



The HeartBeat

A Newsletter for Alumni & Friends of St. John Eudes School

40th Anniversary Class Graduates with Honors



Msgr. Nugent, Mrs. Danowitz, Mrs. Thies, and Ms. Stula pose proudly with the Class of 2007 (in alphabetical order): Mary Abary, Hali Banks-Thompson, Katherine Barnett, Brian Cortave, Christina del Real, Bianca Derrick, Heather Garcia, Melanie Gharapetian, Alex Gil, Nicholas Jones, Samantha Martinez, Andrew Mezher, Tarren Munoz, Katie Nagy, Taylor Niehaus, Jillian Olivas, Courtney Pascual, Kristina Pollock, Nicole Ponce, Kevin Post, Stephanie Riley, Daryl Singontiko, Tannum Sullivan, Zachary Tannous, Susan Visokey, Alixandra Webb, Jaunru Wisner, Jonathan Yuhico, and Miklos Zoller.

Commencement . . . what an appropriate term! For inasmuch as we recognize the achievement of work completed, we look ahead to new beginnings and imagine where a solid education will lead us.

For the St John Eudes graduating Class of 2007, the possibilities are endless. They have received a firm foundation in faith and a comprehensive course of academic preparation. They have been guided by the love of their families, the mentorship of their teachers and coaches, and the support of their parish community.

This year's class chose the theme "**Reach for Your Star**" which clearly exemplifies the goals and dreams toward which they are headed. A brief review of this year's school annual reminds us that SJE students have big dreams, from politics, to medicine, to foreign missions, and education, they aspire to serve and to make the world a brighter place.

The Class of 2007 was honored with a wonderful commencement ceremony with guest speaker Mr. Oscar Garcia, Deputy Grand

Knight of the Knights of Columbus, who spoke about character and attitude. Heaven's Angels and Heaven's Grace choirs performed two theme songs. This year we had more graduates than ever receive Honors at Graduation and Honors at High School Entrance.

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SJE Chosen to Be Pilot School for Special Technology Program

St. John Eudes School has been selected as one of only 20 other schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles to be a pilot school for advancing the school's technology program. *21st Century Learning* and *Alan November's Instructional Institute* will be involved in the training. Components will include web literacy, blogging, and instructional technology. The program will give students and teachers at the school state-of-the-art training and advanced instruction in internet and computer use.

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Highlights:

- **Class of '07 Achieves Most Honors at Graduation**
- **Donors Give Record Amount to Support Programs**
- **Technology Program Gets Boost from Archdiocesan Pilot Program**
- **New Alumni Website to Include Message Board for Alumni**
- **Boys Volleyball Team Takes Division Honors**
- **Golfers Sought to Make Science Lab a Reality**
- **SJE Student Among Top in State in PSAT Scores; Receives Award at UC Irvine**
- **Sr. Georgina Blesses School with Spirit of Mother Paula**
- **New Instrumental Music Program to Enrich After-school Curriculum**

Golf Tournament to Benefit New Science Lab

SJE Alumni & Friends are invited to attend the 4th Annual St. John Eudes Golf Classic to be held at the Porter Valley Country Club on Monday, November 12, 2007, with tee off at 12:00 noon. The tournament has raised over \$50,000 to support the youth and school of St. John Eudes Parish. This year the tournament proceeds will support the construction of a Science Lab for the school.

The tournament is a scramble format that includes putting and on course contests and 5 chances to win cars, one at each of the par 3 holes. The tournament starts with a BBQ lunch and is followed by a dinner and awards ceremony with raffle

and silent auction in the club house. Don't golf . . . come to the dinner and silent auction beginning at 5:30 pm.



Players, sponsors, volunteers and silent auction donations are needed. Your support of the tournament will help us continue our mission to provide excellence in education and to guide students to develop an inner strength of values and standards.

Contact tournament chairpersons Frank Herrington at 818-929-8347 or Jerry Niehaus at 818-974-1746 for further information. Additional information and a copy of the brochure for the tournament is available on the Alumni Message Board at www.sjealumni.net.

Sports Program Honors Scholar-Athletes

Boys Volleyball Team Wins Division

Our SJE sports teams finished their spring sports programs with several volleyball and softball teams showing traditional SJE sports strength. Other teams worked hard to developed their skills and will be ready for next year's competitions.

The 5th-6th Grade Girls entered two "B" Softball Teams. Alex Washington and

Frank Herrington coached the Red Team which finished 3-3, while John Webb and Larry Gianni coached the White Team which finished 0-6.



The 7th-8th Grade Girls "A" Softball Team was

coached by Allison Winslow, Coleen Olivas, and Peter Guerriero, which finished

4-2 and were 2nd in their division.

The 5th-6th Grade Boys "B" Volleyball Team, coached by Danielle Messiha, finished 5-1. The 7th-8th Grade Boys "A" Volleyball Team, coached by Ron Allington, finished 6-0 and were 1st Place in their division. They went to the playoff semi-finals before losing to the League Champs in three games.

Everyone enjoyed the year-end Sports Appreciation Night. The following athletes were awarded Scholar-Athlete Awards: 5th Grade - Pearce Blankenship, Jill Gaines, Nasim Herrington, Hope Holm, Darren Kriz, Alexandra Rusbarsky; 6th Grade - Caline Nasr, Ana Patino; 7th Grade - Jennica Lien, Mary Lopez, Sean Maddigan, Nolan Reilly, Emily Vitar; 8th Grade - Mary Abary, Andrew Mezher, Taylor Niehaus, Jillian Olivas, Stephanie Riley.

SJE School has a new website for Alumni . . . and Friends too!

The website includes information about the Endowment, Annual Fund, Adopt-A-Student Program, as well as the school history, an on-line copy of the school brochure, the Donor Honor Roll, and the Alumnus of the Year. A listing of the Alumni Data Base is also available on-line, as well as all previous copies of *The HeartBeat*. An *Alumni Message Board* will be maintained through the website which will allow alumni to post messages and maintain contact with other alumni and friends. The website is accessible thru the school website at www.school.stjohnneudes.org by clicking on the "Alumni" link or by going directly to www.sjealumni.net.



A Special Thanks to Our Special Supporters

With the completion of our 40th Anniversary & 2006-2007 School Year, we would like to acknowledge those Alumni and Friends who have contributed to the SJE School Annual Fund Campaign and the Adopt-A-Student Program. Donors are also acknowledged on the alumni website and on a plaque that will be displayed in the School Office for the coming year. Thank you to all those who have supported the school through these programs!

2006-2007 Annual Fund Campaign

PlatinumHeart Circle

\$5,000 and More

Anonymous

SilverHeart Circle

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Ronald & Jeannie Piekunka

Elisabeth H. Star

in Honor of Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, Sch. P.

Montal Council

\$250 to \$499

Patricia De La Riva, MD & Carlos Fuentes

Freymler Family

Eagle's Club

Gifts up to \$249

Beverly Banks

John & Ruth Chady

Angelina Faraldo Corden & Family

Dolores Di Cecco

Mary Lou Dudzak

Edward J. Kaiserski

Gabriel & Phyllis Kalenian

Zambetti-Ruda Family

Mike & Jennifer (Sembauer) Prince

Vincent Stewart & Hannelore Rittinger

2006-2007 Adopt-A-Student Program

Adoptive Donors

\$500 and More

Gertrude Black

Jerry & Marian Neglio

The C. Rach Family

Supportive Donors

Gifts up to \$499

Thomas & Sophie Pachikara

Steve & Susan Ruda

Information about contributing to the 2007-2008 Annual Fund and Adopt-A-Student Program is available on our alumni website at www.sjealumni.net.



The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

Paul Capra '93 attended Chaminade and graduated in 1997. He was active on the football and volleyball teams. He then attended San Diego State University and received a B.A. degree in Communications. After college he started a career in commercial real estate in the San Diego area, and is now working in the Ventura area. He is getting married this month to his college sweetheart, Jill Caporaso (a kindergarten teacher in Fillmore), in a ceremony in Hawaii.

Brandon Braga '94 graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1998. While at Notre Dame he was active on the football, track, and baseball teams. He then attended the College of the Canyons and received an A.S. degree. He subsequently attended UC San Diego and received a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering. While at UCSD he was involved with a working project involving "backwards

waterflow" (which is still currently being displayed at the university). He then attended California Western School of Law, San Diego, and graduated this year with a Juris Doctor degree. He is currently studying to take the California Bar Exam and will be working as an attorney for a financial institution in San Diego.

Andrew Dickinson '98 attended Chaminade College Preparatory where he was active in sports, particularly the football team, and graduated in 2002. He then pursued a degree in Fine Arts at San Jose State University and is hoping to establish a career in movie animation.

Hilda Cruz '01 attended Alemany High School and was active as a leader in the Kairos program and also helped at the St. John Eudes Confirmation Program. She graduated Alemany in 2005 and is currently attending California Lutheran University and plans to become a teacher.



Longtime SJE teacher, Mr. Allington, along with his wife, Judy, receive a gift of appreciation from SJE students at a party in his honor given by students, parents, and teachers. As Mr. "A" prepared to leave SJE to pursue other career opportunities, he expressed his thanks and gratitude to students and parents, current and past, who have supported him and given him many happy memories during his years of service at SJE School.

Focus on the Faculty: Sr. Georgina - From Cuba with Love SJE "Pioneer Teacher" Still Going Strong During 40th Anniversary School Year

St. Paula Montal, was the foundress of the Sisters of the Pious Schools, and a leader in recognizing the abilities of women to be faithful, industrious and dynamic, whatever their vocation or social standing. Mother Paula (as she is affectionately known here at St. John Eudes School) continues to bless us with a special patronage and, more immediately, with a legacy of religious sisters who continue her work. One of these, Sr. Georgina Gutierrez, has been casting positive

molds for our students since 1971. Here is a little of her story . . .

Georgina Gutierrez was born in Cuba and left for Spain as a young woman to enter the novitiate of the Sisters of the Pious Schools. In 1963 she took her final vows. As is the case with many immigrants, when she arrived in Chatsworth at the "new school on the block" in the San Fernando Valley, she did not know how to speak English. ¡No Problema! Sister spent her first months at SJE acquiring language skills as an assistant to Mary Haun, school secretary at that time. Soon enough, Sr. Georgina was called on to wear many hats: as a teacher of Spanish, Religion, Science, 5th & 6th Grade homeroom, P.E. and as coach (volleyball, basketball and softball). Today, she claims titles of Religion Coordinator, Junior High Spanish teacher and 7th Grade Religion teacher.

Sr. Georgina is pragmatic, easy-going, humble and faces life's challenges with simple good humor. She has been a caretaker of her incapacitated brother since 1999, when she took a sabbatical from her

teaching duties for about two years. This responsibility has included helping to raise her nephew Gabriel, now a young adult, who is learning to be an auto mechanic.

When asked about what is important at St. John Eudes School, Sr. Georgina said,

"When Sr. Rosemary was the principal, she worked to keep the spirit of Mother Paula within the school. That was good. When Mrs. Danowitz came as principal, she has worked to keep that spirituality. A lot of times, she is asking, 'What would St. Paula Montal do?' Mrs. Danowitz is thinking about it – even more than I do!"

A favorite memory is when Sr. Georgina was able to establish the Lettergirl Group, the female counterpart to the Lettermen. Still in existence, the students earn points through the sports program and other activities. "I was able to start the group with girls and the idea was to have students do helpful service activities as well as social outings. We had field trips to the snow and Dodger games; things like

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SJE Student Recognized for Outstanding Achievement on California PSAT; Receives Award at UCI Ceremony

SJE 7th Grade Student, Julia Wall, was recently presented with the *Academic Merit Award* at UC Irvine for outstanding achievement on the PSAT. Julia was among the top scoring seventh graders in all of California who took the exam. She received the top score in the writing section and the second highest score in the reading section. She was among five hundred 7th Graders throughout California who took the exam.

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Mrs. Barbara Danowitz
Principal

*A Community of Faith
is a community of learners
who recognize and nourish
God-given gifts.*



The HeartBeat

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SJE Class of 2007 graduates celebrated the day at the Graduation Dinner in Grill Hall. Graduates were joined by parents and teachers who joined them in their celebration. Class Valedictorians were Bianca Derrick and Andrew Mezher. Class Salutatorian was Jillian Olivas. Nearly one-third of the class will receive "Honors at Entrance" from their selected high schools. We welcome them as the newest of our honored alumni!



A Special Message from the Principal Graduates Embody Message of St. Paula Montal

As we reflect upon the Class of 2007, we see graduates who have accomplished all the school wide learning expectations of St. John Eudes School. They have demonstrated knowledge of their faith and live the meaning of Christian action. They have become critical thinkers and effective communicators. They are knowledgeable in technology, and are aware of multiculturalism. They embody the message of St. Paula Montal to be life long learners who live their faith and grow in their personal, moral, social, spiritual and academic development. They have learned the gospel message of Jesus Christ and understand that He is the path to salvation.

Their accomplishments, including their acceptances into the high schools of their first choice, have made us very proud. Many of our students have been placed in Honors English, Honors Geometry, and Honors Biology at their respective Catholic high schools. We thank the faculty

and staff who have helped them achieve in all areas and to the parents who supported them in their educational development.

We wish our graduates many blessings and ask Our Lord Jesus to help them to be confident that He will be with them on their future journey as He has been in the past. God has many new gifts in store for them! May they trust in God with all their hearts. Congratulations, Class of 2007!

Barbara Danowitz

A Summer Prayer

*May our loving God watch over you
and keep alive in your heart during
these summer months. Keep your mind
on God. Remember to pray often and
to celebrate your faith, at home with
your family and at Mass with your
family. Keep your faith in God. Let
all the joys of a summer remind you of
God's goodness. Never forget that God
is always with you, no matter what.
May the God of creation, who comes to
us in Jesus, and lives among us in the
Holy Spirit, keep you safe, happy, and
holy this summer and always. Amen.*

SJE School will begin offering an after school enrichment band class for Grades 3-8.



Music and fine art have been an important part of the SJE

School curriculum with students receiving enrichment in art classes and the choir program. Now, beginning in the fall, students will be taught how to play the flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, alto saxophone, and drums.

Sr. Georgina

(Continued from page 3)

that." For many years, the Lettergirls and Lettermen took the parishioners' donations of Christmas gifts to a school in Tijuana, Mexico, founded by the Pious School Sisters.

Sr. Georgina has followed the path of her leader, St. Paula Montal, plain and simply, and she intends to continue on – when she retires (within the next five years) her plan is to keep busy by "just" teaching catechism.

40th Anniversary Class

(Continued from page 1)

We are very proud of the Class of 2007 and thank all the teachers, especially their junior high teachers, who prepared them so excellently. May they live the spirit of St. Paula Montal as they teach by example the love of Christ. May they serve with a tender and humble heart. May they soar on wings like true *SJE Eagles* and remember that ". . . they can do all things through Jesus Christ who gives them strength." (*Philippians 4:13*)