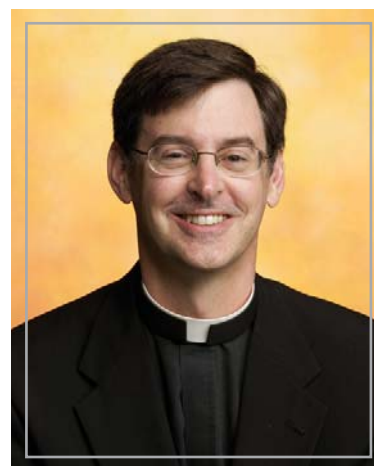




President's Report

SAINT IGNATIUS COLLEGE PREP

Jesuit education has always tried to form and shape the whole person: mind, imagination, body, heart, soul and spirit. In my experience, few things touch all of our senses and all the parts of our “being” like travel to new and different places. Travel helps us to see the world from the vantage point of people who live in a very different context than our own. It can have a tremendous positive formative impact on both our students and our teachers. Often, the journey in space and time is really but an occasion for a more important “interior journey” of the heart and spirit. As the days get longer once again after such a gray and snowy winter, the thoughts of many in our school community, students and adults alike, turn to spring, summer and travels. One of my Jesuit friends says that trips like these honor the virtue of “otherwheredness.”



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

Some of the destinations of our students and teachers this spring and summer include:

- Over spring break, a group of students and teachers will travel to Spain and see towns such as Barcelona and Madrid.
- Four students will head to Chile this summer as exchange students with Chilean Jesuit High Schools. In the fall, four Chilean Jesuit high school students will come here. This is the second year for this program.
- A group will be working in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala, during a 17-day service trip this summer. Saint Ignatius has been sending groups to this location for eight years.
- For over 25 years, Ignatius students have journeyed to Quetico National Park in Canada to canoe and camp in the “boundary waters” just north of International Falls, Minnesota. I went on this trip several years ago; it is truly God’s country.
- Many groups will travel to Kentucky this summer on week-long trips to serve needy communities. Some will frame new houses; others will help to take down dilapidated houses; some will help with house and garden chores for the elderly home-bound. These trips have been going on since 1987. (I went to Manchester, Ohio on one of these trips with members of the Class of 1988 when they were rising seniors!) Almost half of our soon-to-be-senior students choose to give a week of their summers for summer service as “men and women for others” in imitation of Jesus Christ. Many seniors report that summer service projects and Kairos retreats have the most powerful impact on them of all that they experience through Saint Ignatius College Prep during senior year—high praise, indeed!
- Others will head to Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Mississippi for similar experiences.
- A group of hardy science students will be working in Peru to explore remote areas, including some in jungle settings.
- Finally, a group of Ignatians will help our neighbors at St. Procopius in Pilsen this August, when that parish (staffed by the Jesuits) holds a carnival and street fair—their annual “Kermes.”

I am most grateful to all the adults in our community who serve as chaperones and role models for our students on all these experiences and in so many other ways. Along with athletic coaches, co-curricular moderators and retreat chaperones, these adults help us to form and shape the minds, hearts, bodies, souls and spirits of our students in truly amazing ways. The virtue of “otherwheredness” is certainly honored at Saint Ignatius College Prep.

Many of our students need financial support from the school in order to participate in these experiences of travel, learning and service. Thanks to benefactors like you, we are able to provide need-based grants to support their involvement in these important, life-changing activities. We are most grateful!

Christine and Matt Botica '68 Establish Endowment

Saint Ignatius College Prep recently received a generous pledge from Matt Botica '68 and his wife, Christine, to fund a scholarship that will provide tuition assistance for Ignatius students who are graduates of Chicago Jesuit Academy (CJA). Matt is Chairman of the CJA Board and Christine is a dedicated volunteer at the school, which educates young boys in 5th-8th grades.

The Botica family's involvement began five years ago when Matt, a family friend of CJA President Matthew Lynch '95, met with Lynch to discuss his business plan for a proposed Nativity school in Chicago. The 35 year-old Nativity model of middle school education helps prepare children from modest economic backgrounds for the rigors of college prep high schools and, later, universities. Nativity model middle schools use small classes, longer school days and a longer school year to help children from modest economic backgrounds break the cycle of poverty. Botica had previously been exposed to nativity-style education through former Loyola Academy president and friend, Fr. Ray Callahan, S.J. (now deceased), who was the executive director of Nativity Preparatory School in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

After learning more about plans for the Chicago Jesuit Academy, Botica was hooked. He soon began helping Lynch with the feasibility study and eventually became chairman of the CJA board, a role which he continues to hold today. Many Ignatius alumni and friends are involved at CJA, including Catherine Cassidy '95, the school's Vice President of Operations and Development. Other close friends of Saint Ignatius also serve on the CJA board, among them John Lahey, Lindy Keiser and Cheryl Thomas.

Christine Botica assists Cassidy in grant writing and other administrative areas and tutors young men in reading. She also is involved fine arts arena, arranging for CJA students to meet local artists and visit the Art Institute in Chicago. Two of the Botica's five children, Kathryn (with husband, Tim Martin) and Leigh (with fiancé, Russell Dyer), helped to begin a junior auxiliary board, "Academy Associates," which now involves nearly 25 young adults who tutor, facilitate service projects, assist with fundraising and help with school maintenance. Botica believes his experiences as a student at Saint Ignatius in the mid-60s inspired him to get involved at CJA as well as make his generous gift to Saint Ignatius College Prep.

"My family wants to provide the young men of CJA the same opportunity I had forty years ago. Attending Saint Ignatius was a very important part of my life and the stepping stone to future successes. We are fortunate to be able to do this for CJA and Saint Ignatius," said Botica.



The "Botica Family Endowment" will fund the Ignatius education of one CJA graduate each year-- that is, once the first CJA class moves through the four-year program. The school was founded in 2005, so that means its first graduates, if accepted, will arrive at Ignatius in the fall of 2009.

It is valuable to mention in this article that Chicago will also soon be welcoming another Jesuit school-- Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory School-- which is scheduled to open in August of 2008. Christ the King is a Catholic Jesuit secondary school which will use the Cristo Rey model of education to serve young men and women from Chicago's west side. Through the Cristo Rey model, a quality education is made affordable for students whose families could not otherwise pay the tuition charged by private schools. Students earn three-quarters of their tuition costs while gaining valuable, life-changing skills and experience working at Chicago area companies. Former Saint Ignatius Assistant-Principal, Brendan Conroy, has become the Principal of Christ the King and several alumni and friends of Ignatius will be involved in different capacities.

The Jesuit presence in Chicago is strong and remains solid, in order that young people who would otherwise be unable to attend college prep schools might have a chance to better their lives through the distinctive level of personal care or *cura personalis* that is the hallmark of Jesuit education. It is clear that these opportunities are also made available by generous donors like Matt and Christine Botica, whose financial commitments make that education even more possible. Our sincerest thanks to the Botica family as well as Matthew Lynch, Catherine Cassidy, Brendan Conroy and all the others who have helped to grow the amazing Jesuit network in Chicago. Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam.

Holy Family Parish Center

The Holy Family Parish Center has been constructed and has been in use by church administrators and parishioners, but the major gift team at Ignatius continues to campaign for funds to complete it. The church still needs \$800,000, and is asking Ignatius alumni and friends to consider a naming opportunity such as \$500,000 for the entire center, \$200,000 for the elevator and accessibility, or \$75,000 for the Pastor's office complex. (More opportunities can be found at www.holyfamilyparishcenter.org.)

Many individuals in the classes of 1940-1950 took advantage of the IRA tax law to make a larger donation than they would have been able to otherwise. Contact John Chandler at (312) 432-8350 or john.chandler@ignatius.org to find out more about this ongoing partnership and project.

Athletic Hall of Fame Induction

On February 13, several alumni were inducted into the Saint Ignatius Athletic Hall of Fame during the varsity boys' basketball game vs. Guerin Prep. New inductees were Daniel Gallery '18 (football), Chuck Collins '21 (football), John Gaffney '52 (football, basketball & track), Fred Nosal '52 (football), Jack Kegaly '52 (football), Terry Biernat '55 (football and track), Michelle Hanson '82 (volleyball & track), Claire Larmon '92 (basketball) and the 1945 City Champion Football Team. A special moment was observed when Ed Hoyle '54 was speaking highly of old friend, John Gaffney '52 (dec'd), to a group of bystanders at a reception prior to the game. He said that John was "his hero." When he asked the group, "Do any of you remember John?" a woman with a watchful eye happened to be passing by and said, "I knew him very well. He was my husband." A wonderful conversation about John ensued. Another highlight came during the halftime presentation at the game when alumna and former Ignatius employee, Claire Molloly Larmon '92, received a rousing applause from current students and families. Congratulations to all new inductees! Watch for more photos to appear in the summer *Saint Ignatius Magazine*.



Estate & Tax Advisory Council to Host Women's Workshop

All are invited to attend a special workshop hosted by the Saint Ignatius Estate and Tax Advisory Council in conjunction with the Women's Council. The April 26, 2008 workshop will cover issues of interest to women, including finance management and health care issues. Activities will take place at the school. A continental breakfast will be served at 9:00 a.m., followed by the workshop at 9:30 then a boxed lunch at 12:00 noon. For more information, call Ed Evert '57 at 312.432.8314 or ed.evert@ignatius.org.

Thank You

FOR YOUR RECENT GIFTS
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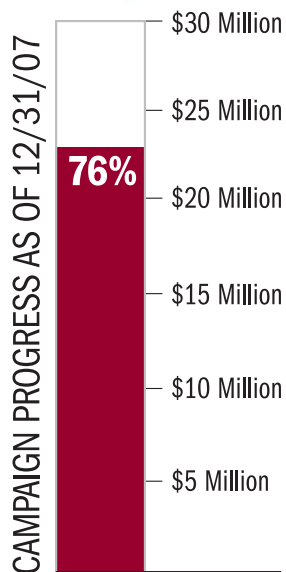
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President's Report



Donate to Renovate Gym

Some inspired families of current Ignatius athletes are helping the school reach out to alumni who were involved in gym sports so they might contribute to the "Donate to Renovate" campaign to improve the Gentile Gymnasium. \$5,000 pledges are encouraged, which can be paid off over three years and which will be recognized prominently on a plaque to be displayed in the gym. Other naming opportunities include the court (\$100,000), the east and west bleachers (\$100,000 each), the set of scoreboards (\$50,000) and the painting of the gym (\$50,000). Construction is set to begin immediately after school ends in June so it will be ready for the 2008-09 school year. Please contact Tom Ramsden if you are interested in supporting this endeavor: (312) 432-8346 or tom.ramsden@ignatius.org

*PLEASE REMEMBER
SAINT IGNATIUS
COLLEGE PREP IN
YOUR WILL AND
ESTATE PLANS.*

President's Photos

TOP LEFT: The 2007-08 National Achievement Program (NAP) finalists are photographed with Fr. Paulson and Dr. Karl in the fall. NAP recognizes top African-American high school scholars.



TOP RIGHT: Fr. Paulson celebrates Mass before the annual President's Dinner in October. To his right stands Fr. Patrick Dorsey, S.J.



BOTTOM LEFT: Fr. Paulson honors Fr. Joseph Brennan, S.J., rector at Saint Ignatius, with a plaque during his recent 50th anniversary as a Jesuit priest.



BOTTOM RIGHT: Young alums who attended the Jesuit Cup game (Ignatius Wolfpack vs. Loyola Academy Ramblers) talk with Fr. Paulson.

