



The HeartBeat

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

Get Ready for the SJE Summer Carnival and the \$10,000 Grand Prize Drawing!

Come Ride the Rides! Father's Day Weekend - June 13, 14, 15

With summer coming just around the corner, it's time to start making your plans to celebrate at the



St. John Eudes Summer Carnival!

The carnival will be held on Father's Day Weekend on the school field and on the parish north parking lot next to Grill Hall.

There will be something for everyone at the carnival! There'll be **fun carnival rides** for thrill-seeking kids and adults alike, food booths with **fine international fare** for the gourmet, **a beer garden** for adult refreshment, **games of skill** to challenge the skilled, **an amazing silent auction** for the bargain seeker, and a tented stage with **continuous entertainment** for everyone.

Plus **the Grand Prize Drawing** that will feature a **1st Prize of \$10,000 Cash**, a **2nd Prize of a Trip to Maui for 2**, and a **Dell Laptop Computer for the 3rd Prize**. This carnival is guaranteed to be the best in Chatsworth ever!

The carnival is being held in place of the Annual Parish Picnic, which has in the past been sponsored by the SJE Men's Council. But this year, the Men's Council is teaming up with other parish ministries and the school in a joint effort to create a "super-event" that will help raise funds for parish ministries and school educational programs. It is also being held to grow the parish's sense of community. "We see this as a great way to raise funds and at the same time build the spirit of the parish," says pastor Msgr. Nugent. "It'll be a fun way to help meet a number of our goals."

Alumni and friends are invited to join in the fun and are even encouraged to par-

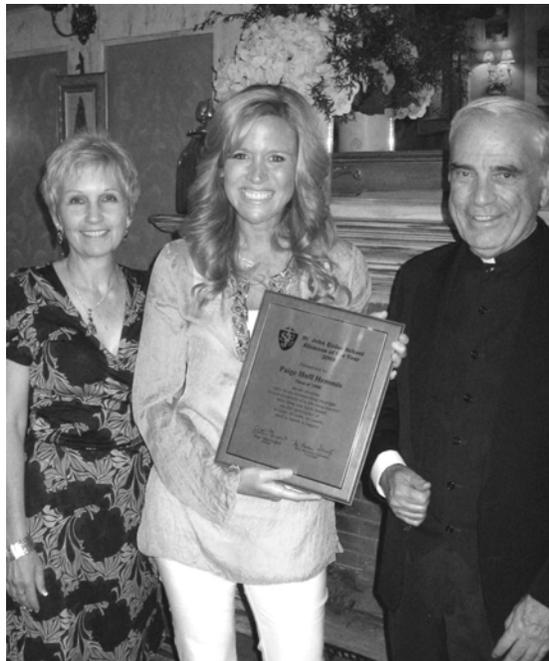
ticipate as volunteers. What better way to get to be part of this special parish event!

Go to www.sjecarnival.org to get more information about the carnival, how you can volunteer, and how you can get in on the Grand Prize Drawing. Don't miss the fun and excitement! Make sure to mark your calendar now!

"Alumnus of the Year" Honored at Endowment Trustee's Dinner

Paige Huff Hemmis '86 was recognized as the SJE School 2008 *Alumnus of the Year* earlier this month at the Annual St. John Eudes School Endowment Trustee's Dinner. Paige's selection was based on nominations received from SJE friends and alumni for an alumnus who has best applied the principles of "to Live, to Love, to Learn, and to Leave a

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Mrs. Danowitz and Msgr. Nugent recognize Paige Huff Hemmis '86 as the SJE School "Alumnus of the Year" for 2008. Paige was recognized for her tireless spirit working with those in need.

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Highlights:

- ♦ **Parish & School to Sponsor Carnival; \$10,000 Cash Grand Prize and Trip to Hawaii Featured in Carnival Drawing**
- ♦ **2008 Alumnus of the Year Expresses Faith Through Work; Honored at Endowment Trustee's Dinner**
- ♦ **Swim Team Helps Fund New Trophy Case; Display Featured in Grill Hall Lobby**
- ♦ **Teacher Inspires Students to Discover God Through Art**
- ♦ **PTSO Dumps Snow on Field to Raise Funds; Kids Enjoy Storm & Have Fun Too**
- ♦ **Parish, School Say Farewell to Founding Parents**
- ♦ **SJE Student Plays Major Role in Japan; Helps Bring the Wild West to the Far East**
- ♦ **Students Enjoy Early Easter; Celebrate True Meaning of Holiday**
- ♦ **Catholic Schools Week Donations Help Fund Endowment**

New Display Case for SJE Sports Trophies

Most alumni can remember the trophy case that used to be in the school office that proudly displayed the parish and school sports teams trophies. But with the remodeling of the school office to improve functionality, it was necessary to remove that case. So, for the last several years, our trophies from swim meets, the Knights of Columbus track meet, and other sporting events have been looking for a place to be displayed, and they finally found one in Grill Hall.

With the help of swim team funding, a new trophy case was built by Dan Wheeler (who has two kids on the swim team and is the son-in-law of Frank Phalen, former PTSO president). The case was officially installed and dedicated last January in the lobby of Grill Hall.

Our trophies now have a wonderful new place to be displayed, and all alumni and friends are invited to come by and view these mementos of our latest sports victories!



Admirers review the display of SJE sports team trophies that have now found their new home in the lobby of Grill Hall.

Focus on the Faculty: Ms. Stula - Dedicated to Discovery Helping Students Discover God Through Art

Just walking past her classroom, you can feel the *aloha* spirit. There is a clear sense of joy, peace, and pride when Catherine Stula is working with her students.

Decorating her classroom are glimpses of her own inspirations in life: her faith, her family, the Prayer of St. Francis, photos of the beach, and the artwork of Creation. For two full decades she has mentored, inspired, and encouraged the students of

nized at the *5th Annual Interfaith Symposium of Theology, Art & Music*, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, The Jewish Music Commission of Los Angeles, and the Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church. From a pool of nearly 500 entrants citywide, six of Ms. Stula's middle school art students received awards for their work. Joe Prospero (7th Grade) won first prize, while Caitlin Hawthorne (8th

and Emily Vitar (8th) shared second prize, with Brittney Martinez (6th) finishing third. Honorable mention was also awarded to Michael Pollock (7th) and Anthony Perez (6th). Reflecting a theme of "Angels in Art," Ms. Stula guided her students in celebrating diversity among religious, cultural, and ethnic perspectives through various

forms of creative expression. Clearly the lesson was a great success.

In the course of her twenty years of service to the St. John Eudes School community, Ms. Stula's efforts have certainly resulted in great achievements. As both teacher and parent of Kimberly Martin '91, Christopher Martin '95, and Trevor Martin '98, Ms. Stula has shared her expertise in formulating many of the policies and procedures upon which the school has been built.

Ms. Stula was instrumental in the forma-

tion of the PTSO and served as the faculty representative for six years. She worked with a team to create the Disaster Preparedness Manual for the school and parish and has been the faculty representative since 1994. Previously, she developed both the Family Life and Fine Arts curricula. She participated on the faculty team for identifying Student Learning Expectations. Ms. Stula also served as Student Council moderator for over fifteen years, establishing such community outreach programs as *Character Counts*, *Red Ribbon Week*, and *Jump Rope for Heart*. She is currently a member of the Technology Team and coordinator of graduation, in addition to teaching eight different subjects.

In the midst of so many responsibilities, Ms. Stula keeps her focus on her students, and describes her vocation as a "joy and privilege". She exemplifies the importance of global awareness and the role of each individual as a citizen of the world. She is proud to work with the Sisters of the Pious Schools in carrying out the mission of St. Paula Montal: "Saving families by teaching children the love of God."

When she is not in the classroom, she enjoys reading, gardening, snorkeling, and communing with nature. When asked how her life can best be scripted, Ms. Stula shares two ideas. The first was her mother's motto: "Celebrate!" The second is her favorite Scripture verse: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Motivated by such themes, it is no wonder that Ms. Stula discovers the artist in each of her students while inspiring them to do the same. The St. John Eudes family is certainly grateful for her dedication and commitment to discovery.



Ms. Stula (holding booklet) poses proudly with Mrs. Danowitz and art contestants. Among 500 city-wide entrants, SJE students swept all places in the middle school category in the recent Interfaith Symposium "Angels in Art" contest.

St. John Eudes School to discover their individual strengths and utilize their unique gifts. She is an experienced instructor of Religion, Family Life, Fine Arts, Social Studies, English and Literature, creatively blending these disciplines to provide an optimal learning environment for her students. Integral to her philosophy of education is the belief that "... there is an artist in every person, and that's how we discover God."

Such discovery was most recently recog-



The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

Lorraine Walinski (Farris) '72 attended Chatsworth High School and after high school she joined the Navy. While in the Navy she was stationed in Italy and Germany. She also attended the University of Maryland and received a bachelor's degree. She was married in 1985 to David Farris and has two girls, Mary (20) and Jennifer (22). Lorraine is now living in Thousand Oaks and working at Amgen. She is active in her church and sings in the choir.

Martin Gabaya '90 graduated from Alemany High School in 1994 where he was actively involved in basketball, track, football, tennis, and golf. He then attended UCLA where he continued his athletic involvement in basketball, golf, and tennis. He received his degree from UCLA in Mechanical Engineering in 1999. He then attended Pepperdine University and received an MBA in Entrepreneurship and Marketing in 2005. In 2004 he was married to Christina Garcia, and they moved to Tampa, Florida, early last year to continue his career with Verizon.

Theresa Abbenne '96 attended Louisville High School in Woodland Hills. While at Louisville she was extensively involved in student leadership and was president of the Sophomore Class and president of the Louisville chapter of the National Honor Society. She also participated in the California State Federation Mock Trial program during her Junior year, was active in volleyball for most of

her high school period, and participated in the Advance Drama program where she won 1st Place in the Drama Teachers Association of So. California Festival. Prior to her graduation in 2000 she received the LvHS Senior Leadership Award, the Leo Parker Memorial Scholarship (a 4 yr. fully funded scholarship to the University of Portland), the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 728 Leadership Scholarship, and the Foresters National Leadership Scholarship. After high school she attended the University of Portland. While in college she continued her involvement with student government and leadership as a member of the Academic Senate (one of two student members), the student member of the Student Faculty Judicial Court, and President of the Feminism of Philosophy Club. She was also Chairperson of the UP Judicial Committee, Secretary of the UP Associated Students Executive Board, a Senator of the Associated Students, a participant on the Nationals Mock Trial Team, and Chairperson of the "Stop the Violence, Break the Silence Week." She graduated from the University of Portland in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication. After college she served with the United Church of Christ Westmoreland Volunteer Service Corps in Washington, D.C. She is currently teaching Jr. High Language Arts in the Los Angeles Archdiocese through the "PLACE Corps" (*Partners in Los Angeles Catholic Education*),

which places young men and women, through a program offered by Loyola Marymount University, as teachers in Catholic schools in the Archdiocese while they earn a teaching credential and a Master's Degree in either Education or Childhood and Adolescent Literacy. She expects to receive her advanced degree this year and is currently living in Los Angeles.

Tyler Ruebensaal '98 attended Cate School in Carpinteria for two years and trans-

In Memoriam

Parishioners, family, and friends filled St. John Eudes Church to celebrate the life of **Mary Vogel**, long time friend of SJE School, and an alumnus family parent, who passed away last February. Mary, along with her husband Dale, was among the founding families of SJE Parish and of the School when it was established in 1966. Mary was born in 1925 and her children attended SJE School. She will be greatly missed by the SJE community. The Vogel family has provided a memorial donation of \$3,000 in the name of Mary Vogel to be shared by the Sisters of the Pious Schools and St. John Eudes School.

Another longtime friend of St. John Eudes School, and an alumnus family parent, **Burt Flower**, passed away at the age of 86 on March 14. Burt, along with his wife, Fran, of 63 years, were also among the founding families of St. John Eudes Church and School. Burt was extensively involved in the parish and the community as a Knight of Columbus, as a charter member of the SJE Men's Council, a lector, RCIA instructor, and in many other capacities. He was a talented creative artist and it is his sketch of the new church and hall that appears on the SJE Parish letterhead. Two years ago he donated his collection of California Mission paintings to the school to help 4th Grade students in their social studies. Burt's life was celebrated during a Burial Mass at St. John Eudes Church, attended by many parishioners, family and friends. The family has established the *Burt Flower Scholarship Fund for St. John Eudes School* (and requests that donations be made to the fund in memory of Burt).

Our condolences to the Vogel and Flower families on the loss of these pioneer parents of St. John Eudes School.

ferred as a Junior to the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts which is located on the campus of California State University, Los Angeles. After high school, Tyler attended Carnegie Mellon University where he majored in music and minored in theater. He graduated in

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SJE students recently enjoyed a "Snow Day" as the PTSO ordered a "storm" of snow to be dropped on the field (even if it was more like spring than winter). This has become a popular fundraiser for SJE students and parents.

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Msgr. Peter Nugent
Pastor

Mrs. Barbara Danowitz
Principal

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



The HeartBeat

A publication of the
St. John Eudes School
Development Office

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The Pulse

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2006 and was the first student in the history of CMU to graduate from both the music and the theater schools. After college he was involved in various theatrical and musical projects in Los Angeles, including performances at the Hollywood Bowl, with the Ricardo Montalban Theater (where he performed with the original cast in a revival of Jesus Christ Superstar with Ted Neeley and Jack Black as King Harold), at the Welk Resort in San Diego where he was in a new production of the Buddy Holly Story, with the Central Coast Repertory Theater in Carmel, in a Broadway Revival in Auckland (New Zealand), all the while supplementing his acting career working as a waiter, a host, and selling Apple Computers (ah, the life of an actor!). This past fall, Tyler was offered a contract with Disney Interna-



SJE students take a minute to count their eggs after the annual Easter egg hunt on the school field. This year students were treated to a particularly early Easter (the next time Easter will be any earlier will be in 227 years!). Parents teamed up with teachers to provide the Easter treat, which included a visit from the Easter Bunny. But more important to the Easter festivities was the children's Easter Mass which focused on the true meaning of the holiday. Students, and other children from the parish, took a special part in that joyful celebration.

Alumnus of the Year

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Legacy" since attending SJE School.

Paige, who holds degrees in both Psychology and Theology from UC Santa Barbara, has received national recognition as member of the design team for ABC's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. She is an outstanding example to our students of an alumnus who has applied the principles learned at SJE in her daily work and through her tireless spirit uses them to help those in need. She has also used these principles to express her faith through educational efforts, direct personal involvement, and by supporting community projects that benefit the poor and homeless.

A special thanks to all those alumni and friends who submitted nominations for the Alumnus of the Year. We are proud of all our nominees and the quality of the nominees is a testament to how our alumni have personally touched the hearts of so many others.

tional to work in Tokyo. He left for Japan in January and will be living and working there through October, 2008. He is performing on stage in the title role of *Diamond Jim* in Disney's "*Pecos Bill Western Review*" in *Westernland* (which we here refer to as *Frontierland*). On the side, he has been learning Japanese, and it is "rumored" that he can now carry on at least a 15 minute conversation in the language. Anyone wishing to write Tyler, can contact him at tylersingr@mac.com. He loves getting e-mail from home!

SJE students go on to do wonderful and exciting things. You're invited to share what you've been doing since graduating from SJE School. You can e-mail us at "theheartbeat@sjealumni.net" or use the on-line form on "The HeartBeat" page of www.sjealumni.net, or drop a note to the School Office "Attn: The HeartBeat".

A special thanks to all those who donated to support the School Endowment during Catholic Schools Week. Over \$1,800 was collected that will be added to the principle of the Endowment Fund.

In a Lighter Vein . . .

From a Mother's Perspective

Mona Lisa's Mother: "After all that money your father and I spent on braces, Mona, that's the biggest smile you could manage?"

Michelangelo's Mother: "Can't you paint on walls like other children? Do you have any idea how hard it is to get that stuff off the ceiling?"

Barney's Mother: "I realize strained plums are your favorite, Barney, but you're starting to look a little purple."

Albert Einstein's Mother: "But, Albert, it's your senior picture. Can't you do something about your hair? Styling gel, mousse, something?"

Students sometimes display talents and traits that not even parents easily recognize as special. At SJE School we strive to develop student talents and recognize each student for their unique gifts. Please help our children realize their full potential by helping us give them the necessary resources to succeed. Donations to St. John Eudes School are tax deductible and help the worthy cause of providing a quality Catholic education to deserving children. Your donation to the Annual Fund, Adopt-A-Student Program, Endowment, or other general or specific gifts is greatly appreciated! Go to www.sjealumni.net for more information on how to donate.