60 paid golfers; includes lunch, golf with cart, dinner, and prizes. Will you win the 50-50?

**Saturday, October 15, 2011**

**Class of 1971 40-Year Anniversary Reunion**

1:00 P.M. Varsity football game vs. St. Joseph Regional – Crusader Stadium.

7:00 P.M. Dinner reception - Bacari Grill (Banquet Room), 800 Ridgewood Road, Washington Township, NJ.

**Saturday, October 15, 2011**

**Class of 1996 15-Year Anniversary Reunion**

1:00 P.M. Varsity football game vs. St. Joseph Regional – Crusader Stadium.

7:00 P.M. Dinner reception – Bacari Grill (Terrace Room), 800 Ridgewood Road, Washington Township, NJ.

**Friday, November 4, 2011**

**4th Annual Crusader Gala**

(A President's Office and Parents’ Club event)

6:30 P.M. Cocktail hour, dinner to follow.

Honorees: John Crowley ’85, Alison and John ’75 Corcoran, CP, AP, Br. Jack Mostyn ’59, C.F.C., John Puzio

**Saturday, November 5, 2011**

**Class of 1986 25-Year Anniversary Reunion**

7:00 P.M. Dinner reception – Bacari Grill (Banquet Room), 800 Ridgewood Road, Washington Township, NJ.

**Saturday, November 12, 2011**

**Alumni Memorial Mass**

(Courtesy of the Alumni Association)

10:00 A.M. Mass in the McKenna Lawrence Chapel.

Brunch immediately following – Seasons, 644 Pasack Road, Washington Township, NJ.

**Friday, November 25, 2011**

**Alumni Football Social**

7:00 P.M.: Bacari Grill (Banquet Room), 800 Ridgewood Road, Washington Township, NJ.

Thanks to the continued generosity our friend John Amoratis ’77, we’ll have the same great deal as we have in the past: $50.00 per person, which includes open bar all night and full buffet dinner. For those alums under 21, the cost will be only $25.00 (of course, without the alcohol). Please call to RSVP regardless of method of payment. We really need to get a good idea of what numbers to expect for the night to go as smoothly as possible. MasterCard or Visa accepted.

Contact: Tom Polifroni ’99 for further details via e-mail at: tpolifroni@aol.com.
Dear Friend of Bergen Catholic,

As we move into the early days of summer and reflect on the school year that was (2010-11) and focus on the school year that is to be (2011-12), we believe the best way for us to show how well we are doing as a school is to give the pages normally used for our messages in BERGEN CATHOLIC CRUSADER MAGAZINE to sharing with you the remarks given at our June Graduation by the student (selected by his classmates) who spoke on behalf of the Class of 2011.

Sincerely,

Br. Brian M. Walsh
President

Timothy J. McElhinney
Principal
Graduation Address

Carl Romanos ’11

G
ood morning Br. Walsh, Mr. McElhinney, Ms. Tambone-Puzio, Mr. Haemmerle, members of the administration, faculty, staff, members of the Board of Directors, parents, family members, honored guests, and fellow graduates of the Class of 2011.

Perhaps the only time I think I ever witnessed complete silence from an auditorium filled with around 180 rather lively young men was during the Senior Liturgy, before the Communion Breakfast just three weeks ago. Mr. Powers had just asked us, the Class of 2011, to offer prayers for Luis Cubas, one of our classmates, who had just been in a serious car accident that morning. The news was that Luis was all right, but suddenly the gym was dead silent — every man motionless, every face filled with genuine concern. A collective nerve had been struck; one of our own had been in danger.

The almost instinctive reaction that the group had to the news was a prime example of the strength of the Bergen Catholic brotherhood. It is not a brotherhood of blood, but the type of brotherhood that takes time and hard work to cultivate. It is the unique bond between boys who’ve become men together. What makes the bond so strong is that we have not grown to become any ordinary men, but to become Crusaders. Throughout our four years at Bergen, we have pushed to excel in the areas of “Mind, Body, and Spirit” — a rigorous but ultimately rewarding process. As scholars, athletes, and children of God, we have grown together while maturing into our own unique “selves.”

All of this growth is possible because Bergen Catholic is such a collaborative environment. Everyone who has gone to our school knows what it means to be on a team — whether that team is the football team, the Mock Trial team, the school newspaper, or any other student group — a Crusader understands that the key to real success lies in others as much as it lies in himself. As members of teams and organizations, we have experienced both the highs of victory and success and the lows of loss and failure, but we never cease to learn throughout the process. In this way, I see the true Crusader as the person who never stops growing and progressing.

Above all, as Crusaders we value the importance of human connection. Looking back, it is the unique people who have walked these halls alongside us who have made the journey worthwhile. In our fellow classmates, as well as in our teachers, we have found confidants, mentors, advisors, and most importantly, friends. Without these special people, our current “selves” would be impossible; the level of growth we’ve had would be unthinkable. In the future, memories of each other will help keep us strong when times are rough.

Although we are physically leaving Bergen Catholic, we each carry the spirit of Bergen Catholic within us wherever we go. To be frank, I have no anxieties, no fear, when I think of our future as a class. When I look at my fellow graduates, I can’t help but notice the air of pure confidence in each of you. Whether we realize it or not, we are all prepared to move on to the next stage of our lives. While we all have been pushed to our very limits as individuals, our real strength is the invaluable knowledge that we will always have the Bergen Catholic community behind us. We have people we can lean on.

My charge to you, my fellow classmates, is not to shy away from those bonds or to neglect them as we move on in our lives. Instead, harness Bergen Catholic: the friendships and connections, the lessons learned and knowledge earned. Bring it with you as we all go our separate ways. Go forward into the future with the assurance that you will never have to face life alone. Remember that no matter how far you go in life, no matter how high you climb, no matter how low you fall, you will always, always have a home here. The Crusaders will always be your brothers. Thank you!

— June 5, 2011
C ombining medical technology and the human touch, the healthcare industry diagnoses, treats, and administers care around the clock, responding to the needs of millions of people — from newborns to the terminally ill. About 600,000 establishments make up the healthcare industry, varying in terms of size, staffing patterns, and organizational structures.

People interested in a career as a health diagnosing and treating practitioner, such as physicians and surgeons, optometrists, physical therapists, or audiologists, should be prepared to complete graduate school. A variety of post-secondary programs provide specialized training for jobs coupled with many years of education and training beyond college.

A few healthcare workers need Bachelor’s Degrees like social workers, health service managers, and some RNs. A majority of the technologist and technician occupations require a certificate or an associate degree; these programs usually have both classroom and clinical instruction and last about two years.

Aside from the statistics and general criteria for entering the field of healthcare, our alumni transcend the requisite and mundane, for the alumni of Bergen Catholic High School are imbued with the living spirit of Edmund Ignatius Rice — young men prepared to become leaders, with a deepened religious faith, students brimming with academic excellence, and perhaps, the tipping point — a highly-developed sense of social consciousness and responsibility. Therefore, their undying devotion is to healing and strengthening others.

Such has been the commitment of our B.C. alumni, continuing their journey beyond 1040 Oradell Avenue, where, perhaps the seeds had been sown, then nurtured in college and beyond. Continuing the mission of Edmund Rice, our graduates who entered the field of healthcare have made significant contributions, from research into diseases, to cures, and to providing support systems to innovation in patient care.

I asked each alumnus four questions:

1. How did you begin your journey into healthcare and what role did Bergen Catholic play in your calling?
2. In your calling, what is your role?
3. What have been your “glorious moments” in healthcare?
4. What guidance can you offer to the Bergen Catholic who may aspire to a calling in healthcare?

In their own words, we now profile some of these gifted men who have dedicated their lives to not only the human body, but to the human spirit as well.

JAMES OLESKE ’63, M.D.

James Oleske ’63, M.D., MPH, one of the nation’s foremost Pediatric Immunologist and Infectious Disease Specialists, is François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark, NJ. He is Director of the Division of Pediatric Pulmonary, Allergy and Immunology and Infectious Diseases in the Department of Pediatrics at UMDNJ/NJMS and serves as the Medical Director of the FXB Center for Children, one of the nation’s largest treatment centers for childhood HIV/AIDS. Throughout his career, the world-famous Dr. Oleske has authored over 230 peer-reviewed articles and participated in over 300 abstracts presented and published at national and international meetings. He was inducted into the Bergen Catholic Hall of Fame in 1990.

Dr. James Oleske ’63 may have been a rugged player on the gridiron for the Crusaders, but he’s a “softeee” at heart when it comes to children. “I realized that I enjoyed working with children while working summers as a life guard and swimming instructor at the Oradell Swim Club. During college, I realized that the best way to work with and help children was by becoming a pediatrician.
“In addition to a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow at B.C., there were the great comradely and lasting friendships made and kept, playing football — even with a losing record for most years (1959-63), participating in Mr. Obrotka’s band, and writing on the school newspaper (with one issue banned and confiscated!). I remember taking an unauthorized trip to the Eastern States Catholic Invitational Tournament in Providence, RI with the basketball team as one of the football players acting as cheerleaders (this was before “sister” schools), and getting walloped by Br. Keane on our return,” he remembers, proving that events that took place 40 years ago are still a fond memory.

“Perhaps the best of all memories for me were/are the Brother-teacher-friends I experienced and luckily can still see on occasion. Brother J.B. Walsh and his side-kick, Brother Gerard Gaffney, are on top of that list of individuals who taught not just subjects, but kindness, humility and our obligation to serve others as ourselves, and our families, and friends, as well as strangers in need.”

Asked to name a few of his “glorious moments” in healthcare, Dr. Oleske replied, “Recognizing in 1980 that infants were perinatally infected with HIV and dying from AIDS…participating in 1993 to help developing and treating pregnant HIV-infected women with AZT (the first available Antiretroviral drug) during the last two trimesters of pregnancy and the infant for the first six weeks of life — which prevented the usual 50% mother-to-infant transmission of HIV infection to now what is now to less than 1% in 2011.”

His advice to another generation of B.C. students? “As you go forward, enjoy college, but also recognize that your Science grades and the MCAP exams scores are important. It’s also important to do volunteer work in health-related projects,” he opines. “I applied to 30 medical schools and only had one interview and one acceptance to the-then Seton Hall Medical School. Be persistent and follow your dreams, letting no one, but especially yourself, keep you from what you want to do with your life.”

MICHAEL MARON ’77, CEO
Holy Name Medical Center

Michael Maron ’77 is the CEO of Holy Name Medical Center in Teaneck. He was inducted into the Bergen Catholic Hall of Fame in 2004.

“No career journey starts or finishes as planned.”

Michael Maron ’77 received some much-appreciated advice on his career choice from someone he knew very well for a long time. “While attending Bergen Catholic, both my older brother Ed (Class of 1976) and I became very interested in the Sciences. When Ed graduated from B.C., he went to Providence College as a Biology pre-med student. I thought I would do the same and follow in his footsteps.

“However, the summer before I started at Providence College, my brother and I had a long, focused conversation regarding the extended commitment required to become a physician: four years of grueling undergraduate studies, followed by four years of medical school, three years of residency and, perhaps, two more years in fellowship training for a specialty,” he recalls, looking back on a conversation that was eye-opening, to say the least. “It was intimidating and I wasn’t certain I had the conviction to pursue it to the end. To this day, I harbor great respect and admiration for all those who have chosen the noble profession of physician.

“I decided to switch my major to Accounting. At the start of my sophomore year, a Providence College counselor called me in after reviewing my records. He questioned why I dropped pre-med for Accounting and asked if I ever thought about running a hospital. At the time, I had no idea such jobs existed,” he remembers. “He encouraged me to keep
Accounting and add a second major in Health Policy Management.

“During my senior year, the same counselor called me in again and asked about my plan for the future. He encouraged me to sit for my GMATs, GREs, and LSATs — yes, all three exams, so I could consider options in health law or a Master’s in hospital administration,” recalled the former B.C. hockey star, who proved to be wise enough to follow the smart advice of others. “While interviewing at the various graduate programs I was considering, one recurring theme kept emerging: Every student and faculty member I met pointed out that I had a double major and an Accounting degree, that I had enough credentials to get a job right away.”

The B.C. Hall of Fame member looks back on his first job interview with a laugh, but also with a valuable lesson about “being yourself.” “I began interviewing with the big accounting firms and pursuing other business-related opportunities. One particular interview with Frito-Lay caught my attention. A friend in the class ahead of me had informed me that if you advanced to the second round of interviews with Frito-Lay, that they would fly you to Dallas, Texas for a weekend of interviews. Believe it or not, there I was, a senior in college, and I had never been on an airplane! My whole motivation was to try and get to the second round and earn that flight.

“The day of the first interview, I was playing basketball and lost track of the time. I realized I was too late to shower and change, so I raced to the interview, apologetic but very relaxed because I thought I had already lost my chance,” he adds, noting that the old adage that “honesty is the best policy” is quite true. “The interviewer was impressed with my honesty and engagement, and I was awarded the chance to fly to Dallas. There, my same relaxed, respectful-but-forthright manner earned me a very competitive job offer as a supervisor in a beef jerky plant in the middle of Pennsylvania. I respectfully declined, and took a position in the finance department of Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, earning less than 50 percent of the other offer. My hospital management career was officially launched.

“Many years later, I enrolled at Columbia University in the M.B.A. program to complete my education. For the last 14 years, I have been the President and CEO of Holy Name Medical Center in Teaneck. In this position, I am ultimately responsible for all the operations and patient care services the organization offers,” states Maron, widely known as one of the most important and influential people in Bergen County. “Working with a senior management team of professionals with expertise in nursing, finance, fund raising, law, human resources and facility management, as well as with physicians in many different medical and surgical specialties, we shepherd Holy Name through a very complex and changing healthcare system in one of the most competitive markets in the country. We accept responsibility for the safety of our patients and the quality of care they receive. We create a value proposition where high quality care can be delivered efficiently and affordably.”

“At Holy Name, we pride ourselves on providing a caring and compassionate environment for our patients and their families. While there have been many glorious moments along my journey, perhaps the one I am most proud of is our employee satisfaction rankings. Holy Name is consistently ranked the best hospital to work for in New Jersey and number 4 in the country.

“Many aspects of my Bergen Catholic education have influenced me and contributed to this accomplishment,” proclaims Maron, who is one of three brothers to attend B.C.
and is the father of three Crusaders’ alumni (Mike ’04, Brendan ’07, and Kyle ’09) and one current student (Patrick ’12). “The most important influence was the principle of respecting all those around you, with not just words, but with deeds and actions.

“A second highlight would be our Medical Center’s information technology achievements, which include writing our own software applications to assist in every aspect of our operations. We have won many awards and earned praise from physicians, nurses and others for our creativity and performance in this area. But what is most exciting is that, although we have been doing this for 20 years, it’s as if we’ve only just begun and there is still so much more to do.”

Maron has plenty of advice for his Bergen Catholic “brothers” — words made even more important due to his position as the President of the B.C. Alumni Association. “If you choose to pursue a career in healthcare, now is as good a time as any. When an industry is under siege from disruptive influences ranging from economic reform to technological advances, those influences create opportunity. Find the niche that fits you best; know yourself, your limits and your dreams. Do not pursue just financial rewards; if I did, I could still be running a beef jerky plant.

“Instead, pursue a path that you feel passionate about, love what you do, and the rewards will follow. If you are unsure of what that path may be, just start somewhere and never be afraid to admit you made a mistake. Paths can change — no, paths will change — you always have the power of choice. When you are uncertain, if a counselor has not sought you out, seek one out yourself. Ask, and then continue to ask, as many people as you can, about the paths they may envision for you. Respect their input, but pursue the course you feel is right for you. In the end, only you can make that decision.

“Fr. Shanley, President of Providence College, recently spoke these words at the 2011 commencement ceremony. Remember them; they will serve you well: ‘Making a living is part of a meaningful life, but there is more to the meaning of life than making a living’.”

DANTE IMPLICITO ’82, M.D.

Dante Implicito ’82, M.D., is an orthopedic spine surgeon in Glen Rock, NJ. He was inducted into the Bergen Catholic Hall of Fame in 2004.

“Medicine had a prominent role in my household growing up as my dad was a pharmacist,” recalls Dr. Dante Implicito ’82, noting that his career inspiration came from under his own roof. “We had many family friends who were physicians. They were very gracious and enthusiastic in responding to my curious questions about their career choices.”

Another event — this one tragic — influenced his future destination even more. “During my junior year at B.C., my mom very suddenly was diagnosed with acute leukemia on her 41st birthday and passed away four days later. This rocked my world, as you may imagine,” he remembers. “As the members of my family slowly pieced our lives back together, I became more fascinated by how this terrible disease could so suddenly take down my perfectly-healthy mom. By the time I enrolled at Johns Hopkins a year later, I was hell bent on what I wanted to do.

“I am an orthopedic spine surgeon — 15 years in practice now and still loving it, despite the ugly pressures that healthcare reform, insurance agita, etc. have placed on the profession.”

When asked about the satisfying elements of his job, he responded emphatically, “There is NO greater feeling than having someone come to me, truly suffering in horrific pain and unable to walk or move, and being blessed with the skill set to intervene and relieve the suffering. This is far more glorious than any monetary remuneration.”

So, then…why become a spine surgeon? “I get asked this
one (advice for aspiring physicians) all the time. The basic things: Make sure you love it. The economics, the liability, the pressures are all evolving and, unfortunately, not for the better in the foreseeable future. If you truly love taking care of people and relieving suffering, there is definitely room for you in this hugely-varied field.

“Have an open mind,” Dr. Implicito continues. “And finally, it is a marathon and not a sprint. The training post-high school takes about 12-16 years. It is difficult to see your high school buddies get their jobs right out of college and get started in ‘life’ while you need to, in large part, ‘postpone your gratification’ and endure your training until finally crossing your finish line,” sums up the B.C. Hall of Fame member.

MARK PIZZURRO ’92, M.D.

Dr. Mark Pizzurro ’92 drew plenty of inspiration from his father, Dr. Joseph Pizzurro, a highly-regarded orthopedic surgeon who is a familiar name to many former Crusaders’ football players. Still, he credits B.C. for having a role in his career decision.

“My journey into medicine has its footing in B.C., where I sparked an interest in the Sciences. Initially, I saw myself on the engineering and design side of implant manufacturing, rather than as a physician,” he remembers. “In my freshman year at Carnegie Mellon, I was in the School of Engineering. Late that year, I came to the realization that I was more interested in the science of medicine, and switched majors to Biology.

“A major part of this was finding that my motivation was people and being a care provider. It was around this time that I wrote a paper for a biomedical engineering seminar on how hip replacements could be improved,” recalls the younger brother of former B.C. star running back Drew Pizzurro ’88.

“It featured (former baseball and football star) Bo Jackson on the cover, with an X-ray of a hip prosthesis over his hip. The improvement in materials and design was not the fulfilling aspect of this paper. It was helping the guy on the cover that sparked my interests.

“B.C. helped me in many ways. Aside from introducing me to so many great people (alumni, faculty, and classmates), I had great exposure to all vocations,” he recalls. “Science was interesting, but I also realized the great rewards of
serving others. Medicine allows me to combine these facets. “My role as a physician truly is to simply help others. Medicine is very specialized right now, so gone are the days of the town doctor who could answer every call. Most of my friends assume that choosing orthopedics was a no-brainer because of my father,” he reveals. “In part, that is true because the opportunity to work alongside him has been something I will always treasure. For me, orthopedic surgery offers the opportunity to directly impact a patient and improve his or her quality of life.”

“The ‘glory moments’ as a physician come in many ways. The best ones are when someone returns to the office after surgery and is walking without pain. It’s not that he or she is thankful that makes you feel better; it’s the look on his or her face that says it all!”

“Having a patient’s trust and confidence is an honor,” notes Dr. Pizzurro, who previously worked at St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center in Paterson, prior to accepting a position at Ridgewood Orthopedic Group. “When a patient sends their family or friends to me, it is also a great reward. Sometimes, you encounter someone who has a severe malady. Treatment goes well and he or she does better than he or she even expected. Being a part of that success provides more dividends than any gift you may receive. It’s what gets you through the difficult aspects of the job and lets you sleep well at night!”

Dr. Pizzurro, who gave lots of helpful advice at B.C.’s Career Day in November, had more words of wisdom for the B.C. community. “I believe it is difficult to know that you 100% want to be a doctor when you are in high school. The best things you can do for yourself are to expose yourself to medicine and not burn any bridges as you continue your education. This means you should take a few Science courses and maybe shadow a physician,” he concludes. “Go to the best college you can and succeed there. Even though the time commitments can be great, you should also maintain your outside interests and hobbies. Going forward, these are what can actually help keep you focused and balanced on your path.

“In college, setup with a premedical advisor to make sure that you take all the required classes and maintain a strong application,” he advises. “You can major in any field you like and get into medical school and be a fine doctor. If not in high school or college, it may be while working after you graduate that you may realize that medicine is for you. And that point, it’s not too late to go back to school. No matter what vocation you choose, make sure it is one you will enjoy and allow you to prosper. Good luck!”

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**Crusaders**
William Gilsenan ’00 wanted to use his medical skills to help people — through the repair and healing of their pets. “I developed an interest in veterinary medicine when I was quite young. Growing up in Bergen County, I was primarily exposed to cats and dogs and, initially, my interest was in working with them,” he recalls. “I began working with veterinarians while I was a student at Bergen Catholic, and continued doing so through college before ultimately entering veterinary school.

“Bergen Catholic was very important in helping me achieve my goals. B.C. provided me with a strong Science foundation and taught me the value of strong work and moral ethics,” he remembers about his high school days. “All of those elements have remained essential as I progressed through my education and then into my career.

“I am currently doing a Large Animal Internal Medicine residency at the University of Pennsylvania’s New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, PA. We are a referral hospital and treat horses, cattle, sheep, goats, llamas, alpacas, and pigs. These patients include successful racehorses, valuable dairy cows, and backyard pets, to name just a few,” he notes. “In the Internal Medicine department, we typically see animals that are quite sick and have severe and complicated disease processes. Subsequently, my contribution to the healthcare industry is working to treat and rehabilitate these animals so that they can go back to their ‘jobs,’ or go back to being a pet.

“As we work with ‘food animals,’ our role in the healthcare industry is very important as proper care and control of disease in these animals is essential in ensuring a safe food supply for the general public. Veterinarians play a crucial role in public health.

“My job as a large animal veterinarian is full of ‘glorious’ moments! Every day poses a new challenge and the events of any single day can never be accurately predicted,” reports Dr. Gilsenan, noting the daily unpredictability of his work. “Appropriately diagnosing, treating, and fixing any single patient is always incredibly rewarding. The role of a veterinarian is to not only help the patient that is being treated, but also to care for the owner of that animal who, in many instances, cares immensely about that animal. Realizing the amount of good that can be accomplished by easing an owner’s concern or helping them through a difficult time is very important, regardless of the outcome of the animal you are treating.

“Moreover, my work as a large animal veterinarian has allowed me to travel to places I never imagined existed. Following my graduation from veterinary school in 2008, I completed a one-year internship at Colorado State University. A portion of the internship included time spent in western Nebraska working at beef cattle ranches. Most of those ranches are 70 miles from the nearest gas station! We were responsible for taking care of many of the cows during the calving season. Most of the days were long but entailed riding over hills and across fields tending to cattle to ensure they weren’t having too much difficulty when they were giving birth. Imagine a sequel to ‘City Slickers.’ But honestly, it was an absolute honor to work with the people who devoted their livelihoods to providing a high-quality and safe food supply to the rest of the nation. I only wish more people had the opportunity to really witness and be a part of what truly is ‘America’s Heartland’.

“Veterinary medicine is a field that is full of excitement. As a Bergen Catholic student interested in veterinary medicine, I did not have the faintest idea of the true importance of veterinary medicine or of how vast the expanse of veterinary medicine truly is,” he says, looking back at his days at B.C.

“If you are interested in veterinary medicine, begin working with a veterinarian. Try to decide if you could be doing that job yourself,” he advises. “It is a long road to become a veterinarian, so you need to like it a lot! Work hard in all your classes, but especially your Science courses. Be prepared to study very hard for many years, but don’t be discouraged. The reward and pleasure derived from being a veterinarian more than makes up for all the hard work and lost hours of sleep!”
Christopher Corrado '03 is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at Rhinebeck Equine L.L.P. in Rhinebeck, NY.

“I wish I could remember how this journey began, but regrettably I cannot remember the first step. Like all truly great journeys, as you approach the destination, you have only snapshots from along the way,” comments Christopher Corrado ’03. “When I was younger, I was met with the same parental encouragement that all Bergen Catholic students experience — encouragement towards choosing a rewarding, moral, and distinguished profession. That being said, along this journey I have taken some brief ‘re-directs,’ and considered other careers, but the secret has always been to keep moving forward towards the intended goal.

“There is no allied health career that is easy to attain, they all require a willingness to bite down and push through adversity,” he states. “It is the job of great educators, like the teachers at Bergen Catholic, to introduce us to that fundamental concept. It is in the halls of Bergen Catholic that we begin to build the foundations of a successful career in the health sciences.

“Your time at B.C. opens doors, hard work for your four years in high school opens up doors for the next four years. Bergen encouraged me to set my standards high, and in doing so, helped me to realize my dreams. It was the guidance team at Bergen Catholic that celebrated with me when I received my acceptance to Cornell,” he says, fully recognizing the impact that his high school had on his career. “They were with me as I shifted from one step of the journey to the next. You never forget who helped you along the journey. B.C. helped me build a solid academic, social, religious, and moral foundation while reaching ahead and helping to open doors along the way.”

Summing up his experience in his profession, Dr. Corrado states, “As a doctor, I am a colleague to some, a friend to others, a respected superior to others yet. I am a member of my community, my profession, and at the end of the day, when I think about who I am, I am just a simple horse doctor. I go fix sick and lame horses, day or night. My role is to fix ill horses and stop well horses from becoming ill. It is far more complicated than that, but those are the basics.”

“‘Special moments’ is an interesting phrase. Every moment from overnights with sick foals to giving first vaccines to a puppy is special. If it isn’t special to you, it is special to the people who you are helping, and the animal you are treating,” he states, echoing the opinion of fellow professional William Gilsenan ’00. “It is easy to detach yourself from this line of work, it makes the sorrow of euthanasia more bearable, the bitter taste of defeat when you run out of ways to help a little less caustic…but ultimately, it dampers the sweetness of the little victories, and the exuberance of the major successes.

“In the last four years, I have anesthetized a tiger, spent a whole night sitting beside a cloned calf that wouldn’t stand, performed surgery on everything from cats to cows, and dogs to horses. I have comforted grieving and distraught owners, and high-fived victorious racing trainers,” he notes. “Every experience, every day, with every patient and client is a special moment, to someone if not to me. When you save a life, regardless of how simple the task was to you as a trained professional, it is absolutely special to the person or animal that you have saved, and to their loved ones.”

Asked for his advice for current B.C. students — most of whom are only 10 years
younger than he is — Dr. Corrado exclaimed, “Find your passion, or at least find something you can be good at, and pursue it. Don’t pick a career for money; that is flawed reasoning. The promise of money in ten years won’t keep you up all night working in college. Don’t be afraid to face adversity, if you avoid challenges, you simply aren’t living life to the fullest potential. Never take the easy road, that isn’t the right path. It feels easier or better for a little while, but it always catches up to you. Start working hard now, and don’t plan on stopping. Take a job cleaning kennels or stalls — everyone in this profession started there, and there are days we revert back to it when things get really tough. The course to becoming a veterinarian is a simple one — start at the bottom, work harder than everyone else, keep working harder than everyone else, stare fear in the face, keep working harder than you thought possible, and then retire. That is the ‘Spark Notes’ version, but it certainly serves as sound advice.

“My second chunk of advice is very simple. Never become your job, continue to be you, watch football on Saturdays, make friends, enjoy your life. Life is a gift from God, and it is a shame to watch people lose sight of that gift because they are so busy chasing a single dream. Live, laugh, work, and always remember to take time to play. Your friends and colleagues will make your journey special. Do small things to help them every day and they will do unto you likewise. Also, never forget the alumni who have gone before you through the halls of B.C. We all remember what it was like to be in your shoes, and we are all more than willing to help if you reach out and contact us.”

ASHKAN HAMZELOU ’04, RESEARCH

Ashkan Hamzelou ’04 always wanted to seek out a career in the healthcare industry, but received much-needed help and inspiration from the Bergen Catholic community. “I have basically wanted to work in healthcare from as early as I could remember. Everyone has a passion and the healthcare field was mine.”
“B.C. was instrumental in my preparation for college and introduced me to a world of opportunities most high school students do not have,” he remembers. “Through the efforts of Mrs. (Pat) Fesen and the strong B.C. network, I had the opportunity to shadow B.C. team physician, Dr. Doug Avella, who is also one of the top pediatric orthopedic surgeons in New Jersey. It was an invaluable experience as a youngster, as it strengthened my goals to pursue science and medicine.

“To this day, I consider Dr. Avella as a phenomenal mentor. I also took great Science courses with Dr. Dominic Esker and Mrs. Margaret Casper, whom I consider two of the best teachers I’ve had growing up.

“As of now, I am currently working for a biotech company, Neurotez, Inc., that does cutting-edge research on neurodegenerative diseases, namely Alzheimer’s,” he reports. “We are currently working hard to get a blockbuster Alzheimer’s drug on the market in the very near future. As a research associate in the company, I am involved in both the research and development aspects of the company. I am also in the process of applying to medical school, with the hope that I have the privilege of using the knowledge I have gained in Science in a clinical setting.

“My ‘glorious’ moments thus far would have to be getting my first two publications in major scientific journals, with one focusing on the pathogenesis of Alzheimer’s disease, and the other, on genetic variations in people susceptible to the disease.”

His advice to B.C. students? “To aspiring students, I would say to be ready to work harder than ever, foster an attitude of life-long learning, and be humble throughout the journey, as it is never ending,” he opines, recalling a message that he delivered at Career Day in November. “There is so much to learn and so much promise in science and healthcare. It is definitely very exciting! They could very well be the ones to discover the treatments, cures, and practices of the future.”

DOUGLAS AVELLA, M.D. – ALUMNI PARENT ‘07, B.C. TEAM PHYSICIAN

Dr. Douglas Avella, M.D. is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon at North Jersey Pediatric Orthopaedics, PA in Ridgewood, NJ. A 2000 inductee into the B.C. Hall of Fame, he has served as the team physician for many of the Crusaders’ teams for the last 25 years.

Dr. Douglas Avella may not have attended Bergen Catholic, but he will always be known as a “B.C. guy” after a quarter-century of outstanding voluntary work performed on behalf of several Crusaders’ sports teams! He leaned toward the medical field because of what he had witnessed as a young man. “My journey into medicine first began just prior to attending high school. I had an uncle, my father’s brother, who suffered from polio. He needed crutches and braces to walk. We also had a close family friend who had a very intelligent son with severe cerebral palsy.

“Because his cerebral palsy also involved his ability to speak, it caused his speech to be distorted and it bothered me that people thought that he was ‘mentally retarded’ (a phrase often used before it was considered more proper to use the term ‘mentally challenged or handicapped’), when in reality, he was very smart and knew people felt that way because of the way he was treated.”

Dr. Avella’s career decisions came easily to him. “When I was in high school, I decided I wanted to become a pediatrician. When I was in medical school, I liked orthopedics because it was a specialty, which allowed me to use my hands when dealing with patients, for example, fixing a fractured wrist and placing it in a cast. I was happy to learn that there was a pediatric sub-specialty, pediatric orthopedics.

“My field of expertise is a pediatric orthopedics. Pediatric orthopedics is a subspecialty of medicine that deals with the
“Every day is a special moment as a pediatric orthopedist. Watching children grow and develop is as exciting as it is humbling. From the miracle of conception and birth, all the way to adolescent and adult maturity, special moments never stop occurring,” said Dr. Avella, explaining the rewards that go well beyond his paycheck. “Children are so innocent and trusting that, to me, is a catalyst to do the best I could do in order to help them. Also, the faith of the trust the parents display just by the fact that they allow you to care for their most precious possession makes every day exciting and rewarding. I have truly witnessed several miracles while in practice. I cannot explain how they occurred, but only that I realize that the miracle was not of my doing, but my pleasure to witness, such as children being able to walk, when there really was no hope that this could ever happen.”

A very special event happened at B.C. 25 years ago...one that seemed subtle at the time, but would prove to be one of the most important in the school’s athletic history. “I was first introduced to Bergen Catholic by Dr. Joseph Pizzurro. He was the team physician at that time and his son, Drew ’88, played football at B.C. When Drew graduated from B.C. and attended Carnegie Mellon University, Joe followed his son and his football career. He brought me to Bergen Catholic and introduced me to many special people such as Nick Singsas, Tim Rooney, and Carl Haas. At that time, my son, Nicholas ’07, hadn’t even been born yet. Twenty-five years later, I am still here and anxiously await Gregory’s (’15) entrance into the Bergen Catholic family.”

Dr. Avella feels very strongly about his career choice, and his ties to Bergen Catholic. “It is my opinion that nothing can rival a career in medicine. It closely parallels the mission of Bergen Catholic. It gives its participants the ability to help others live a healthy life, or help them through times of difficulty such as illness or injury. Very often, a physician is also a...
teacher and, much like the teachers at Bergen Catholic, they can help to cultivate young doctors into compassionate physicians.

“Each patient becomes an extended family member with whom I can establish a relationship of trust, respect, and caring. For the most part, I am my own boss and I can control my own destiny as a physician. Medicine also affords a certain degree of financial stability, as well. Mostly, the opportunity, if one works as diligently as possible, to make a positive difference in someone's life is a daily goal rewarded by more than money could buy.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Charles B. Flynn just completed his 38th year as a member of the Bergen Catholic High School faculty. He has served B.C. in many capacities: as a freshman English teacher, as Department Chairman of the English and Fine Arts Departments, and as a highly-valued Guidance Counselor. He was honored as the school’s “Teacher of the Year” in 1999, and was also one of the honorees at last fall’s Crusader Gala.

CAREER DAY MENTOR PROGRAM

A CHANCE TO GIVE BACK

Remember when you were a B.C. student and how daunting the process was when you were trying to decide your major for college, your career path? Choosing a career today is even more difficult!

You have the opportunity to help a young Crusader by sharing your experiences and insights about your career. Help him make his journey a little easier by answering his questions about your job. All careers are welcome!

If you are interested or are already participating, please complete the form below so we can update our records, and mail, e-mail or fax to:

Bergen Catholic High School
Office of Admissions
1040 Oradell Avenue
Oradell, NJ 07649
E-mail: plesen@bergencatholic.org
FAX: 201.599.9507
Attn: Pat Fesen

Name: _______________________________________
Address: ____________________________________
__________________________________________
Phone: ( ) _________________________________
E-mail: ____________________________________
Profession/Career: ___________________________
Brief Job Description: _______________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________

I would like to:
☐ Learn more about the Mentor Program and Career Day
☐ Participate in Career Day
☐ Participate in the Mentor Program
☐ Allow students to visit me at work
☐ Offer part-time employment
The Bergen Catholic High School community was saddened by the losses of a pair of its legendary coaches and teachers. Christopher (“C.J.”) Donfield and Brother Thomas Jude Jensen, C.F.C. passed away on December 21, 2010 and February 7, 2011, respectively, leaving a large void that is impossible to fill.

Donfield was a member of the B.C. faculty for 46 years, joining the school’s staff in September, 1960 as an English teacher before retiring as a Guidance Counselor in June, 2006. Friend and mentor to thousands of students, he is best known for his outstanding 40-season coaching career at B.C. (six as the freshman coach, then 34 seasons as the Crusaders’ head varsity coach).

During his legendary 34-season term with the B.C. varsity, Donfield’s clubs compiled an overall record of 648-230 and won two New Jersey Parochial “A” championships, seven Parochial “A” North titles, and six Bergen County Jamboree crowns.

A story commemorating the outstanding contributions of Donfield, which appeared in the school’s alumni magazine (previously named “Bergen Catholic Today”), is included in the February ’11 edition of the school’s online magazine. The re-print can be viewed at https://www.bergencatholic.org/document.doc?id=138.

Brother Jensen was born in Brownsville, NY and attended Cardinal Hayes High School in The Bronx as a freshman. After his freshman year, he made the incredibly difficult decision to join the Congregation by transferring to St. Joseph’s Juniorate in West Park, NY (a training school for boys planning to enter the order) in order to complete his high school education. After additional training in South Kortright, NY and at St. Gabriel’s Juniorate in Lakewood, NJ, Thomas Jensen earned a B.A. at Iona College and an M.A. at Manhattan College, setting the stage for an outstanding teaching career during which he touched the lives of thousands of students.

Brother Jensen’s arrival at Bergen Catholic in the fall of 1984 began a stay that lasted almost one-quarter of a century. He taught several levels of Mathematics at B.C. (including Algebra, Geometry, Math Analysis and Trigonometry), as well as Religion and Latin. His varied interests inspired him to become Moderator of the Bicycle, Latin and Greek Mythology Clubs.

His love of sports quickly became evident to the B.C. community when he took over the junior varsity baseball and basketball squads, quietly providing firm leadership and instilling the importance of basic fundamentals and discipline into all of his teams. Without question, the contributions of this highly-respected coach laid the groundwork for the success of the varsity teams of both programs during his association with them.

Brother Jensen came to the rescue of the athletic program during the 1987-88 school year, when he accepted an appointment as the Athletic Director. His training assisted in the development of Mrs. Angela Hickey into one of the most respected Athletic Directors in Bergen County.
Br. Thomas Jensen was a master teacher, whether in the classroom or on the basketball court.

Chris Donfield’s varsity teams won 648 games during his 34-season term.

The Bergen Catholic Athletic Department honored the memory of Christopher J. Donfield by displaying his seat on the Hoehl Gymnasium stage during home basketball games.
**Class of 1960**

Mike O’Brien became the latest former Crusader to be honored for his coaching accomplishments when he received the Baldwin/Hunt Service Award before the championship game of the Bergen County Tournament on May 29. The Baldwin/Hunt Service Award is presented annually to a person who has made major contributions to Bergen County High School baseball. O’Brien, who is also widely regarded as one of the finest basketball coaches in the area, has coached high school baseball for almost 30 years, including 15 as a head coach (six years at Passaic Valley and nine at Passaic Hills). He has won numerous championships in his career, including the State Championship and Bergen County title while at Passaic Hills in 1987.

**Class of 1961**

Dennis Lahiff retired after practicing law for 41 years in Bergen County, and is living peacefully in Laurel, DE.

**Class of 1962**

Eugene Cambeilh retired January 1, 2011 from the Department of Navy — Naval Sea Systems Command in Arlington, VA.

**Class of 1964**

For the second straight season, a B.C. alumnus has been awarded one of the Bergen County Coaches Association’s most prominent awards. Following in the footsteps of Tom Curry ’70 (who won the award in 2010), Dennis Rossi was named as the winner of the Howard H. Bollerman, Sr. Memorial Award, which is presented annually to a person who has made significant contributions to Bergen County boys’ basketball. Coach Rossi began his coaching career here at B.C. as the J.V. coach in the 1970’s, before moving on to lead the varsity programs at St. Joseph Regional, Bergenfield, and Old Tappan. This season, he guided O.T. to a Jamboree win over his alma mater (although the Crusaders avenged that defeat three weeks later).

**Class of 1965**

Thomas J. Barrett is proud to announce the birth of his first grandchild, Susan Adrianne Galletta. Susie was born on March 30, 2011 with a full head of black hair.

**Class of 1966**

Longtime B.C. golf coach Jim “Jake” Jacobsen and his team were recently featured in an article in Ultimate Athlete Magazine.

**Class of 1972**

George Vallone of Hoboken Brownstone Company was named Executive Officer of New Jersey’s Building Association. He was installed as the Builder Vice President, placing him on the ladder to become President of NJBA in five years. George will serve on a variety of committees and as an active participant in setting guidelines on important industry issues. He is a 31-year veteran of the real estate industry and has extensive experience developing urban housing through a socially-conscious approach to development.

**Class of 1973**

Robert Fortsch has accepted the designation of Financial Professional Emeritus after 32 years at Prudential. He continues to work out of Prudential’s Paramus office.

**Class of 1977**

John McCaffrey reports that he and his wife, Cindy, are living in Tokyo until September 2012.

Mark Mucci received the Maple Leaf Award on April 3, 2011. The award, given to residents of Maplewood, NJ, honors those whose dedication and service have made Maplewood a better place to live. One of the most significant volunteer roles that Mark occupies is the position of Trustee of the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race. He has served in that role for several years as Chair of the Community Coalition’s Interfaith Outreach Committee. This outreach brings residents from different faith communities together through discussion groups and community events. Mark is also instrumental in his volunteer work with the Boy Scouts, as well his parish of St. Joseph's Church, where he serves on a number of committees. Mark and his wife, Laura, have been married for 27 years and have two children, Mark and Sarah. Mark is an attorney, specializing in Energy and Utilities Law and Administrative Law since 1984. He was named to “The Best Lawyers in America” list, Energy Law in 2009. Mark graduated from Boston College in 1981 and from the University of Virginia — School of Law in 1984.

**Class of 1984**

D. Nicholas Miceli is a veteran commercial banker at TD Bank. He is the Bank’s Regional President for Central Jersey. As stated in NJ Biz Magazine’s
“The 100 Most Powerful People in NJ Business,” Nick has helped make TD the state’s top SBA lender by loan volume for the two years. He was praised for TD’s commitment to maintaining a headquarters in New Jersey.

Monsignor Tom Nydegger has been named Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at Seton Hall University. Monsignor is charged with assuring support for the holistic development of students. His office helps students reach their potential through academic, spiritual, and personal growth. Monsignor holds a Doctorate in Education from Seton Hall’s College of Education and Human Services.

Class of 1986
The 1985 Bergen Catholic High School soccer team was honored at halftime of the B.C.—Iona Prep soccer game. The 1985 Crusaders concluded their season with an 18-3-2 record and won Bergen County and State championships. Returning to participate in the ceremony were 12 players from that outstanding squad, plus former Head Coach Hugh Beattie ’73.

Class of 1988
Paul Ferris is an investment banker in San Francisco, CA. He and his wife, Marie, have two children, Sophia and Valentino.

James M. Sullivan has joined Moses and Singer in New York as a partner in the firm’s Business Reorganization, Bankruptcy and Creditor’s Rights practice group. He assists clients with matters involving corporate restructuring and bankruptcy, as well as distressed situations and complex commercial disputes.

Class of 1990
Mark Ferris is in commercial real estate management in Georgia. He and his wife, Lauren, live in Marietta, GA with their two children, Julia and Kathryn.

Brendan Lahiff and his wife, Lorinda, live in Cupertino, CA with their daughter, Keira. He is a senior investor relations manager for Intensil, Inc., a Silicon Valley hi-tech computer chip company.

Class of 1993
Douglas F. Baker graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1997. He is now a major in the U.S. Army and has been deployed three times.

Caesar Samaya received a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from Ithaca College and has been fortunate to find success in his chosen career. Caesar says, “I am blessed to be doing what I love.” He has worked in theatres, opera houses, and concert halls around the world, including Carnegie Hall. Caesar has done TV and film, and has been on Broadway. During this past holiday season, he was cast in the Pee Wee Herman Show on Broadway, a show that also aired on HBO in March. Currently, he is playing the principal role of Pablo in Sister Act on Broadway.

Class of 1994
Jonathan Ferris graduated with a B.A. from Colgate University, and received his Master’s Degree in Environmental Public Policy from Tufts University. Jonathan lives in Jamaica Plain, MA with his wife, Pujaporn, and their son, Oliver.

Tom Millett and his wife, Barbara, are proud to announce the birth of their second child, Adele Rea Millett, on February 18, 2011. Adele joins brother, Nathaniel Welles, who is two years old. The Millett family lives in Mill Creek, WA.

Class of 1996
Chris Carbone (second from left in above picture) was recently deployed for the third time. Chris is assigned as the Civil Military Operations Center Team Leader/OIC in 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division. This district is one of the most active in all of Afghanistan and is often visited by General Petraeus, President Karzai, and other distinguished visitors. Chris’s job description involves everything from trying to get an Agricultural Vocation Center up and running, to working with the district governor, and to rebuilding the large
bazaar complex outside the governance center. He also runs a Brigade Level Claims Process, which provides compensation to people whose crops and personal property have been damaged as a result of combat action, and a “Cash For Work” program, which provides jobs to the local villagers.

Conor Lahiff was promoted to full-time forecaster with the National Weather Service in Burlington, VT. He is married to Mary, who works for Bob Hoehl (RIP) ’59’s former company, IDX. They live in Jericho, VT and have two boys, Aedean and Owen.

Class of 2000
Ryan Carroll is engaged to Kaitlin Vicari. They are planning a September 2011 wedding. Ryan earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Finance, Accounting and International Business from Washington University in St. Louis.

Dominic Santoli and his wife, Christina, have announced the birth of their first son, future Crusader Nico Michael Santoli. He was born on January 19, 2011 and weighed eight pounds, 10 ounces.

Class of 2001
Joe and Chrissy Palmeri welcomed their first child, Joseph Thomas, on January 4, 2011. The Palmeri family lives in Furlong, PA. The proud grandfather is Joe Palmeri ’74, the great uncle is Paul Palmeri ’83, and a cousin is Will Palmeri ’12.

Mike Panos married to Chelsea Petretti on January 1, 2011. Monsignor Patrick Panos ’60 co-celebrated the wedding. Chelsea is an accomplished harpist, and their love of music and each other has endured over the years and a tour of Afghanistan. Mike is a specialist in the Army Corps of Engineers based in Fort Benning, GA.

Class of 2002
Brian Bogush and Chris Jameson participated along with 5,000 riders in the Pan Massachusetts Bike Challenge. The event is a 200-mile, two-day bike ride from Sturbridge, MA to Provincetown, MA on the tip of Cape Cod. The challenge was sponsored by the Boston Red Sox Foundation and New Balance to benefit the Jimmy Fund for cancer research. It is the biggest athletic cancer fundraiser in the country. Christopher and Brian rode for Chris’s mom, who has battled ovarian cancer for the last four years. Together, they raised $8,400. This year’s fundraising total was announced to be more than $33 million.

Robert Holuba is engaged to Kristen Thorne. They plan to exchange their wedding vows in the spring of 2012 in Charleston, SC.

Class of 2003
Former Georgetown University sportscaster Dan Long added the Bergen Catholic varsity baseball team to his broadcast list this spring. Long, who started the “B.C. Radio Network” in the fall of 2008 to broadcast the Crusaders’ football games, had previously added basketball and wrestling to his “menu,” and called B.C.’s

Tom Polifroni ’99 married the former Diana Favorito on July 16, 2010. Tom and Diana were joined at the reception by over 20 B.C. alumni spanning six decades! Diana and Tom reside in Montvale.
2011 home baseball games from the program’s new “home” field (Overpeck County Park in Ridgefield Park) on the “B.C. Radio Network.” Archived broadcasts for each of the above-mentioned sports are available at http://www.dlsportsmedia.com/.

**Class of 2005**

Christopher Wilk was recently promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant in the United States Army. He is currently serving in Afghanistan, Regional Command South.

**Class of 2007**

Sean Verbist recently became a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, National Leadership and Honors Organization at Montclair State University. Sigma Alpha Lambda is dedicated to promoting and rewarding academic achievement. Sean is a volunteer member of the Paramus Police Reserve and holds the rank of Patrolman First Class.

**Class of 2010**

Will Hamilton participated in a debate at Johns Hopkins University, where he is a freshman. The debate featured the College Republican Club versus the College Democrats on the topics of healthcare reform, caps, and trade and tax policy.

**ON THE AIR**

Bergen Catholic baseball player Donald Maita ’12 had a chance to interview a former Crusaders’ diamond star who has made quite a name for himself, Mark DeRosa ’93 of the San Francisco Giants, on the field at Citi Field when the Giants were in town to face the Mets in May. In response to Maita’s question of: “Did you take away any life lessons that were meaningful from the school?,” DeRosa responded: “I did! Treat others as you would want to be treated...show people respect and they’ll show it to you...work hard and you’ll be rewarded...they were a lot of things that I learned. I met some great people there at the school. If I don’t go to that school, I’m not standing here today – I’m convinced of that! If I lived in New Jersey, my son would be going there – that’s the best compliment that I can pay it!” DeRosa is in this second season with the Giants, and in his 14th Major League season overall.

**ARMSTRONG ’94 NAMED AS B.C. VARSITY BASKETBALL COACH**

Former B.C. standout point guard Bill Armstrong ’94 was named as the fifth varsity basketball coach in school history on May 20. He was the Crusaders’ J.V. hoops coach for the past three seasons. His 2010-11 squad compiled a 21-1 record and won the championship of the Cresskill Roundball Tournament (defeating previously-unbeaten Teaneck in the championship game, after losing to the Highwaymen in the previous season’s title tilt).

Armstrong led the Crusaders to an overall record of 49-5 as a two-year starting point guard. During the 1993-94 season, he directed B.C. to a school-record 27-2 mark during a season in which the Crusaders won Jamboree and State championships (the only B.C. team to accomplish that feat). Armstrong was named First-Team All-Bergen County in 1994, and was selected to The Record’s “1990s All-Bergen County All-Decade Team” in 2000.

He went on to enjoy an outstanding career at Davidson College, before starting a professional career that saw him play in Belgium and Yugoslavia, as well as with the Pennsylvania Valley Dawgs of the United States Basketball League and the Newark Express of the American Basketball Association.

**B.C. ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!**

Former B.C. standout guards Joe Sandberg ’03 (left) and Bill Armstrong ’94 coached their teams to a combined record of 42-3 this winter.

Bergen Catholic Alumni Association officers Mike Haviland ’78 (Vice President, left) and Mike Maron ’77 (President) paid a visit to Hoehl Hall in May to welcome the new members — the Class of 2011 — to the fold. The Alumni Association hosted a pizza party for the senior class to welcome it to an exclusive and honored group that contains more than 11,000 members!
Alumni Football Game — Friday, November 26, 2010

The second Annual Football Game was attended by some of Bergen Catholic’s finest gridiron stars from the past. Will you be in the next year’s picture? (Standing, L to R): Joe Charles ’02, Rob Holuba ’02, Zeke Rodgers ’92, Frank Rizzo ’06, Eamonn Twomey ’89, Dominic Santoli ’00, Daryle Pellegrino ’89, Joe Germano ’06, and Kevin Bostick ’08. (Kneeling, L to R): Jason Porcelli ’99, Jonathan Poppe ’03, Matt Craffey ’98, and Tom Gambuzza ’06.

Alumni Football Social — Friday, November 26, 2010


PLAYERS FROM THE 2000’s exchanging stories with B.C. Strength Coach Dave Cavalluzzo ’93 (L to R): Brendan McGovern ’10, Jeremy Grasso ’09, Mike Halligan ’10, Dan Villaneuva ’08, Kevin Sullivan ’09, and Coach Cavalluzzo ’93.

Todd Marco ’02 and Alex Fonti ’97.

Joe Piela ’95, former New York Giants’ fullback Jim Finn ’95, and Daryle Pellegrino ’89.
Alumni Hockey Game — Friday, November 26, 2010


Alumni Soccer Game — Saturday, November 27, 2010

DEUS VULT!
Hoboken On Tap – Thursday, May 12, 2011

On May 12, 2011, the B.C. Alumni Association’s Young Alumni hosted “Hoboken On Tap” at McSwiggan’s Pub in Hoboken, New Jersey. Based on the theme that B.C. alumni don’t require a specific reason to get together, a group of over 40 Crusader alumni and their guests were in attendance. The B.C. crowd grew stronger as the night progressed, with people arriving as they departed the Path train, walked from their Hoboken homes, or drove many miles to enjoy a night full of B.C. pride spanning over 15 years.

The gathering began at 6:30 P.M. with each alumnus welcomed by the event organizer, Christian Sees ’96. Special guests included Br. Brian Walsh, C.F.C. (President), who gave a succinct and poignant speech on the Bergen Catholic Brotherhood, Lily DiMaggio (World Language Chair), Sean McChesney ’03 (Religion Teacher), Marge Millus (Director of Alumni Relations and Special Events), and Mike Haviland ’78 (Alumni Association Vice President). A moment of silence was held to remember Br. Thomas Jensen, C.F.C. and Coach Chris Donfield, as both played a big part in this group’s B.C. experience.

The night was filled with the sharing of many memories, tons of laughs, and young alumni of various graduating class years networking. Everyone credited their successes to the time spent at Bergen Catholic and there was a great desire for the Alumni Association to host similar events in the near future. The event officially ended at 9:30 P.M., with many staying much longer. Sometimes…you just don’t need a reason to get together!

This excellent night would not have been possible without the extraordinary efforts of Marge Millus, the Alumni Association Board, and the Young Alumni. Thanks to all who helped make this a great event!

Christian Sees ’96
Over the summer of 2010, six students from Bergen Catholic were granted the privilege to take part in a new and unique foreign exchange program with Colegio Cardenal Newman High School in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Unfortunately, I did not have the opportunity to travel with my classmates to Argentina for the original two-week exchange.

Nonetheless in February, through an unexpected twist, Mrs. Lily M. Di Maggio, Chair of the World Language Department, approached my family and I about the possibility of hosting an Argentinian student. My parents and I expressed a strong interest in the possibility, and ultimately opened our home to Agustin Ball. Agustin and his classmates from Colegio Cardenal Newman would be arriving in April and living with us for two weeks!

Several weeks later, on the morning of April 3, I woke up with an overwhelming feeling of anxiety regarding what lay directly ahead of me. I was entirely unsure of what to expect. These feelings were primarily a result of information that was brought to my attention immediately before the Argentinian students’ arrival. The students who
were visiting were the same ones whom the students from B.C. had lived with while in Argentina. Furthermore, the host students from Bergen Catholic, other than myself, were the same young men who visited Buenos Aires over the summer.

In other words, everyone in the group knew each other, had lived together previously, and had developed a bond. Given the situation, I felt a bit awkward and apprehensive when the students from Colegio Cardenal Newman pulled into the parking lot at Bergen Catholic on that Sunday morning.

My anxieties peaked the morning after the students arrived as the first school day of the exchange began. The uncertainty of how the students at B.C. would welcome the visitors from Argentina only added to my discomfort. Before the bell rang marking the end of first period, all of my apprehensions were put to rest. The students were welcomed with open arms, and I immediately began to feel adopted by the group of American and Argentinian students who had met months earlier.

I quickly learned that the number one thing the exchange students looked forward to at the end of each day was exploring the many shopping malls in the surrounding area. For the entire first week that the exchange students were in New Jersey, the afternoons were spent browsing through stores at various malls.

Perhaps one of the memories that stands out most for me during the first week was taking the exchange students to see the B.C. vs. Don Bosco lacrosse match. It was the first lacrosse game the students had ever seen, and despite the cold weather, the spirits were high as the Argentinian and B.C. students sang and celebrated together after each goal scored.

Over the weekend, my family offered to take the student we were hosting, Agustin Ball, another Argentinian student, Nicolas Bergada, and his host, David DeLeon ’11 to spend a day in Washington, DC. Although we only spent a few hours in the capital city, the foreign exchange students, David, and I created countless memories.

It so happened that the day we visited Washington, the annual Cherry Blossom Festival celebration was taking place. It was the first time that any of us had visited the capital during this festival, so we were able to not only tour the National Mall, but also celebrate the friendship between the United States and Japan.

As the first week came to a close, and the next began, I found that a bond between the foreign exchange students and I was beginning to form. The bond only strengthened as we spent more time touring New York City, taking in a Yankees game, and, of course, shopping. When the second week came to a close, I found it hard to say goodbye to the Argentinian students.

Despite fighting through fatigue, I created some of my greatest memories; singular memories which I won’t soon forget. If anyone were to ask, I would highly recommend the exchange program. The experiences and memories that come with hosting an exchange student are ones that cannot be replicated, and despite having to reach beyond my comfort zone at first, I would gladly take part in a foreign exchange program several times over.
Students of Bergen Catholic High School hear it many times during their day at school: their homeroom or religion teacher asks the class to donate some money to “the missions,” often presenting them with a large manila envelope. It becomes a routine part of the day, and perhaps we students give it very little thought, even if we do donate.

Many fail to realize, however, that the envelope presents an opportunity to impact the lives of people living thousands of miles away. Most students are vaguely aware that the money goes to those less fortunate in South America, specifically Peru; but students occasional wonder, “Exactly how does the very money that comes out of their pockets change the lives of individuals thousands of miles away?”

After Thursday, December 2, 2010, Deacon Larry D’Amico, B.C. President Brother Brian M. Walsh, C.F.C. and five senior students – John Caruso, Elliot Conn, Joe Scancarella, Dan Tattoli, and Bobby Turner – were able to answer this question. Six members of the Bergen Catholic community (Deacon and the five students) traveled to an impoverished area of Peru for one week, leaving on November 26 and returning on December 2. Their mission: to build simple housing for homeless families, while interacting with the local orphanage and school. Deacon Larry, the moderator of the Crusaders Missions Club (“CMC”), helped to better explain the workings of this trip.

“The purpose of the Crusaders Missions Club,” explained Deacon Larry, who was also the architect behind this trip, “is educational: to make people aware of those less fortunate than us. The main thing we ask from everybody is prayer. Without prayer, nothing happens.

“The second thing,” he said humorously, “is that I want your money!”

In order to educate the school – and put down any rumors – about where “missions money” goes, Brother Walsh agreed to fund a trip for Deacon Larry’s two sons (both of whom are film editors) to travel to Peru for a week. They made a documentary of what the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers do there, which is to build simple housing for homeless families while helping to run the state school.

Most students have seen this film – it was shown by Mr. Powers to every Religion class during October, 2010. All money collected for the missions goes
directly to help these families in need, and none of it went to the trip, which is funded by private sponsors.

But what exactly did the students, as well as Brother Walsh and Deacon Larry, get out of this trip? “We liked to look at the trip as a full immersion in culture,” said Deacon, explaining how the five students carried the walls, building materials, and tin roofs up a steep hill to help the carpenter put the home together. “It was a lifelong experience that the kids will never forget, and something they’ll be able to share with the community.”

Deacon Larry hopes that this trip, while benefiting families in Peru, will also inspire a chain reaction of community service here at home. “Hopefully,” he said, “hearing about this will urge other kids to listen to the Holy Spirit and ‘get the bug’ to serve in their own communities, because you can’t limit the Holy Spirit. When God blesses something, you can’t stop it, and everything went perfectly.”

While the trip to Peru ran smoothly, Deacon has ambitious plans for the missions’ collections here at Bergen Catholic. “The big goal was to raise twenty-thousand dollars this year,” he stated. “Mr. Josh Powers gave a talk to each religion class, and mentioned that he wanted twenty cents a day from every kid.”

If everyone – students and faculty alike – gave twenty cents a day to the missions, Deacon explained, over thirty-thousand dollars will have been raised between when the drive started in September 2010 until the beginning of June 2011. “I don’t think it’s happening, personally,” said Deacon Larry, “but that doesn’t bother me, as long as students are giving somewhere.”

Deacon Larry stressed that the act of giving itself – whether it’s money, time, or both – is what really matters, and not to where it is given. “If your cause is Midnight Run, give to that,” he said. “If your cause is Right to Life, the CCA, or Operation Smile, that’s where your money should go. But, if you’re not doing anything, you must examine yourself and ask, ‘why not?’”

While most of us would not be able to give as much time as traveling to Peru, the least we could do is donate twenty cents a day – that’s one dollar a week – to the missions. It seems there is nothing that can stop Bergen Catholic from reaching the goal, because, as Deacon Larry put it, “You can’t limit the Holy Spirit.”
The end of the 2010-11 school year also brought to a conclusion the full-time careers of a couple of Bergen Catholic High School’s most highly-respected faculty members/coaches. Donald Viggiano came to B.C. in 1967 and has been a major part of the school’s faculty for the last 44 years, while Thomas Fuchs arrived three years later and has delivered 41 years of high-quality, multi-faceted service to the school. Eighty-five combined years of quality service and professionalism will be hard to replace!

The seeds of a fine Bergen Catholic teaching and coaching career were actually planted a couple of States away from New Jersey — in Shelton, CT, to be precise, where Don Viggiano grew up. A star on the playing field and in the classroom, Don excelled in two sports — football and basketball. He was a solid player on the hardwood, and an even more special one on the gridiron, where he was a two-time All-State selection for Shelton High School as a fullback-linebacker.

His stardom on the football field actually led him to the “link” that would eventually bring him to Bergen Catholic High School in September, 1967. His first stop in New Jersey, however, was in New Brunswick after he accepted a football scholarship to Rutgers University. He was a three-year letterman and two-year starter at fullback (in the Wing-T offense) for Head Coach John Bateman.

It was at Rutgers that the Health/Physical Education student was a teammate of Keith Krayer and Bob Norton, both of whom would go on to coach the B.C. football team for three seasons apiece in the 1960’s.

After his graduation from Rutgers, Viggiano accepted the positions of History teacher (a subject he “minored” in) and assistant varsity football coach at Butler High School in Morris County. He spent two years there, and was fortunate enough to stay in touch with Norton, who was at B.C. at the time (after taking over from Krayer in the fall of 1966).

When a position opened up on the P.E. staff and in the football coaching ranks, the call went out from Norton to his ex-Scarlet Knights’ teammate, who was more than happy to accept the offer.

Viggiano spent two seasons as the varsity backfield coach (a position similar to what would now be equivalent to “Offensive Coordinator”), and was in line to become the Head Coach when Norton decided to leave B.C. in the spring of 1969.

Viggiano was the B.C. varsity football coach for five seasons (1969-73), during which he led the Crusaders to five winning records and an overall record of 27-16-2. He had the opportunity to coach one future professional player (Bob Lally ’70, one of the co-captains of his first squad) and several other outstanding players.

While he has many happy memories of his coaching days, there are a few that remain vivid, including the 1970 season-opening 22-7 win at now-defunct St. Cecilia’s of Englewood (after the Crusaders were declared heavy underdogs to the Saints by the local press), a shocking 7-0 win at Schools Stadium in Newark over a huge (and third-ranked in New Jersey) Essex Catholic team in 1972, and a 14-14 tie against undefeated (and second-ranked in NJ) Don Bosco on Thanksgiving Day, 1973, in front of 8,000 fans at Crusader Stadium.
Viggiano has many fond memories of all the students that taught during his 44 years (35 as Chairman) in the Physical Education Department, and in his 37 years as a major part of the school’s Driver’s Education program.

Not all of his memories are necessarily “happy” ones, although this one did produce a hearty laugh, even years after it happened. During one of his Driver’s Education runs on Route 17, Don happened to notice that his student appeared to have closed his eyes, and confirmed that fact by tapping him on the shoulder and waking him up from an unexpected nap before disaster struck!

Working with students was a pleasure of his — and so was the opportunity to work with longtime P.E. colleagues John Direnzo and Fred Stengel, both of whom Don has great appreciation for. “Both men have been good teachers and persons to work with and have been a great help to me!

“It’s difficult to leave,” he concludes, experiencing a sentiment that most retirees feel when talking about B.C.

“Seeing everyone on a daily basis,” he adds, noting that he’ll likely still assist the Driver’s Education program on a part-time basis with the legendary Tom Irwin.

The additional free time that retirement brings will be spent visiting his two daughters (one of whom lives in North Carolina) and playing the role of loving “granddad” to his three granddaughters. Don also lists gardening and “working around the house” as just a couple of major items on his “to-do” list.

“Don is an energetic, dedicated and caring educator. He has impacted thousands of students whether in his Physical Education classes, during intramurals or on the roads of Bergen County as he taught them basic driving skills,” exclaims B.C. Principal Tim McElhinney. “Don has a quiet confidence, which pervades everything he does. He is genuinely one of the most liked and respected teachers at Bergen Catholic, and will be sorely missed.”

Former Bergen Catholic Principal Brother James R. Kelly, C.F.C., made what history would prove to be a very important phone call in the summer of 1970. In that call, Br. Kelly offered a teaching job to Mr. Thomas Fuchs. Little did he know, at that time, how much that one phone call would influence the future of Bergen Catholic High School for more than four decades!

Long before that phone call came – an unsolicited one, at that – a scholarly talent was developing in Essex County, where Thomas Fuchs grew up in Nutley (on the border of Bloomfield and Clifton). He crossed the border into Bloomfield to attend St. Thomas the Apostle School.

Another “key” decision that took Fuchs on the path to B.C. came in the spring of 1961, when he and his family chose to continue his Parochial-school education. He elected to attend Essex Catholic High School in its mammoth building on Broadway in Newark. He thrived there in the very competitive environment at the academic giant, whose enrollment approached 3,000 students at the time — a much bigger version of the current B.C.
In addition to excelling in the classroom (where he was named a National Merit Scholar), Fuchs made quite a name for himself. He played football for two years for the Eagles, but really made his mark while competing for the Essex track teams. He was a member of the four-man shot put relay team that broke the national record not once — but five times! During the 1964-65 winter season, he took home a sixth-place medal in the national shot put championships.

After graduating from Seton Hall University with a B.S. in Mathematics, he returned to his alma mater to teach Math in the fall of 1969. Sadly, his teaching position was eliminated the following spring, due to the once-huge school’s dramatic decline in enrollment. In retrospect, too, it can clearly be stated that Essex Catholic’s loss was soon to become Bergen Catholic’s gain!

Late that spring, he paid a visit to B.C. to see an old classmate, Brother Kevin Cawley, C.F.C., who was teaching English here at that time. Soon, word made it way back to Brother Kelly that a talented teacher-coach with a strong Catholic background was available. In one of the best decisions that he ever made, Brother Kelly placed the call to Fuchs to offer him a job that he didn’t actively seek!

Tom became part of the Bergen Catholic family in the fall of 1970, quickly establishing himself as a no-nonsense instructor who expected excellence from his students. His demanding-yet-fair style earned him the respect and admiration of the thousands of students whom he has taught.

During his tenure, he has taught every Mathematics course that B.C. has offered, from Algebra I through AP Calculus. He also served four different terms as the Chairman of the Math Department. He is credited with improving and upgrading the Mathematics curriculum, and was instrumental in establishing the Math Honors Program and introducing Advanced Placement Math courses.

He also had a hand in another important venture at Bergen Catholic — the introduction and implementation of the new Laptop Program. As a member of the Technology Committee, he has played a key role in helping this outstanding concept to become a reality here at B.C.

“Coach” Fuchs has also made major contributions to B.C.’s track program. He immediately joined the coaching staff of the legendary Dave Faherty ’63 upon his arrival at the school, and eventually took over the position of Head Coach from Faherty in three different sports.

For the period from 1970 to 1997, Tom coached various Crusaders’ track teams (cross country, indoor, and outdoor) for a grand total of 75 seasons! In his 15 years as the head cross country coach (1981-95), his teams won over 100 meets, six league championships, and four Bergen County titles, and were named Bergen County “Team of the Year” a total of five times! Tom earned “Coach of the Year” honors twice during this period.

He was also the Head Coach of each of the indoor and outdoor track teams for 21 seasons (between 1978 and 1999), winning a combined total of nine Northern New Jersey Interscholastic League (N.N.J.I.L.) championships and eight Bergen County titles.

Never one to take any credit for his teams’ successes, Coach Fuchs remarked, “Kids wins championships — the coaches lose them.”

He served as the B.C. Athletic Director for four years (1983-87), a key time during the evolution of the Crusaders’ sports program. During his tenure as A.D., he helped to guide Bergen Catholic’s entrance into the N.N.J.I.L. at a time when there was extreme animosity toward the integrating Parochial schools from the established members of the league. It was felt by the school’s administration that a strong and respected personality was needed during those turbulent times, so Fuchs was offered the position.

“I felt that the move into the N.N.J.I.L. made us ‘legitimate’ our athletic program,” he remembers, noting that when B.C. was an independent school (not part of any league), that very little money was budgeted for the school’s various athletic teams.

The wear-and-tear of bucking heads with opposing Athletic Directors, plus the need for his experience with the Middle States Evaluation process (which prompted him to be selected as the Chairman), made it difficult to continue
with the expanding duties of an A.D., so he left that position after four very productive years.

Fuchs also served on the Executive Board of the Bergen County Coaches Association, which helped salve some of the wounds that had opened up between the Bergen County public and Parochial schools. His courtship helped break down some of the “stereotypes” about Parochial schools that had developed.

“We hosted a B.C.C.A. meeting one year here at the school, and some of the public-school A.D.s came here expecting to see all kinds of signs and banners in the lobby and hallways,” he remembers, noting that B.C. had a highly-publicized football game coming up that weekend. “Many of the A.D.s were shocked that we were not an athletics-driven school, as they had been lead to believe.”

He also assisted with the establishment of the B.C. Hall of Fame, into which he was later inducted.

Many of his proudest moments, though, came during a tragic event in the school’s history. He accompanied the basketball team to Puerto Rico on one of its annual traveling Christmas trips in December, 1986. While the B.C. party was staying there, an arson fire broke out at the Hotel Dupont Plaza in San Juan, claiming 97 lives and causing 140 injuries (including one serious one to a B.C. player) in what is considered the most catastrophic hotel fire in Puerto Rican history.

“It was the worst 25 minutes of my life,” Fuchs remembered about the mid-afternoon fire, noting that he didn’t relax until each member of the B.C. party was found and accounted for. “It was a growth experience for all of us, and certainly made me appreciate life.”

He also recalls being interviewed over the telephone by one of the New York television stations, and also not being able to reclaim his personal belongings for six months (due to the fact that the charred hotel was declared a crime scene). As his career winds down, however, he can reflect back at many happier moments.

Looking back on his more-than-four decades at B.C., Tom summed his tenure up by saying, “I got to work with the best people on Earth, and have always been surrounded by remarkable people. They make you look good!”

He is also quick to note the many alumni who come back to visit the school often, and even return to work and coach at B.C., as examples that the school is a very special place. He glows when he talks about the number of former players who come back to serve under the coaches who taught them, and marvels at the number of alumni who send their sons to B.C. for a quality education.

Commenting on the passage of time during his stay at the school, he laughs when he says that he’s getting older, even though the kids really aren’t. “The students haven’t grown any older — they’re 17 or 18 years old every year!”

As much as Tom will miss teaching at Bergen Catholic, he will be missed even more by his colleagues and superiors. “During the past forty-one years, Tom has been a master teacher positively impacting thousands of students who were lucky enough to sit in his classrooms,” praises McElhinney. “Tom possesses the wonderful ability to bring to life the most abstract elements of Math so his students can easily understand and effectively utilize the information. Tom is incredibly bright, enthusiastic and caring. He will be deeply missed at Bergen Catholic.”

Tom is no stranger when it comes to receiving major honors. He was inducted into the New Jersey Interscholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame (1992), the Essex Catholic Hall of Fame (1992), and the Bergen Catholic Hall of Fame (1994), and was also cited as an “Outstanding Educator” by Cornell University.

Tom is happily married to his lovely wife, Susan, for 40 years.
Lily M. Di Maggio Honored as B.C. “Educator of the Year”

Eleven-year faculty member Mrs. Lily M. Di Maggio was rewarded for her outstanding body of work when she was announced as Bergen Catholic High School’s 2010-11 “Educator of the Year” during a year-ending ceremony at the school.

Mrs. Di Maggio arrived at Bergen Catholic in the fall of 2000 after serving as a Berlitz Junior Supervisor for the States of New York and New Jersey, and teaching at Collegiate School in Passaic, NJ. In addition to teaching Italian and Spanish during her tenure at B.C., Mrs. DiMaggio has also served as the Chair of the World Language Department.

James Horner ’64 Honored as B.C. “Technologist of the Year”

James Horner ’64, a 30-year faculty member at Bergen Catholic High School, was named as the school’s fourth-ever “Technologist of the Year” during a year-ending ceremony at the school.

Horner joined the school’s faculty in the fall of 1981 and has taught Religion and English over the past three decades. He has been very active in many other areas at B.C., serving as Moderator of English Enrichment, the Talisman (the school’s literary magazine), the Right to Life Club, Club Interact, Amnesty International, and Crusaders For Christian Action.

Horner was rewarded for his exceptional efforts in utilizing technology in the classroom. He requires his students to do their homework electronically, which then can be projected in the classroom and appraised by fellow students to promote continuous interaction and participation.

B.C. Students Earn National Recognition

Bergen Catholic High School seniors (L to R) Conor Lloyd, Tobias Schwartz, and Carl Romanos were named as National Merit Commended Students.

Bergen Catholic High School seniors Matthew Negron (left) and Daniel Ibarrola were recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program.
Timothy Paul Shaker ’13 was chosen to represent Bergen Catholic High School at the Hugh O’Brian Youth (“HOBY”) Leadership Seminar.

Timothy Paul, who attended a HOBY seminar in the spring, was selected by a panel of faculty members from a pool of worthy sophomore candidates to represent Bergen Catholic.

An outstanding student who is a perennial honoree on the school’s Principal’s List, Timothy Paul is a member of B.C.’s Mock Trial Team (where he was an important part of the team’s County-championship-winning effort last year) and has played for the Crusaders’ soccer team.

In his “spare” time, Timothy Paul is a member of youth groups in Cliffside Park and Tenafly that provide community service to homeless shelters in the area, and also participates with the Holy Angels Drama Department. He is also an avid fan of acting and dancing.

Tom Falato, B.C.’s Junior Guidance Counselor, praises Timothy Paul as a worthy candidate to represent the school. “Timothy Paul is a young man who fits in the Bergen Catholic tradition of outstanding students who have represented us well in the Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership program.”

The mission of HOBY is to seek out, recognize and develop leadership potential in young high school students. HOBY fulfills its purpose through a series of unique programs during which students are introduced to distinguished leaders of the community from various sectors of society (such as business, technology, education, government, arts, and science). HOBY participants will get a realistic look at their nation, its people, and their own role in the world community.

Below: Greeting nationally-known guest speakers Katie Koestner and Tom Santoro (center) from the Bergen Catholic High School community were Principal Tim McElhinney (far left), Junior Guidance Counselor and Senior Athletic Guidance Counselor Tom Falato (second from right), and Assistant Principal of Student Affairs and Technology Joe Haemmerle ’86 (far right).
Bergen Catholic High School held its annual Toy Drive, which concluded on December 10. This year, B.C. students and their families donated more than 2,000 individual gifts and $800 worth of gift cards to “Shelter Our Sisters” in Hackensack, an organization that assists women and children who are victims of domestic violence. Assisting with the collection and distribution of just a small portion of the mountain of gifts that filled the B.C. book store included (L to R) Kyle Smyth ’14, Peter McPartland ’14, Domenick Mattia ’13, Michael Suarez-Bonet ’11, Connor Cole ’12, Ryan Smyth ’12, Christopher Spada ’12, Timothy Corcoran ’12, Louis Siracusano ’13, and Christopher Tucceri ’14.

Dozens of Bergen Catholic High School students volunteered at the Ridgewood YMCA’s annual Christmas Tree Sale over the two weekends preceding the holiday. Proceeds from the tree sales benefit Ridgewood YMCA Good Works Programs, which fund camp scholarships, world service projects, and mentoring programs. Some of the B.C. students who assisted included (L to R) John Westermann ’11, Kevin Markle ’11, Lawrence Santa Maria ’11, Sean O’Neill ’11, and Charles Chen ’11.

The catastrophic events in Japan led Bergen Catholic High School’s Crusaders Mission Club (CMC) to mount a fund-raising campaign for Catholic Relief Services and its efforts in Japan. Joining in the fund-raising events was “future Crusader” Gavin Holt Ciero (son of B.C. English and Social Studies teacher Eileen Holt), who emptied his piggy bank and contributed his life savings to help the citizens of Japan. Also pictured are CMC officers (L to R) Joseph Scancarella ’11, Eliott Conn ’11, and Dan Tattoli ’11, and club Moderator Deacon Larry D’Amico.
On the evening of Monday, November 22, 2010, a group of 67 Bergen Catholic High School students participated in the school’s third annual “Cardboard City” event. The students constructed temporary “homes” out of cardboard boxes and slept in them in order to experience the problems that homeless people face on a daily basis. This worthwhile event took place for the third consecutive year under the guidance of B.C. faculty member Mrs. Rosemary Ortiz-Whiteside.
BERGEN CATHOLIC HOSTS GANLEY FOUNDATION’S

“Crusade For Awareness”

Bergen Catholic High School, for the second time in three years, hosted for its students a moving seminar about teenagers’ suicide and depression in conjunction with The Ganley Foundation’s “Crusade for Awareness” campaign.

 Shortly after the untimely death of their only son, James (a 2000 graduate of B.C.), by suicide in 2004, Ann and Jim ’69 Ganley established The Ganley Foundation to commemorate his life. The Ganley Foundation created a national “Crusade for Awareness,” a movement that seeks to promote mental health awareness and to educate teens and their parents about the signs of depression. The objective of the “Crusade for Awareness” is for teenagers to recognize the signs of depression in themselves and in their peers. The program provides factual information and thereby reduces the stigma associated with depression and other related neurobiological disorders.

 Showing unbelievable bravery in recounting the events that led to their son’s death, Ann and Jim Ganley addressed the audience of B.C. freshmen and sophomores, and then introduced guest speaker Jordan Burnham, a suicide survivor himself.

 Burnham, a young man whose incredible story has been featured on ESPN’s “Outside the Lines,” Sports Illustrated, CNN, Dr. Phil, and Good Morning America, shared his personal experiences leading up to his suicide attempt and his recovery, and stayed well after the presentation ended to answer questions on the minds of B.C. students.

At the conclusion of the presentation, officers from the school’s “Pro Life” group, which is named “B.C. Alive,” presented a donation to the Directors of The Ganley Foundation. Representing the “B.C. Alive” group were James Horan ’12, Thomas Lahey ’12, and Justin Yacovino ’14.
By Carl Romanos ’11

Today is January 31, 2011. For most Bergen Catholic students, it is the same as any other Monday. Meanwhile, Ben Seo ’12 is halfway around the world in Seoul, Korea preparing to sing the duet of his life on national television in front of some of the most prominent members of the Korean music industry. Each of the five “mentors,” or judges, has four seats arranged behind him or her, representing the twenty people who will go on in the “Star Audition: The Great Birth” singing competition. Fourteen contestants will go home today.

Ben began to hone his musical chops when he was but six years old. His mother would bring him to a teacher for instruction in classical vocals. For seven years, Ben was versed in everything from Italian operas to musicals. Although he has since forgotten to sing classically, this foundation would bring him the musical talent and versatility that he values today. To this day, Ben likes to escape to his basement, put on the radio, and sing for three to four hours at a time. Why? “Pure fun,” he says, but for Ben Seo, singing is about to become much more than fun and games.

It all started when Ben’s parents learned about an audition for a Korean singing show in New York City to be held in a mere two days. After some hasty, makeshift preparation, Ben made the fateful first trip to the Radisson Hotel on 31st Street, not really knowing what to expect. There, he was greeted by the staff of a show called “Star Audition: The Great Birth”, which is broadcast by MBC, one of the four major Korean national broadcasting companies. For Koreans, this show is the equivalent of “American Idol” — contestants sing famous Korean songs in front of panels of judges.

Ben makes the first cut. For the second audition, he heads to another studio in the city for an open audition. He sings in front of members of the Korean music industry, as well as a live studio audience. A crown flashes on the big screen and he is given an airline ticket for a flight departing on December 17, 2010 — “the golden ticket” to Korea.

Ben is one of the top 114 undiscovered Korean singers in the world — six of them being Korean-Americans. Nevertheless, jet lagged and sleepless, Ben admitted that he had a less-than-perfect first audition in Korea, “Let’s just say it was generous for them to let me through,” he laments. Despite this, Ben would go on to make the most of that generosity by impressing the judges with an exemplary second audition in Korea on December 22.

The next phase of the competition was to begin on January 28. During the one-month period the contestants had been given off, Ben trained relentlessly at his Korean home in Daegu. He trained with multiple vocal coaches, many of whom are influential on the Korean music scene. They taught Ben how to mold his singing, how to express his emotional message just the way he wanted to. “They weren’t teaching me how to sing per se — they were teaching me to interpret a song and to use it to tell my own story,” Ben reflects.

January 28 arrives and Ben ships up to Seoul by train. There, the contestants are given their “mission” — the top 20 would be chosen through duets. There are thirty-four contestants left. For three days, Ben and his partner train for about ten hours a day with a vocal coach. The hard training is consuming and the environment is stressful.

The pivotal audition was on January 31. Ben was “the good kind of nervous, the kind that makes you ready.” The feeling was one of the most intense and pressure-filled of his life, infinitely more taxing then any AP Biology test. Regardless, he stepped onto that stage in front of the “Who’s Who” of Korean music and the countless viewers at home, ready for anything.

“Who would like Ben as their student?” None of the five mentors raise their hands. None of them speak, all is quiet. Despite a rousingly-good performance Ben is not chosen. All of a sudden, the intense, nerve-wracking whirlwind of a journey comes to an abrupt end.

continued on page 53

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Carl Romanos ’11 was the Editor-in-Chief of The Herald, and was also the captain of the Mock Trial Team. He was named as a National Merit Commended Student, and was inducted into the National Honor Society, the National Mathematics Honor Society, and the French Honor Society.
Seventeen of B.C.’s most successful alumni returned to their alma mater on Wednesday, November 11, 2010 to take part in Bergen Catholic’s annual Career Day program. The highly-anticipated event allows Crusaders’ alumni to share their real-life career experiences with current B.C. students under the guidance of Mrs. Pat Fesen of the Admissions Office.

Former B.C. football star Michael Minogue ’85, the Chief Executive Officer, President, and Chairman of Abiomed Inc. (a leading provider of breakthrough heart support technologies, with more than 400 employees and nearly $100 million in revenues), served as the Keynote Speaker for the event.

J. R. Meloro ’91

Below: CAREER DAY PARTICIPANTS (Front row, L to R): Daniel Long ’03 (play-by-play sports broadcaster), Ashkan Hamzelou ’04 (Alzheimer’s research associate), B.C. Principal Mr. Tim McElhinney, B.C. President Br. Brian M. Walsh, C.F.C., Dr. Mark Pizzurro ’92 (orthopedic surgeon and physician), Tom Stein ’73 (advertising), and Career Day Coordinator Pat Fesen. (Middle row, L to R): Vincent Benanti ’72 (architect), J.R. Meloro ’91 (marketing communications, Vice President and Director), Jack van Buiten ’78 (Manager of Management and Customer Support, Mercedes Benz USA), Reid Cheyne ’84 (products senior salesman with Citigroup Global Markets), Dennis O’Connor ’93 (Business Director of International Transportation, Phillips-Van Heusen Corp.), Paul Kearns ’86 (Fire Captain, Teaneck Fire Department), and Craig Arkenau ’95 (Director of Asset Management Technology Infrastructure, NBC Universal). (Top row, L to R): Joseph Palmeri ’01 (commercial heating, ventilation, and air conditioning sales engineer), William O’Toole CP ’13 (freelance sports journalist and cartoonist), Russell Zambito (Art Director of Games and Interactive Media for Sesame Workshop), Mark Musella ’80 (criminal trial attorney), Alberto Mascaro ’87 (Director, Latin America Division of Voice of America), Robert Ryan ’89 (Lieutenant, River Vale Police Department), and John Fill ’74 (pharmacist).
On Tuesday evening, May 31, Bergen Catholic hosted its first-ever estate planning seminar for Bergen Catholic family members and friends. The seminar took place at Bacari Grill in Washington Township, NJ. Our presenter for the evening was Sal Salvo, noted author, TV and radio personality, and co-founder of the Institute for Family Wealth Counseling in Parsippany, NJ.

Sal’s extensive presentation was intended to educate every attendee in estate planning matters at a high level, while encouraging each attendee to take action in preparing or updating their wills, trusts, and overall estate plan. Only by taking action can individuals make decisions about their estates, rather than leaving that up to grieving relatives, or the government.

Director of Institutional Advancement Joe Branciforte ’64 noted that if only one person without a will is motivated to take action, he would consider the evening a success. He noted that most of the attendees were from the alumni classes of 1959 through 1969 — prime candidates to set their life affairs in order.

President Br. Brian M. Walsh, C.F.C. described the dynamic changes taking place at Bergen Catholic, from strategic planning through the year 2020, to marketing and branding efforts, to new leadership and internationality programs, not to mention the school’s stellar technology initiatives. He envisions Bergen Catholic as the premier Catholic high school in our marketplace and beyond. He announced that next September’s incoming class was expected to top 270 students, something that hasn’t been seen for more than a decade!

Based upon the feedback and energy in the room, Bergen Catholic will offer another seminar in the fall at a date to be determined soon. We look forward to educating an increasing number of our alumni, parents and friends on the important activity of estate planning and the dramatic impact that planning can have on our families’ wealth preservation and charitable gift possibilities.

Enjoy the photos of our first-ever estate planning seminar! It is clear that a good time was had by all, as well as an important educational experience. Go Bergen Catholic!
CALLING ALL ALUMNI! VISIT WWW.BERGENCATHOLIC.ORG AND CREATE YOUR USER I.D. & PASSWORD. CONNECT AND “OPEN UP” YOUR B.C. WORLD.

Our new website is “branded” with the BC look and feel. It combines the prior ‘school’ site and the prior ‘alumni’ site into one NEW site—still conveniently located at: http://www.bergencatholic.org. The site will be the springboard for new and exciting functionality in the months and years that lie ahead. So visit and “bookmark” the site and return often to stay connected with your school, your faculty, your friends, your teams—your BC Family! And, look for future functionality rollouts—including online class notes, polls, surveys, etc.

Everyone can click on our NEW ‘eStore’ icon and check out our initial line of “official” Bergen Catholic apparel! Browse the entire site to find many of our old standbys, like information about upcoming events, faculty, academics, athletics, student life, parents, alumni and donating.

Alumni can click on the NEW ‘Alumni Directory’ icon (now password-protected and available only to alumni)—find yourself, then go to the “My Profile” area to decide which information you want to update, etc.

Everyone can click on the ‘Donate Now’ icon to make that important investment in the future of Bergen Catholic High School.

We welcome everyone to the Bergen Catholic “Revolution!” Join us for a glorious future and become a part of making it happen. Deus Vult!

STAY IN TOUCH!

Alumni, students, parents, and friends of B.C.
Stay on top of Bergen Catholic High School news throughout the year by visiting the school’s online magazine, to be published approximately every two months between the regular “print” editions of BERGEN CATHOLIC CRUSADER MAGAZINE. PDF versions of these publications can be found by going to the school website (www.bergencatholic.org), then clicking on the “About BC” tab and then the “Online Magazine” tab on the drop-down menu.
Would you like to honor or memorialize a loved one or friend? Or, a special occasion? If so, a brick in Crusader Promenade, located at field level just outside the Nicholas G. Saingas Training Center, may be just for you!

Or, perhaps you would prefer a leaf or a stone on our Tree of Life, located at the entranceway to Hoehl Gymnasium and Hoehl Hall.

Either option will offer you the opportunity to create a perpetual remembrance or recognition for that special loved one, friend, or occasion. Whether you choose a brick under the sun and the stars, or a leaf on our cozy, indoor Tree of Life, is up to you.

For further information, please call or e-mail Joe Branciforte ’64, Director of Institutional Advancement at: 201.634.4140, or: JBRANCIFORTE@BERGENCATHOLIC.ORG

**Crusader Promenade Brick-by-Brick Pricing Chart**

“Crusader Promenade” is located on the outside eastern edge of the Saingas Training Center, at field level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brick Paver Parameters</th>
<th>Price per brick</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4” by 8”</td>
<td>3 line maximum; 13 characters/spaces per line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8” by 8”</td>
<td>4 line maximum; 13 characters/spaces per line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12” by 12”</td>
<td>6 line maximum; 16 characters/spaces per line</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Tree of Life**

**Leaf Cost:** $1,000
Members of Bergen Catholic High School’s Crusaders for Christian Action (“CCA”) group once again hosted its annual Thanksgiving food drive for needy residents of Bergen County. Pictured are CCA officers and contributors (L to R) Jake McDougall ’13, Michael Fusco ’13, Craig Kay ’12, Ryan Dikdan ’11, Michael Rucereto ’11, Eli Mallouhi ’12, Brendan McCullagh ’12, and CCA Moderator Diane Merrick. The annual food drive, held in conjunction with the efforts of the Center for Food Action and Lincoln Technical Institute in Mahwah, yielded several frozen turkeys and scores of laundry baskets filled with food.

Mrs. Angela DeToro gets ready to strike out yet another student batter.
Five Bergen Catholic studentstook part inImmaculateConception High School’s presentation of “Seussical The Musical” in April. Participating in the show were (L to R) Joseph Charles ’02 (Chairman of B.C.’s Fine Arts Department), Sina Nikmaram ’14, Charles Overholser ’14, Lucas Szczerbaniewicz ’11, Mark Shasha ’13, and Kirk Nouhan ’13.

Seven Bergen Catholic students took part in the Academy of the Holy Angels’ presentation of “Kiss Me Kate” in early April. Participating in the show were (L to R) Joseph Charles ’02 (Chairman of B.C.’s Fine Arts Department), Mark Ellebracht ’11, Kevin Markle ’11, Carl Romanos ’11, David Bowers ’11, Patrick Monaghan ’13, Robert Johnson ’11, and Timothy Paul Shaker ’13.
Bergen Catholic varsity basketball coach Joe Dionisio ’77 became the ninth head coach from the school to be inducted into the New Jersey Scholastic Coaches Association (“NJSCA”) Hall of Fame when the organization held its annual awards banquet at The Pines Manor in Edison, NJ on March 27, 2011. He stepped down from his position of 11 years about four weeks later.

A total of 33 head coaches were inducted into the NJSCA Hall of Fame, and additional, administrators, contributors, and referees/officials were also honored. Making the nominations especially satisfying is the fact that the inductees are selected and honored by their peers.

Coach Dionisio has enjoyed an outstanding scholastic career, both as a player and coach. He was the captain and starting point guard on the first Bergen Catholic basketball team to win a Bergen County Jamboree championship in 1977. The Dumont native moved on to Dominican College in Orangeburg, NY, where he blossomed into a 1,600-point scorer for the Chargers. He was inducted into the Dominican College Hall of Fame in 2007.

After starting his coaching career as the freshman baseball coach at Northern Highlands High School, Coach Dionisio took over the varsity baseball and basketball programs at Don Bosco Prep in Ramsey, where he led the basketball squad to a two-season record of 31-18. He enjoyed even greater success with the Ironmen baseball team, where he compiled a 66-18 record in three seasons. The Ironmen won New Jersey State Parochial “A” crowns in 1986 and 1988 under his direction.

Coach Dionisio returned to his high school alma mater, where he coached the Crusaders’ freshman basketball team to a Bergen County Championship in 1996. He was promoted to the position of head varsity basketball coach in 2000, where he took over for the legendary Chris Donfield, the all-time winningest basketball coach in Bergen County at the time.


When his team won the Jamboree title in 2001, Coach Dionisio became the first person in the history of the Bergen County Jamboree to play on a championship-winning team and then to coach another one. The Crusaders reached the Championship Game of the Jamboree a total of five times over his 11 seasons.

Coach Dionisio was also the varsity baseball coach at B.C. from 1995 to 2000, when he compiled an outstanding overall record of 148-31 (.827) and won the program’s only Bergen County Championship in 1999. The Crusaders won at least 22 games in each of his six seasons as the head coach, and won 26-or-more games a total of three times.

Coach Dionisio joins eight other former and current Bergen Catholic head coaches who are members of the NJSCA Hall of Fame, a list that includes track coach James Sok (inducted in 1973), basketball and football coach John Mazziotta (1979), track coach Tom Fuchs (1992), football coach Tony Carcich (1993), the late basketball coach Donfield (2000), current track coach Al Naimo (2000), current golf coach James Jacobsen ’66 (2003), and football coach Fred Stengel (2007).

In addition, Coach Dionisio became the fifth Bergen Catholic alumnus to be inducted into the NJSCA Hall of Fame, along with Jacobsen, Emerson High School baseball coach Robert Carcich ’70 (inducted in 2002), Pascack Hills High School baseball and basketball coach Mike O’Brien ’60 (2002), and Old Tappan High School basketball coach Dennis Rossi ’64 (2009).
B.C. ELIMINATES THE
“One-Way” Rule

By Peter Ryan ’12
The Herald

For several years, one of the school’s more controversial subjects was Bergen Catholic’s “One-Way” Rule, which existed in the main quadrangle of the school and forced students to move in only one direction, even if their intended destination was just a couple of doors away in the opposite direction. The B.C. students spoke up and the administration listened — and changed the rule! It’s just another example of the school’s administration being flexible enough to recognize the needs and wants of its students.

The “One-Way” hallway rule has been taken away and the students are all the better for it! Although many Crusaders have gone through daunting years of this strict law in the past, B.C. students now are enjoying their newfound freedom.

The tradeoff of whether to run and receive a “JUG,” or walk and be late for class, is no longer on the minds of Crusaders’ students. Now able to move quickly through the halls, students are excelling even more at Bergen Catholic.

The controversy of this issue was very heated in the beginning of this change. Some administrators felt that it was a “tradition” that could not be let go and that there would be chaos in the halls without it; while others proclaimed that students weren’t getting to class on time and suffering detentions because of it.

The problem stemmed from students traveling around the entire school to their next period, when their destination was only a few yards away from where they left their previous class — in order to follow the “One-Way” rule. For example, I had to leave my English class in Room 2 and walk all the way around the four long halls of school to get to my Math class in Room 7 — all to not receive a detention.

The teachers saw that something had to be done after late slips started piling up in huge amounts. The rule was then brought to debate, and it was decided that it should be eliminated! We learned of this change during a school assembly on October 26, when Student President Al Bruno ’11 and Vice President Joe Rizzo ’11 stated their plan to rid Bergen Catholic of the “One-Way” rule.

A trial period was first instituted to see how the change would go over with the students. The hallways were very orderly and efficient, because the students were very conscious that any inappropriate action could cause the removal of this liberty.

Since there were no “mosh pits” or traffic jams in the halls, the B.C. administration decided that the trial was a major success and students were finally able to get to class on time without running through the halls. One student said, “I’m so happy that the rule is gone, because now I don’t have to rush everywhere!”

Although walking any direction in the school is a new concept, Bergen Catholic will soon make it a steadfast tradition.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Peter Ryan ’12
writes for The Herald
and is also a member
of the B.C. soccer team.

“Technologist of the Year” continued from page 36

Horner’s students also make up their own web sites and interactive quizzes, and orally record their written stories and project them using “pod casts.”

The 30-year veteran of the classroom, who served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Turkey after graduating from college, also uses technology to grade papers electronically using “rubrics” that he developed, and writes comments directly on his students’ work to promote fast and efficient grading.

Not forgetting the importance of reading despite his students’ extended use of laptops, he sums up his extraordinary efforts by commenting, “I hope that we can use technology to encourage reading in students.”

Horner earned a B.A. in English at Providence College and an M.A. at the University of Chicago. He was previously honored as B.C.’s “Teacher of the Year” after the 2002-03 school year, and received the “Bene Merente Award” at this year’s graduation ceremonies in recognition of his 30 years of outstanding service to the school.
The Bergen Catholic community, seeking to celebrate its diversity and to honor the various cultures of its students, celebrated “International Day” on April 14 with a series of outstanding presentations and food samplings.

After the audience in Hoehl Gymnasium was welcomed by David Bowers ’11 (President of the B.C. International Club), Cameron Dickerson ’11 (Vice President), and Moderator Lily M. Di Maggio (the Chair of the World Language Department), the program began with commentary by a pair of foreign-born B.C. students (Jae Cho ’13 and Jongwoo Kim ’11) and an address by Andrew Degand ’11, who gave an account of his recent trip to Japan. Nicholas Giordano ’13 entertained the audience with a pair of guitar performances, and “Korean Idol” star Eui-hwan “Ben” Seo ’12 earned a standing ovation after his piano and vocal presentation.

The Academy of the Holy Angels also participated in the event, providing a pair of Irish step dancers and a dancing exhibition by its Asian Cultural Club.

At the conclusion of the performances, the audience was treated to a tour of seven cultural exhibits (one representing each continent), each decorated by the extensive international doll collection of Foreign Language instructor Yolanda Gasparro. Hors d’oeuvres from each continental were also served at the respective booths.

Making the event more meaningful was the presence of the six visiting students from Argentina, who saw and felt the respect and love that the Bergen Catholic family has for each of its students’ cultures and races.
For the sixth year in a row, Bergen Catholic’s “Midnight Run” group helped the homeless citizens of New York City by collecting and distributing much-needed food and supplies to them in their neighborhoods.

Through the supreme efforts and dedication of numerous B.C. students and the group’s Moderator, Psychology and Spanish teacher Rosemary Ortiz-Whiteside, the group also raised funds to help in their mission.

One of the groups that made a “run” this year consisted of (L to R) Matt Ascolese ’14, Mark Cristaldi ’14, Brendan Sweeney ’14, Ryan DeLoughry ’14, alumnus Joe Bruzzi ’10, Kyle Lally ’14, Robert Farrell ’14, Joe Pennisi ’11, Moderator Mrs. Rosemary Ortiz-Whiteside, Liam Kelly ’14, Jake Campbell ’14, Adam Degand ’13, Andrew Degand ’11, Chris Lind ’11, Gavin Godbolt ’11, Rosie Whiteside, and Maggie Fitzpatrick.

Alumnus Joe Bruzzi ’10 returned to assist in one of the “runs.”

Chris Lind ’11 and Rosie Whiteside package goods for the homeless.

Adam Degand ’13 readies the donated goods for distribution.

Matt Ascolese ’14, Ryan DeLoughry ’14, Robert Farrell ’14, and Brendan Sweeney ’14 take in the sights of New York City.
The Bergen Catholic Crusaders’ winter and spring sports teams provided their fans with many exciting moments during their respective seasons.

WINTER, 2010-11
The varsity basketball team battled through a mid-season slump, but put together a second-half surge to finish its season with an 18-9 mark. The Crusaders rolled to a 5-1 start and won the Indian Hills H.S. Holiday Basketball Festival championship for the first time. The team fell into a 2-5 slide, but then bounced back to win 11 of its next 13 games, avenging five early-season losses along the way (including one each over County rivals Don Bosco Prep, Paramus Catholic, and St. Joseph Regional). Three-season starters Mark Richards ’11 and Eric Flanagan ’11 became only the second duo in school history from the same class to score at least 900 points each in their varsity basketball careers (978 and 941 points, respectively). The only other B.C. classmates to score at least 900 points in their varsity careers were the program’s all-time leading scorer Sean Banks ’03 (1,519 points) and fellow three-time All-County star (and current B.C. freshman basketball coach) Joe Sandberg ’03 (1,153). Both Richards and Flanagan were selected First-Team All-League, and were also named to the All-County squad (Second-Team and Third-Team, respectively).

New league? Same results! The B.C. bowling team played in its third different league in three seasons and still brought home another league title (its fifth championship in a row under Head Coach Larry Fierro). Despite being in a “rebuilding mode” and not having a “dominant” star (no First- or Second-Team All-County honorees), the balanced Crusaders rolled to the Big North Conference United Division crown behind the efforts of First-Team All-League players Charles Long ’12 and Simon Lezaja ’14 (a Third-Team All-County selection), Second-Teamers Patrick Henry ’11 and Brian Hund ’12, and Honorable Mention pick Fred Dressel ’13.

The Crusaders’ hockey team paid the price for playing most of its schedule in the unforgiving Gordon Conference and ended up with 7-12 record. The team still had its share of bright moments, including regular-season wins over Don Bosco Prep and Seton Hall Prep, and a 4-1 Gordon Conference Playoff victory over Pope John. Explosive 30-goal scorer Adam Apidopoulos ’11 and rugged Kyle Garlasco ’11 led a strong offensive attack that scored four-or-more goals in nine different games.

The indoor track squad excelled once again, finishing in second place in the Big North Conference United Division meet and producing three First-Team All- League performers in Tarique Gray ’11 (100-meter dash), Tyler Dilworth ’11 (400-meter hurdles), and Ted D’Amico ’13 (Pole Vault).

The rebuilding swimming team finished its season with a 5-4 record and a “Top Ten” finish in the Bergen County Championship Meet behind the efforts of veterans Mark Marsella ’11 and Jake Bruno ’12, and newcomer Josh Sembrano ’14 (a Third-Team All-Non-Public All-State selection).

The B.C. wrestling team enjoyed another superb season as it won another league title (its tenth in the last 11 seasons), the B.C.C.A. Christmas Tournament (for the ninth time in the last 12 seasons), and a District 7 title (for the 22nd season in a row), and reached the Section Finals again (before falling to powerful Delbarton) on the way to a 12-4 record. Two B.C. wrestlers brought home medals at the individual State Championships in Atlantic City in March. Connor Melde ’12 placed fourth in the 135-pound weight class and John Sebastian ’14 took fifth place at 152. Both wrestlers (along with Trevor Albrecht ’11) were named First-Team All-County to cap off another fine season for Head Coach Dave Bell’s squad.

SPRING, 2011
The varsity baseball team enjoyed a strong season that saw it compile a 21-9 record (the program’s most wins since 2004) and produce some memorable wins. The Crusaders ended nationally-ranked Don Bosco Prep’s 25-game winning streak in the second round of the State Tournament, before suffering a heart-breaking last-inning loss at Seton Hall Prep in the next round. The “never-say-die” Crusaders had three great comeback wins in which they trailed by at least four runs late in the game, including the epic win at St. Joseph Regional in which B.C. tied the game in the top of the seventh inning on a grand-slam home run by Eric Flanagan ’11 and won it on a tenth-inning blast by Elliot Conn ’11. Southpaw Toby Schwartz ’11 was honored as B.C.’s first First-Team All-County selection since 2004 after a season in which he batted .485, hit six home runs, drove in 43 runs, and won six games on the mound (including the victory over Don Bosco and a no-hitter vs. Hackensack). In another “first” for the program, three members of the Class of 2011 finished their careers with more than 100 hits: Schwartz (127), Flanagan (118), and Charles Chen (104).

The B.C. golf team enjoyed another spectacular season, one in which it compiled a stunning 24-0 record, won a regular-season league title, finished in first place in three major tournaments (the Garden State Cup, the Blue Devil Invitational, and the North Jersey Open), and came in second in six different events (including the New Jersey Tournament of Champions and the Non-Public “A” State Tournament). The toughest second-place “pill to swallow” came at the Tournament of Champions, when the Crusaders shot a fabulous team score of 300 (which would have broken the all-time tournament record by five strokes), only to later find out that Christian Brothers Academy came through with a score of 295 to win the title. Harrison Shih ’12 won the T of C individual title with a 5-under-par score of 67 that was the second-lowest score in the 77-year tournament history. Shih was joined in an outstanding lineup by Peter Repetto ’11, Sean O’Neill ’12, Matt Love ’13, Ryan Rose ’13, and Erick Alonso ’14 (who won the individual title at the inaugural North Jersey Open).

The B.C. lacrosse squad, once again playing a “killer” schedule, finished with a deceiving 7-10 record. The Crusaders stunned heavily-favored St. Joseph’s of Metuchen (10-8) and routed St. Joseph Regional (19-3) for two of their most-satisfying regular-season victories, then defeated Indian Hills (16-7) in the Bergen County Tournament and St. Peter’s Prep (8-7) in the Non-Public “A” State Tournament. Brendon McGuire ’12 (37) and Jamie Ward ’11 (36)
each cracked the 30-goal mark for the Crusaders. Ward was also recognized as an “Academic All-American” by the New Jersey Chapter of US Lacrosse (becoming the first Crusader to receive this honor) and was also named Non-Public “A” Second-Team All-State as a midfielder.

The “young and inexperienced” tennis team came together much quicker than expected, piecing together an excellent 14-4 record that also resulted in a Big North Conference United Division championship (the program’s first league crown since 2006). Second-time All-League honoree Brian Balico ’13 (First Singles/Open) led a wave of First-Team selections that included Sean Fernandez ’14 (Second Singles), Bradni Black ’13 (Third Singles), and the First Doubles combo of Alex Hart ’11 and Matt Ligouri ’13. Veteran coach Scott Gismondi was the winner of the Division’s “Coach of the Year” award.

The outdoor track team enjoyed another strong campaign as it won three of its league meets by sizable margins and finished in second place in the Division meet. Three Crusaders duplicated their indoor track success by earning First-Team All-League honors (Tarique Gray ’11 [100-meter dash], Tyler Dilworth ’11 [Intermediate hurdles], and Ted D’Amico ’13 [Pole Vault]), while John Tsimis ’13 stepped up to win similar honors in the Long Jump. Michael Moore ’13 shared the First-Team post with classmate D’Amico in the Pole Vault.

The B.C. volleyball squad continued its meteoric rise in its fourth season of existence, posting an excellent 22-8 record and sweeping rival Don Bosco Prep twice on the way to an 8-0 record in the Freedom Division of the Big North Conference. The Crusaders also posted State Tournament wins over West Essex and Vernon before running into powerhouse Fair Lawn in the North Section 1 Semi-Final round. “Coach of the Year” Mike DeCastro’s squad was led by First-Team All-League honorees Brendan McCullagh ’12 and Kirk Nounah ’13, Second-Team picks Hacik Arslanoglu ’12 and Bryan Younghans ’11, and Honorable Mention selection Jeff Warnock ’11.

“The Great Birth” continued from page 41

Ben had always thought himself to be unlucky due to his visual impairment. In the end, he gained the reward of perspective, the gift of a little self knowledge. Another contestant on the show had lived without his parents since he was nine. “I realized how lucky I was to have such great parents and such a great life,” Ben reflects.

He took stock of his life and the whole experience and realized just how blessed he truly is. He was a nationally-recognized figure in Korea: people on the street would ask for his autograph or a picture; a YouTube search of his Korean name would yield videos of him singing on the show. Furthermore, he was thankful for all of the support from his friends at home, including the many he has in the B.C. community.

He also recognized the value of his talent. Music gave him a “voice” so-to-speak, a medium through which to express himself in a way he previously found challenging. On top of all of this, with all of the free hotel rooms, free food, and world-class musical training, Ben was truly grateful for the once-in-a-lifetime experience that he had been given.

But, in the end, the question on everyone’s mind is simple: “Is this the last the music world has seen of Ben Seo?” Constant companion Mark Ciavarella ’03 thinks not. Despite Ben’s momentary despair at rejection, Mark is confident that “Ben will get it back.” He observes, “Ben is very determined – a perfectionist in all things – but better yet, he has the best attitude, and that’s what separates him from the rest.”

Instead of despairing at his faults, Ben has maximized his talents, rising above his situation in the biggest way possible. “I look forward to using my new connections and continuing my dream of breaking into the music industry. I want to serve others with my talents,” says Ben, ever hopeful. There is little doubt that he will make it big, some way, somehow. As Mark says, “This is just the beginning for Ben.”

“Korean Idol” star Eui-hwan “Ben” Seo ’12 earned a standing ovation after his piano and vocal presentation on “International Day.”
In Memoriam

Margaret A. Abel
Mother of Douglas ’70

Donald Adler
Father of Timothy ’83

Roxanne B. Alrutz
Wife of Thomas ’61

Joseph A. Annecchino
Grandfather of Michael ’04

Norma Barbalinardo
Mother of Joseph ’70 and Robert ’74

Glenn Bauberger ’64

Daniel R. Behrens ’76

Arlene A. Bezem
Mother of Mark ’74

Irene Bolter
Grandmother of Joseph Carnevale ’04

Flora M. Boresta
Mother of John ’73 and Robert ’75

Joseph R. Braun ’61
Brother of Robert ’64 and John ’71

Muriel M. Burns
Grandmother of J.C., ’01 and Sean ’04 O’Hara

Robert Burton ’60

Leonard Cali
Grandfather of Anthony ’14

Sarah Anne Carson
Sister of Christopher ’73, Joseph ’74, Peter ’76, and Kevin ’78

Sandra E. Casazza
Mother of John ’91

Joan Ciampo
Mother of William ’73

Concetta Ciavarella
Grandmother of Mark ’03

Charles A. Claesgens ’64
Brother of Michael ’66

Hildegard Clune
Mother of Patrick ’73 and Brian ’88

Joseph Comparetto
Grandfather of Joseph ’04

Raymond Conley
Father of Janet Conley, B.C. faculty

Barry F. Connell ’62

John J. Conroy ’62
Brother of Ken ’73 and uncle of James Malkowski ’85

Regina W. Corthell
Mother of Richard ’71

John F. Cosby, Sr.
Father of John ’60 and grandfather of John ’87

Yolanda Costanza
Mother of Peter ’60 and Ed ’65

Michael Costello
Grandfather of Michael ’89 and Greg ’97

Helen B. Coy
Mother of John ’69

Lorraine F. Craig
Mother of Ed ’65 and Michael ’71

Veronica R. Davies
Grandmother of Robert ’07

Joseph DePeri
Uncle of John ’83 and Paul ’84 (RIP)

Marie DePeri
Mother of John ’83 and Paul ’84 (RIP)

Paul DePeri ’84
Brother of John ’83

Dominick DeSteno
Grandfather of Marc ’88 and Dominick ’95

Josephine DiMauro
Mother of Gerald ’71

Noel H. Dolan
Father of Kevin ’80 and Thomas ’87

Christopher J. Donfield
Former B.C. faculty, guidance counselor and coach, and uncle of Robert ’83 and Kevin ’87

Shane Donlan
Son of William ’73 and nephew of Francis (Don) ’65 and Joe ’64

Eleanor Dopf
Grandmother of David ’92

Maurice Downing
Father of Kerry ’73 and Peter ’76

James J. Doyle
Grandfather of James ’98

Constance Drew
Mother of Richard ’68

Ronald Drogo ’67
Brother of William ’62 (RIP)

Helen Dunleavy
Mother of Patrick ’71

Amelia Falato
Mother of Tom Falato, B.C. faculty

Eleanor R. Federico
Grandmother of Robert ’03

Linda L. Ferguson
Wife of Harold ’63 and mother of Timothy ’85

Edmund Ferrigno
Father of Edmund ’81

Leonard Fiume
Father of Donald ’75

Michael G. Ford
Son of Mark ’78

Sylvia Galinski
Mother of John ’60 and Paul ’69

Helen Gasparotto
Grandmother of Joseph (Pichetto) ’94

John and Evelyn Georgallas
Father and mother of Stephen ’79

Ann F. Gourley
Mother of William ’60 and Michael ’73

Elizabeth Griffin
Mother of Michael ’72

Eleanor K. Hartnett
Grandmother of Greg Reid ’00

Jane L. Heilmann
Mother of Tom ’64

William F. Hogan, Sr.
and Angela Hogan
Grandfather and grandmother of William “Duke” Hogan ’94

Ethel Hudson
Mother of Timothy ’59 and Thomas ’64

Kenneth Iannacone, Sr.
Father of Kevin ’81

Beatrice Imbarrato
Father of Stephen ’70 and Francis ’72, and grandmother of Domenic ’10

John J. Infantolino
Father of Edward ’65

Br. Thomas J. Jensen,
C.F.C.
B.C. faculty and coach

Allan Jones
Father of Michael ’91

Phyllis O. Kaufhold
Mother of Stephen ’79 and Michael ’82

Peter Kearney
Father of Peter ’81

Gertrude Kebba
Mother of Robert ’73

Thomas G. Kelliher
Father of John ’72 and Thomas ’77

Shirley Kenneally
Mother of Tim ’64

Helen Kenworthy
Grandmother of Brian ’94 and David ’97

Beatrice C. Koch
Mother of Alan ’66

Mary D. Kolan
Mother of Stanley ’62

Peter H. Kuchar
Grandfather of Peter ’11

Edward W. Kulesza
Grandfather of Edward ’99

Florence Kump
Mother of Richard ’70

Josephine Lamolino
Grandmother of Michael ’90

Giuseppe Latino
Grandfather of Joseph ’08

Margaret Ann LeFebvre
Mother of David ’66

Amelia M. Lembo
Grandmother of John ’02 and Michael ’05

Andrew and Mary Lesch
Father and mother of John ’69

William E. Lewis
Father of Bill ’71

David G. Lloyd
Grandfather of Brian ’04 and Brendan ’06

Lucindo LoPiccolo
Grandfather of Vincent ’00 and Michael ’03

Armin Lovi
Father of Joe ’82

Karina MacNeill
Grandmother of Owen ’12

Martha A. Mascaro
Mother of Jorge ’84 (B.C. faculty) and Alberto ’87

Kevin H. Massey ’72

Michael McAllister
Father of Brian ’13

Robert P. McAndrew
Father of Robert ’75 and Timothy ’77, and grandfather of Timothy ’10 and Kevin ’11

Andrew McBride
Father of Andrew ’78 and Brendan ’80

Mary A. McGuire
Mother of Joseph ’76

Joseph McKee ’68
Brother of Patrick ’66

Brian J. McKendry
Brother of Doug ’74 and uncle of Matthew ’02

Mauro Miranda
Father of Roberto ’73, Daniel ’80, and Rich ’83

Rose Miskiv
Grandmother of Tad Jones ’99

Arthur Moronese
Grandfather of Christopher ’07

Robert B. Muehl
Father of George ’78, Daniel ’81, and Bryan ’87

Daniel Muskardin
Father of Dan ’86

Helen M. Oates
Mother of Stephen ’72

T.J. O’Brien
Son of Desmond ’78

William J. O’Connor
Father of Michael ’80

Thomas O’Dea ’69

Arthur G. Olsen
Father of Bruce Olsen, B.C. faculty
Mrs. Di Maggio’s value to the Bergen Catholic community is not limited to the classroom. She has served as Moderator of several organizations at the school, including the World Languages Honor Society, the World Languages and International Clubs, and “Operation Smile.” She is an integral part of the school’s newly-formed Student Exchange Program, and traveled with Bergen Catholic President Br. Brian M. Walsh, C.F.C., and several B.C. students to Argentina last summer. She also coordinated a return trip by the Argentinian students to B.C. this spring.

“Lily is an energetic, compassionate and dedicated teacher. She employs multiple teaching strategies during each of her lessons to impact all of the students in her classroom,” praises Tim McEllinney, the school’s Principal. “Additionally, her lessons are filled with many diverse uses of technology, which certainly furthers the learning of her students. Lily is a most deserving recipient of the ‘Educator of the Year’ award.”

Mrs. Di Maggio earned her B.A. in World Language and Secondary Education at New Jersey City University and her M.A.E. in Educational Administration at Seton Hall University. She and her husband, Ben, are the parents of a pair of B.C. graduates, Giovanni ’04 and Antonino ’05.
SAVE THE DATE

FOURTH ANNUAL

Crusader Gala

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2011

HONOREES:
John Crowley ’85, Alison and John’75 Corcoran, CP, AP, Br. Jack Mostyn ’59, C.F.C., John Puzio

Rockleigh Country Club — Rockleigh, NJ
Cocktail Hour — 6:30 to 7:30 P.M.
Followed by Dinner, Dancing, Live and Silent Auction, closing with Raffle Drawing

MISSION STATEMENTS

Bergen Catholic High School
Bergen Catholic High School is a Catholic Community which prepares young men to become leaders by deepening religious faith, developing academic excellence, and strengthening social consciousness and responsibility in accordance with the Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brothers Education.

Office of Institutional Advancement
The Office of Institutional Advancement, guided by the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice, seeks to build growing, sustainable relationships with people and organizations who care about the mission of Bergen Catholic High School and to spread the “good news” of Bergen Catholic to all who care to hear it, embrace it, and support it with their time, talent, treasure and prayer.