



St. Ignatius College Prep PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Fr. Brian G. Paulson, S.J.

(312) 432-8344

brian.paulson@ignatius.org

Dear Friends,

Today I was writing my letter for the program book for the upcoming 25th Anniversary St. Ignatius Law Luncheon on March 10 at the Chicago Athletic Club. (And by the way, all are welcome to purchase tickets and join us that day!) There, we will honor two extremely competent and accomplished lawyers – Kevin Conway '69 of the firm *Cooney and Conway*, who will receive an award for excellence in the field of law, as well as Joy Cunningham, the head of the Chicago Bar Association, on whom we will confer an honorary diploma. I was reflecting that people who know the traditional strengths of Jesuit education are not surprised that so many great lawyers are graduates of our schools. One of the virtues we have long tried to develop in our students is captured by the Latin phrase *eloquentia perfecta* – “perfect eloquence.” By that, we mean the ability to communicate so well in speaking or writing that we are able to convince others of the truth of what we have to say. That classical virtue has long been a hallmark of a St. Ignatius education. So many of our alumni, in a myriad of professions, embody that virtue so very well.

Inside this report you will read about our outstanding AP Comparative Government and Politics program which was recently selected as “Best in the World” for 2004-2005 by the College Board which administers the AP exams. We were thrilled to receive this outside recognition for the superior quality of teaching and learning which we know our students experience many times each day. Because of the creative pedagogy our teachers use in these classes, the students are actively engaged in their learning. These classes capture our students’ imaginations and inspire them to learn and grow, deepening that classical virtue of *eloquentia perfecta*. Outside of class, many of our AP Comparative Government and Politics students continue to hone their skills to communicate, argue, analyze, and persuade in our outstanding Model U.N. program which involves over 100 students throughout the year. The positive synergy between Model U.N. and AP Comparative Government and Politics is a natural. Of course, we would be remiss without acknowledging, too, that our English teachers deserve great credit for teaching our students to write more effectively, and our Religious Studies teachers make a great contribution as well in teaching these same students about philosophy, ethics and Catholic Social Teaching. All of the humanities classes are mutually reinforcing. In and through all these classes and activities—and so many others in our school life—our students’ moral compasses and moral imaginations are being deeply shaped and formed. They develop a heightened awareness of the many layers involved in issues of social and political justice, especially across diverse cultures, and they become more articulate about these complex realities. I am confident that 30 years from now students from these AP Comparative Government and Politics classes and our Model U.N. club will be apt honorees for their excellence as lawyers at the 55th Anniversary St. Ignatius Law Luncheon!

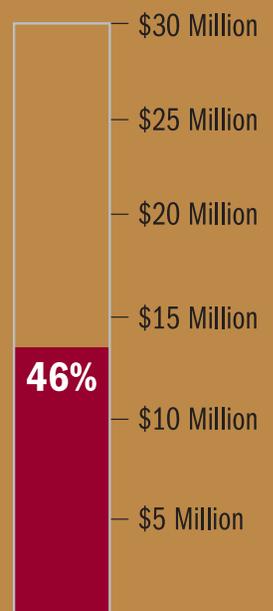
In closing, please join me in saying a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the gifted, hardworking, faith-filled and passionate students, teachers, staff and administrators who make St. Ignatius College Prep the wonderful school it is today, and for you, our benefactors who make it all possible.

Sincerely,

Rev. Brian G. Paulson, S.J., President



CAMPAIGN PROGRESS AS OF 2/9/06



St. Ignatius College Prep's Advanced Placement Course in Government and Politics Ranks Best in the World

At the start of December, school leaders were notified that St. Ignatius College Prep was identified as having had the strongest Comparative Government and Politics Advanced Placement (AP) course in the world during the 2004-05 school year. This announcement was made by the College Board, an organization that facilitates and monitors nationwide SAT/PSAT tests as well as the AP program for high school students who are preparing for college.

The 2004-05 course was taught by social studies teachers Diane Haleas-Hines and Larry Socha, who admittedly made a great team.



"Larry and I worked really well together. We were like-minded in our methodology and passion for the subject matter," said Haleas-Hines.

Socha, who last year, was in his second and final year as a Jesuit alumni volunteer and teacher at Ignatius, has moved on to study for his masters at the London

School of Economics and Political Science. He was elated upon being contacted with the news and equally as complimentary about his partnership with Hales-Hines.

"Diane's energy and enthusiasm are infectious. Anyone who can take a classroom and turn it into the House of Commons can make politics come alive for students."

The course itself focused on the governments and political structures of the following countries: Britain, Russia, China, France and Mexico. Students learned with an emphasis on history and culture, as well as current events. Socha further expanded on course goals.

"Our main drive was to open our students' eyes to the breadth of cultures and political systems out there. Every country sees the world differently. Our hope was that students would walk away with an understanding and appreciation of these unique perspectives."

So what, exactly, made St. Ignatius College Prep's Comparative Government and Politics AP course so successful that it was named best in the world?

First of all, the determination was based, quite simply, on

student AP test scores. The College Board identified our school by comparing the number of students who scored 3 or higher (out of a possible 5) on the Comparative Government and Politics AP exam (given worldwide) to the total school enrollment.



Secondly, excellent test scores are certainly a testament to innovative teaching. Although the AP board develops the curriculum for all AP classes, teachers must rely on their own creativity, imagination and research to teach the course and to reach students on a daily basis. Haleas Hines, who has been teaching the course at Ignatius since 1988 (excluding an eight year break from 1990-1998), had the idea, long ago, to institute role-playing as a means for students to learn. Every year, this teaching strategy has a profound and lasting impact on student learning.

"Diane's use of role-playing is key," said Brian Hardy, department chair and Haleas-Hines' current partner in teaching the course. "The kids are given the opportunity to think like the people from the country they're studying. They're not just learning and memorizing facts."

Although the 2004-05 Comparative Government and Politics AP course is in the limelight, Haleas-Hines, Socha, Hardy and school officials all agree that teachers of World History, U.S. History and certain elective courses at St. Ignatius College Prep are equally as responsible for the AP course's success.

"All students in the Comparative Government and Politics AP course were prepared for it by many other members of the department who taught them early on. This is definitely an honor for the whole department."



Advanced Placement Courses:

What Are They and How Do They Challenge St. Ignatius Students?

Educators or parents who have students enrolled in courses at St. Ignatius College Prep may be very familiar with the term, "Advanced Placement." However, those who graduated before "AP time" or those who don't have children who have reached the high school level may not be as certain what makes an AP student so special.

AP courses are offered at many high schools throughout the country to talented junior and senior students who are prepared to put forth extra effort to do work for classes with expectations at the college level. Through a curriculum developed by The College Board, which facilitates the AP program, teachers do research and use their creativity to develop courses for which students may be eligible to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation's colleges and universities. There are 35 courses and exams across 20 subject areas that are offered at participating high schools.

St. Ignatius College Prep offers 19 of the existing 35 AP courses in English literature, studio art, JAVA, Latin/Vergil, Latin/lyric poetry, Spanish language, Spanish literature, French language, French literature, statistics, AB calculus, BC calculus, physics, biology, chemistry, contemporary macroeconomics, U.S. history, modern European history, and comparative government and politics.

In addition, some students take AP exams for classes that St. Ignatius College Prep does not offer.

"A great number of juniors take and do very well on the Advanced Placement English Language exam without the benefit of a formal AP course," noted Brendan Conroy, Assistant Principal for Academic Programs.

Advanced Placement and Honors Course Entry Criteria at St. Ignatius College Prep

St. Ignatius College Prep offers a broad spectrum of college-level, advanced placement courses. The schoolwide criteria for entering AP courses are:

1. Students must have a 3.00 average in certain designated courses (see below) and a teacher recommendation that they have the needed work ethic, study habits and self-discipline to do all the work that is required in a course taught at the college level.

To take an AP class in:

You must have a minimum 3.0 GPA in:

English
Language
Mathematics
Social Studies

English
Language
Mathematics & Science
English & Social Studies
(+ Mathematics for
Macroeconomics; World
History 717 for AP U.S.
History)

Fine Arts
Computer Science

Fine Arts
Computer Science

2. Students with less than a prior 3.00 average in the department-designated courses may take an AP course with teacher and department chair recommendation.

3. Placement in honors courses is made by the department in which the courses are offered.

4. The student's counselor and/or the Assistant Principal for Academic Programs may limit the number of AP courses for which a student can register.

5. Students in their Junior year can take up to three Advanced Placement classes. If they have a Cumulative GPA of 3.8 or better, they can take up to four Advanced Placement classes. Any Junior wishing to take more Advanced Placement classes should make an appointment with the Assistant Principal, Mr. Conroy for prior approval.



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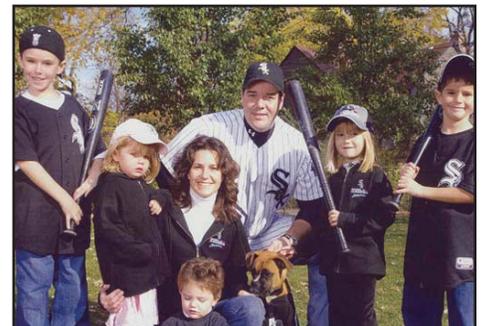
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PRESIDENT'S PHOTO GALLERY: Tony and Lynn McGuire with their family; the Hartsell siblings get ready for SICP Homecoming... Alyssa '07, Brendan '09, Meghan '06 and Caitlin '06; Peter '86 and Michelle Thompson and family celebrate the Sox World Series win.