

# St. IGNATIUS

ST. IGNATIUS MAGAZINE

WINTER 2005-06

## Juniors Dennis Griffin and Lauren Walker Bring Sox Fever to St. Ignatius

Story by Tom Molony, Director of Communications at St. Ignatius College Prep.

Griffin photos taken by Dennis's father, Bill Griffin. Walker photo courtesy of the Walker family.

Most American boys grow up with the dream of playing major league baseball and winning a World Series. Yet, junior student **Dennis Griffin '07** has already been on the field and tasted the success of a World Series Championship. He just made it there in a different way.

Having grown up in the Chicago neighborhood of Bridgeport, Griffin was raised to love the Chicago White Sox. Playing baseball and living life in the shadow of U.S. Cellular Field ball park (formerly Comiskey Park), Griffin estimates that he and his family have attended nearly 50 White Sox games every summer since he was old enough to remember.

"For as long as I can remember, my family and I have gone to two or three home games a week," he says.

Fate would have its way with Griffin, seemingly one of the biggest supporters of Chicago White Sox baseball, last year. His older brother, who had been hired five years prior by the Sox to be the opposing team's Assistant Clubhouse Manager, gave Griffin word that the position of bat boy for the visiting side was opening up. Griffin put in his application, and immediately following finals on the last day of his sophomore year, he suited up for the first time as the opposing team's bat boy.

Prior to Griffin becoming a bat boy with the White Sox, clubhouse personnel were permitted to travel out of town with the team. While his brother hopped around the U.S. with the Sox one time per season, Griffin and his father were lucky enough to tag along and stay in the same hotel with the team. They caught a series a piece in Detroit and Tampa Bay. Sadly, the year prior to Griffin becoming employed as bat boy, the team decided to cancel road trips for all clubhouse personnel.

However, that didn't change the way Griffin viewed his exciting opportunity. And for the record, the opportunity isn't all about fun and games. While the thought of bringing out a new bat to a major league hitter - or picking up bats on the field after a walk or inning ending play - might seem like a blast, there is a lot more to Griffin's job than simply hanging in the dugout and "shooting the breeze" with icons of professional baseball.

For example, Griffin's job begins in early March and ends about one week after the season has concluded. He makes sure that the opposing players' clubhouse is clean and stocked in preparation for the next game or the next season. On game days, Griffin is in the clubhouse before noon for a 7:00 p.m. game and sometimes stays past midnight after the game has ended to make sure that the clubhouse is in peak condition.

"I'm in charge of cleaning everything from the uniforms to lockers, cleaning the coolers and filling the deli tray... basically

making sure that everything looks nice," he says. "At any point, anyone from a representative of the opposing team or Major League Baseball to a politician can walk into the clubhouse for a visit and we have to make sure that it is ready. Not to mention, we also want to make sure that the players feel as relaxed as possible before a game."



Dennis Griffin '07

When game time comes, unlike what was portrayed in the movie *The Natural* starring Robert Redford, the bat boy is always working.

"If a bat breaks during a game, I have to find another one and bring it out to them before they head back to the batter's box. That way, I'm not the cause of game delay," he said. "Guys like Mark Buehrle want to keep the game moving along quickly and I have to sprint for bats, foul balls or anything else the opposing team needs me to do for them."

Griffin also is charged with running out to the bullpen in the outfield to retrieve the pitcher's jacket during a pitching change so that he has something warm to keep on his shoulder between innings.

"The entire game, I am doing something and I have to be ready to move at a moment's notice."

One aspect of Griffin's job that he finds far less taxing is to occasionally head out onto the field to shag balls from hitters and fielders while the opposing team takes batting practice.

"Usually, the pitcher who pitched the previous night's game shags balls out at second base during batting practice to keep batting practice flowing. If one of the pitchers doesn't feel like doing it, they ask me to," Griffin says. "I did that about 20 times this past season."

Although the majority of Griffin's time is spent working, he's had an opportunity to make friends with a few major leaguers.

"A lot of the players make baseball their job while others see baseball as an extension of their youth," Griffin says. "One of the guys who always remembers people's

names and is a really good person is Dmitri Young [of the Detroit Tigers]. The first time the Tigers came through town, he walked right up to me as I was working and said, 'Hi, my name is 'Tri, you must be new here. What's your name?' That was one of my first days in the clubhouse and experiencing that made me feel really good and less intimidated by these guys who I would normally pay to watch play."

One of Griffin's favorite memories from this past season was when Young was in town on "mullet night" at U.S. Cellular Field. Though Young didn't play that evening, he went out before game time and purchased two mullet wigs. Young wore one, and had Griffin wear the other one. He had it on for the entire game, in front of thousands of fans.

Now, to answer the question that everyone is dying to know the answer to: what was it like being there for the miraculous season going into the playoffs and the World Series?

"It was... awesome," he says with an ear-to-ear grin on his face. "Seeing the Sox go to the World Series was something I always dreamed about and I was on the field for that. That was one of the most amazing things I have ever done."

Inside the clubhouse was just as crazy, according to Griffin.

"Once you were inside the clubhouse the media was all over the place," he said. "When you're trying to do your job and the media won't move because they are holding a microphone in someone's face, it makes things a little frustrating. But once you're on the field, you forget about all of that."

Though Griffin, an honor roll student, is not a member of St. Ignatius's baseball team, he is a 130 lb. starter and sectional qualifier for the wrestling team. He plans to continue on with his job as a bat boy for the Sox through high school.

What does Griffin expect for next year's Chicago White Sox ball club?

"They've already made some very interesting moves this off-season to strengthen their line-up," he says. "I expect that they'll be back in the World Series next October."

### DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL

After meeting junior **Lauren Walker '07**, one might never guess that she's been as caught up in the rabid White Sox World Series fever as other Chicagoans this past fall. Though she grew up in the south and still cites Georgia as her "home" state, she was extremely caught up in the team's success because she has a very unique connection to the White Sox organization. Lauren is the youngest daughter of former major leaguer and current Chicago White Sox Hitting Coach, Greg Walker.

"I did not even know my daddy played until I was about eight years old. It was never a big deal, because really, he's just my daddy," Walker said.

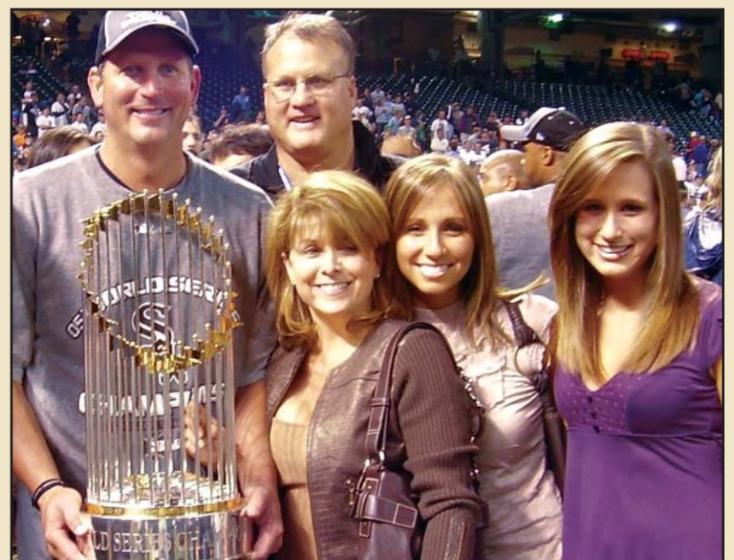
Though her father stopped playing long before she can remember, he remained involved with the game as a coach in the minor leagues. In May of 2003, the White Sox offered him a job as their hitting coach, preceding former teammate and current White Sox Head Coach, Ozzie Guillen, by six months. Once she and her family arrived in Chicago, Walker began attending more home games each season than many season ticket holders do.

"I would say out of the 81 home games played, my mom and I attend a good 60 of them," Walker says. "You would never know it, but my dad loves for us to go. Without doubt, he gets disappointed when we can't make it, and we don't like to miss many games because we're his biggest fans. He would never miss a function of mine, so how could I miss his?"

But when the school year starts, my parents are very strict about homework and attendance. Although I'm at the games, I'm spending them in the family box doing Algebra 2 problems."

She continued, "People do not understand how hard all of the coaches work, but I am lucky enough to see it. [My daddy] would

(story continued in "school news" on page 2)



Lauren Walker '07 (at right) with her family.

# school news

(story continued from page 1)

not sleep some nights. I would wake up to get a glass of water in the middle of the night, and he would be awake in the kitchen, watching ESPN or going over batting orders. I don't think the excitement of being in the World Series hit him until it was over. The team hadn't made it all that way to take second place. The pressure of knowing that if they lost, they would not only let themselves down, but all of Chicago... that was the hardest part."

As history would have it, the White Sox did not let the city down as they won their first World Series title since 1917. The young Walker was lucky enough to make it down to Houston for the deciding game, all without missing a day of school.

"I would not have missed [Game 4] for the world. I spent the day learning history in class, and was also living it that night in Houston," she recollects.

Does Walker believe that the Sox have the chance at repeating their World Series title?

"Oh without a doubt!" she exclaims. "We are so much stronger than last year. These guys are so selfless and baseball is what they love. They deserve to win again. Besides, they do have the best hitting coach in the game." ■

**STUDENTS IN CHILDREN'S CHOIR**  
Five St. Ignatius students are currently involved with the acclaimed Chicago Children's Choir (CCC), which is a professional choir for youths from age 8-18. According to the CCC website, the choir was founded at the First Unitarian Church of Chicago in Hyde Park - the vision of the late Reverend Christopher Moore. Moore believed that, in bringing together youths of differing race, creed, color and socioeconomic background, he could make a difference in their lives through music. Today, the independent non-profit organization serves more than 3,000 Chicago-area youths through its unique model of in-school and after-school programming. This year, there are 68 choirs in 44 Chicago Public Schools, four neighborhood choirs, and a 130-member concert choir under its umbrella.

Five members of the concert choir are students at St. Ignatius College Prep: **Elle Ramel '07, Andrew Rayner '06, Corean Reynolds '09, Gregorio Venegas '08** and

**Jamila Woods '07.** Andrew, Gregorio and Jamila had the incredible opportunity to travel to Japan for a week this summer with the choir to perform at Second International Children's Choral Festival at the World Expo in Aichi, Japan. While there, they performed in two major concerts as well as smaller performances in the smaller towns they traveled to. They enjoyed kind host families, good food, and beautiful sights.

In addition to all this excitement, Andrew was elected president of the choir by his peers this year - his final year in the choir since he's graduating from high school. When asked how he became involved 11 years ago, he answered, "When I was six, I wrote my first song. I was raking leaves with my sister and she messed up my pile, so the title of my song was, *We Were Friends*. Although it sounds funny, it actually wasn't bad and my mom thought I had some talent. That's when I became involved in the Chicago Children's Choir and have been part of it ever since."

## SHARING THE FAITH

SICP teachers Lori Kosiek and Marty Kelley recently invited Rabbi Larry Edwards to campus to talk to their students about the Jewish faith. Edwards, who is semi-retired, works with the Catholic/Jewish Educational Enrichment Program in Chicago. The program, co-sponsored by the Chicago Chapter of the American Jewish Committee and the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago with a grant from the Steven Spielberg Righteous Persons Foundation, is designed to increase mutual understanding and appreciation among Catholic and Jewish students and educators. While rabbis, including Edwards, visit with Catholic high school students to answer questions about holidays and tradition, Catholic nuns visit participating Jewish schools to do the same. Said Kelley, "The kids really appreciated the experience. It's good for them to get information from someone who's actually practicing the faith... sometimes things aren't as complete coming from someone else."



Left: Tony Harris, Brianna Latko, Brian Hardy, Charlie Stanley and Dr. Cathy Karl (principal) get into the Sox spirit during the World Series. Center: Andrew Rayner '06 sings solo with the Chicago Children's Choir. Right: Rabbi Larry Edwards from Chicago talks to SICP students.



## Alumnus Mike Seaman '55: Generous Donor and Campaign Supporter

**Mike Seaman '55** is very candid about the fact that his time dedicating himself as a "man for others" didn't happen until later in life. A former vice president of Motorola, Inc., Seaman and his wife spent much of their lives moving about the country working and raising their four children. Yet, as retirement loomed, he desired to put himself and his skills out there for the benefit of others and remembered the very important lessons he learned as a student at St. Ignatius College Prep some 50 years prior.

"Once I retired, I really wanted to do something where I could be of help to others, even if it was in small ways. I wanted to make a positive impact on people's lives," Seaman says. "Harkening back on my Jesuit education, I was reminded that I was given specific gifts that could be of use to the wider community and that I should share these gifts with others."

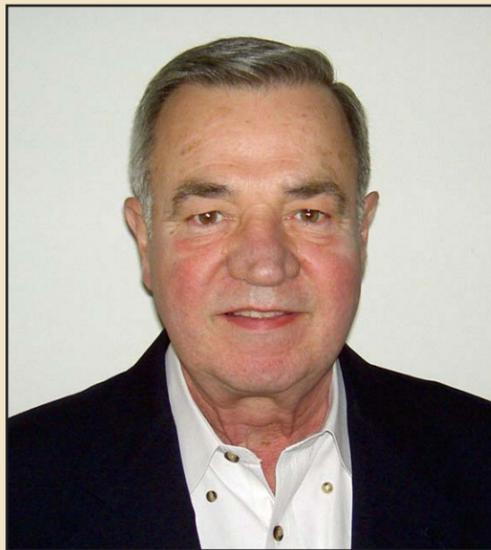
Seaman grew up in the Immaculate Conception parish in Elmhurst. He followed in his father's footsteps to St. Ignatius College Prep, then attended the University of Notre Dame for his undergraduate degree and the University of Chicago for graduate studies.

When it came time to give back to the educational communities that had so faithfully helped him develop academically and spiritually, Seaman knew that his contributions would have the greatest impact at St. Ignatius.

"I really felt that gifts to St. Ignatius would have the most impact on the students and their education, so that is where I decided to concentrate my donations," Seaman said.

Seaman's feelings about his own teachers while a student at St. Ignatius have been reflected in his participation in the Class of '55 Jesuit Tribute Endowment. His many gifts and his establishment of a Charitable Remainder Unitrust at St. Ignatius are overwhelming evidence of how he regarded his education at the school. Like many of us, he remembers his teachers, both religious and lay, who influenced him as a young man. Just as Seaman's gifts recognize the great work of his teachers in the 1950s, they also pay respect to the teachers of today through supporting the programmatic endowment of the current *Greater Glory Campaign*.

As a former finance committee member and generous supporter of past St. Ignatius capital campaigns, Seaman is well aware of the scope and importance



Mike Seaman '55

of *The Greater Glory Campaign* and the potential for expanding upon the school's faith-based education.

"The Greater Glory Campaign is so very important to the growth of the faculty, staff and student body in that when we meet our goal as a school

community, not only will the students receive of the greatest educations on par with many colleges and universities, but it will attract the best and the brightest scholars from the Chicagoland area," Seaman states. "This campaign is also important in that it will allow the school to attract the best teachers and we hope that it will bring teacher salaries up to the point where they can compete directly with the Chicago Public Schools. I'm sure that there are many outstanding teachers who would love to teach at St. Ignatius, but just cannot afford to."

Along with continuing to generously support the mission of St. Ignatius College Prep, Seaman and his wife Geraldine volunteer their entire day each Monday

to doing work at the St. Michael's parish in the South Chicago neighborhood. St. Michael's has become one of the south-east side's larger parishes as the influx of African-Americans and Hispanic worshippers from neighboring parishes that have closed continues to grow.

"My wife was involved with a small faith community in our own parish that would go to St. Michael's a few times each year," Seaman remembers. "There, we met another couple who was making the trip to the parish each Monday. After speaking with them and reflecting upon what the best use of our time would be, we decided that our Mondays are best spent giving back to communities that need our help. That was about two years ago and we've been helping at St. Michael's ever since."

As the holiday season passes and a new year begins, Seaman, who has kept very near to his Catholic upbringing, is reminded of how important it is to continue to give of himself for the greater glory of God.

"If there is one thing that I learned from my time at St. Ignatius, it's that whatever talents I have received, I need to share them with others," Seaman said. "I believe that the goals of this campaign reflect exactly that sentiment. It is our duty to give back in anyway possible to the generations who succeed us in hopes that they will benefit from our generosity."

#### ALUMNI OFFICE

Thanks to all alumni who have volunteered to be part of the **Taste the World through Wine** event on February 18. If you would like more information regarding the event, or to be part of the committee, please contact Chiara Wrocinski at (312) 432-8347 or check the alumni page on the school website ([www.ignatius.org](http://www.ignatius.org)). You can also find information regarding the **Historic Church Tour**, taking place on February 12, and the **Alumni Afternoon with the Harlequins** on March 19 (a special performance of the Harlequin's spring production for alumni only). Finally, the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Law Luncheon will take place at the Chicago Athletic Association on Friday, March 10. Invitations will be sent in late January. Registration will also be available on-line the beginning of February.

#### ESTATE & TAX ADVISORY COUNCIL

Those attending an eldercare workshop on Saturday, October 29 were enthusiastic after they learned about how they can protect themselves and their loved ones as they grow older. The Estate & Tax Advisory Council presented the workshop, which addressed the vital subject of eldercare. Speakers included: Heinz Briske, Huck & Briske; Sheila McMackin, Wellspring Personal Care; and Jerry Broadhurst '54, Creative Financial Concepts. The three principal issues examined were: **the need for appropriate legal documents, the funding of long-term health care and the most appropriate long-term health care strategy.**

**Legal Documents:** Everyone, regardless of his or her financial situation needs to have the appropriate legal documents in

place. Since none of us can predict the future, these documents cannot wait until a health problem arises. These are the documents you should have: a trust or a will, powers of attorney for property, powers of attorney for health care, a living will, HIPPA Authorizations, and other supplemental or special needs trusts.

If you lack any of those documents, you should make arrangements to have them executed as soon as possible.

**Health Care Funding:** If a person's estate has in excess of \$3 million of liquid assets, there is ordinarily no great concern about funding long-term health care. The amount of money spent on such care, however, will impact the amount which can be left as a legacy to heirs or to a charity. For those whose assets are below this threshold, serious consideration should be given to long-term health insurance. The creativity of the financial services industry has allowed consumers to choose from a wide variety of products. These products include insurance policies which provide for health care as well as residual bequests to heirs or a charity. In addition to insurance, there are other creative ways to finance long-term health care. One of these is the use of a reverse mortgage. This option is available to persons, aged 62 years or older. In addition, there are other creative ways to make charitable gifts, which will benefit the donor by funding long-term health care.

If the above situation applies to you, you should ask your financial advisor to explain the choices which will give you the best protection.

**Appropriate Long-Term Care:** Whether it is for you or for someone you love, you want to be able to choose the best and most appropriate long-term care options. This may include the ability to remain in one's home, using outside care givers or relocation to a caring facility. Prudent financial planning will insure that the quality of care will not suffer due to inadequate finances. To obtain the best care, some research must be done. Many public agencies can assist with this task. Once again, if SICP can help you through its contacts, we would be happy to do so.

We are thinking of presenting another similar workshop next fall. If you would like to attend such a workshop, please let Ed Evert '57 know. On the other hand, if you want to take steps now to protect yourself and your loved ones, we recommend that you contact your legal advisor and your financial advisor as soon as possible. If you do not presently have such counsel, please contact Ed Evert for the names of members of our Estate & Tax Advisory Council, who would be willing to assist you with your plans. **There is no charge for this consultation. Ed can be reached at: [ed.evert@ignatius.org](mailto:ed.evert@ignatius.org) or (312) 432-8314.**

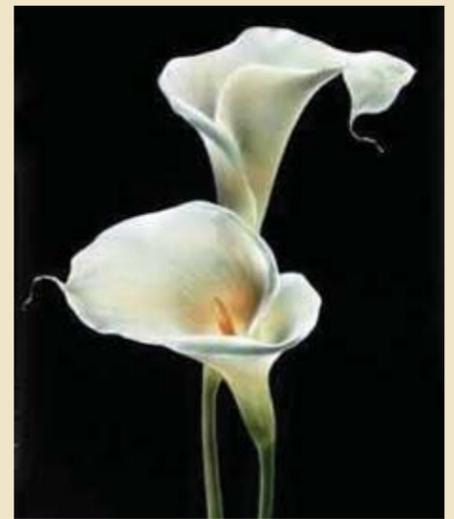
#### PARENTS' ORGANIZATION

More than 100 parent volunteers helped to greet visitors to St. Ignatius at Open House on December 4. The dining hall was filled with delicious food and treats, supplied by our gracious parents. The Senior Class Reps coordinated the event and parents from every class level were on hand to help. Thank you! Coming up... the Junior Family Class Mass will be held

at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 26 in Holy Family Church. The Freshman Class Reps will host a reception in the dining hall immediately following mass.

Finally, mark your calendars for the annual **"Puttin' on the Ritz" auction** on March 4. It promises to be a wonderful night with exciting new offerings, including dancing and a raffle for a brand new BMW 325i! Dress is business attire/black tie optional. This year, families will be charged a \$50 admission, for which a credit will be issued that can be used toward auction items. Check the school website, [www.ignatius.org](http://www.ignatius.org), for the most up-to-date details, including items that will be available for bidding and raffle purchase forms. Call (312) 432-8406 with questions.

### "PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ" ANNUAL AUCTION



MARCH 4 - 6:00-10:30 p.m.

## With gratitude for recent gifts and services of \$5,000 or more given to St. Ignatius College Prep between November 1 and December 31, 2005:

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Mr. Philip C. Stahl  
Mr. and Mrs. William L. Walton

#### ANNUAL RESTRICTED FUND

Anonymous

#### ANNUAL OPERATING FUND

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene J. Bruckert '52  
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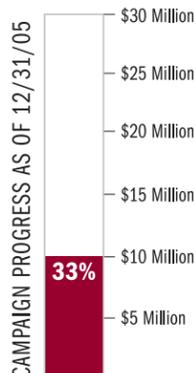
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Mr. and Mrs. Mark M. Reilly '77  
Mr. Paul J. Reilly '72 and  
Dr. Mary P. Reilly  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Weicher



Fr. Brian Paulson, S.J., president of St. Ignatius College Prep, was pleased to award the 2005-06 Dei Gloriam Award to the Sisters of Charity BVM. The award was presented at the annual benefit on November 22. Guests enjoyed a performance of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at Chicago's Auditorium Theatre, while also supporting the students and the school. Over 75 Sisters of Charity were in attendance to accept the award, and a wonderful reception was enjoyed by all before the show.



# with gratitude



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St. Ignatius College Prep  
1076 W. Roosevelt Road  
Chicago, IL 60608

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*Director of Special Events*

#### JANUARY

- 3: Classes Resume
- 5: Yearbook Signing Party for Class of 2005
- 11-13: Semester Exams
- 14: Entrance Exam
- 16: No Classes - MLK Jr. Day

#### FEBRUARY

- 12: Historic Church Tour (*see page 3*)
- 18: "Taste the World" Wine Tasting Event  
(*see page 3*)
- 20-21: No Classes - President's Day

#### MARCH

- 1: Ash Wednesday Liturgy
- 4: "Puttin' on the Ritz" Annual Auction
- 6: No Classes - Faculty & Staff Retreat
- 10: 25th Annual Law Luncheon
- 19: Alumni Night with the Harlequins  
(*see page 3*)
- 18-19 and 24-26: Harlequins Spring Play
- 25-26: Women's Council Retreat

#### APRIL

- 1: Reunion for Classes of 1996 & 2000
- 6: Parent-Teacher Conferences  
(*by appointment only*)
- 8: ACT at St. Ignatius
- 13: No Classes - Easter Break Begins
- 24: Classes Resume
- 29: Reunions for Classes of 1981, 1986 & 1991

#### MAY

- 20: Prom
- 24: Baccalaureate Liturgy
- 26: Jubilee Reunion
- 29: No Classes

#### JUNE

- 3: Graduation

#### JULY

- 17: St. Ignatius Golf Outing  
(Sponsored by Joe Gentile)

#### Women's Council Events

For more information on the Women's Council, contact moderator Terri Connor Brankin at (312) 432-8346. Please note that the Career Networking Night originally scheduled for February 9, 2006 has been cancelled.

#### WOMEN'S RETREAT

- March 25 - 26, 2006
- A day of prayerful reconnection for profoundly busy women, including "How to Pace a Life," led by Jane Maxfield
- Lindenwood Retreat House in Donaldson, IN
- Bus will leave St. Ignatius on Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and will return on Sunday at 7:00 p.m.
- Limited overnight capacity
- Invitations to follow or visit SICP's website at [www.ignatius.org](http://www.ignatius.org)



**ON THE MAILING PANEL:**  
Dennis Griffin '07 experiences the thrill of the 2005 American League playoffs as bat boy for the Boston Red Sox.

*Correction from last issue: photos for the feature story about SICP football were taken by Mr. Ray Kizelevicus, English teacher and moderator of Prep yearbook (not the Spirit newspaper).*

# upcoming events