

St. IGNATIUS

ST. IGNATIUS MAGAZINE

APRIL 2005

Behind the Scenes at St. Ignatius: The Operations Department

St. Ignatius College Prep has long been known for its tradition as an academic powerhouse, founded on the ideals of a strong Jesuit, Catholic faith. In the last few decades, our school has also become known for its architecture and aesthetic beauty. Yet, most alumni can remember when St. Ignatius didn't quite resemble the "Ivy League-like" school that it is today.

Thanks to individuals like **Fr. Donald Rowe, S.J.**, former president of St. Ignatius College Prep; **Fr. Brian Paulson, S.J.**, current president; **Mr. John Chandler**, vice president, as well as the support of many alumni and benefactors, St. Ignatius has gone from one barely heated, inadequately-lit building to a complex of beautiful buildings that has landed on the National Historic Register. The school contains some of the most amazing artwork in Chicago and the surrounding regions—filled with classic sculptures, artistic reliefs and countless pieces of ironwork that are admired by all who get the chance to catch a glimpse.

While the school has been transformed from "ugly duckling" to "beauty queen", the buildings and grounds of St. Ignatius could not maintain their alluring state without the behind-the-scenes work of the Operations Department. There are 13 members of the department, along with a number of contractors who have played key roles in the beautification of the school during the past 30 years. St. Ignatius would not be able to maintain its breathtaking, awe-inspiring appearance if it weren't for the hard work and dedication of each person in the department.

Operations Department

The Operations Department is a 13-person, full- and part-time crew—with roughly a half-dozen contractors joining them at any one time—all led by John Chan-

day duties include the general maintenance and security of the buildings, including the proper operation of plumbing, electrical work, the up-keep of the grounds and parking-related issues. The team is also charged with event planning, including the set-up and break-down of everything from student and development activities to weddings and funerals.

"We work as a department to keep the campus running," said **Tina Bobor**, Administrative Director of Facilities, who heads the department in tandem with **Ron Mangan**, Chief Maintenance Engineer.



Tina Bobor,
Administrative Director of Facilities

Bobor is in charge of putting together the facilities calendar for the whole school year. No small job for one person, she is in touch with every employee in the school who needs time and space allotted for student or faculty events that take place before, during and after school, as well as a great number of people from outside of St. Ignatius who would like to use the facility for their own events. Already, an entire summer's worth of weddings will be taking place on campus in 2005.

"Generally, we request that weddings or large scale events [from outside of the school] be scheduled at least one year in advance," said Bobor. "We need time to make sure that the event being brought in is not in conflict

with a school event or another event that day that had been previously scheduled. We also need to time to provide for adequate staffing for something of that scale."

While the department coordinates the planning and smooth operation of all events and activities, it exists for preventative measures, too. **Frank Soto** is the director of security and is responsible for day-to-day safety in the building as well as the hiring of off-duty police officers for school events. Frank works with **John Olson**, a member of the Chicago police force and the day beat

officer in the local neighborhood (is soon retiring), as well as **Steve Tatcoff**, the evening beat officer.

The engineers—**Ron Mangan**; **Keith Cole** (afternoon maintenance engineer), **Pat Gillespie** (part-time engineer) and **Dan Hernandez** (weekend engineer)—spring to action in maintenance situations that are less than desirable for the school, from broken water pipes to electrical failures to any number of other situations.

Take, for example, the blackout that occurred at St. Ignatius in early March. The building was shut down when Commonwealth Edison's cables, which feed power to the school, failed.

"First, the elevators were checked to make sure that no one was trapped in them," said Bobor. "The entire department then walked the

hallways to make sure that there were no internal problems such as fires or water leaks which may have caused the outage. I made sure that the phone lines that are needed in case of an emergency were functioning. Ron Mangan immediately checked the water pumps and made an announcement prohibiting the use of water to help prevent any sort of sewage or water problem from taking place inside the school. Ron then stayed in contact with ComEd as they began work on starting the generators that are necessary to bring temporary power to the school while the local electric provider corrects the larger problem at hand."

The Operations Department is staffed Monday through Saturday from 5 a.m. until 9 p.m. and on Sundays when events are scheduled. The staff is all on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in case of an emergency.

A Family Affair

One of the more interesting facets of the Operations Department is the number of family members that work together to keep the school looking "in shape". From in-laws to fathers and sons to brothers and uncles and nieces, the day-to-day operation of St. Ignatius College Prep has become a lifestyle for some families.

Felipe Martinez, Simon Martinez, Sebastian Brito and Hilda Sandoval: For more than 30 years, Felipe Martinez has roamed the halls of St. Ignatius while maintain



Simon Martinez, Felipe Martinez and Sebastian Brito... school custodians at work!

ing the campus for students. Nearly 11 years ago, Felipe's brother, Simon, was hired to fulfill the ever growing demands of the changing face of the school's maintenance team. Shortly thereafter, Felipe's son-in-law, Sebastian Brito, was also hired to the maintenance crew. One year later, Sebastian's niece, Hilda Sandoval, was hired on as the school receptionist. For this family, working at St. Ignatius is as much in their blood as it is a job.

"The people here are really nice and I like it," said Sebastian, the school's afternoon custodian.

The custodial crew, including Felipe, Simon, Sebastian and part-timer **Mike Prescott**, ensures the up-keep of the buildings and grounds by changing light bulbs, washing windows, tidying the dining hall and helping with event set-up and break-down. Their work is best seen at big events such as the annual Open House or the President's Dinner, where people are often overheard remarking on how clean and well-kept the school is.

The receptionist duties can be equally as rigorous. Hilda spends her day answering the phones, welcoming and fielding school guests, accepting and sorting mail and coordinating deliveries. She is assisted at various times by **Mary Ellen Hyland**, a part-timer who has been helping at the front desk for over 25 years, and students who help after hours or on the weekends, however, Hilda is the only full-time receptionist.

When asked if he felt any extra pressure in his job with so many family members around, Sebastian shrugged and gave his reply.

"No," he said. "When we come to work we come in to do work."



Earl Hamilton and his wife, Wanda, at the benefit performance of All Shook Up.

We don't bring any of our family matters with us. It's nice working with people I know and am related to, but there is no added pressure [to do my job]. They trust me to do things right."

Earl Hamilton, Danny Wieczorek and David Wieczorek: It doesn't take long for anyone to notice the role that Earl Hamilton and his step-sons, Danny and David Wieczorek, have played in turning St. Ignatius College Prep to landmark status. Hamilton, a master carpenter, has been designing, creating, finishing and installing doors, trophy cases, stairwells and so much more since his first contract job at the school in 1979. He was brought on by Fr. Rowe in 1984 as the school's full-time carpenter and was put in charge of rebuilding the school through his beautiful handiwork.

While it might not be so easy to find Hamilton's workshop, it has been earmarked by the massive amount of lumber found on the ground floor of the main building. Through the nearby doorway under the stairs, some of St. Ignatius's most prized art pieces were crafted by the hands of Hamilton and his sons.

"Out of the shop in the school, we created the Art Deco doors in the science center," said Hamilton. "We've also worked on all the doors on the fourth floor, reworking of the joists in the science lab after the fire in 1992. We finished the kitchen in the rectory. My sons and I did wood carvings for pieces of the front entrance, and even made the conference table in the Gambe Room on the third floor by hand. There are so many things that we have worked on that it's hard to keep track."

Hamilton's most recent projects can be found in the Chicago Building, in the form of the built-in trophy cases that adorn the east wall of the Dining Hall and the walls leading into the wrestling room.

What is next for Hamilton? While he awaits more projects from the school including the development of the Holy Family Parish Center and the finishing of the ground floor, which he will be a part of, Hamilton says that he is busy working on the projects at home

that his wife reminds him that he is behind on. Yet, even at the age of 66 and able to draw a pension from his union, he says that he cannot wait to return to his work at St. Ignatius.

"I'm not ready to sit in a rocking chair and call it quits," Hamilton stated.

"I was [at St. Ignatius] for many years. I have a great rapport with the school and I enjoy everyone there. Everyone was very cooperative. I can't wait for the next project to become available."

Scott Cedergren and Brian Cedergren: If you're looking for a jack of all trades, look no further than the painting contractor duo of brothers Scott and Brian Cedergren. The fourth generation of painters in their family, they were hired on by Fr. Rowe in the 1980s to do some work for him at Loyola University. The two were brought over to St. Ignatius College Prep in 1985 after Fr. Rowe became president. From the beginning, the Cedergrens were put to task with huge projects.

"When we started, we stripped all of the woodwork in the 1870 Building," recalls Brian Cedergren. "The entire building was painted and all of the woodwork that is natural now, we stripped. From there, we went to classrooms and continued with every piece of wood that needed to be stripped."

Some of the other large projects they have tackled are the stripping and re-varnishing of the Brunswick Room and the Grand Gallery, which took more than seven months, as well as the re-flooring of classrooms and the painting of the library.

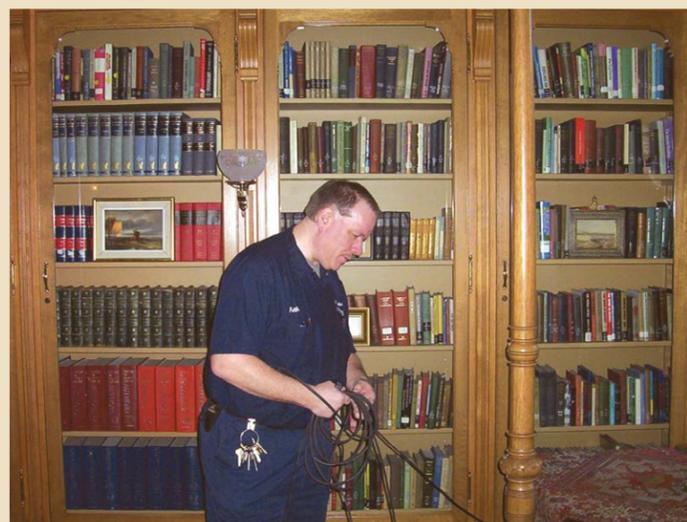
"I was up on scaffolds for that [job]," said Scott. "I was working with seven roller pans at a time because it was such a big project."

Not ones to shy away from more work, the two flip-flop their schedules to meet the needs of the school, depending on where they will be working. If an area

needs work and no students will be traveling across their paths, they begin work at 5:00 a.m. and finish at 1:00 p.m. Should a project require them to work in a portion of the school that will be used during the day by students, their schedule shifts to 3:00-11:00 p.m.

Having worked at the school for 20 years, the brothers have been to areas in the building that most people don't even know exist. From the storage areas underneath the wood shop, to the front steps of the paint shop—housed in the attic of the 1895 Building—there isn't a place in the school the Cedergrens haven't been to.

"We've moved around for 20 years, but our paint shop has been in the attic for about eight years now," said Brian. "We're up there with old records and other neat things, but we've been in and worked in most every part of this building."



Keith Cole, Afternoon Maintenance Engineer

Special thanks to all members of the hardworking Operations Department as well as our longtime contractors. Each and every person on the team has offered invaluable assistance to the school community and we are grateful for their dedication.

OPERATIONS

Tina Bobor - Administrative
Director of Facilities

Sebastian Brito - Afternoon Custodian
John Chandler - Operations Supervisor
(John is also SICP's VP of Development)

Keith Cole - Afternoon
Maintenance Engineer

Pat Gillespie - Part-Time Engineer
Dan Hernandez - Weekend Engineer

Mary Ellen Hyland -
Part-Time Receptionist

Ron Mangan -
Chief Maintenance Engineer

Simon Martinez - Head Custodian
Felipe Martinez - Part-Time Custodian

Mike Prescott - Part-Time Custodian
Hilda Sandoval - Receptionist
Frank Soto - Security Manager

ALUMNI OFFICE: ■ The Alumni Office wants to thank **Mrs. Linda Linares, mother of Jaime Linares '06**, who has offered to volunteer one day a week in our department. We are still looking for volunteers who may have some free time to work in our office. Please contact Chiara Wrocinski at (312) 432-8347 for details. ■ Thank you to all of the Ignatius alumni who attended the Southern California event, especially hosts **Pete Nolan '82 and his wife Kristi**. Between the Quail Gardens tour, the great food, and the perfect weather, we couldn't have had a better event. It was wonderful seeing all of you! ■ Reunion Season is here again...classes of 2000, 1995, 1990, 1985 and 1980 should have received invitations for their class reunions. If you have not received yours, please contact the alumni office.

TAX AND ESTATE ADVISORY COUNCIL: With the recent discussions of how the Social Security system should either be changed or left alone, many of us have spent more time thinking about our retirements. That is a good thing for us to do. One of the most important things we can do is to start saving more for our retirements. Just think of the money you spend for "things," which age and depreciate and are eventually discarded. Wouldn't it be wiser to take some of those current consumption expenditures and redirect them into some tax-deferred asset? Retirement planning is similar to financial planning the preparation of our wills—we just want to put it off. So if you are feeling comfortable right now, because you are not planning your demise, here's something to give you a jolt: How much will you be paying in income taxes once you are retired? When you retire, you may have access to several sources of income, depending on your circumstances. For most of us, Social Security or Railroad Retirement will represent one source of funds. For many others, a company pension will be an element. Still others will have traditional or Roth IRAs or 401(k) accounts. In addition, there may be additional assets in securities, mutual funds, CDs or bank accounts. It is important to realize that withdrawals from each one of these assets have their own unique tax consequences.

In summary, it can not be too early to discuss these issues with your own tax advisor. While you are still working, it might be wise to reposition some of these assets so you can minimize your tax burden once you retire. If you do not have a tax advisor, one of the members of our Estate & Tax Advisory Council may be able to help you. For further information, please contact Ed Evert '57 at (312) 432-8314 or ed.evert@ignatius.org.

PARENTS' ORGANIZATION: ■ The Junior Class Mass was very successful with over 500 people in attendance and a lovely reception in the Dining Hall, presented by the freshman class reps. ■ The March 5 auction, "Puttin' On the Ritz", proved to be our biggest fundraiser to date. There were over 1,100 items up for bidding at the silent auction tables and the live auction offered exciting items including vacations, jewelry, and the ever-popular #1 parking spot in the student lot! Amount raised will be reported in future publications. ■ The April Parents' Organization meeting will feature a "State of the School" address by Fr. Brian Paulson, S.J., president (Tuesday, April 12th 7:00 p.m.) ■ There will be two "Neighborhood Gatherings" held at the school on May 17th & 19th to welcome incoming freshman parents and give them the opportunity to meet other parents from their area. This evening is full of information. It's a great way to meet other incoming parents and even set up car pools.

WOMEN'S COUNCIL: The St. Ignatius Women's Council launched Career Networking Night on February 3, 2005. Twice the number of attendees as predicted signed in outside the 4th floor Brunswick Room and the event was enjoyed by all. **Mary Simmerling '87** was the event chairwoman. Mary, along with **Tricia Marino Ruffolo '85** and **Terri Connor Brankin**, Women's Council Moderator and the school's Director of Corporations and Foundation Relations, put together an event that educated and inspired all who attended. The three-part program for Career Networking night began with award-winning featured speaker, **Lisa Loverde '87**, followed by presentations from five panelists including present parent, **Wendy Delaney**, friends of SICP, **Joy Airaudi**, **Bernie Fowler** and **Maureen Kelly**; and alumna and event chairwoman, **Mary Simmerling '87**. After the panel discussion, the audience broke into networking groups based on career interest.

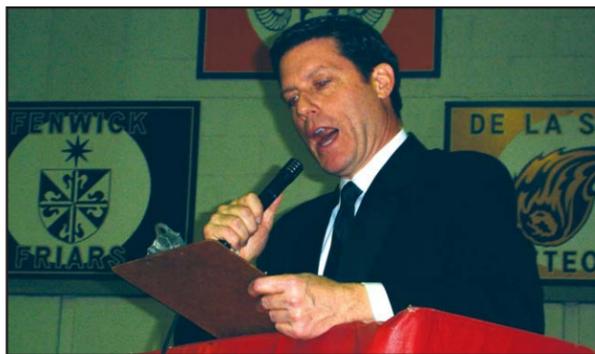
"The event was a great success," according to present parent, **Swat Pacold**. The Women's Council now asks, "Did the networking work? Did it help?" While time will ultimately tell, we hope you will too. If you were able to make a connection via Career Networking Night that assisted you somehow in your career, please let Women's Council Moderator, Terri Connor Brankin, know about it by contacting her at terri.branks@ignatius.org or (312) 432-8346. (See photos below. A more detailed story on this event will be published in the Spring 2005 12th Street Beat.)

We are grateful for the recent gifts and services that have been given to the school...

GREATER GLORY CAMPAIGN GIFTS & PLEDGES January 25-February 20, 2005

Anonymous
Mr. David G. Callaghan '47
Ms. Mary J. Curran
Mr. and Mrs. David S. Fox '69
Mr. and Mrs. Ferdynand Hebal
Mr. and Mrs. James J. Hill '55
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Jiganti '58
Mr. and Mrs. Martin J. Perry

ANNUAL GIVING
(\$5,000 & More)
January 25-February 20, 2005
Pritzker Traubert Family Found.
(tuition assistance program)



ABOVE LEFT AND DOWN: Table closers discuss their strategy as bidding time ticks away, Fox News sportscaster, Corey McPherrin, MCs the live auction; present parents, Frank and Hillary Lee. ABOVE AND DOWN: Present parent, Vera Banks, networks with guests (including Mary Simmerling, event chairperson) at the Women's Council Career Networking Night on February 3, panelist Wendy Delaney talks to guests at the event.

with gratitude



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 Chicago, IL 60608

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St. Ignatius College Prep
 1076 West Roosevelt Road
 Chicago, IL 60608
 Phone: (312) 421-5900
 Fax: (312) 432-8389
www.ignatius.org

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 Dr. Catherine Karl,
Principal
 Rev. Joseph Brennan, S.J.,
Rector
 Mr. John J. Chandler,
Vice President of Development
 Mr. Gregory C. Gleason,
Vice President of Finance

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Director of Accounts and Information Management
 Ms. Terri Connor Brankin,
Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations
 Mr. Edward Evert '57,
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 Ms. Julie Futterer,
Director of Publications
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Director of Parent Relations
 Rev. Jeremiah Lynch, S.J.,
Development Officer
 Mrs. Chiara Marcheschi
 Wrocinski '94,
Director of Alumni Relations
 Mr. Thomas Molony,
Director of Communications
 Mrs. Jeanne Wall,
Director of Special Events

APRIL

- 9 Reunions for the Classes of '00 & '80
- 12 "State of the School Address" by Fr. Paulson at the Parents' Organization Meeting. All welcome.
- 30 Reunions for the Classes of '95, '90 & '85

MAY

- 4 Benefactors' Reception
- 10 -Trustees Meeting
- 10 -Parents' Organization Officer Induction
- 18 Barbeque Luncheon for Class of 2005 to Welcome Them as New Alumni
- Barbeque Luncheon
- 27 Jubilee Reunion

JULY

- 18 St. Ignatius Golf Outing Sponsored by Joe Gentile '42
- 29 Feast of St. Ignatius

Many of our students are looking for part-time jobs!

If you'd be interested in hiring an Ignatius student within the next few months or over the summer, please contact Phyllis Myers in the Principal's Office: (312)432-8304 or phyllis.myers@ignatius.org

ON THE MAILING PANEL

Simon Martinez, school custodian and member of the SICP Operations Department, is off to work on campus. (see feature story)

Joe Gentile '42 Golf Classic for St. Ignatius College Prep

To benefit the school's tuition assistance program.

Event Chairs: Mike Kirchberg '78 and Vince Volante '78



Monday, July 18, 2005

Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park.

Register online at www.ignatius.org or call Jeanne Wall at (312) 432-8406.

upcoming events