



# INSIDE IGNATIUS

FALL 2006

The "inside scoop" for parents, guardians, students, faculty and staff of St. Ignatius College Prep.

## Noteworthy Events

Please consult the Web site for the most up-to-date and detailed calendar, including school activities, sports and more.

### OCTOBER

20: Adult Fall Social

22: Fall Orchestra and Concert Choir Performance

26: Quarter 2 Classes Begin

### NOVEMBER

1: All Saints Liturgy/  
Ignatian Values Days 2

3: First Friday Liturgy

4: SAT & Subject Tests  
(Off-Site)

5: Frosh/Soph  
Family Liturgy  
& Reception

10-11 and 17-19:  
Harlequins' Fall Musical

14: Parents' Organization  
Meeting

16-17: Parent-Teacher  
Conferences by  
Appointment Only

23-24: NO CLASSES  
Thanksgiving

### DECEMBER

1: First Friday Liturgy

3: Open House  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

4: NO CLASSES

6: Christmas Mission  
Collection Begins

7-8: Improv Show

10: Christmas Band  
Concert

13: Bridge Building  
Competition

21-January 3: NO CLASSES  
Christmas Break

25: Christmas

### JANUARY

1: New Year's Day

3: CLASSES RESUME

4: Class of 2006  
Yearbook Signing Party

5: First Friday Liturgy

13: Entrance Exam  
8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

## National Merit, Achievement Scholars Named

The 2007 National Merit and National Achievement scholars have been named.

This year, St. Ignatius College Prep has 10 National Merit Semifinalists, two National Achievement Semifinalists, 19 National Merit Commended Scholars and three National Achievement Referred Scholars.

From more than 1.4 million entrants across the nation who took the 2005 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), only 16,000 were nominated as National Merit Semifinalists. This group represents the top one percent of all high school seniors in the United States. The 10 St. Ignatius College Prep seniors who were named Semifinalists will now compete for 8,200 Merit Scholarship Awards worth \$2,500 each, totaling \$33 million dollars. Only half of the Finalists will be selected to receive the Merit Scholarship, earning them the title of Merit Scholar. The Semifinalists are **Catherine R. Berger** (LaGrange), **Briana J. Carroll** (Chicago - Roscoe Village), **Dolores M. Knapp** (Chicago - Bridgeport), **Annie J. Labus** (Whiting, Indiana), **Robert W. McChesney** (Evanston), **Luke F. Pacold** (Elmhurst), **Kelly W. Slentz** (Chicago - Lincoln Park), **Matas J. Tamosiunas** (Chicago - Museum Park), **Ann C. Worry** (Palos Heights), **Gian Thomas Wrobel** (Chicago - West Loop).

Though they are no longer in the running for the Merit Scholarship, the following 19 students will use this accomplishment as a National Merit Commended scholar to bolster their college applications as being among the brightest students in the nation. Those students are **Christopher Bertucci** (Chicago), **Evan P. Boyle** (Chicago - Beverly), **Martha C. Clarke** (Skokie), **James P. Duncan** (Chicago - Lincoln Park), **Andrea N. Dzwinyk** (Chicago - Sauganash), **Joseph D. Keenan** (Park Ridge), **Alexandra E. Koys** (LaGrange), **Marysa V. Leya** (Oak Brook), **Lily R. Maxwell** (Chicago - Lake View), **Colin M. McHugh** (Chicago - Edgebrook), **Cecilia R. Menchetti** (Chicago - Edison Park), **Julie R. Mulcrone** (Park Ridge), **James A. Mumford** (Chicago - Near North), **Margaret T. Murphy** (Evergreen Park), **Kathleen M. Pollard** (Chicago - Sauganash), **Elle S. Ramel** (River Forest), **Lilija A. Rudis** (Chicago - Near North), **Kellan C. Turcy** (Chicago - Near North), **Tom J. Van Grinsven** (Chicago - Lincoln Park).

Of the more than 130,000 students who currently enter the National Achievement Program each year, approximately 1,600 are named Semifinalists, the only students who have an opportunity to advance in the competition for Achievement Scholarship awards. These students represent the top one-percent of Black American students from across the country who took the PSAT/NMSQT. Those two students from St. Ignatius College Prep are **Folake Dosu** (Bellwood) and **Syrie Roche** (Chicago - Bronzeville). Both Folake and Syrie will vie for the honor of becoming a National Achievement Finalist and a \$2,500 National Achievement Scholarship or a corporate-sponsored Achievement Scholarship award.

Three more St. Ignatius seniors were honored as National Achievement Referred scholars. The following students are among the top five-percent of Black American students in the United States. Those students are **Marissa C. Lee** (Chicago - Kenwood), **Dionte K. Wiggins** (Chicago - Lawndale) and **Jamila A. Woods** (Chicago - Beverly). Their names will be referred to nearly 1,500 U.S. colleges and universities by the National Achievement Scholarship Program directors as students they consider to be highly qualified candidates for acceptance.

Congratulations to all honorees!

## Upperclassmen Take on Leadership Roles at Ignatius

Every now and again, people can share an idea for developing the same project without ever knowing it. Such was the case this past spring when **Mr. Terry Tyrrell**, Director of Student Activities, and **Ms. Jennifer Fieldman**, Student Counselor, were thinking of ways to empower students at St. Ignatius College Prep to be better leaders and to provide a welcoming, nurturing atmosphere for all students, regardless of what year they are in school. The result: the "Junior/Senior Coaches Program."

"I had a class that I was taking at Loyola University where I had to design a program and came up with a leadership program that I could use here at school," said Fieldman. "I also was a moderator for the Students Helping Out Peers (SHOP) program last year and I feel that it could have been more successful than it was. That was why I initially started to work on this particular leadership program, thinking that I could improve the SHOP program here."

Tyrrell went through a similar program when he attended St. Louis University High School, an all-boys Jesuit school in St. Louis, Missouri. In the program, all freshmen had senior mentors. The hope was that the freshmen would then become mentors during their senior years. The program there remains very strong and Tyrrell immediately saw the benefit of having the same program here, especially with such an incredibly diverse student body coming through the doors of the school each and every day. St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, Ohio has a similar program, as well.

"Having that program in place when I attended high school helped me to feel more in place when I first arrived as a freshman," Tyrrell remembers. "The success of SLUHS's program was one that I was certain we could replicate here to empower upperclassmen while making the underclassmen feel at home from day one."

Fieldman approached Tyrrell in the spring about her idea and the two compared notes on what they both had been thinking about in recent months. They found that they had been on the same path all along, running parallel to one another without even knowing it. Understanding that they had a very short period of time to implement the program for the 2006-07 school year, Fieldman and Tyrrell worked hard to come up with a plan for the that they presented to **Dr. Catherine Karl**, Principal. Without hesitation, she approved it.

After tinkering with and honing their ideas even more, the design of the program became about helping to promote spirituality, cohesion and acceptance within the freshman class, as well as developing leadership skills for juniors and seniors.

Once the program began to take flight, teachers throughout the school were asked to recommend leaders from their classrooms. Students were also asked to recommend their peers. More than 100 students showed up to the initial meeting in late spring; nearly 80 applied and 60 were accepted (30 juniors and 30 seniors). Eventually, the program will become a senior-only program, but sparking interest in the program to a wider audience in such a short amount of time was key. Those interested in becoming "coaches" to incoming freshmen filled out an application and were asked to write an essay stating why they wanted to be leaders, stating what it was like for them their freshman year at St. Ignatius and why they wanted to help.

"Part of their role as leaders is to ease the freshmen into the school, so we asked coach candidates to remember what it was like for them when they were freshmen," Tyrrell said. "Teacher and peer responses, as well as how we both know each student, were essential in how we chose the leaders for this year."

Once the 60 junior/senior coaches were chosen, they were contacted by Ms. Fieldman and Mr. Tyrrell. The next step was to have a meeting with the kids to outline what was expected of them. On August 3 and 4, the junior/senior group went on an overnight retreat/training session. Leading the retreat were four mentors: Fieldman, Tyrrell, **Ms. Adrienne McArdle**, Assistant Director of Community Service and **Mr. Steve Lord**, Religious Studies teacher. Each adult mentor is assigned 15 student coaches to oversee and advise should they have any issues regarding the freshmen they are coaching. During the training, the coaches were told that they would be assigned six to eight freshmen, all from the same homeroom. Coaches visit the freshmen classrooms every Wednesday. They do helpful things for the freshmen like offering them encouragement before a test, sending them a birthday card or taking them to Mass on Fridays.

"It's little things like that that help promote unity among the students," said Fieldman.

"Tying this program into events such as Mass of the Holy Spirit, Freshman Spirit Day and the Frosh/Soph Mixer shows the freshmen that they are special and a vital part of our community," said Tyrrell. "The other part of it is that many of these new students are the only ones from their grade school who attend St. Ignatius College Prep. Now, we are hoping that they have peers to confide in when they need guidance and that they don't feel lost."

Mentors, coaches, freshman and faculty have all remarked on how well they believe the program to be running. These responses have Fieldman and Tyrrell both excited about its potential long-term success and the positive effects it will have on future generations of Ignatians.

"We're really happy and very lucky to have the students who wanted to be a part of this program as leaders," said Tyrrell. "They realize that the success and future of this program rests on their shoulders. The students have been really positive and we're very excited to see how it will continue to grow from here."

"I hope that the freshmen feel like they belong here and feel like they know someone in the hallway whether it's a fellow group mate or the leader of their group so that no one feels left out," said Fieldman. "Hopefully, after their freshman years they can see themselves as leaders and will want to take on that role when they become seniors and give back to incoming freshmen what they were given when they came to St. Ignatius."