Making a Mark on the World.

CRUSADERS IN EDUCATION
2012
Upcoming Events

Friday, September 28, 2012
Alumni Golf Outing
Emerson Golf Club, Emerson, NJ. Limited to the first 60 paid golfers; includes lunch, golf with cart, dinner, and prizes.

Saturday, September 29, 2012
Class of 1962 50-Year Anniversary Reunion Weekend
Bacari Grill, Washington Township, NJ.

Saturday, October 6, 2012
Class of 1992 20-Year Anniversary Reunion Weekend
Courtyard by Marriott, Montvale, NJ.

Saturday, October 13, 2012
Class of 1987 25-Year Anniversary Reunion Weekend
The Brick House, Wyckoff, NJ.

Saturday, October 27, 2012
Class of 2002 10-Year Anniversary Reunion Weekend
Bacari Grill, Washington Township, NJ.

Thursday, November 1, 2012
5th Annual Crusader Gala
(A President’s Office and Parents’ Club event)
The Venetian, Garfield, NJ
6:30 P.M.: Cocktail hour, dinner to follow.

Saturday, November 3, 2012
Alumni Memorial Mass
(Courtesy of the Alumni Association)
10:00 A.M.: Mass in the McKenna Lawrence Chapel.
Brunch – Seasons, Washington Township, NJ.

Saturday, November 17, 2012
Class of 1982 30-Year Anniversary Reunion Weekend
Bacari Grill, Washington Township, NJ.

Friday, November 23, 2012
Alumni Football Social
7:00 P.M.: Bacari Grill, Washington Township, NJ. Contact: Tom Polifroni ’99 for further details via e-mail at: tpollifroni@aol.com.

Friday, November 23, 2012
14th Annual Alumni Hockey Game
(Organized by the Hockey Club)
Ice House, Hackensack, NJ.
Contact: Regina Radoslovich for further details via e-mail at radoslovich@bergencatholic.org, or call her at (201) 634-4146.

Saturday, November 24, 2012
Alumni Soccer Game
(Organized by the Soccer Club)
11:00 A.M. at Crusader Stadium.

CORRECTIONS

Please allow us to correct errors in past editions of CRUSADER MAGAZINE (print and online versions):

In the Fall 2011 edition of CRUSADER MAGAZINE, we paid tribute to the eight B.C. alumni who passed away during the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 (“Bergen Catholic Never Forgets”). In that article (and on the cover of the magazine), we printed graduation pictures of the eight B.C. alumni, including Domenick N. Mircovich ’79. However, we inadvertently printed the picture of fellow graduate Anthony J. Mircovich ’79 by mistake. Our sincerest apologies to both families for this unfortunate error.

In the “School News” section of the Fall 2011 edition of CRUSADER MAGAZINE (Page 32), we printed a group picture of our newly-appointed “Eucharistic Ministers.” Tom Kenzik ’62 was kind enough to take the time to inform us that the correct term that should have been used is “Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.” Thank you, Tom!

In the “School News” section of the Fall 2011 edition of CRUSADER MAGAZINE (Page 33), we listed the names of 25 members of the freshman class who are sons and grandchildren of Bergen Catholic alumni. In fact, the number is 26 – accidentally omitted from the list was the duo of William ’84 and William ’15 Twomey. William ’84 is one of five Twomey brothers who are B.C. grads (John ’85, Kevin ’87, Eamonn ’89, and Brendan ’91 are the others), so the proud family tradition lives on at B.C.!
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SUMMER 2012
June, 2012

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Summer print edition of CRUSADER MAGAZINE. I trust that you have been keeping up with the happenings here at school by reading the bi-monthly, on-line edition of this magazine.

As we come to the end of the 2011-2012 academic year, we prepare for the next by reviewing the year that was. The 2011-2012 school year saw us:

• Host six Alumni events on the road. We met graduates in Boston, Clearwater, Hoboken, Los Angeles, Miami, and San Francisco. During the 2012-2013 school year, we will host alumni events in Chicago, the West coast of Florida, Hoboken, Houston, and Las Vegas.

• Revamp our Parents’ Association to be informative and more social. Highlights of the year were a STATE OF THE SCHOOL presentation by our Principal, Tim McElhinney, the “Focus on the Arts” night, and a meeting that was a class in Forensic Science by Dr. Lou Faso.

• Increase the number of teachers on staff by 10 to meet the enrollment expansion.

• Add new curricular offerings on the AP level, as electives for seniors and another level of instruction in Mandarin. As well, we added a 21st Century Instructional Methodology called DyKnow Vision.

• Conduct reviewsof the office of the President, the daily time schedule, and the Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education.

Reading through this edition of CRUSADER MAGAZINE will allow you to see the many ways we show that:

We are the college preparatory school of choice that delivers a traditional, value-centered Catholic education in a 21st century learning environment, because only Bergen Catholic is using technology in a manner that best prepares students to lead in life and service to others.

I thank you for your support of me and the school. May God and His Blessed Mother ever guard and guide Bergen Catholic High.

My best,

Br. Brian M. Walsh
President
June 2012

Dear Alumni,

It is hard to believe that we have reached the month of June. It seems like just yesterday we were holding orientation programs in preparation for the 2011-12 school year. When a school year moves this quickly, it is a direct result of the many exciting activities occurring in the classrooms, enjoyable club and school events, and thrilling athletic contests. The students have been remarkable in engaging with so many activities, but more so, with the enthusiastic spirit that they exhibited in everything they took on. They are most assuredly a wonderful group of young men.

On June 3, 2012, one hundred and sixty-six young men were awarded Bergen Catholic High School diplomas. The graduation celebration began with a Baccalaureate Mass and Awards Ceremony on Saturday. Fr. Anthony Ricarte, Bergen Catholic’s Campus Chaplain, officiated the liturgy and provided a heart-felt and inspiring homily, which set a tremendous tone for the weekend.

The Commencement Ceremony was a spirited and moving event, which was highlighted by the remarks of the senior class speaker – Brendan McCellagh. Brendan noted in his speech the strong sense of “Brotherhood” which exists amongst the members of the Class of 2012, the enjoyable times that occurred over the past four years, how the Essential Elements of a Christian Brother Education have impacted him and his classmates, and the care in which the faculty and staff provide the students. It was as well written as it was presented, and was another visible example of the impressive quality of the Class of 2012.

During the Baccalaureate Awards ceremony, two staff members were recognized for their years of fine work and longtime dedication to the school. Mr. John Direnzo was presented with the Pro Multis Annis Award in recognition of his forty years of service as a faculty member and coach at Bergen Catholic. Additionally, Mr. Jim Jacobsen ’66 was the first recipient of the Fac Omnia Bene Award in recognition of his thirty years of service as the Bergen Catholic golf coach. I thank both of these gentlemen for the skill and expertise that they exhibit, but more so for the caring they have shown generations of Bergen Catholic students.

On April 24-26, Bergen Catholic High School engaged in an Essential Elements evaluation. The Essential Elements are qualities that distinguish Bergen Catholic from all other Catholic schools, while at the same time connect our school to all the other schools in the Christian Brother Consortium.

The Essential Elements are:

I. EVANGELIZE YOUTH WITHIN THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH
II. PROCLAIM AND WITNESS TO CATHOLIC IDENTITY
III. STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE MARGINALIZED BY POVERTY AND INJUSTICE
IV. FOSTER AND INVIGORATE A COMMUNITY OF FAITH
V. CELEBRATE THE VALUE AND DIGNITY OF EACH PERSON AND NURTURE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE PERSON
VI. COLLABORATE AND SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MISSION
VII. PURSUE EXCELLENCE IN ALL ENDEAVORS

Significant parts of the evaluation process were to identify how well our school community “lives” the Essential Elements, and also to construct school growth plans. School growth plans are action plans to impact certain Essential Elements within the daily life of the school. Our school growth plans will focus on the following:

Essential Element #2: Proclaim and Witness to Catholic Identity
Enhance Spiritual Life within the Bergen Catholic Community.

continued on page 51
E ducation is a gift that enriches the lives of its recipients in countless ways. Perhaps what is most unique about this gift is the exponential rate at which it circulates…offer one boy in Waterford, Ireland an education, and centuries later, that gift is still paying forward.

Our own Blessed Edmund Rice recognized the value of education and so began an enduring ministry that has prospered for almost 250 years. Blessed Edmund Rice understood that those who would bring forward this gift would themselves have to be gifted, and so he personally undertook the training of his teachers.

I wonder what an interview with Edmund Rice might have been like. He knew that he was expecting a lot of his teachers by asking them to support free education for what was arguably a tough population. I wonder if he searched for teachers who could inspire passion for their subjects. Or, perhaps, Edmund searched for those who could work hard.

I wonder if he sought out those who could be empathetic, caring, and positive. Honesty would be important, too, and surely fairness would come in handy. He must have been looking for those who could recognize the exceptional that exists in each student and who would, in turn, respect those characteristics. The teacher would have to model both intelligence and leadership. There would have to be a need for humor, for surely the daily challenges would otherwise overwhelm…

A tall order, and yet he found educators who could do them all; and we know he did, because now, in the 21st Century, if you ask those who have been educated in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice what it takes to educate, they will tell you it takes “passion, respect, hard work, inspiration, care, empathy, honesty, fairness, leadership, preparation, humor.” Without these characteristics in the teacher, the student may not realize his potential.

Whether in the classroom, the office, or even the playing field, the tenets of Blessed Edmund Rice are still practiced over two centuries later, as many Bergen Catholic alumni — many of whom are inspired by their own B.C. educators — continue to share the gift of education.

The field of education is dotted — some would say inundated (in a positive sense) — with Bergen Catholic graduates. Many of them have made their marks on the high school level, some have climbed the ladder to the level of Superintendent and Principal, others as Hall of Fame-caliber coaches and Athletic Directors, and hundreds of them as outstanding teachers. Others have gone on to higher levels of education. Everywhere they’ve gone, they’ve brought the Blessed Edmund Rice qualities of excellence with them.

Four Bergen Catholic graduates have risen to the position of Superintendent in the Bergen-Passaic area: Bill Belluzzi ’69 (Montvale), Hugh Beattie ’73 (Ringwood), Ken Rota ’81 (Paramus), and Michael Jordan ’89 (Maywood).

The career of Bill Belluzzi ’69 has been an interesting one; one that started at his alma mater, took him to a rival parochial school, and on to a couple of different levels of college instruction. He became a Principal at the grammar school and high school levels before making the big jump to the position of Superintendent of the Montvale Public Schools.

“I always wanted to be a teacher. At Bergen, I worked as a tutor for several subjects from my sophomore year,” he comments when asked about the origin of his career. “The opportunity to go back to Bergen to teach was extremely exciting for me, and I spent ten excellent years there.”

He taught Spanish and Italian, served as a Guidance Counselor, and was the varsity tennis coach for eight seasons (1975-82) during his 10-year stay at B.C., where he worked alongside some of the teachers that had influenced him as a student, namely John Courtney and Br. James B. Walsh, C.F.C. “Mr. Courtney was my Religion teacher in freshman and sophomore year. He quietly impressed me as a dedicated and sincere lay teacher,” he recalls. “When I went back to teach at Bergen, it was a real honor and privilege to work beside him.

“Br. Walsh was my all-time favorite teacher anywhere. The way he cared about us as people has left an indelible mark on
me. He always had time for each one of us, recommended a book that he thought we would like, and supported everything at Bergen. He is one-of-a-kind! He is my inspiration to this very day.”

The Fordham University graduate accepted his first administrative position in 1997 when he became the Principal of Dogwood Hill Elementary School in Oakland, NJ. After spending more than two years there, he accepted the position of Principal of Tenafly Middle School for a 10-year term, then moved on to the Montvale Public School system and his current title of Superintendent.

The Bergen Catholic Hall of Fame inductee (2004) was named as the 1989 “Bergen County Guidance Counselor of the Year” and the 1999 “Bergen County Elementary and Middle School Administrative Excellence Award,” and has had the honor of serving as President of the Bergen County Elementary and Middle School Administrators Association and the Bergen County Coalition of School Administrators.

His long (and well-balanced) career in education has allowed him to compare today’s classrooms with those of yesterday. “I think today’s classroom promotes a very active and hands-on approach. The use of technology has made a significant difference, and the demands have grown,” he opines. “In the final analysis, though, students will always benefit from that very special teacher who pushes them as far as possible, but accepts them fully even when they fall short.”

Hugh Beattie ’73 became a household name on the soccer fields of Bergen County, both as a player and a coach, and now he has established the same impeccable reputation as a North Jersey administrator.

After starring on the soccer field during his scholastic days, he returned to B.C. as an English teacher and varsity soccer coach. During his 18-year term here (1977-95), Beattie was honored as the “Bergen County Soccer Coach of the Year” twice and was eventually inducted into the Bergen County Soccer Coaches Hall of Fame and the Bergen Catholic Hall of Fame (1991). His teams won four Section crowns, three State titles, and one Bergen County championship.

With a desire to teach within him that was inspired by an aunt in Scotland, and an interest further stoked as a B.C. student by several instructors (“I had many wonderful teachers at Bergen Catholic: Br. Brian Walsh, Br. Kevin Cawley, Mr. Robert Stevenson, and others who I admired and had a big influence on my career”), Beattie’s professionalism was further shaped by the business-like culture that thrives at B.C.

“I have worn a tie to school every day since I walked into my first classroom at B.C. back in 1977. I believe in what I do and love going to work and facing the challenges every day.”

The discipline and training he received at his alma mater prepared him for his move into public school education. He began a 15-year stint with the Bergenfield Public Schools in 1995, first serving as Director of Language Arts and Reading for seven years, and then a combined eight years as an Assistant Principal and Principal of two grammar schools there. The Fairleigh Dickinson University alumnus is currently completing his second year as the Superintendent of Schools for the Ringwood Public Schools District.

“Teachers today are amazing in many different ways. The demands and expectations are higher today than they were in the past because the clientele that they work with are so much needier than they were in the past,” he notes. “The constant changes in technology and how it can be implemented in the modern day classroom is so much a part of a teacher’s success today.”

Has he enjoyed a satisfying career? “My career never gets a chance to become boring and I truly believe that I am there to make a difference in the lives of the children I care for every day,” he concludes. “I believe that being an educator is a ‘calling,’ not a job.”

Ken Rota ’81 has followed a path that is very similar to several profiled in his article. Following a happy and productive term here as a student, he returned to Bergen Catholic to form the foundation for an excellent and prolific career in public education.

Not surprisingly, he credits many of his former teachers at B.C. – all of them still active with the school – with having a profound effect on him: “I experienced teachers like John Puzio, Charlie Flynn, and Scott Gismond, who taught more than just the subject matter. They were teachers in every sense of the
word. Br. Brian Walsh was a strong influence on my career in educational administration.”

The roots of Rota’s fine career started to take hold when he returned to Bergen Catholic in 1985, where he taught courses in English, Theology, and Psychology. In addition to coaching baseball and wrestling coach during his 11-year stay, he began to climb the ladder as an administrator in 1991 when he was named Dean of Students. He also held the position of Vice Principal during his final two years at his alma mater.

An opportunity arose for the St. Bonaventure University graduate in 1996, when the position of Assistant Principal opened up at Fair Lawn H.S. After three years in Fair Lawn, the Ridgewood resident became a Vice Principal for two years at Kinnelon H.S., followed by an eight-and-a-half year term as the Principal of Glen Ridge H.S. He became the Superintendent of the East Rutherford Public School system in January, 2010, and will assume the same title in Paramus on July 1 when he settles into his new position there.

“You don’t have success in that variety of roles without being an open-minded person,” he reasons. “I have always considered myself a good listener and observer. I think that this has helped me with the wide range of experiences that I have encountered,” observes Rota. “Equally as important is a sense of humor. Working in schools teaches you never to take yourself too seriously.”

While he is still in what many people would consider to be the “middle” of his career in education, Rota looks back on the early part of his tenure with great satisfaction. “I cannot think of any job or career that I would prefer over education. The challenge of working with students on a daily basis and guiding them as they grow and learn is amazing. To know that in some small way that you have made a positive difference in the life of a student is an unparalleled experience.”

Michael Jordan ’89 was a flame-throwing pitcher and third baseman (as well as captain) for the B.C. baseball team, before an elbow injury caused his diamond career to end one year later at the University of Vermont. However, as B.C. students observed during his recent appearance at Career Day, Jordan’s personality still has the “passion, fire, and energy” that his powerful right arm once had – a series of traits that have served him well as the Superintendent of the Maywood School District and the Principal of Maywood Avenue School.

After the injury, he transferred to Seton Hall University, where he continued to work toward a degree in Business Administration. The move also opened up a door that eventually led to a career in education.

“Following my career-ending elbow injury, (former B.C. varsity baseball) coach Al Barton asked me to coach the freshman baseball team, and it was then that I realized that a career in education would be what would make me happy.” In his two seasons as the coach, the freshman baseball teams won the county championship each year and posted a combined record of 46-5.

Remaining connected with his alma mater enabled him to stay close to a pair of former B.C. coaches that helped shape his career – Barton and Br. Thomas Jensen, C.F.C. “Both were mentors to me on and off the field. They were individuals who always provided sound advice, guidance, and opportunity,” he reflects. “I was enamored with the way in which they both communicated to their students in the classroom and with their student-athletes on the playing field. Br. Jensen and Mr. Barton stood out as individuals who I consistently credit for showing me that what they did made them happy and made a profound impact in the lives of many.”

Following his graduation from S.H.U., Jordan spent a couple of years in the banking world before accepting a teaching position at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, NJ, where he stayed for five years. “I chose education after realizing that I was meant to be with kids in a means through which a difference could be made,” recalls the Maywood native.

In addition to teaching Mathematics and serving in many addition roles on campus, he also coached the Seton Hall baseball team to three County titles and two State Championships during his term there.

Jordan’s first administrative post came at Summit H.S., when he became an Assistant Principal in 2000. He returned to Bergen County as the Associate Principal of Indian Hills H.S. in 2002, and one year later was named Principal at Ramapo H.S. He returned to his hometown of Maywood in 2008 to assume the roles of Superintendent and Principal, and has been here ever since.

Looking back after more than a decade as an administrator, Jordan places “communication and passion” at the top of the list of success-producing qualities, stating that “I feel an educator’s greatest challenge is to effectively communicate
with a wide array of individuals. I find the challenge of communicating the same message to students, parents, and community in ways that each group will receive and understand it with interest and meaning is the fundamental challenge of any great communicator.”

Br. Patrick Moffett, C.F.C., Ph.D. ’59
(Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame H.S. in Miami, FL) and Br. Peter Zawot, C.F.C. ’75
(Damien Memorial School in Honolulu, Hawaii) are currently serving as Principals, while Dr. Matt Certo ’89 is the Assistant Principal at Ramsey H.S.

Br. Patrick Moffett, C.F.C., Ph.D. ’59 was among the first group of students to attend Bergen Catholic H.S. He earned his undergraduate degree in Science Education at Iona College, then pursued a graduate program at Loyola University in Chicago (resulting in a Master’s Degree in Mathematics). Shortly thereafter, Br. Moffett earned both an M.A. and a Ph.D. from the New School for Social Research.

Teacher, counselor, administrator – Br. Moffett has taught, counseled, and administered at both the high school and college levels. He maintains a small psychological counseling and consultation service – all while continuing to serve in the education field as the Principal of Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame H.S. As if that wasn’t enough to juggle, Br. Moffett has continued to publish scholarly articles, the most recent of which (“Change and Resilience in the Here and Now”) was published in HUMAN DEVELOPMENT; Vol. 31, No. 3, Fall 2011.

Br. Moffett acknowledges his mentors – Brothers McKenna, Lawrence, and Tracy – as men who taught and inspired. Their gifts to Br. Moffett have, in turn, enriched so many of lives and, as the world of education changes, he acknowledges, “Times change, but the commitment to being responsive to the needs of our students persists. In this sense, our students help to shape what we do and how we teach today.”

Br. Peter Zawot, C.F.C. ’75 earned a Bachelor’s Degree from Iona College, a Master’s Degree from St. Bonaventure University, and a second Master’s Degree from Fairfield University. Having served as a teacher and administrator up and down the East Coast, Br. Zawot is the Principal at Damien Memorial School in Hawaii.

Br. Zawot admits, “One of my most favorite assignments was to come back to B.C. for five years. I really felt that I was giving back to my students and my school what I had received as a student. I still keep in touch with many of my former students from that time period. I’ve gone to their weddings and the baptisms of their children. It has been very fulfilling to follow their careers and families.” Considering that Br. Zawot’s Bergen Catholic assignment was from 1981 to 1986, it is a credit to his professionalism and compassion as an educator that so many former students count him as a friend.

Perhaps these very students who keep in contact with Br. Zawot would recognize the influence of his high school Religion and Spanish teacher, Br. John Gennaro Sullo, C.F.C. Br. Zawot recalls that Br. Sullo, “…was an excellent teacher, well prepared and clearly passionate about what he was doing. I remember him saying how important it is to look for the good in a student rather than the bad. I’ve tried to stick with that advice in my own educational career.”

Br. Zawot is mindful of the responsibility that teachers and educators carry: “Without good teachers, one cannot be successful in any other career.” He seems ever mindful of this duty, insisting that, “As an administrator, teacher, or coach, it is important to see the people you are working with as unique individuals and appreciate them for who they are, not for what they can do or produce. I try to convey to them that I am there for them and will help them become the best they can be. A key to success is to build up trust between yourself and the people you work with. Also, I believe it’s important to lead by example.”

While Br. Zawot notices that “The teacher of the 21st Century is not so much trying to cram facts and figures into
the students’ heads as to teach them to think, to be inquisitive, and to find the information they need.” He also notices that, “One common denominator that transcends the generations is that we are dealing with young people in various stages of development from childhood to young adulthood.”

Education makes a difference in the lives of all and so, Br. Sawot’s prayer is, “that more young men and women will give the teaching vocation a chance and make a difference in the lives of the young people they will touch.”

Dr. Matt Certo ’89 earned his Bachelor’s and first Master’s Degree from Fordham University, and then continued his education at Columbia University’s Teachers College, where he earned a second Master’s Degree and a Doctorate. Currently serving as the Assistant Principal of Ramsey H.S., Dr. Certo asserts that his “…experiences working with kids and building the confidence in them to know they are capable of learning is a thrill for me.”

In order to build that confidence, Dr. Certo drew on his own Bergen Catholic experience, citing Mr. James Laux ’75 as an inspiration. “He made learning fun. No other teacher could make you laugh and learn at the same time. His tests were filled with meaningful examples that kids could relate to in real life,” he recalls. “He gained respect and admiration from hundreds of kids because of his incredible mathematical skills and his non-rigid classroom environment. He showed me that ‘cool’ classroom teachers could really have a major impact on the learning and happiness of kids.”

With knowledge and humor as a base, Dr. Certo stayed in the classroom and, even when he entered into the administrative side of education at St. Joseph’s H.S. in West New York, NJ, he made sure that he still had the opportunity to teach in the classroom. At St. Joseph’s, Dr. Certo taught, coached football (a sport he starred in during his B.C. days), guided students as a counselor, and served as the Assistant Principal. Through it all, Dr. Certo felt that, “As an educator, there is nothing more powerful than finding ways to show kids you care for them.”

He recalls that very aspect of his own Bergen Catholic education, especially from football coaches Mike Conway and Joe Haemmerle ’86, who were particularly encouraging and caring. Dr. Certo even noted that Coach Conway was a “father-figure who really cared for the kids he worked with, and you knew his words and actions were 100% genuine.”

That same sincerity with which he was taught at Bergen Catholic has become invaluable as he encourages and motivates his students and staff. Dr. Certo acknowledges that, “For years, I have been writing personal notes and letters to my staff and students, recognizing them for their efforts or achievements. Just a few weeks ago, a student from my first year of teaching in the South Bronx contacted me. She was re-reading a letter I wrote to her as her sixth-grade teacher. She said she has kept it framed on her wall for the last 18 years, and it is one of the reasons she decided to become an educator.” That gift that Blessed Edmund Rice started so long ago, is clearly still at work today!

Several former Crusaders have made a profound impact in the world of college education, including

Tom Smith ’67 (Massachusetts Institute of Technology),
Rich Wobbekind ’71 (Business Professor at the University of Colorado, Leeds School of Business),
John Buckley ’80 (Associate Director of Admissions at Fordham University), and
Msgr. Tom Nydegger, ’84 (Associate Vice President for Student Services at Seton Hall University).

Msgr. Robert Sheeran ’63 has returned to high school education at Marin Catholic H.S. in Kentfield, CA, after 15 years as Seton Hall University’s President (and 30 total years at the University).

Msgr. Robert Sheeran ’63 completed his undergraduate degree at Seton Hall University, was ordained a priest at Saint Peter’s Basilica, received a Licentiate Degree in Theology (S.T.L.) from the Jesuits’ Gregorian University in Rome, and a Master of Arts in Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary. He was also awarded the Doctoral Degree in Sacred Theology (S.T.D.) from the Angelicum University in Rome, and completed Harvard University’s Management Development Program. Msgr. Sheeran’s commitment to
education, however, has not been limited to his own studies. Instead he, like so many of his fellow alumni, has dedicated his life to God and education. When Msgr. Sheeran reflects on his time as a Bergen Catholic student, he references his Latin teacher, Mr. John Courtney, as someone who made him “pursue excellence.”

And so, as Mr. Courtney inspired Msgr. Sheeran, the former Seton Hall University President, in turn, has inspired thousands. As President of Seton Hall, Msgr. Sheeran was given the opportunity to motivate others to pursue excellence. Travelling around the world, consulting for various educational boards, and speaking at conferences, Msgr. Sheeran has modeled that pursuit of excellence and thus offers to others the intangible gifts that come with education.

One cannot help but marvel at the care and dedication with which Msgr. Sheeran has answered the call to provide opportunity and hope through education. When that is coupled with his call to serve God as a priest, well, as Msgr. Sheeran himself said, “The call to be a priest is really a call to be an educator, as well. Go forth and teach!”

Academic powerhouses Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology recently made the news when they announced a transformational new partnership to place their courses online, making them available to everyone. The two institutions will collaborate to enhance campus-based teaching and learning and to build a global community of online learners.

The technologist at MIT responsible for this project is Bergen Catholic graduate Tom Smith ’67. At a recent B.C. alumni gathering in Boston, Smith mentioned that MIT would like to move down to high school level courses, and would possibly involve Bergen Catholic in the future.

Richard L. Wobbekind ’71 did indeed “go west, young man” after receiving a B.A. in Economics from Bucknell University. He moved on to the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics, and he stayed in Colorado for the last 34 years to piece together an outstanding career in higher education.

Currently teaching M.B.A. students in Macroeconomics, Public Policy, Entrepreneurship, and Managerial Economics at the Leeds School of Business, Wobbekind has received three awards for teaching excellence from the students there since joining the faculty in 1985. He has also served as Associate Dean of the school since 2000.

Wobbekind also carries the title of Executive Director of the Business Research Division and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Programs at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where his responsibilities include the development of an annual consensus forecast of the Colorado economy and the performance of various economic impact assessments of the Colorado economy. He also produces the quarterly Leeds Business Confidence Index for Colorado.

For his efforts in community development and outreach, Wobbekind was honored with the “University of Colorado Bank One Community Outreach Award” in 1997 and the “Robert L. Stearns Award” for lifetime contributions in teaching, research, and service in 2006.

John Buckley ’80 earned his B.A. from The College of the Holy Cross and his M.S. from Fordham University. An administrative educator, John has been honored by the “New York State Admission Association for Distinguished Service” in 2002 and by Fordham University, who awarded him its “Sursum Corda Award” for service to the University in 2008. Buckley also had the honor of serving as President of the National Catholic College Admission Association in 1999-2000.

Buckley, as so many educators do, uses the word “served” when he describes his commitment to education and, in particular, to Fordham University. He has served Fordham for 28 years in a variety of roles: Admission Counselor, Assistant Director, Associate Director, Dean of Admission, and currently as Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Enrollment.

Having spent his career in education, Buckley acknowledges that his Bergen Catholic education provided outstanding teachers, including John Hession and Rich D’Orazio. He went so far as to say, “I eventually came to appreciate them among the best instructors I ever encountered, undergraduate and graduate school included.” With his formal education complete, Buckley was grateful to, among others, Chris Donfield and Bill Rollins, who “were wonderful mentors, as well, and years later became colleagues in the college counseling profession.”

Msgr. Tom Nydegger ’84 admits that he did not choose education as a profession — it was chosen for him by the Archbishop of Newark. For a man who has earned a B.A. and an M.A. from Fairfield University, a Master of Divinity from Immaculate Conception Seminary, and an Ed.S. (as well
as a Doctorate) in Education from Seton Hall University, it seems that the Archbishop of Newark was well guided when he assigned Msgr. Nydegger to a professional career in education.

Msgr. Nydegger states it best when he says, “While I was most certainly assigned, I did need to choose it [education], too, if I were to truly give it my heart and soul. It has made an immeasurable impact and difference in my life and ministry as a priest, as I have tried to do the same for the many students I’ve served and the faculty, administration, and staff with whom I have served,” he proclaims. “Education changes lives! For both those giving it and receiving it, education forever changes the heart, the mind, and the soul of an individual and a society.”

While Br. Peter Zawot spoke of those who had influenced his education, Msgr. Nydegger does too, calling Br. Zawot himself one of his inspirations. “My biology teacher in sophomore year, Br. Zawot, always inspired me, not only in his approach to the profession, but in his approach to life and faith as well. My math teacher in freshmen year, Br. John J. Adams, inspired me in the same way. Mr. Charles Flynn, my English teacher in sophomore year and Mr. James Laux, my Math teacher in sophomore and junior year, left lasting impressions with me in their commitment to their disciplines and to Bergen Catholic. Although I never had Mr. John Courtney in class, he always inspired me in his gentleness and kindness and work with the Crusaders for Christian Action. Of course, there are many others who left lasting impressions and recollections. In reality, if I knew as a student what I know now, I would have appreciated much more, and expressed that appreciation much more, knowing the caliber and nature of those who committed themselves not only to education, but to Catholic education. They are in a class all their own! May I take this opportunity to express the gratitude to all of them that I never did even while I was at Bergen Catholic.”

Msgr. Nydegger, who has been serving at Seton Hall University in various capacities since 2000, stated, “Education essentially gives us insight and understanding into the world that God created for us. In entrusting this world to us, as good and faithful stewards of that creation, we need first to teach and learn as much as we can so that we can exercise that stewardship responsibly. I said before that education changes lives. Likewise, those lives change society, in some definitive way, for the better.”

Former Bergen Catholic students – some of whom started their careers at their alma maters – are teaching at other schools in Bergen County. Some have even had careers that paralleled each other.

A couple of parallel careers in education developed more than four decades ago in the town of Saddle Brook, where a pair of longtime classmates – Larry Hughes ’75 and Jim Laux ’75 – grew up together. The paths they took were eerily similar: they graduated from now-defunct St. Philip’s School in Saddle Brook, attended B.C. together, then completed their education together at Montclair State College. To take it one step further, they each ended up in the field of education (after working at other jobs in the business world), and are enjoying satisfying careers here in Bergen County.

Larry Hughes ’75 established a reputation as an outstanding student-athlete during his high school days as he was a varsity starter in two sports for a total of five years. He was a three-year starter as a second baseman for the baseball team, and was a two-year veteran at inside linebacker-tight end for the football squad.

After his graduation from Montclair State, he spent one year in the business world before accepting a teaching position at Paramus Catholic H.S. During his initial four-year stay there, he was also the head varsity baseball coach for three seasons and a varsity assistant football coach, as well.

After returning to the business world for two years, Hughes went back to P.C. in the fall of 1986 to teach various subjects in Business and Mathematics and to eventually hold several administrative positions, including Dean of Students, Dean of the Sciences and Math Departments, and Vice Principal. During his second stint as P.C., he was also the freshman basketball coach (when he engineered a 1997 Bergen County Tournament win over Laux’ Tenafly Tigers) and head varsity softball coach. The Paladins’ softball team won the Bergen County Championship under his tutelage in 2004, a season after which he was chosen by his peers as the “Bergen County Softball Coach of the Year.”

The thirty-year teaching veteran, who has several other
“relations” with B.C. ties (including brothers Joe ’78 and Bill ’83 Hughes, brothers-in-law Ed ’71 and Tom ’72 Hart, and nephew Michael Radespiel ’12), is still influenced by his experiences from high school. “When teaching Math, I often think of Br. Peter Krebbs,” he reflects. “His style was calm and relaxed, and I found it beneficial as a student. I attempt to create a similar environment in my classroom.”

Jim Laux ’75 also went to Montclair State, where he earned a B.S. in Business Administration and a Master’s Degree in Mathematics. His first teaching position came at B.C., with (ironically enough) an assist from his old classmate.

“I was working at Dun and Bradstreet in New York City,” he remembers. “Br. Krebbs told Larry that there was a Math opening at B.C., but Larry had just gotten the varsity baseball job at Paramus Catholic, so he said no.” That piece of information led to a job interview for Jim, which quickly turned into his first teaching job.

Ironically, it was Br. Krebbs who, years earlier, also inspired Jim to enter the teaching profession. “He was a cool customer, had a dry wit, and explained things well,” Laux recalls. “While I was in many of my Math classes, especially Brother’s class in senior year, I would often think to myself that this looks like a pretty neat thing to do.”

Laux was also the Math Department Chair during the last three years of his 13-year stay at Bergen Catholic (1981-94), as well as a member of the baseball coaching staff for seven seasons. He moved on to Tenafly H.S. in 1994, where he is still a member of the Math Department. He was awarded the Governor’s “Teacher of the Year Award” there in 1997.

Asked what he considered his most effective coaching tool, Laux responded: “In the classroom, I try to be honest and fair, and let the students know that we are in this together. Humor is a major part of the class. I realize that not all students are overly excited and interested in high school Math, so I try to make it fun and hopefully have them look forward to coming to class.”

“While I guess I can imagine myself doing something else for a living, I can’t think of anything that I would enjoy as much as I do teaching,” he states. “It is a great opportunity to make a difference in young people’s lives, to be a positive role model, and to get them prepared for their next step in life. I hope I have done those things well.”

Jonathan Gray ’95 earned his Bachelor’s Degree from Lafayette College with a major in International Affairs. Upon graduation, he wanted to put his language, economic, historical, and political skills to use and thought back to his days at Bergen Catholic, when classmates would offer community service to the Christian Brothers’ missions in Peru. After spending sixteen months surrounded by the Christian Brothers when he went to work at the Peru missions, Jon became convinced that he would be teaching for the rest of his life. His Master’s Degree in Educational Administration was earned at St. Peter’s College.

As both a soccer coach and teacher at Bergen Catholic, Jon’s students found a consummate professional who could successfully blend humor and structure for his students and athletes alike. It is no surprise that the competitive Northern Valley Regional district happily hired Gray, where he continues to serve today.

It is clear that Bergen Catholic was a strong influence in Jon’s decision to answer the call to education. He further acknowledges, “the cadre of teachers that I had at B.C. inspired me...Mr. Pawlyk, Mr. Goldee, Br. Jensen, Mr. McNulty, and Mr. McCloskey were among those who were most inspiring.

“They are all very different in the way they taught, and I like to think I have a little piece of each of them in my teaching,” he reflects. “Professionalism, work ethic, humor, understanding, passion, etc. ...I also shared plenty of laughs with classmates and teachers at B.C. and enjoy that being a part of my classroom, as well.”
Joe Dionisio ’77 earned his undergraduate degree from Dominican College in neighboring Rockland County, NY. Joe has served Bergen Catholic as an educator in several areas: teaching in the Social Studies Department, coaching varsity baseball and basketball, and serving as a Dean.

He notes that Bergen Catholic started to inspire him long before he even attended the high school as his grade school coach, B.C. alumnus Tom Curry ’70, demonstrated the positive experience that comes from motivating young people to work to their potential. That connection and motivation is at the core of Dionisio’s educational philosophy, as he notes that, “What I remember as a student is the relationships I had with teachers, B.C. teachers like Mr. Goldee and Mr. Gismond made those days memorable and fun!”

Dionisio experienced many “firsts,” both while studying and working at Bergen Catholic. He was the captain of the first B.C. basketball team to win the Bergen Jamboree (1977), the first (and only) B.C. varsity baseball coach to win a County championship, and the first person in Bergen County history to play on and coach the same school to a County basketball title.

In his eleven seasons as the leader of the Crusaders’ varsity basketball program, he led B.C. to 182 wins and to the championship game of the Jamboree a total of five times (winning titles in 2001 and 2003, as well as a freshman County championship in 1996). B.C. also claimed Parochial “A” North championships in 2002 and 2003 and a New Jersey Parochial “A” crown in 2002 under his tutelage.

He was also the varsity baseball coach at Bergen from 1995 to 2000, compiling a stunning overall record of 148-31 (.827 winning percentage) and reaching the County championship game twice (winning the school’s first title in 1999).

Bergen Catholic is proud to point out that Coach Dionisio has been inducted into both the Dominican College Hall of Fame and the New Jersey Scholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Br. Thomas Andrew Prendergast, C.F.C. ’77 earned his undergraduate degree from Iona College and completed two Master’s Degrees: one from Harvard and another from the University of California-Irvine.

Brother does not see teaching as a job, rather as a vocation. “I was most edified by the teachers I had at Bergen Catholic, and I saw the great good they affected through their vocations as teachers,” he notes. “As one of the early Church Fathers said, ‘To educate a person is an act of salvation.’ I was particularly attracted to Catholic Education and viewed teaching as an integral part of a student’s faith formation.”

With the ability and knowledge to teach a wide range of subjects (Math, Chemistry, Physics, and Religion), Br. Prendergast was called to share the gift of education from coast-to-coast, spending time teaching in New York, New Jersey, California, Massachusetts, and Florida. In fact, Brother’s love of learning, communication skills, intelligence, and his desire to educate and share his faith led him to the role of Founding Principal of Trinity Catholic H.S. in Ocala, FL.

Br. Prendergast praised those teachers who influenced his life, stating “The teachers that stand out in my mind as most influential due to their high level of competence, deep compassion, and engaging methodology were Mr. Angelo Bello (Western Political Thought), Br. Ben Walsh (Geometry), Br. Ed Roepke (Biology), Mr. Scott Gismond (History), and Mr. John Hession (ninth-grade English).” One can’t help but imagine the hundreds of students who have received the gift of education because of Br. Prendergast and his call to share that gift.

Joseph Haemmerle ’86 was a standout tight end on the B.C. football team before he went on to earn his undergraduate degree at St. Peter’s College and his Master’s Degree from Seton Hall University. Joe began his teaching career at Bergen Catholic after he was inspired by former Principal Br. Lawrence Killilea, C.F.C., who reminded him that, “You were not hired to teach history. You were hired to teach young men.” Taking those words to heart, Joe’s role as educator has branched outside of the classroom to administration. He currently serves as Bergen Catholic’s Assistant Principal of Student Affairs and Technology, where he plays a key role in the “Bergen Catholic Revolution.”

Haemmerle reflects on his early years at B.C., working closely with renowned football coach Fred Stengel, with the
“vision of making football the best-taught subject at Bergen Catholic.” Joe continued to work with Fred and the football team, teaching their athletes the skills needed to succeed on and off the field.

When interest in the sport of lacrosse piqued at Bergen Catholic, Joe was there to transfer his coaching skills from the football field to the lacrosse field. Serving as the head lacrosse coach from the inception of the program in 1995, Joe has been recognized as the “North Jersey Lacrosse Coach of the Decade” by The Record in 2010, and twice was recognized with the New Jersey Interscholastic Lacrosse Officials Association’s “Len Roland Sportsmanship Award.”

Haemmerle is committed not only to education, but to Bergen Catholic itself when he notes, “I often think about my good fortune to be at B.C., and the opportunity to work with such outstanding faculty members, terrific young people, and very supportive parents. I’ve always felt that it’s an awesome responsibility to help to bring the school’s mission to life daily, and pray that I can live up to it now that my son and the sons of my classmates are starting their journeys through B.C.’s halls.” Joe’s faith continues to guide him – he remembers to start “all things, as we do here at Bergen Catholic, with a prayer.”

Mike O’Brien ’60 established himself as a star player in two sports (baseball and basketball) while at B.C., which provided the springboard for one of the most successful coaching reigns in those sports in Bergen County history. Fittingly, he received tremendous inspiration (and even his first coaching job) from a pair of his coaches at B.C., John Mazziotto and Vic Liggio. “They were good men, and I copied my coaching style from them,” he remembers.

O’Brien has been a head coach at Pascack Hills H.S. in Montvale and at Pascack Valley H.S. in Hillsdale for 34 years, but he got his start at Teaneck H.S. as an assistant basketball coach for two seasons under the legendary Mazziotto. He moved on to Pascack Valley to accept a teaching and head baseball coaching position, and the rest is history!

The Iona College graduate has had great success coaching both sports, so much success that he has the distinction of being the only coach in Bergen County history to win both the “Howard Bollerman Award” (for lifetime contributions to basketball) and the “Baldwin/Hunt Service Award” (the equivalent award in baseball).

The accomplishments of his teams are many – too many to list here, but he rates his successes with the 1978 Pascack Valley basketball team (the first Northern Bergen Interscholastic League team to reach the Bergen Jamboree finals) and the 1987 Pascack Hills baseball team (the first public school in Bergen County history to win a league, County Tournament, and State championship in the same season) to be the most memorable.

O’Brien, who also served as the Pascack Hills Athletic Director for 13 years, is now retired from full-time work, but still contributes as an assistant baseball coach at Pascack Valley.

Bergen Catholic graduates have made their marks not only as outstanding teachers, but as excellent coaches and athletic administrators, as well. No fewer than seven B.C. grads have been inducted into the New Jersey Scholastic Coaches Association (“NJSCA”) Hall of Fame, a list that includes Pascack Hills and Pascack Valley H.S. baseball and basketball coach Mike O’Brien ’60, Old Tappan H.S. basketball coach Dennis Rossi ’64, current B.C. golf coach James Jacobsen ’66, former Waldwick H.S. basketball coach Paul Puglise ’68, Emerson H.S. baseball coach and Athletic Director Robert Carcich ’70, Bergenfield H.S. Athletic Director Tom Curry ’70, and former B.C. baseball and basketball coach Joe Dionisio ’77.
Bergen Catholic Hall of Fame inductee Dennis Rossi ’64 may have received the most “direct” help from his alma mater in getting his distinguished coaching career off the ground. The former First-team All-League guard received plenty of inspiration (not to mention basketball expertise) from former B.C. coaches John Mazziotta and Chris Donfield.

“John had the temperament and humility that was so impressive to me when I played for him,” recalls the fiery playmaker about his legendary former coach.

Giving even more thanks to former colleague Donfield, Rossi recalled how his teaching and coaching career took root after his playing days were over. “I knew I was not good enough to play basketball at St. John’s University, but I loved the game,” he noted. “I started coaching at 18 years old (as the B.C. J.V. coach) and decided to major in education, mainly because I wanted to coach. Chris gave me an opportunity that most 18-year old kids in college would not have received. He trusted me to work with guys who were only a couple of years younger than I.”

After staying at B.C. from 1966-75 as the J.V. coach and varsity assistant, Rossi moved on to take over the varsity program at St. Joseph Regional in Montvale, where he led the Green Knights to their best season over on the hardwood (a 26-2 record, a Bergen County championship, and the program’s only Sectional title) in 1981, when he was named “Bergen County Coach of the Year” for the first of four times.

Rossi enjoyed great success at his next two coaching stops, as well, earning “Coach of the Year” honors twice at Bergenfield H.S. (1996 and 1997) and once at Old Tappan H.S. (2006). He also had the “honor” of knocking his alma mater out of the Bergen Jamboree on two different occasions (1998 and 2011).

Although he has moved around during his coaching career, Rossi has spent almost his entire teaching and administrative career in one place. After a half-year stint as an English teacher at Mahwah H.S., he moved on to Charles DeWolf Middle School in Old Tappan in September, 1968 – and he’s been there ever since. Dennis was named Acting Principal for one school year (1972-73), before taking the position of Director of Guidance (a post he held for 28 years). He was named Principal in 2001, a title he still holds.

Despite his outstanding coaching success, he freely admits that “teaching became my dream job. Actually, being involved in education and coaching has never been a job – it’s been a joy. As Confucius wrote, ‘If you love what you do, you’ve never worked a day in your life’.”

The influence of John Mazziotta also had a positive effect on the career of Paul Puglise ’68, who remembers the “Gentle Giant” for serving “as a positive role model for his students.” Puglise has followed that path well, and has emerged as one of the most influential figures in Bergen County high school basketball and in the teaching profession.

A graduate of St. Francis University in Loretto, PA, Puglise started his 40-year career in 1972 with the Waldwick Public Schools as a Physics, General Science, and Information Technology teacher, and now holds the title of Supervisor of Science, Health, and Physical Education. He has also coached varsity basketball, spring track, and golf at Waldwick H.S. (reaching the “Century Club” in each sport).

Puglise was recognized for his coaching expertise in basketball when he was named “All-Suburban Coach of the Year” a total of seven times, and further acknowledged as one of the finest basketball minds around when he was appointed to the position of Chairman of the Bergen Jamboree, a highly-anticipated annual event that attracts thousands of fans.

In addition to earning “Governor’s Award Teacher of the Year” honors in 1988, he joined several of the “coaching giants” with B.C. roots to be inducted into the New Jersey Scholastic Coaches Hall of Fame (1998) and to win the “Howard Bollerman Award” (1999).

Asked about the similarities and differences in the various methods of teaching since he was a B.C. student, Puglise replied, “There’s no short cut to success, homework is still very important.” Noting the many new applications of technology that have been introduced over the last four decades, he cited one major difference: “The teacher was the ‘sage on the stage’, now he/she is the ‘guide on the side’.”

Robert Carcich ’70 starred as a third baseman during his playing days at B.C., and turned his love of baseball into an outstanding Hall of Fame career at neighboring Emerson H.S. It was his love of Science, however, that propelled...
him into a career in education. After attending Providence College (graduating with a degree in Biology Education), Carcich immediately landed a job in Emerson, where he remains to this day. He taught Biology at Emerson for 12 years (earning a Master’s Degree in Biology from Montclair State College during this period). “I chose education as a profession because I thought I could relate well to young people and could impart my love of Science to them,” he remembers.

In 1986, Bob was named as the Director of Athletics and Disciplinarian, and three years later was chosen as the head coach of the baseball team, an appointment that has proven to be a wise one! He has turned the Cavaliers into a small-school powerhouse that is always a threat in the Bergen County Tournament, and has accumulated 500 career wins, a milestone he reached on May 23 (becoming only the sixth coach in Bergen County history to reach that mark).

It was hardly a surprise that Carcich was inducted into the NJSCA Hall of Fame in 2002, after collecting an incredible array of honors that include being named the New Jersey State Baseball Coaches Association “Man of the Year” in 2011, being chosen as the “Bergen County Baseball Coach of the Year” in 1992, 2001, and 2007, receiving the Bergen County Coaches Association’s “Baldwin/Hunt Service Award,” and being selected as his league’s “Coach of the Year” a stunning total of 12 different times!

“My most effective teaching/coaching tool is my ability to inspire kids to get 100% involved in what they are trying to accomplish,” states the Emerson H.S. Hall of Famer.

He summed up his approach to education in a humorous, yet truthful, way: “After 38 years of teaching, when I get up in the morning, I say ‘I have to go to school’ rather than ‘I have to go to work’.”

One of the newest inductees into the NJSCA Hall of Fame also has roots in the B.C. Class of 1970. Former Crusaders’ basketball player Tom Curry ’70 followed a path similar to former classmate Carcich after receiving positive influences from his days as a student at Bergen Catholic.

“A number of B.C. faculty and coaches were quite inspirational in my decision to go into teaching and coaching,” recalls the Arizona State University grad. The late legendary basketball coach Chris Donfield ranked high on his list (“Coach always had a good word when he saw you and was interested in how you were doing.”), while former teachers – and future B.C. staff comrades – Harry Murphy and Don Viggiano were also remembered.

“Mr. Murphy was a class act who taught much more that business law,” recalled the Dumont native. “Coach Viggiano always gave me great advice, and I remember that both men welcomed me and accepted me as a colleague when I taught Physical Education at B.C. part-time in 1972 while attending college.”

Curry’s coaching career took off at Dwight-Englewood School, where he was the Director of Athletics and also the head coach of the basketball and golf teams for 19 years. He was named “Bergen County Basketball Coach of the Year” in 2002, and received the Bergen County Coaches Association’s “Howard Bollerman Award” for lifetime contributions to Bergen County basketball in 2010.

After spending two years as the A.D. at Leonia H.S., he moved on to Bergenfield H.S., where he is currently the Director of Athletics and District Supervisor of Health, Physical Education, and Driver Education. The Dwight-Englewood Athletic Hall of Fame inductee is also an adjunct faculty member at Bergen Community College in Paramus (teaching Health and Golf since 1989), and writes a monthly column on youth and high school sports for Exceptional Parent Magazine.

“As things change in education and athletics, some things need to be consistent,” notes Curry, looking back as his career as a high school and college instructor. “There is no magic in achievement – it comes down to effort, determination, and being resilient. Those are the constants that will never change.”

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Eileen Holt is an English and Social Studies teacher, and is the Co-Moderator of The Herald. A graduate of Iona College, she was selected as B.C.’s “Teacher of the Year” for the 2007-08 school year.
Class of 1960
Msgr. Pat Panos had his request to retire granted by Bishop Serratelli of the Paterson Diocese. Msgr. Panos, whose last official day is June 30, 2012, was ordained to the priesthood on May 25, 1968 at St. John’s Cathedral in Paterson, NJ. His first assignment was at Our Lady of the Valley in Wayne, NJ. From 1974 to 1990, he ministered to the parishioners of St. Jude’s in Hopatcong, NJ. Msgr. Panos moved to Ringwood, NJ in 1990 and spent twenty-two years guiding the people of St. Catherine’s of Bologna. As of July 1, he will be Pastor Emeritus there.

Class of 1964
Kevin Bernard was recently hired by the Bishop of Cochabamba, Bolivia to start a community-centered, live-in program based on psychological group process. He spent three months in Spain as an intern working in a residential rehabilitation program in preparation for this assignment.

Mike Cole and his wife, Marion, are doubly happy to announce that they are the grandparents of twins, Sydney Ann Cole and Alexander Cole, who were born on November 22, 2011. The twins are healthy, happy, and growing rapidly.

Class of 1967
Owen Clarke (left) reported that, 44 years after graduation, he and classmate Steve Capizzi ’67, re-established their friendship in October 2011. The following is Owen’s accounting: “Thanks to ‘Facebook’, we made a connection and realized that we both lived in New York less than four hours apart. I invited Steve to meet for lunch. Steve selected a restaurant in Binghamton, NY and, thanks to GPS, the drive was effortless. Steve arrived on his Harley Davidson. We were able to recognize each other because of ‘Facebook’ pictures. We learned that we had a great deal in common. Both are grandfathers now and we each have a son and daughter. Early in our careers, we both had automotive interests and they continue today. Foremost in my mind, was how do you have a reunion without it appearing like an interview. In a short time, we shared some of our experiences since graduation. I was excited to hear that Steve attended Woodstock in 1969, three days of peace and music. He saw my heartthrob, Grace Slick, perform at Woodstock and again in San Francisco, where he lived for awhile. Woodstock may be the most important concert in our history and one that I had wanted to attend, but, the NY Thruway was closed. I wondered for years if any of the Bergen Catholic alumni had ever attended, and now I have someone to call and talk about it. These days, my trips are to Bethel Woods, the site of the Woodstock Concert, for concerts that I can enjoy from a lawn chair. We both shared where we were on September 11, 2001. Steve was in the city on a job site and I at home since I had taken the day off. So many important events had occurred in all those years and we only began to touch the surface in the limited time we had. Looking back at our days at Bergen, we both were critical about the lack of direction we got from the Guidance Office. It may be that at age 17, we thought we knew it all and we didn’t push for more attention. I gather that this has been improved upon over the years. Times have changed and we are now the senior members of our families and in need to set good examples. We reflect on our youthful days and the friends we have made. I encourage all B.C. alumni to reach out to someone that they have not been in touch with and you can take my word, you will be glad you did.”

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Jim Ganley proudly watched as his wife, Ann, and daughter, Laura, ran the New York City Marathon. The Ganley’s were running for “Crusade for Awareness,” which is a program they started in memory of their son, Jimmy ’00.

Class of 1973
John Fugazzie leads the group “Neighbors Helping Neighbors – Career Transition Support and Networking Group,” which recently celebrated its one-year anniversary. Several members, including John, have found jobs through the group’s efforts and increased networking. Check the website for meeting dates and times at http://www.neighbors-helping-neighbors.com, or follow the group on Facebook.

Class of 1976
Fort Lee Police Captain Timothy Ford was named the recipient of this May’s “Chief’s Award.” Born and raised in Fort Lee, Capt. Ford has been with the department for 31 years. While in the patrol division, Ford was a DARE instructor in the district’s elementary, middle, and high schools. He was promoted to sergeant in 1994 and served as tour commander before being becoming a detective. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2000 and then captain in 2006.

Class of 1985
Rev. Stephen J. Fichter co-authored a book entitled Same Call, Different Men: The Evolution of the Priesthood since Vatican II. It is a book that is of great benefit to our church and all interested Catholics throughout the world, and can be ordered at http://www.litpress.org/Detail.aspx?ISBN=9780814634295. Rev. Fichter, currently the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Haworth, NJ, is also a research associate and former interim Executive Director at Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. He has a Ph.D. in Sociology from Rutgers University.

Rob McGovern was in the Army Reserve when the World Trade Center fell on September 11, 2001, and helped search the rubble for remains. After 9/11, Rob was called to active duty as an Army lawyer. He deployed to Afghanistan and later to Iraq, advising superiors and prosecuting insurgents. Now, Rob is the prosecutor for the death penalty trial of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four other 9/11 conspirators.

Class of 1986
Phil Mariconda is a data analyst full-time and a musician part-time. He announced the release of his double-CD in January called “Dream Chasers.” “Bergen Boy” is a song that reflects on his season on the cross country team with Coach Tom Fuchs.

Class of 1987
Bill Burns and his wife, Jenn, are proud to announce the birth of twins on April 17, 2012. Josephine Charlie weighed in at seven pounds, one ounce, and is 19 inches long. Shannon Faith weighed in at six pounds, eight ounces, and is 18 inches long. Mom, Dad, and the babies are doing well.

Class of 1993
Marc Ferro is the Director of Equity Trading at JP Morgan. He lives in Ho-Ho-Kus with his wife, Melissa, and their daughters Ava and Gabrielle.

Brian Zima married Suly Alvarez on February 3, 2012 in Cartagena, Colombia. Mr. and Mrs. Zima honeymooned in South Africa and now live in Lambertville, NJ. Brian is a software project management consultant.

Class of 1995
Ryan Gibbons and his wife, Claire, are proud to announce the birth of their first child, a daughter. Emma Grace was born on November 18, 2011 and weighed six pounds, 11 ounces.

Class of 1996
Joseph Tieng married Lorraine Dyhan on November 5, 2011 in Cebu City, Philippines.

Class of 1997
Alex Fonti and his wife, Liza, welcomed Mia Alexis to their family on August 31, 2011. Mia joins big brother, Nate, and big sister, Laila, who turned three in April. Mia’s uncle and godfather is Jason Porcelli ’99.

Greg Tartaglia is engaged to Nicole Mortellito, with an October 2012 wedding in the plans. Greg graduated from Boston College in 2001 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Communications. He works in the sports department at North Jersey Media Group’s Ridgewood office.

Class of 1998
Peter Capella will wed Carole Lynn Pasqueretta in the fall. Peter is currently employed as a member of the New York Carpenters’ Union.

Geoffrey Rejent and his wife, Kristin, shared their exciting news with us. On September 14, 2011, Kristin gave birth to their second child, Matthew Jonathan. He weighed seven pounds, 14 ounces, and was 21 inches long. Kailyn, now four years old, loves being a big sister.

Class of 1999
Carl D’Amore recently opened The Swim Gym, located at the Woodcliff Lake Hilton. The Swim Gym features small group, private and semi-private and special needs swim lessons for children of all ages and abilities. For more information visit: www.theswimgymnj.com
Class of 2000
Kevin Demers is a 2004 graduate of Saint Michael’s College in Vermont. He will marry Michelle Brown of Maine in June 2012.

Dominic Santoli and his wife, Christie, are proud to announce the birth of their second child, a daughter, Giana Bella, born on May 4. Nico is a proud brother.

Paul Solga works for Major League Baseball in video production. He recently won an Emmy Award for outstanding edited sport series as a producer of “The Franchise,” which is a recap of a season with the San Francisco Giants. The series featured nine episodes of unprecedented access and unscripted drama from the 2010 World Series Champions (of which B.C. alumnus Mark DeRosa ’93 was a member).

James Tieng and his wife, Gabby, welcomed a son, Jonathan Michael, on pi day, March 15, 2012. He weighed seven pounds, one ounce.

Class of 2001
Bob Olson married Melanie Vant Hoogt on Friday, August 19, 2011 in Egner Chapel at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA. Fr. Bob McLaughlin ’94 was the officiant and Kevin Kasak ’00 was a groomsman.

Class of 2002
Kevin Clerkin married Susan Meyers on December 3, 2011 in a double ring ceremony at St. Elizabeth’s Church in Wyckoff, NJ. The best man was Brian Keenaghan ’99 and the ushers were Daniel Keenaghan ’96 and Michael Keenaghan ’98 (cousins of the groom). Kevin received a B.S. from Stevens Institute of Technology in 2007 and graduated from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 2011. He is currently a first-year medical resident at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center.

Class of 2003
Kevin Clerkin married Susan Meyers on December 3, 2011 in a ceremony that was attended by 12 B.C. alumni, including the father of the groom, Warren Jameson ’72.

Class of 2004
Justin Hopkins was married to Lauren Sampson on May 12, 2012 at Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Franklin Lakes, NJ. Jim Hopkins ’73 is the proud father of the groom. Jarrod ’04, Jason ’05, and James, brothers of the groom, were the best men. The Wilshire Grand in West Orange, NJ was the site for the reception.

Class of 2005
Christopher Wilk, U.S. Army – First Lieutenant, has been awarded “The Bronze Star” and the “Combat Action Badge” for his service while deployed in Afghanistan as Executive Officer of C Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

Class of 2006
Michael Focarino made a presentation to Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz on January 18, 2012 at Moody Air Force Base, GA. Gen. Schwartz spent the day touring the base and visiting the Airmen of Team Moody to discuss the Air Force and its future.

continued on page 37
The following survey is intended to be a baseline measurement of alumni “brotherhood” in 2012 as part of the school’s Strategic Planning initiative for “Bergen Catholic 2020.” The survey will close out on August 15, 2012 and results will be tabulated. From this baseline survey, we will assess and improve upon the things we do to engage our alumni, so that we can measure improvement over the next eight years. Similar surveys will be conducted in 2016 and 2020 to ensure that our efforts move us toward an ever-increasing sense of alumni “brotherhood” as defined in the survey, or as changed due to alumni feedback over time.

There are two ways to complete the survey:

- All alumni for whom we have valid e-mail addresses on file will have received the survey via e-mail prior to having received this edition of CRUSADER MAGAZINE. Completion of the online survey is the preferred automated method. Note: The online survey is completed under User ID and Password security. If you have not yet created these, you will have to do so in order to access the survey. It is best to visit www.bergencatholic.org to create your login credentials before attempting to complete the survey online. If you have already completed the online version of this survey, please do not complete this paper-based one.

- For those alumni who did not receive the e-mail to link to the survey, we ask that you complete this paper-based survey, sign and date it, and submit it via fax to (201) 261-2715 or, mail it back in the envelope that accompanies this edition of CRUSADER MAGAZINE.

We thank you, in advance, for participating and for letting us learn, so that we can continuously improve the things we do to increase the feeling of brotherhood among our alumni family. Deus Vult!

The survey consists of six questions:

1. Do you feel “connected” to your alma mater, Bergen Catholic High School?
   a. _____Yes
   b. _____No

2. If “Yes,” why?
   If “No,” what would have to occur for you to feel more connected?
   (Maximum of 255 characters/spaces, please)

3. Students and alumni often refer to the “brotherhood” of Bergen Catholic. How strongly do you feel this “brotherhood?”
   a. _____Not at all
   b. _____Somewhat
   c. _____Most often
   d. _____With great pride at all times

4. Choose three (3) words from the list below that would best demonstrate the qualities that make affiliation with Bergen Catholic High School desirable for high school students and alumni:
   a. _____Inclusion
   b. _____Acceptance/Validation
   c. _____Supportive environment
   d. _____Faith-filled community
   e. _____Trust
   f. _____Partnership
   g. _____Leadership development
   h. _____Camaraderie
   i. _____Lifelong friendships
   j. _____Common/Shared values

5. “Brotherhood” can best be defined as a “feeling of connectedness that reflects a shared common bond through our B.C. experience—emphasizing values, faith, leadership skills, and lifelong friendships.” Indicate your level of agreement or disagreement:
   a. _____Strongly Agree
   b. _____Agree
   c. _____Disagree
   d. _____Strongly Disagree

6. How would you alter the above definition of “brotherhood” to make it better, if at all?
   (Maximum of 255 characters/spaces, please)

Name:____________________________________________________
Class Year:_______________Date:_____________________________
Preferred E-Mail Address:_____________________________________
Signature:_________________________________________________
Eight new members were inducted into the Bergen Catholic High School Hall of Fame when the Alumni Association presented its Fifteenth Hall of Fame Dinner on Sunday, March 25, 2012.

The event, held once again at the Fiesta in Wood-Ridge (owned by Matt Landy '77), was attended by more than 300 people. Sandy Cerami ’85 served as the Master of Ceremonies.

The distinguished inductees, who joined the 146 previously-inducted members in the Hall of Fame, are profiled on the following pages.

ALVARO G. DE MOLINA ’75

Alvaro G. de Molina, a member of the Bergen Catholic Class of 1975, is currently a partner in VCJ Partners, a venture capital firm in Charlotte, NC, which he co-founded in 2011. Previously, Al was CEO of GMAC, a position he took as the company entered into the financial crisis of 2007-09. Before joining GMAC, Al had a long career at Bank of America before leaving in 2006. He held various positions at Bank.
of America, including CFO, CEO of the Corporate and Investment Bank, and CEO of Bank of America Securities and Corporate Treasurer. Al is a member of a number of Boards of Directors, including Duke University's Fuqua School of Business and North Carolina Dance Theater. On the community level, Al is involved in numerous charitable organizations in Charlotte, committing both his time and treasure. He received his M.B.A. from Rutgers University and was inducted into its Wall of Fame. Al is committed to B.C. and firmly believes in its Mission Statement. To help insure the continued success and ongoing operation of B.C., Al has made and continues to make a substantial financial investment in the school on an annual basis. He has been married to his wife, Donna, for 25 years and together they are the proud parents of three children: Nicolas, Rachel, and Julia.

ALECKO ESKANDARIAN '00

Alecko Eskandarian, a member of the B.C. Class of 2000, established himself as not only the finest soccer player in Bergen Catholic history, but also as one of the best ever in the history of U.S. high school soccer. He finished his outstanding career with 154 goals, the most in Bergen County history and the second-highest total in New Jersey high school history. Alecko was named the “2000 Gatorade National Player of the Year”, as well as earning All-American, “N.J. Player of the Year,” and All-State honors after leading New Jersey in scoring with 66 goals and 15 assists during his senior year. Behind his superior play, B.C. won County, Sectional, and State titles that season. Alecko went on to the University of Virginia, where he was named the best player in college soccer (winning the Hermann Trophy in 2002) after scoring a school-record 25 goals for the Cavaliers. He played three standout seasons at Virginia (before foregoing his senior year to turn pro), during which he was a three-time All-American, First-Team All-ACC, and ACC “Player of the Year” selection. Alecko was then drafted #1 overall by DC United in the 2003 Major League Soccer Superdraft. He was named MLS Cup MVP in 2004 as he led DC United to the title, and was twice named to the MLS All-Star Team in his eight-year career.

JAMES HOBAN '77

James P. Hoban, a member of the Bergen Catholic Class of 1977, was a solid student and a fine athlete, considered one of the best players on the school’s hockey team. Jim was also active in community service and at Our Lady of Mercy Church CYO in Park Ridge, NJ throughout his years at B.C. Following his graduation from Villanova University in 1981, he followed in the footsteps of his older brother, Jack, when he became an officer in the United States Marine Corp. He eventually switched to the United States Navy Reserve. In May, 1986, Jim lost his life serving his country when his plane crashed shortly after takeoff. In order to avoid hitting civilians in a residential area located near the Naval Air Station, Jim maneuvered his plane away from the area, but in doing so, made it impossible to eject properly from his plane to safety. Following his death, a Bergen Catholic Memorial Scholarship was established in Jim’s name. In addition, his parents, Gene and Anne, supported a CYO Basketball Tournament held in Jim’s honor. Over the years, the Hoban family has been a very big part of the B.C. tradition and has given back to the school. Jim's brothers are Bergen Catholic alumni – Jack ’73, Joe ’75, and Jed ’85 – and his sister, Kathleen, was a B.C. cheerleader.
ANTHONY MATESIC ‘88

Anthony Matesic graduated from Bergen Catholic in 1988 after an outstanding varsity football career that saw him start for three seasons. One of the toughest two-way linemen in B.C. football history, he dominated the trenches during his term as a three-year starter, when B.C. reached the State Playoffs three times, advanced to the Championship Game twice, and won one title (a 33-0 victory over St. Peter’s Prep in 1986). A two-time First-Team All-County pick, Anthony was named First-Team All-State after leading the ferocious B.C. defense to a school-record nine shutouts during the 1987 season, during which the team allowed a total of only 20 points in 11 games. He also was named to the All-Parochial All-State team for the second consecutive season, and earned nationwide recognition when USA Today awarded him Honorable Mention All-American accolades. The awards continued to roll in years later, when Anthony was selected to The Record’s “All-Decade Team” of the 1980s. He went on to enjoy a fine career at Penn State, where he played for legendary Coach Joe Paterno. His promising career was cut short by a serious eye injury, even though he temporarily returned to the lineup after undergoing three surgeries. He and his wife, Nada, are the proud parents of three children.

JOSEPH PIELA ’95

Joseph Piela, a 1995 graduate of Bergen Catholic, is recognized as one of the finest all-around student-athletes in school history, achieving considerable success both on the field and in the classroom. A three-sport standout, he earned 10 varsity letters as a starter for the B.C. football, wrestling and baseball teams, eventually serving as captain for all three teams. Joe has the distinct honor of being the only B.C. athlete to be selected First-Team All-County in three sports in a single year, and is believed to be one of only a half-dozen athletes in Bergen County history to accomplish that feat. He was a three-year starter for the football team, earning First-Team All-State and Honorable Mention All-American honors at defensive back. Joe achieved significant success on the wrestling mat as a two-time district and regional champion and two-time state place finisher, and also earned All-State accolades as a center fielder for the baseball team. He went on to continue his success at the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a four-year letterman, three-year starter, team captain, and unanimous First-Team All-Ivy League selection. He returned to B.C. as an assistant football and wrestling coach and the head freshman baseball coach, helping lead the frosh team to a county championship in 2004.

EUGENE SMITH ’97

Eugene Smith, a 1997 graduate of Bergen Catholic, was arguably the most successful golfer in B.C. history as he was named to the All-State team three times (1995-97) and to the All-County squad all four years. He placed in the “Top Ten”
all four years at the State Championships, and won the All-Groups crown in 1996 after placing second one year earlier. Eugene won over 100 matches during his career at B.C., and was named “Athlete of the Week” in 1996 by The Record. He won the prestigious Luciano County Championship twice and also placed second and third during his four years at B.C. Eugene moved on to Seton Hall University on a golf scholarship, where he won five tournaments, including the 2000 Big East Championship. He was named Seton Hall’s “Male Athlete of the Year” during his senior year and was also voted Freshman and Sophomore “Male Athlete of the Year.” He was inducted into the Seton Hall University Hall of Fame in 2010. In 2003, Eugene turned pro and played on the New England Pro Golf Tour for one summer. He qualified for the Canadian Professional Golf Tour the following year and has been playing in Canada for the last eight years.

RICHARD TAYLOR ’70

Richard Taylor, a 1970 graduate of Bergen Catholic, is most noted for his generous support of a variety of programs and charities that help the poor or promote the Catholic faith. A highly-successful businessman, he founded Machinery Services Corp. in Paterson and later purchased Rapid Pump & Meter Service Co. The companies have grown to become leaders in service and quality in the industries they serve. Service has always been important to the Taylor family. Rich and his wife, Aleta, have helped a variety of worthy causes, including B.C., Oasis (a program in Paterson that assists women and children in need), The Path to Peace Foundation at the United Nations, Eva’s Village in Paterson, Immaculate Conception H.S., Mary Help of Christians Academy, The Reed Academy for Autistic Children, St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, and St. Andrew’s College Seminary at Seton Hall University. They have served on the Boards as active members for many of these groups. In 2005, they were elevated to the Papal Order of St. Gregory the Great by His Holiness, Pope John Paul II. A longtime benefactor to B.C., Rich also served as Chairman of The Campaign for the 2nd Half-Century. He and Aleta are the proud parents of four children, including one B.C. alumnus (Brian ’93).
A day of great celebration and ceremony took place on the Bergen Catholic High School campus on Saturday, May 5, 2012, when the B.C. community rejoiced upon the 250th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Edmund Rice, and also celebrated the Golden Jubilee of its third President, Br. Brian M. Walsh, C.F.C.

After Mass in Hoehl Gymnasium, the congregation was treated to a reception and dinner for Br. Walsh in celebration of a half-century of dedicated and excellent service to the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers team and its outstanding schools.

Brian M. Walsh was raised in the Dorchester section of Boston, MA and graduated from Catholic Memorial H.S. in West Roxbury, MA, a Congregation of Christian Brothers school that had just opened. He entered the Brotherhood on July 7, 1962, just weeks after his graduation from Catholic Memorial.

Br. Walsh matriculated at Iona College in New Rochelle, NY, where he earned a B.S. in Science Education with a concentration in Biology. He always loved Biology “because it was like dealing with everyday items in life,” a love that would become evident to his students during his first term at B.C.

Appropriately enough, Br. Walsh’s first teaching assignment was here at Bergen Catholic where, upon arriving in January 1967, he was assigned to teach two Math and two Religion courses for the remainder of the school year. When the need for a Biology teacher arose the following fall, he accepted that assignment gracefully. By the time he started his third year at B.C., he was promoted to the position of Dean of Freshmen and would eventually take on many additional responsibilities at the school, until his departure in June 1972.

Twenty years would pass before Br. Walsh would return for his second term in Oradell. He spent 18 of those years at Bishop Kearney H.S. in Rochester, NY (six as
Chief School Administrator and an additional five years as the Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Rochester. In between his two major administrative assignments, he spent one year as the Chief School Administrator at Notre Dame – Bishop Gibbons H.S. in Schenectady, NY.

Br. Walsh’s return to Bergen Catholic for the 1992-93 school year was a surprisingly short one. He was assigned to replace Br. Lawrence A. Killelea, C.F.C. as the school’s seventh Principal in the fall of 1992. The President/Principal model that exists today was not in effect yet at B.C., still two years in the future, so Br. Walsh served as the Chief School Administrator. Things went extremely well during his first six months at the helm, until the leaders at Eastern American Province decided in January 1993 that Br. Walsh’s expertise was needed elsewhere.

He was assigned to the position of Deputy Provincial of the Eastern American Province in 1993, then quickly added the duel title and responsibilities of President/Principal at Bishop Hendricken H.S. in Warwick, RI. He has been a member of the leadership team of the Eastern American Province since 1993. As part of that team, he has served as both the Deputy Province Leader (1993-2002) and the Province Leader (2002-05). He worked to merge all of the North American Provinces into one single entity and served as the Deputy Province Leader of the newly-created Province of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America from 2005 to 2008.

Finally, the long, winding road led him back to Bergen Catholic High School in July 2009 for “Round Three” – a term that will hopefully last many more years!

Br. Walsh has seen many wonderful sites in his travels, including Hoover Dam (above) and Monument Park in the old Yankee Stadium (right).
Alumni Football Game – Friday, November 25, 2011

The third Annual Football Game was attended by some of Bergen Catholic’s finest stars from the past: (standing, L to R) C.J. Padilla ’02, Kevin Quinn ’02, Jonathan Poppe ’03, Dave Boak ’02, Dave Soronno ’02, Todd Marco ’02, Mike Kehoe ’02, and Justin Abramopoulos ’03; and (kneeling, L to R) Joe Rizzo ’11, Connor Guinan ’92, Shane Drummond ’11, Jonathan Poppe ’03, and Daryle Pellegrino ’89.

Alumni Football Social – Friday, November 25, 2011

Members of the 2001 State Championship football team celebrated the 10-year anniversary of its great season: (standing, L to R) Dominic Santoli ’00, Gerard Rizzo ’07, Kevin Bostick ’08, Frank Rizzo ’06, and Zeke Rodgers ’92; and (kneeling, L to R) Jim Stanton ’92, Jason Carini ’92, Ravi Patel ’92, Tom Foley ’92, Zeke Rodgers ’92, Connor Guinan ’92, Scott Robinson ’92, and Assistant Coach Tony DeBellido’s ’85; and (sitting, L to R) Assistant Coach Tony DeBellido’s ’85, Head Coach Fred Stengel, and Rob Holubia ’02.

The undefeated and nationally-ranked 1991 State Championship football team could probably still win a few games on the 20-year anniversary of its legendary season: (standing, L to R) Jim Stanton ’92, Jason Carini ’92, Ravi Patel ’92, Tom Foley ’92, Zeke Rodgers ’92, Connor Guinan ’92, Scott Robinson ’92, and Assistant Coach Tony DeBellido’s ’85; and (sitting, L to R) Joe Tropea ’92, Scott Esposito ’92, B.J. O’Connor ’92, Head Coach Fred Stengel, Mike Monica ’92, and Bob Tariello ’92.
Alumni Soccer Game – Saturday, November 26, 2011

Alumni Hockey Game – Friday, November 25, 2011

(L to R) Jerry Rella ’73, Greg Miller ’69, and Kevin Freeman ’72.
Bergen Catholic Goes on the Road to California – February 7-9, 2012

On Tuesday, February 7, 2012, Bergen Catholic held an alumni cocktail reception at The City Club in San Francisco, hosted by Mary and Mike Marcon ’82. We were pleased to have 22 alumni and guests in attendance, as well as Br. Brian M. Walsh, C.F.C., President and Marge Millus, Director of Alumni Relations and Special Events. The evening was filled with stories from the good old Bergen days from our alumni who ranged in years from the Class of 1960 to the Class of 2000. Everyone at the reception was enthralled as they listened to Br. Walsh share the good news of what is happening at Bergen Catholic today.

On Thursday, February 9, 2012, our Los Angeles cocktail reception was hosted at the home of Allison and Matt Hanna ’85. It was a lovely evening, with delicious food and libation, but the company and friends made was even better. Everyone had the opportunity to introduce themselves. Two alumni were very pleased to learn that they were neighbors!

As a result of our “Crusaders on the Road” trip to California, we have formed two California Chapters of the Bergen Catholic Alumni Association: our San Francisco Chapter and our Los Angeles Chapter. Plans are already in the making for an S.F. barbeque gathering in the near future. The L.A. Chapter was pretty determined to join us in Las Vegas in September, when the football team takes on Bishop Gorman H.S.

“It was really great to get together with B.C. alum in Los Angeles. What struck me was how quickly my connection to Bergen came back, despite the fact that I didn’t know anyone beforehand and that it’s been a few years since I’ve attended any official Bergen function. I also enjoyed hearing Br. Walsh’s candid update on the school and his vision for the future...and, yes, he doesn’t hold back his opinions about Bosco. His best line, ‘We will be the #1 football program in New Jersey again, but we’ll do it the B.C. way.’ It fired everyone up and there were lots of talk about Vegas in September, where the football team will take on a nationally-ranked team. Vegas, B.C. football...seriously, does that not sound insanely fun? I sincerely hope that this night was the start of more regular gatherings of B.C. alum in the Los Angeles area. It felt right.”

Matt Hanna ’85 – Los Angeles Cocktail Reception Host

“I was struck by continuity of the Bergen Catholic mission across generations of students. We had members of the first graduating class mingling with graduates from 2005. It was inspiring to see that the alums all had fond memories of the school. Interestingly, the memories were of fellow classmates, teachers, and of life lessons learned and values imparted – not tests or grades or games. It underscores that Bergen Catholic really succeeds in its objective of preparing young men to be ‘Crusaders for Christian Action’ in the real world. Many were also pleased to know that J.U.G. was alive and well at B.C.I!”

Mike Marcon ‘82 – San Francisco Cocktail Reception Host
The Bergen Catholic community once again celebrated its diversity by hosting “International Day” on April 19 with a series of outstanding presentations, followed by an outstanding buffet of international foods.

After the large audience in Hoehl Gymnasium was welcomed to the event by Omar Elkeshk ’12 (Co-President of the B.C. International Club), Garrett Dickerson ’14 (Vice-President), and Moderator Lily DiMaggio (the Chair of the World Language Department), the program began with a singing performance by “Korean Idol” star Eui-hwan “Ben” Seo ’12, followed by several cultural presentations and a pair of magnificent multimedia shows about foreign continents.

The Mission of the International Club’s “Cultures Around the World” (“CAW”) program is to develop better cultural learning and to develop awareness of cultural similarities and a better “world-mindedness” among the student body at Bergen Catholic by advocating the cooperation and understanding that exists between nations.

The way that CAW has accomplished this is by engaging all student members of the International Club in a project-based program that helps to facilitate the understanding and knowledge of many cultures, followed by a school-wide cultural presentation (“International Day”) that demonstrates the rich diversity and cooperation that exists within our walls and in the outside world.

“International Day” was a huge success due to the efforts of (L to R) International Club Vice-President Garrett Dickerson ’14, Co-President Omar Elkeshk ’12, Co-President Changmin Lim ’12, and Event Coordinator Matthew Coyne ’12.

One of the six themed tents that were set up in Hoehl Gymnasium.

The extensive international doll collection of Foreign Language instructor Yolanda Gasparro was on display.

Ben Seo ’12 sang a Korean song and played the guitar.
In keeping with the vision of Brother Walsh, the Alumni Association has undergone its own (r)evolution. While the brotherhood Crusaders share has always been the envy of other schools, we know we can even make it better.

Now more than ever you, the Alumni, are critical to the future success of Bergen Catholic. As such, we have created new ways to participate and volunteer and reconnect while reinforcing the concept that we are **Crusaders for life**.

Specifically, the new bylaws (posted on the website in the Alumni section) invite all Crusaders to participate in more ways than ever. Class Chairs play an even greater role in shaping the future of the Alumni Association. New term limits ensure that the Association constantly evolves and continuously improves, building on the successes of the past but always living the mantra that “good enough is never good enough.”

Six new volunteer committees were created and have already had a tremendous impact, creating a full calendar of events including:

### 2012
- May 10, 2012 (Thursday) – “Hoboken on Tap”
- May 28, 2012 (Monday) – Ridgewood Memorial Day Run – Ridgewood, NJ
- June 11, 2012 (Monday) – Br. Burns Golf Outing @ Knickerbocker CC
- July 24-28, 2012 – Habitat Build in Oradell, NJ
- September 2012 – “Theology on Tap” (Glen Rock Inn)
- September 28, 2012 (Friday) – Alumni Golf Outing @ Emerson Golf Club
- October 18, 2012 (Thursday) – Utilizing Social Media to Build your Career @ BC Library 7:00-9:00 P.M.
- October 27, 2012 (Saturday) – B.C. vs. Don Bosco Baby Basics Diaper Drive, 1:00 P.M.
- October 2012 – Trunk or Treat
- November 3, 2012 (Saturday) – Memorial Mass @ Seasons
- December 2012 – Pancakes with Santa @ B.C.

### 2013
- January 15, 2013 (Tuesday) – Class Chair Letter Signing @ Seasons
- January 2013 – College/Alum Networking/Mentor Event @ B.C.
- February-March 2013 – Super Bowl to Easter Biggest Loser Contest
- March 24, 2013 (Sunday) – Hall of Fame Dinner @ The Fiesta
- March 30, 2013 (Saturday) – Easter Egg Hunt @ B.C.
- May 11, 2013 (Saturday) – Bergen Catholic Day (5K Run, etc.)
- May 2013 – Alumni Prom?

The committees include:
- Admissions
- Young Alumni
- Career Development
- Lifelong Learning
- Service & Spirituality
- Healthy Living

E-mail me at mhaviland@dogoodmarketing.com if you are interested in getting involved with any of the committees or events.

To keep up with all that is going on in the Alumni Association, please visit bergen catholic.org and register and join the official Bergen Catholic High School Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/Bergen Catholic.

I urge you to join the Bergen Catholic (R)evolution and participate in any way you can. Deus Vult!

Michael JD Haviland ’78
President
Bergen Catholic Alumni Association
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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4&quot; by 8&quot; 3 lines*; 13 characters/spaces per line</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8&quot; by 8&quot; 3 lines*; 13 characters/spaces per line</td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Extra lines available at additional cost.

Tree of Life

Leaf Cost: $1,000

Stone Cost: $5,000
Bergen Catholic Mock Trial Team Finishes Strong Season

The Bergen Catholic High School Mock Trial Team recently completed a successful season, despite being eliminated in the quarter-final round of the Bergen County playoffs.

The Mock Trial Competition involves all 21 county bar associations in the State of New Jersey and is overseen by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, which each year provides a case for teams to develop and argue.

The competition pits student teams from high schools around the state against each other in a court room setting. Students from each school play the various roles of plaintiffs, defendants, attorneys, witnesses, and jurors involved in a court case. This year’s sample case involved criminal case regarding a trespassing, theft, and bias crime.

Under the guidance of team moderator Peter Coleman, the Bergen Catholic team reached the playoffs of the Bergen County section of the competition by defeating Academy of the Holy Angels, Dwight-Englewood School, and Frisch School. In the quarter-final round of the Bergen County playoffs, B.C. dropped a close decision to Immaculate Heart Academy.

The Crusaders were represented by two different “teams” during the competition, a “Prosecution Team” and a “Defense Team.” The “Prosecution Team,” which performed in the victory of Holy Angels, consisted of lawyers Anthony Paul Shaker ’12 and Joey Pallath ’12 and witnesses Gabriel Hobeika ’12, Thomas Lahey ’12, and Daniel Lowe ’13. The “Defense Team,” which produced wins over Dwight-Englewood School and Frisch School, consisted of lawyers Craig Boswell ’12 and Nicholas Didio ’12 and witnesses Nicholas Barile ’14, Timothy Corcoran ’12, and Timothy Paul Shaker ’13.

Other team members who made significant contributions to the team’s success during the season include Kemuel Noriega ’12, Philip Bempong ’13, Patrick Monaghan ’13, Christopher Hefferman ’14, Luke Barnard ’15, Thomas Harte ’15, and Robert Meloro ’15.


A trio of seniors from the school’s Mock Trial Team gave a brief demonstration to display their talents. Joey Pallath (seated, far left) observes as Nicholas Didio (standing, center) interrogates Thomas Lahey (seated, right), while Moderator Peter Coleman looks on from the podium.
Richard Han Ruiz ’14 Participates In Youth Leadership Seminar

Richard Han Ruiz, a sophomore at Bergen Catholic High School, was chosen to represent the school at the Hugh O’Brian Youth (“HOBY”) Leadership Seminar.

Richard, who attended a HOBY seminar this spring at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, NJ, was selected by a panel of faculty members at B.C. from a pool of worthy sophomore candidates to represent Bergen Catholic.

An outstanding student who is a perennial honoree on the school’s Honor Roll, Richard is a member of several of B.C.’s activity groups, including the Student Government Association, the SHIELD program (a leadership group within the school comprised of highly-motivated students), the Red & Gold Club (a club that assists with major events, such as Open Houses), the Mock Trial Team, and Habitat for Humanity (a group that helps build houses for the underprivileged). He also participated in the school’s “Cardboard City” event last fall, and is a graphics producer for the school’s in-house television station, BCTV.

In his spare time, Richard also donates time to his local church, assisting in events such as food drives.

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.

HOBY Leadership Seminars are designed to teach students to think “critically,” to enhance their leadership skills, to learn more about free enterprise, and to discover that they are not alone in their desire to lead.

This widely-acclaimed program began in 1958, when actor Hugh O’Brian decided to make a contribution to society by establishing HOBY to cultivate and enhance leadership characteristics among America’s high school students. For the first ten years of the program, the seminars were held in the Los Angeles area. Eventually the seminar expanded and grew into what it is today: a worldwide program that involves more than 14,000 public and private school students.

B.C. Students Participate In “Cardboard City” Event

Scores of students participated in B.C.’s annual “Cardboard City” event.
Alumnus Visits B.C. Senior Class

Speaking on behalf of The Friends of Rigby Foundation, Jay Tedino ’01 visited members of the B.C. senior class in April to provide a presentation regarding the potential dangers of off-campus housing while at college. The Friends of Rigby Foundation Inc. is a non-profit public charity whose purpose is to further the memory of Daniel H. Rigby ’01, specifically as it relates to promoting fire safety, education, and community activism.

Jay Tedino ’01 (second from left) is welcomed back to the school by (L to R) former classmate and B.C. faculty member Brian Rendine ’01, Principal Tim McElhinney, Alumni Association President Michael Haviland ’78, and Director of Alumni Relations Marge Millus.

BERGEN CATHOLIC

Legacy Society

Have You Named Bergen Catholic In Your Will?

The Bergen Catholic Legacy Society formally recognizes investors who have chosen to leave a legacy to the school through a variety of planned giving techniques, such as will bequests, charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, retained life estates or the gift of a life insurance policy, et al.

If you have been so thoughtful, we thank you for your forward thinking and your generosity. Just let us know of your intentions and we will add you as a member of our growing list of those who have chosen to leave some of their legacy to Bergen Catholic High School. A simple e-mail to jbranciforte@bergen-catholic.org, describing your intentions, will add your name to our list of those who want to make a difference to future generations of Bergen Catholic students. Deus Vult!

Legacy Society Membership Roll*

Wallace E.J. Collins, Parent
Mr. & Mrs. Francis X. Donlan ’63
Mr. Robert F. Fortsch ’73
Mrs. Deirdre Fortune, Friend
Mr. Michael James Jordan ’61
Mr. & Mrs. John Lowe, Parent
Mr. & Mrs. James W. O’Brien ’62, Parent
The Honorable John B. Paolella ’67

Mr. Artie Prior ’59
Mr. Dennis M. Sigrist ’82 (RIP)
Mr. Frank J. Sposato ’69
Mrs. Mary C. Steidl, Parent
Mr. & Mrs. Brian A. Tramontozzi ’90
Ms. Kathleen M. Treubig, Parent
Mr. & Mrs. James Whelan, Parent
Mr. Joseph A. Zodl ’66

*Represents all self-reported planned gifts as of 6/30/11.
Bergen Catholic High School’s “Pro-Life” group – known as “BC Alive” – traveled to Washington, DC to participate in the “March for Life” on January 23, joining thousands of supporters who marched on behalf of the innocent unborn. The B.C. group also met with Congressman Scott Garrett (R - NJ) in addition to taking part in the march.

(Above) Representing Bergen Catholic at the “March for Life” in January were (standing, L to R) “BC Alive” Moderator Andrea Barone, Matt Coyne ’12, Congressman Scott Garrett (R - NJ), Tom Lahey ’12, Tom Marsella ’12, John McCrudden ’12, Andrew Schmetow ’12, and Peter Ryan ’12; and (kneeling, L to R) Rev. Antonio Ricarte, Charles Niece ’15, Joe Niece ’15, Najiv Granston ’13, and Justin Yacovino ’14.

Alumni News & Notes
continued from page 20

Class of 2007
Former sharp-shooting basketball guard Bob DiPiazza signed a contract to play for the Washington Generals, the most well-known opponents of the world-famous Harlem Globetrotters. DiPiazza, who finished his stellar collegiate career as the all-time leading scorer at Elmira College (NY), recently traveled to Saudi Arabia for a two-week tour with the Generals.

Jadd Schmeltzer became the tenth former B.C. baseball player to sign a professional contract when he was selected (and signed) by the Boston Red Sox in 2011. The Cornell graduate was his college team’s “Pitcher of the Year” twice (as a sophomore and as a senior).
Bergen Catholic Announces Teaching Additions To Fine Arts Department

Bergen Catholic High School is pleased to announce the hiring of two instructors who are significant additions to the school’s growing Fine Arts Department. The school has hired Ms. Caitlyn Payne as Instrumental Orchestra Director and Mrs. Barbara Peraino as its Vocal Director, according to B.C. Principal Tim McElhinney.

“The arts are a critical aspect to the overall development of the Bergen Catholic student. To that end, I am happy to announce the expansion of our arts offerings with the addition of an Instrumental Orchestra, led by Ms. Caitlin Payne, and a vocal ensemble, led by Mrs. Barbara Peraino,” commented McElhinney. “Ms. Payne and Mrs. Peraino have each exhibited a high degree of enthusiasm and skill in their respective endeavors, as well as making wonderful connections with our students. I would also like to commend Mr. Joe Charles for his leadership of the Performing Arts Department. These are exciting additions to the school’s scholastic program.”

Caitlyn Payne is a graduate of Immaculate Heart Academy in Washington Township and The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, where she earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Instrumental Music Education. She is currently attending William Paterson University in Wayne, NJ in pursuit of a Master’s Degree in Instrumental Music Education, and is a member of the National Association for Music Education.

A member of a household that contains three B.C. graduates (her father, Steven ’77, and brothers Robert ’08 and Sean ’10), Ms. Payne was a member of the I.H.A. orchestra and performed with The Catholic University Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Payne, who has 18 years of experience of playing the violin, has already assembled an orchestra group at B.C., which recently held its first performance in conjunction with the I.H.A. orchestra.

Barbara Peraino joins the Fine Arts Department staff as the new Vocal Director. A life-long contributor and teacher in the Music industry, she comes to B.C. after retiring from a 32-year career in the Elizabeth, NJ school system, where she directed the Gifted and Talented Music Program. The highly-respected director was named as the “New Jersey Teacher of the Year” by the New Jersey Education Association and was also honored by New Jersey Department of Education as the “Union County Teacher of the Year” during the 2009-10 school year.

Mrs. Peraino, who holds a Music Degree from the University of Bridgeport and a Master’s Degree in Music from Boston University, has extensive professional experience as a performer, as well. She has performed with the Opera Company of Boston, the Santa Fe Opera Company, and the New York City Opera, and also with the Boston and New York Symphonies. She has also performed at the Royal Opera House in Antwerp, Belgium.
First Annual “Night of the Arts” Event a Huge Success

The performances and achievements of several of Bergen Catholic High School’s most talented art students were on display when the school’s Parents’ Association hosted the first annual “Night of the Arts” event on April 18.

Joseph Charles ’02 (Chair of the Fine Arts Department) and Kimanne Smith (Chair of the Visual Arts Department) were on hand to oversee various presentations by B.C. students. In addition, Mock Trial Team Moderator Peter Coleman introduced and observed a sample performance by three talented members of his team. The arts continue to grow and thrive at B.C.!

The Bergen Catholic High School Jazz Ensemble performed its annual Christmas Concert at the school in December. Members of the group included (sitting, L to R) Tae Yeong Kim ’14, Anayochukwu Ilobanfor ’14, Amachi Ilobanfor ’13, Lance Gibson ’14, Samir Wadhwani ’14, Ryan Romanos ’13, Christopher Brendel ’13, and Connor O’Neill ’12; (standing, L to R) San Kim ’15, Patrick Ryan ’15, Nicholas Russo ’14, Nnacheta Ilobanfor ’12, Munyoung Kim ’14, Won Sup Song ’12, Jake Bruno ’12, Deek Medzadourian ’13, Griffin McCarthy ’15, Steve Kim ’14, Sean Fernandez ’14, Joseph Canlas ’13, John McCradden ’12, Francisco Andrade ’15, John Vaccaro ’15, Luke Barnard ’15, Moderator Peter Furlan, and guest performer, world-class guitarist Glenn Alexander.
SHIELD, which stands for “Students Helping Inspire Everyone’s Leadership Development,” is a group of leaders that meets weekly to plan events and activities that help mold the leadership of the Bergen Catholic High School student body. This program, moderated by Mrs. Francesca Tambone-Puzio, is new to Bergen Catholic and has shown tremendous growth and popularity within the institution.

The students involved in SHIELD are representative of a diverse and wide range of talents and skills, from academically-outstanding students to leaders in clubs and sports teams. This diversity gives SHIELD varying perspectives of life at Bergen Catholic, where everyone’s talents are validated.

In 2011, Mrs. Tambone-Puzio was asked by school President Br. Brian M. Walsh, C.F.C. to develop a formal Leadership Program at Bergen Catholic. Prior to assuming her present role as Assistant Principal of Academics, Mrs. Tambone-Puzio had moderated the Student Government for nine years and had developed it into one of the premier student activities at B.C.

Mrs. Tambone-Puzio escorted a small group of students to St. Laurence H.S., an Edmund Rice Christian Brothers School in Burbank, IL, to explore a Leadership Program that is part of the daily curriculum that gains insight and begins to develop a program that would be deemed suitable at Bergen Catholic. As the name implies – SHIELD – the vision is to have a very active student-run organization that encourages the entire school community to participate and develop leadership skills in each and every student at B.C.

A group of ten students was initially chosen by Mrs. Tambone-Puzio as the core group that met over the summer. In addition, Mrs. Tambone-Puzio asked Mr. Josh Powers, Campus Minister and Chair of Religion Department, to assist with the program.

The program has continued its growth and development through a variety of student-run activities conducted during Activity periods, as well as after-school meetings. The core group devises plans and programs to test the waters in creating activities that are appropriate for our student body.

SHIELD started last year, consisting of a select group of seniors and juniors that included Anthony Paul Shaker ’12, Matthew Coyne ’12, Tom Lahey ’12, and Tom Marsella ’12. Today, SHIELD has expanded to students of all grade levels and now includes over sixty members. These members plan every event that SHIELD hosts and are overseen by Mrs. Tambone-Puzio. By allowing this program to be run fully by students, Mrs. Tambone-Puzio gives SHIELD members freedom to create events and activities that will help all students.

Mrs. Tambone-Puzio has been a great moderator for the
activity, fostering a program for the students, by the students.

Last summer, members of SHIELD came back to school several times to begin planning the Freshman Field Day for the beginning of the 2011-12 school year. The members put aside what had been done in years past and completely redesigned the whole day. Members of SHIELD wanted the day to be focused on building friendships and fostering the Mission Statement of Bergen Catholic, and having a day of fun-filled events. Due to the dedication and diligent planning of the senior members of SHIELD and other student volunteers of the senior class, the day was a huge success.

After the success of the Freshman Field Day, SHIELD was asked by the Admissions Department to plan and run the “Freshman Experience.” Building upon what they learned from Field Day, SHIELD members created a bonding, community-building experience for the Class of 2016.

Members of SHIELD also thought that it would be appropriate to include more activities that focused on strengthening leadership and brotherhood. Also, the incoming freshmen were able to familiarize themselves with the new environment at B.C. and to begin to form friendships with members of the Bergen Catholic community.

Other activities and events took place during activity period when junior members met with their “Writing Across the Curriculum” mentors. In previous years, freshmen and sophomores were required to meet as classes. This year, however, SHIELD decided to plan presentations and activities that the freshmen and sophomores could partake in. The events consisted of presentations on the Essential Elements, “What is Christian Leadership?,” “Valuing Everyone in Our Community,” and character development (focusing on courage, friendship, collaboration, and respect). SHIELD members met after each activity to affirm the success of the event, and to discuss ways to enhance the program for the future.

SHIELD has had an exciting and thoroughly busy year. Members of SHIELD showed the amazing talent that they possess in planning so many events in just one school year. Mrs. Tambone-Puzio, Mr. Powers, and SHIELD members are very excited about this program and the upcoming school year.

In speaking with Mrs. Tambone-Puzio on the success of the new Leadership Program, she stated: “I am humbled by the talent and gifts of my students. My hope is that the message of the SHIELD team is infused in all aspects of life.”

The SHIELD team is looking forward to an exciting future filled with inspirational activities. SHIELD is expected to grow immensely next year and continue to teach the skills of what it takes to be a leader.

We sat down with Mrs. Tambone-Puzio and asked her a few questions about the program:

What was the response of the faculty when they were told of the SHIELD program?

“The faculty’s response was very positive. They are enthusiastic about promoting student success.”

Are you happy with how the program has progressed over the year?

“I think that our students’ hard work and motivation was an amazing testament to the dedication and leadership qualities that a Bergen Catholic student embodies. We came a long way with the different activities we have done, and we have brought to life the students’ skills and talents.”

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Matt Coyne ’12, Tom Marsella ’12, and C.J. Gaspari ’12 (L to R) are members of SHIELD. Matt is the president of “BC Alive” and will attend Manhattan College in the fall. Tom was captain of the B.C. varsity swim team, co-founder of Outdoors Club, and founder of the Activities Blog. He will attend Rowan University. C.J. is the layout editor of The Herald and will attend Pepperdine University.
## ALUMNI IN THE WORLD (2007 vs. 2012)

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| North Carolina| 113                   | 139                   | Chile         | 1                     | 1                     | **Total Graduated Alumni** | 10,476      | 11,382**| (Including Class of 2012)
| Nebraska      | 2                     | 3                     | China         | 4                     | 2                     |                          |            |            |
|              |                       |                       | Costa Rica    | 1                     | 0                     |                          |            |            |

* Represents 91.0% of living alumni, ** Represents 6.9% of living alumni, *** Represents 3.4% of graduated alumni.

If you want to update your mailing address, please e-mail: Regina Radoslovich at: RRADOSLOVICH@BERGENCATHOLIC.ORG

## TOP 15 COLLEGES OF BERGEN CATHOLIC ALUMNI*

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* This listing represents schools that our alumni have told us that they are either attending or have graduated from as of 4/7/2012!

Why not register your undergraduate and/or graduate school attendance information by e-mailing the following information to Regina Radoslovich at: RRADOSLOVICH@BERGENCATHOLIC.ORG

- Undergraduate School Name
- Graduation Year, Degree, Major
- Postgraduate School Name
- Graduation Year, Degree, Major

As an alternative, you can fax your information to her attention at 201.261.2715

Currently we have 2,982 alumni who have registered their schools, representing 3,918 undergraduate and post-graduate institutions!
B.C. STUDENTS RAISE MORE THAN $5,000 AT St. Baldrick’s Event

Twenty-two Bergen Catholic High School students and four faculty members had their heads shaved in support of adolescents who are suffering from childhood cancer. The B.C. students, with the help of the school’s Tomorrow’s Children group, took part in the nationally-acclaimed St. Baldrick’s program on March 12 on the school campus.

The St. Baldrick’s Foundation is a non-profit public charity that hosts fund-raising events across the globe. The foundation raises money for childhood cancer research primarily through head-shaving events. Volunteers, sponsored by family, friends and employers, go bald in solidarity with kids who typically lose their hair during cancer treatment due to chemotherapy treatments. The foundation has already raised more than $20 million nationwide during the first two-and-one-half months of the 2012 calendar year, after raising more than $28 million in 2011.

The concept of St. Baldrick’s was devised in 1999 by three executives from New York City, and grew from a single event to a nationwide effort. It is now known as the world’s largest volunteer fundraiser for childhood cancer research.

The founders decided to turn their St. Patrick’s Day party into a benefit for pediatric oncology research by shaving their heads. Therefore, the name of the Foundation is a play on the words “Bald” and “Patrick.”

Bergen Catholic students raised more than $5,000 in donations due to their participation within one week of the event, and funds and pledges continue to pour in. Donations are not credited until they are officially received and recorded by the St. Baldrick’s Foundation, and the final figure hopes to approach $10,000.

“It was truly inspiring to see the students rally around this great cause. It takes courage to shave your head,” remarked faculty member Christine Sorrentino, the Moderator of B.C.’s Tomorrow’s Children group. “All of the students showed a great amount of support and respect to those who participated.”

Also helping the event become a reality were the contributions of three stylists from Salon A Hair Studio in Paramus, NJ.
Baseball Team Assists at “Challenger Division” Clinic

Bergen Catholic High School’s varsity baseball team came together to donate time at a recent “Challenger Division” clinic that was held at Overpeck County Park in Ridgefield Park. The B.C. players assisted instructors from Professional Baseball Instruction of Upper Saddle River, the host of the event.

The “Challenger Division” was established in 1989 as a separate division of Little League to enable boys and girls with physical and mental challenges, ages 4-18 or up to age 22 if still enrolled in high school, to enjoy the game of baseball along with the millions of other children who participate in the sport worldwide. Today, more than 30,000 children participate in more than 900 “Challenger Divisions” worldwide.

Participating in the clinic were B.C. team members (standing, L to R) Head Coach Jim Burt ’99, Jared Finkel ’14, Greg Bargiel ’12, Ryan DeLoughry ’14, Chris Boemo ’13, Matt Ornstein ’13, Jared Verebey ’14, Riley Finnegan ’12, Ray Maresca ’14, Robert Quigley ’12, Liam Flanagan ’13, Zach Kovalovsky ’12, Joe Esposito ’13, Mike Sutherland ’12, Don Maita ’12, Assistant Coach Luis Colon, and Assistant Coach Jay Gonzalez; and (kneeling, L to R) Matt Millus ’14, Zach Cerbo ’13, Pat Doherty ’14, Ryan Kelly ’12, batboy Angel Colon, Mike Martinez ’15, Alec DeMattheis ’14, and Jordan Attilio ’14. Unable to attend due to injury or SAT tests were Anthony Aprea ’14, A.J. Gallagher ’13, and Jeff Granger ’13.

B.C. Students Participate In Annual Blood Drive

B.C. faculty member Jim Horner ’64 (left) was one of several staff members who also participated in the drive. Also pictured is Parents’ Association member Bridget Schindo CP ’12, whose organizational skills helped the event run smoothly.

(L to R) Eli Mallouhi ’12, Joseph Canlas ’13, Brendan McCullagh ’12, Michael Carolan ’13, Gabriel Mabeika ’12, and Ryan Schindo ’12 were just six of more than 50 Bergen Catholic High School students and staff who participated in the school’s annual Blood Drive.
Toy Drive

Bergen Catholic High School held its annual Toy Drive, where B.C. students and their families donated more than 800 individual gifts, as well as a complete bedroom set, two tables, and chair sets to be distributed at “Shelter Our Sisters” in Hackensack, an organization that assists women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

Christmas Tree Sale

Several B.C. students volunteered at the Ridgewood YMCA’s annual Christmas Tree Sale during the weekend preceding the holiday. Proceeds from the tree sales benefitted Ridgewood YMCA Good Works Programs, which fund camp scholarships, world service projects, and mentoring programs.

B.C. students who assisted during one shift included (L to R) Jake Keanna ’15, Zachary Kovalovsky ’12, Domenick Mattia ’13, John Korin ’14, Matthew Paull ’14, Marc Acunto ’14, Aidan Finnegan ’14, and Joseph Ludwig ’14.
The Administration of Bergen Catholic touts our school’s fantastic academic record, our superb athletic program, and the many activities and service opportunities that our students partake in. One thing our school has that makes us truly unique is our broad international connection with schools and organizations around the globe.

With international visits to Argentina, Peru, and China, our school is forging inroads with groups from all over the world. We are expanding horizons to learn from other cultures and other methods that schools use to make their institutions successful.

I had the pleasure of interviewing three people who travelled across the globe to spread the message of Bergen Catholic, and learned about the cultures of other nations. The first person I interviewed was Steven Jakubiec ’12, a graduating senior who travelled with Mr. Joe Charles ’02 and four other students to Peru to work with the Christian Brothers and their missions in November 2012.

I asked Steven about his experience in Lima, Peru, and he told me, “It was awesome to help out people who struggle to help themselves. Building homes, helping a family skin lima beans to make work easy, and reading to children was a really rewarding, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to do it.”

The Christian Brothers have missions all around the world. Last year, B.C.’s Deacon Larry D’Amico and his son, a filmmaker, travelled to Peru with Bergen Catholic students for the same mission, and they created a powerful documentary about what our students and the Christian Brothers do in Lima.

I was then able to interview Mrs. Lily DiMaggio about the trip to Argentina in November 2012. I myself went to Argentina with her and four others, so I just wanted to get her feelings about the necessity of the program. I asked Mrs. DiMaggio what the purpose of the program is. “Our program helps enlighten our boys to better understand other cultures and immerse them in the culture to better prepare them for a well-rounded future,” she responded. “It is vital, in our ever-changing world, that our boys have experience in dealing with

By Tom Lahey ’12
President of the B.C. Student Government Association

The Bergen Catholic High School community recently welcomed five exchange students from Colegio Cardenal Newman High School in Argentina for the second straight year. Colegio Cardenal Newman students (bottom row, L to R) Matías Tiscamia, Félix Kyburg, Francisco Zabaleta, Santiago Albarracín, and Tomas McCluskey are joined by “host” students and family members (L to R) Daniel Gomez ’12, Luke ’15 and Craig ’12 Boswell, Thomas Lahey ’12, Sung Hoon Hong ’12, Gavin Holt-Ciero (son of B.C. faculty member Eileen Holt), and Lawrence ’12 and Stephanie Chan.
other cultures because of our complex global society. It’s good for business relations and good for almost any other field of work.”

I feel the same way. The trip to Argentina truly changed my worldview, and it made me appreciate cultural differences a lot more, especially the differences in cuisine. In March 2012, we hosted the Argentinean students in our homes to immerse them in American culture and our way of life.

The last person I interviewed travelled, not just to learn the culture, but to learn about educational practices around the world. Mr. Timothy McElhinney, Bergen Catholic’s Principal, travelled to China for eight days last fall to attend conferences and classes for a better understanding of why China’s educational system is as advanced as it is. He met with government officials and high-ranking educators and discussed methods they use in their classrooms that can be put to use in our schools in America.

When I asked Mr. McElhinney about his visit to China, he smiled and remarked, “Tom, my trip to China was extraordinary. The people I spoke with were eager to share their experiences and their methods with me and really wanted me to learn about their education system, so that both of our young people can interact in positive ways. I brought back many ideas from my visit that I hope to implement soon. The landscape was also beautiful and the people received me more warmly than I expected. I loved the trip!”

I was surprised by the enthusiasm with which Mr. McElhinney spoke of his trip to China and how receptive the ambassadors were to him. Though religion, especially Christianity, is illegal in China, the Christian Brothers’ message has reached its shores, and Bergen Catholic has led the way into opening new doors for our vocation.

Bergen Catholic High School gave many of us opportunities that we would never have had anywhere else. The opportunity for students to travel to Argentina and Peru, and for administrators and faculty to travel elsewhere abroad, make Bergen Catholic a truly international institution as part of a global community of Christian Brothers. Few schools can say this, which is why I am proud to be a Crusader.
Bergen Catholic High School varsity wrestling coach Dave Bell became the tenth 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 25, 2012.

A total of 35 head coaches (including B.C. alumnus Tom Curry ’70, the current Athletic Director at Bergenfield H.S.) were inducted into the NJSCA Hall of Fame, and additional administrators, contributors, and referees/officials were also honored. Making the nominations particularly satisfying is the fact that the inductees are selected and honored by their peers.

A current resident and native of Wood-Ridge, Coach Bell joined the Bergen Catholic faculty as a History teacher and the B.C. Athletic Department as the head varsity wrestling coach in the fall of 1998.

During his 14 seasons at the helm, Coach Bell has led the Crusaders to more than 200 wins. He directed Bergen Catholic to three State Non-Public “A” championships, eight Section crowns, nine Bergen County titles, 11 league championships, and 14 straight District 7 crowns. This past season, the Crusaders posted an overall 16-5 record, won State, Section, and league championships, and finished the season as the fourth-ranked team in New Jersey.

Coach Bell joins nine 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), the late basketball and football coach John Mazziotta (1979), track coach Tom Fuchs (1992), football coach Tony Karcich (1993), the late basketball coach Chris Donfield (2000), recently-retired track coach Al Naimo (2000), current golf coach James Jacobsen ’66 (2003), football coach Fred Stengel (2007), and basketball coach Joe Dionisio ’77 (2011).

Curry was the basketball coach and Athletic Director at Dwight-Englewood for 19 years, during which the Bulldogs emerged as a small-school powerhouse. The Dumont native was also the A.D. at Leonia H.S., before accepting a similar position at Bergenfield.

Curry became the seventh Bergen Catholic alumnus to be inducted into the NJSCA Hall of Fame, along with Dionisio, Jacobsen, former Waldwick H.S. basketball coach Paul Puglise ’68 (inducted in 1998), Emerson H.S. baseball coach Robert Carcich ’70 (2002), Pascack Hills and Pascack Valley H.S. baseball and basketball coach Mike O’Brien ’60 (2002), and Old Tappan H.S. basketball coach Dennis Rossi ’64 (2009).
Here is a brief recap for Bergen Catholic Crusaders’ winter and spring sports teams:

WINTER, 2011-12

Basketball
The Crusaders’ basketball team finished 14-12 in their first season under new head coach Billy Armstrong ’94, and made it to the quarterfinals of both the Bergen County Jamboree and Non-Public “A” State Tournament. Senior sharpshooter Rich DeLuca ’12, the team’s leading scorer, earned First-Team All-Big North United Division honors for his efforts. Charles Wingate ’12 (Second-Team) and Kyle Queiro ’13 (Honorable Mention), also were honored in the conference.

Bowling
B.C. once again captured a divisional championship and finished with the best regular-season record in the entire county with a total games mark of 112-14. Three Crusaders were named First-Team All-Big North United Division, led by Charles Long ’12, Brian Hund ’12, and Simon Lezaja ’14. Freddy Dressel ’13 was named Second-Team, and Patrick Sucero ’14 was named Honorable Mention All-League.
Lezaja also made headlines this winter by bowling a perfect game (300) against Paramus Catholic, and Head Coach Larry Fierro was named Big North United Division “Coach of the Year.”

Hockey
A young Crusaders’ hockey team felt the growing pains of playing in the Gordon Conference, the elite hockey conference in the growing pains of playing in the Gordon Conference, the elite hockey conference in the process. The hardware continued to pile up for the B.C. wrestling program following the team championship, as Johnny Sebastian ’14 was named First-Team All-Big North United Division at 160 pounds, becoming B.C.’s first state title winner since 2007, and was named The Record’s “Wrestler of the Year.” Head Coach Dave Bell earned his 200th career victory at B.C. early during the season, and was later inducted into the NJSCA Hall of Fame following the season. B.C. finished 16-5 on the year.

Swimming
With an exceptional young core of talented swimmers, B.C. captured its first divisional title since 2007 and cracked the “Top 20” in the statewide rankings in the process. Four Crusaders were named First-Team All-County: Sebastian Lopez ’14, Liam Kelly ’14, Josh Sembrano ’14, and John Om ’15. B.C. finished second at the Bergen County Championships, and finished 8-2 overall in the water this winter.

Wrestling
For the first time since 2003, the Crusaders’ wrestling program captured an overall state championship, the sixth state crown in program history, with its 35-19 victory against C.B.A. After winning an epic sectional title against St. Peter’s Prep on tie-breaking criteria, the Crusaders overwhelmed C.B.A. in Tom’s River on their way to a state title and eventually the #4 ranking in New Jersey, and were named The Record’s “Team of the Year.”

Spring, 2012

Baseball
The Crusaders’ baseball team had a roller-coaster ride of a season, winning six of their first seven games, followed by an 8-game losing streak. The team rebounded to pick up nine wins in their next 10 contests (including a thrilling come-from-behind 7-5 State Tournament win at Union Catholic, in which B.C. rallied from a 5-3 seventh-inning deficit to win on a two-run single by Rob Quigley ’12) to finish with a 15-11 record.

The winningest program in school history once again did not disappoint in bringing home more trophies for the award cases, as the Crusaders won six different tournaments this spring. B.C. captured the Garden State, Galloway National, Blue Devil Invitational, Arcole Invitational, Big North United Division, and Big North Conference Championship Tournaments. The Crusaders finished second in the Non-Public North “A” Sectional Tournament, and once again enjoyed a “Top 5” finish at the Tournament of Champions, where B.C. placed third overall in the 24-team field.

Golf
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Lacrosse
The 10-7 Crusaders played the role of “cardiac kids” this spring, as they were part of several dramatic overtime contests. B.C. played in four overtime games at Crusader Stadium, and won three out of the four times, all thanks to game-winning goals scored by midfielder Brendan McGuire ’12. McGuire’s overtime goal against Mountain Lakes gave the Crusaders their first-ever program win against the public school power in nine career meetings. B.C. once
again advanced to the semifinals of the Bergen County Tournament (defeating Waldwick [18-6] and Mahwah [13-6]), and routed St. Joseph Regional (15-5) in the Non-Public “A” State Tournament.

Outdoor Track
The Crusaders finished the season 2-2 in their four dual meets of the spring, and leaned on their young nucleus of athletes to propel them to strong finishes at the Bergen County Relays and Group Championships.

The 2012 spring season marked the final one for legendary B.C. Track & Field Head Coach Al Naimo, who retired at its conclusion. Naimo has been the Head Coach of the program since 1984, and has led the Crusaders to a combined 10 Bergen County titles in both Indoor and Outdoor Track during his tenure in Oradell. Naimo has been named “Bergen County Coach of the Year” six times in his career, and will forever be known as a coaching giant in Bergen Catholic athletic history.

Tennis
The Crusaders concluded the 2012 season 9-8 overall, and finished fourth in the Big North United Division. B.C. was led throughout the spring by Brian Balico ’13, Matt Liguori ’13, Billy Carney ’14, and Sean Fernandez ’14 in singles, while Chris Chi ’12, Dan Gomez ’12, Morgan Williams ’13, and Kohji Kusama ’14 each contributed in doubles this season.

Volleyball
History was made this spring for the young Crusaders’ volleyball program, as B.C. achieved its first-ever “Top 5” statewide ranking during the 2012 season after knocking off the #1 team in the State in C.B.A. The Crusaders clinched a share of another league championship, finished with a 22-6 record, and once again advanced to the semifinal round of the Bergen County Tournament and North I State Sectional Tournament (where they earned highest seed ever – #3). B.C. was led by the talented trio of Brendan McCullagh ’12, Hacik Arslanoglu ’12, and Kirk Nouhan ’13.

Message from the Athletic Director
June, 2012

Dear Friend of Bergen Catholic,

The philosophy of our Athletic Department falls inline with Br. Walsh’s popular phrase, “Good enough is never good enough.” At Bergen Catholic, we expect excellence from all of our students, including our student-athletes, as we strive to be the top athletic program in New Jersey and beyond. We believe that competition helps to develop our young men into leaders of tomorrow, and as long as they’re keeping score, we want Bergen Catholic to win, but we will never compromise our integrity in the process. We are very proud of the way in which we do things here!

Bergen Catholic’s athletic program has a storied history, built on the shoulders of talented coaches and student-athletes who have come before us, and we are now called to build upon this tradition and renew it for a new generation of Crusaders. Our passionate, knowledgeable coaches develop our young student-athletes to their fullest potential, on the field and in the classroom, and help to reinforce our legacy of producing elite-level student-athletes who later star at some of the finest academic institutions in the country.

With our fervent and loyal fan base of students, alumni, and friends supporting us every step of the way, we are excited for the future of our Athletic Department! We will continue to chase excellence in every aspect of everything we do, with our ultimate goal of making the Bergen Catholic name synonymous with athletic greatness!

Jack McGovern ’76
Athletic Director
Essential Element #5: Celebrate the Value and Dignity of Each Person and Nurture the Development of the Whole Person

The formation and implementation of an Anti-Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Program.

The evaluation went very well and at this time, we are awaiting word on our accreditation from the Provincial Leadership Team.

In closing, I would like to note that the Bergen Catholic wrestling team won the Non-Public “A” State Championship. Each of the team members put forth a tremendous effort, but it could not have been possible without the remarkable leadership provided by the seniors on the team. I also want to congratulate the members of the coaching staff: Mr. Dave Bell, Mr. Dom Santoli ’00, Mr. Bryan Nunziato ’04, and Mr. Joe Trase ’08. Also, sophomore John Sebastian won the individual State Championship at 160 pounds.

It has been a remarkable year.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. McElhinney
Principal
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.