



St. Ignatius College Prep PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Dear Friends,

The month of May can be a bittersweet time for those of us who work in schools. Our hallways empty out, little by little, as the seniors—the students we know best and on whose leadership we have come to depend—disappear gradually to take their AP exams during the first two weeks, then their regular exams, and finally, they disappear completely for the last ten days of May, only to reappear for the Baccalaureate mass and for graduation itself. Don't get me wrong—it's a good thing that the seniors say good-bye and leave us. Indeed, they are ready to go.

But this annual leave-taking is bittersweet on both sides, because so much of what has been shared together has been so good. Our seniors have grown tremendously here. As the old saying goes, they have gained roots and wings, expanding all at once their hearts, minds and souls. We hope that they leave us with a foretaste of what the Kingdom of God is all about: a place where "all shall be well," as St. Juliana of Norwich would say; a place where justice and peace come more naturally than they do for most people in our world today; a place where Jesus' Sermon on the Mountain and his beatitudes do not necessarily clash with the culture, but rather ground and shape the culture. Yes, it's a dream, but it's a dream worth living for—a dream that Jesus thought was worth the gift of his life. And if we really listen to Jesus, we know that such harmony and peace only seem to happen when people and cultures pass through the crucible of the suffering of the cross; when sinfulness and selfishness in the hearts of individuals and societies are named for what they are; when both individuals and cultures are more deeply converted through the power of the Spirit. Such a process of ongoing conversion is part of the life of any community which calls itself Christian.

We hope and we pray that our seniors at St. Ignatius leave us this May having experienced a bit of the "Kingdom of God" in our midst, having been nourished and energized by the Bread of Life and the Living Word during their time here. We hope and we pray that our students go forth, knowing that they are talented, loved, and called—called to allow God's grace to work through them, even in their weakness, as brothers and sisters of Jesus who help make God's kingdom more visible and real in our world today. We hope and we pray that our students can see in Christ's beatitudes a mysteriously paradoxical, yet inspiring standard to strive for as they move forward in life—a way of life which promises deep happiness and union with God.

When the two women left the empty tomb on Easter Sunday at the end of Matthew's gospel, they were "half-afraid, half-filled with joy," in the words of one translation I like. I believe that whenever any one of us is on the verge of really encountering God's new life within us, we are often "half-afraid, half-filled with joy." During the month of May, I bet many of our seniors feel that same way as they take one last glance at empty hallways of St. Ignatius where they once ruled the roost...and where they once encountered the Lord through their teachers, staff and administrators, and indeed, through one another.

Perhaps at the end of May, when they look at the empty hallways of St. Ignatius and prepare to move on, they will be even more keenly aware than ever before of how the Lord was in their midst here at 1076 W. Roosevelt Rd. Those of us who are older can assure our seniors that like the disciples who encountered the risen Lord on the road to Emmaus, they too will surely encounter the Lord in the months and years ahead, wherever the Spirit takes them, if they simply remember what the Lord has taught them in the past, and if they look for Jesus' presence in the breaking of the bread. It's that simple...and it's that hard. That's what memories are for; they are vital to the life of faith.

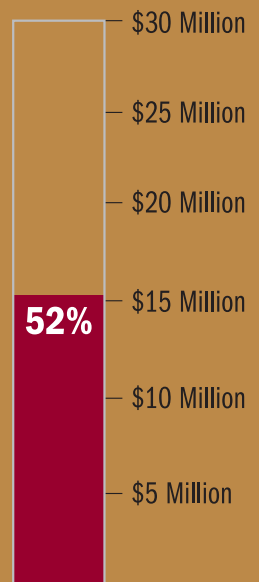
Let us pray that God carries all of our students, and especially our graduates, in the palm of his hand, as they move forth from this community of faith. Though they may leave us with mixed feelings of fear and joy, we pray that they carry out their Ignatian mission to use their God-given gifts and talents in the service of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for the greater honor and glory of God.

Sincerely,

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



CAMPAIGN PROGRESS AS OF 4/30/06



Fr. Paulson and Students Rally for Family Assistance

On February 22, Fr. Paulson and a group of eight students traveled to the State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois, to rally for House Bill 1577, or the “Opportunity Scholarship Act,” which had been assigned to and was being amended by the House Executive Committee at that time. The rally was sponsored by the Illinois Catholic Conference (ICC), related to state financial support for parents who chose non-public schools for their students. If passed, the bill will provide a \$3,500 scholarship for qualifying families anywhere in Illinois to choose the best school for their children.

Said Fr. Paulson, “While the ICC realizes that the current state political climate is not propitious for expanding state support for parents who choose non-public schools, nevertheless, they believe that it is important to keep the needs of taxpayers who choose Catholic schools before the legislature. That way, there is no backsliding as to the current modest tuition tax-credit as well as the transportation reimbursement. In time, our hope is that this support would be increased.” Fr. Paulson also noted that he was extremely grateful to the St. Ignatius College Prep Parents’ Organization for their supportive e-mails and postcard campaigns to lobby the legislature.

This is the first time St. Ignatius College Prep has participated in the annual ICC rally. The following students were selected from U.S. Government classes at St. Ignatius to participate and accompany Fr. Paulson in Springfield: **Folake Dosu, Dan Felden, Lauren Guzman, Julia Hauber, Robert Jackson, Norma Loza, Kathleen Maloney and Kevin McHugh.** In addition to the rally, the group was privileged to enjoy lunch with alumnus, State Senator **Don Harmon ’85 (second photo at right).** They also met with another alumnus, Speaker of the House **Mike Madigan ’60 (third photo at right).** Senator **Ed Maloney** also helped show the group around.

“It was a really great experience,” said Folake Dosu. “It exposed us to things going on in Springfield that we don’t always see on the news. The alumni we met were welcoming and receptive and it was good to see the positive impact they are making on our state and our nation.”

She continued, “This legislature is really important. A lot of Catholic schools in my area have closed recently, and it’s disappointing. State funding is needed by Catholic schools like the ones in my neighborhood. They are losing their history and tradition and it is so important to keep that alive. Also, people often underestimate what Catholic education has done for those in need.”

As background, House Bill 1577 was first filed with the Clerk by Representative Joseph M. Lyons, Democrat from the 19th District and Majority Conference Chairperson, in February of 2005. On March 3, it was sent to the rules committee for further review but the bill has not been passed yet. For further information on the history and future of House Bill 1577, visit the Illinois General Assembly web site at www.ilga.gov.



Senior Students Honored

JOSEPH MCGING '06 RECEIVES PERFECT SCORE ON 2006 NATIONAL LATIN EXAM

Senior Joseph McGing was one of only 952 students out of 135,000 worldwide who received a perfect score on the 2006 National Latin Exam. High school students who participated were from the United States, Canada, Switzerland, Poland, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, China and Japan. In addition to Joseph's achievement, Mr. Don Hoffman's Latin I Honors students were recognized because each one of them received an exam score that was above the national average.



JASON PRESTINARIO '06 SELECTED AS 2006 PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR SEMIFINALIST

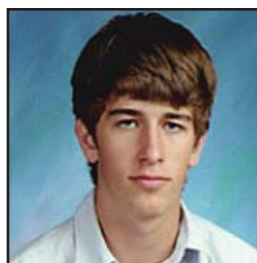
Senior Jason Prestinario has been named a semifinalist in the 2006 Presidential Scholars competition. 550 semifinalists were selected from nearly 2.8 million graduating seniors across the United States, and from that group, only 141 finalists (121 Academic Scholars and 20 Arts Scholars) will be chosen.



If selected to be a finalist, the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars will award Prestinario an expense-paid trip to Washington D.C., where he will meet government officials, educators, authors, musicians, scientists and other accomplished people. Prestinario was a starter on the football team; plays lacrosse; is the Editor-in-Chief for the school newspaper, *Spirit*; and is a member of the math team. He will be attending Stanford University next year.

CHRISTOPHER KEISER '06 NAMED TO 2005-06 IHSA ACADEMIC ALL-STATE TEAM

Senior Christopher Keiser was recently named to the 13th Illinois High School Association (IHSA) All-State Academic Team as one of 26 outstanding student-athletes in the state, chosen from 400 nominees.



To be eligible for consideration for selection to the team, Keiser needed a minimum grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale after the seventh semester. He must have participated in at least two (2) IHSA-sponsored activities (athletics and/or non-athletics) during the last two school years, and must have demonstrated outstanding citizenship during his high school career. Keiser was a 2005 state qualifier in tennis as part of a doubles team, a four-year member of the golf team and a two-year starter for IBCA Coach of the Year, Rich Kehoe, on the boys' varsity basketball team.

Keiser was honored on April 24 at the IHSA All-State Academic Team Recognition Banquet in Bloomington.

Naples Gathering

Alumni and friends who reside in Florida recently enjoyed a visit from St. Ignatius College Prep. Top: Jack Jiganti speaks to guests at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club. Middle: Fr. Paulson stands with Mel '50 and Mary Ann Jiganti and Jack '58 and Dorothy Jiganti. Bottom: Bill '39 and Rosemary Durkin with Fr. Paulson and John Chandler.



Hard to believe another school year is almost complete at 1076! Here's what's coming up before the next President's Report is published....

May 16-17: SENIOR FINAL EXAMS

May 20: SENIOR PROM & POST-PROM

May 24: BACCALAUREATE LITURGY AT HOLY FAMILY CHURCH 7:00 p.m.

May 25: SPRING SPORTS AWARDS NIGHT

June 2, 4, 5: UNDERCLASS FINAL EXAMS

June 3: GRADUATION - UIC PAVILION 1:00 p.m.

June 16: SIHAP PROGRAM BEGINS

June 19: SUMMER SCHOOL SESSION 1 BEGINS

July 10: SUMMER SCHOOL SESSION 2 BEGINS

July 31: FEAST OF ST. IGNATIUS MASS

OUR THANKS

We are grateful to the following donors for their generous gifts, given from January 1 - April 30, 2006.

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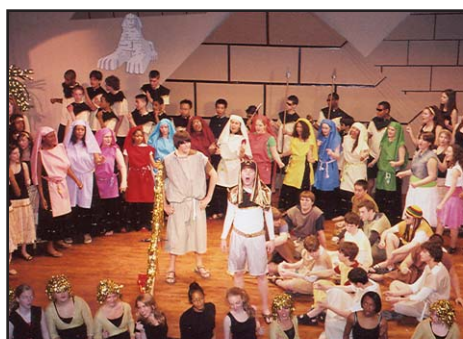
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President's Photo Gallery



LEFT: Elizabeth Lombardo '96 and Chris Steck celebrated their wedding reception at SICP in August of 2005. CENTER: Students perform in the Opera Workshop, which featured music from "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." RIGHT: Fr. Paulson and the Conway family, after Kevin Conway '69 was honored with the Award of Excellence in the Field of Law at the 2006 Law Luncheon.