For the first time in Jesuit’s long and illustrious sports history, Blue Jay athletes will have their own exclusive place to practice, an artificial turf field to play their games, a first-class fan-friendly stadium complex only five minutes from Carrollton and Banks that is destined to serve as Jesuit’s HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE.

The Next President of Jesuit High School:
An Interview with Raymond Fitzgerald, S.J. ’76
A Foundation of Preparation

Every year during the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks, I see many recent Jesuit graduates who tell me that in their first semester of college they began to appreciate the foundation that Jesuit gave them.

Writing term papers does not pose an insurmountable challenge. They know how to master large amounts of material. They are grateful to Jesuit for giving them the skills and confidence to be successful in college.

I recognize that much of what Jesuit is able to accomplish comes from the foundation laid by our students’ teachers in their elementary schools. Just as Jesuit prepares its graduates for college, many elementary schools prepare their students for the challenges of the Jesuit curriculum.

Whenever I am asked about the possibility of Jesuit’s starting a middle school, I respond that the overwhelming majority of our students come to us prepared to take the next step. Of course, the demands of Jesuit require our students to make some adjustments, but they come to Carrollton and Banks with a fundamental preparation for success.

Finances, and not educational need, would be the motive if Jesuit were to open a middle school.

Many dedicated elementary school teachers and principals, along with pastors and parents, have worked long and hard to prepare the young people entrusted to them. Hundreds of committed educators have left their mark on Catholic and private education in our area. I am grateful to them for what they have done for their students, their families, and New Orleans. ■

Anthony McGinn, S.J. ’66

Dear Jaynotes Reader:

This issue of Jaynotes has been a long time in the making, sort of like waiting and waiting and waiting for James Cameron to complete Avatar. Hopefully after reading this issue of Jaynotes, you will agree that it was worth the extra wait. Perhaps reading an article prompted readers to visit Jesuit’s web site (www.jesuitnola.org) to discover a photo gallery, or read the entire article, or to sign-up online for an event.

We continue to grapple, along with the majority of editors of weekly and monthly magazines all over the country, with how best to offer our readers (the Blue Jay community) relevant, fresh, timely, and interesting content. This issue of Jaynotes covers all varsity sports in the 2009-10 school year and the cover story about Home Field Advantage is timely and relevant (page 22).

Mat Grau ’68 has capably served as alumni director for eight years and as Jaynotes editor since my arrival at Jesuit in August 2004. I sincerely thank Mat for his dedication, his enthusiasm, his ideas, and his accomplishments while serving as editor.

The hiring of Tom Bagwill as director of institutional advancement and a subsequent restructuring of the development and alumni office (read the article on the opposite page) has provided fresh opportunities and new adventures. One of Mat’s new assignments involved recruiting young alumni to serve in leadership roles for their respective classes. The results of his efforts are detailed in the articles on pages 12-13.

This restructuring has provided me with the opportunity to immerse myself in a smorgasbord of communications activities, which includes serving as the next editor of Jaynotes.

I sincerely apologize for the tardiness of this issue. I discovered that piloting Jaynotes solo can be back-breaking. Therefore, I humbly ask readers, just this one time, for a pass. Thanks, it’s getting better all the time.

Yours truly,

Pierre DeGruy ’69
Director of Communications/ Jaynotes Editor

Jaynotes, the magazine for and about alumni, parents, and students of Jesuit High School of New Orleans, is published three times annually by the Office of Institutional Advancement, including a special graduation issue in the summer. Opinions expressed in Jaynotes are those of the individual authors.

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Parents: If you are receiving your son’s copy of Jaynotes and he no longer lives with you, please let us know so we can update our database and send the magazine directly to him. Let us know if you enjoy reading your son’s copy of Jaynotes. We will be glad to send a copy to his new address and a copy to you. Email changes to: alumni@jesuitnola.org.

Donate and sign-up for events online on Jesuit’s web site! It is easy to contribute online to the LEF, PAG, and various scholarship funds by going to Jesuit’s web site: www.jesuitnola.org. Click Jayson in the upper left corner to go to Jesuit’s secure online donations page. Sign up for various activities by going to Jesuit’s events registration page: www.jesuitnola.org/cgi-bin/events.cgi.

On the Cover:
Jesuit’s 2010 baseball team lines up for opening ceremonies at the regional state playoff against Catholic High in Baton Rouge in what would turn out to be these Blue Jays’ last game of the season. The bright spot is that the baseball team next year, along with other Blue Jay athletes, will be playing on a “home” field located only five minutes from Jesuit.
An Emmy award-winning story teller is helping to write the next chapter of advancement at Jesuit High School. Development consultant and journalist Thomas V. Bagwill II has been named director of institutional advancement, a new position in which he is responsible for all aspects of Jesuit’s alumni and development operations, according to Fr. Anthony McGinn, S.J., president of Jesuit High School. In conjunction with Bagwill’s appointment, which was effective January 20, the development and alumni office has been reorganized and sports a new moniker — office of institutional advancement (OIA).

“Tom is uniquely qualified to lead the reorganization of development and alumni affairs into a stronger, more cohesive office of institutional advancement,” says McGinn. “I admired and appreciated his leadership skills when he served as chairman of the 2008 Parents’ Annual Giving drive. Along with his broadcast journalism background and his development consulting experience, Tom brings unparalleled enthusiasm and creativity to Jesuit.”

“Jesuit is such a special place,” says Bagwill, “and I consider it an honor to be given the opportunity to build upon its rich tradition of excellence.”

Under the new structure, Pierre DeGruy ’69, formerly director of development and public relations, is director of communications, a new position in which he continues to oversee the details of Jesuit’s burgeoning web site, including coordinating content, event coverage, and photography with English teacher and web master, Jack Cullicchia ’83. Additionally, DeGruy continues to be responsible for the publication of Jaynotes, which remains an important communications tool for all Blue Jays, from Gen X and Y grads to baby boomer Jays, and especially for Jesuit’s elder alumni, many of whom have aged just fine sans computers, cell phones, or anything digital.

Matias “Mat” Grau ’68 continues in his role as director of alumni, a position he has held since 2002. Bagwill and Grau are working together to strengthen alumni activities already in place, and create new opportunities for Blue Jay grads to become more meaningfully involved with their alma mater.

Bro. William J. “Billy” Dardis, S.J. ’58 remains in the vital role of director of special projects, assisting with a myriad of events, including Celebration, the Blue Jay Bazaar, Back to Banks and Homecoming, the Blue Jay Alumni Golf Classic (June 11), and the annual Jesuit Fishing Rodeo, which was scheduled June 26 but was cancelled because of the oil spill in the Gulf.

Ms. Michelle M. Tanner, who is Jesuit’s coordinator for institutional advancement, organizes the PAG, the Living Endowment Fund (LEF), and the Parents of Alumni drives. In addition to planning an assortment of alumni activities throughout the year, Ms. Tanner manages grants and assists with processing online donations and alumni data.

Mrs. R. Logan Diano continues as administrative assistant, coordinating invitations and logistics for the annual Blue Jay alumni class reunions. She also processes scholarship and matching gift donations, and updates alumni contact information in Jesuit’s database.

On a recent gusty afternoon, the staff of Jesuit’s office of institutional advancement (OIA) gathers outside the main entrance on Banks Street. Clockwise, starting from bottom left, are: Michelle Tanner (coordinator of the OIA); Krista Roeling (executive assistant to Fr. McGinn); Marilyn Beauford (volunteer coordinator); Mat Grau (alumni director); Tom Bagwill (director of the OIA); Fr. Anthony McGinn, S.J. (president of Jesuit High School); Pierre DeGruy (director of communications); Bro. Billy Dardis, S.J. (director of special projects); Liz Mitchell (receptionist); and, Logan Diano (office assistant).

Ms. Krista Roeling remains executive assistant to Fr. McGinn while also assisting with inputting donations and contact information into the database. Other members of the OIA team include volunteer coordinator Marilyn Beauford and switchboard receptionist Elisabeth Mitchell.

To complement Jesuit’s mission statement, the OIA staff recently crafted a mission statement: The Office of Institutional Advancement fosters understanding, meaningful involvement, lasting connections, and support among its constituencies to secure the resources necessary to fulfill the mission of Jesuit High School.

The OIA mission statement recently was put into action. With Fr. McGinn’s encouragement, Grau began an intensive effort last year to recruit more than 120 young alumni (graduates between 1995 and 2005) to assume leadership positions and to become more actively involved at their alma mater. Bagwill assisted Grau in the young alumni leadership campaign, and together, their efforts netted 75 Blue Jays who volunteered in March for the three-night LEF spring phone and email drive. (Read the article about the Young Alumni Leadership Council on page 12.)

The young Jays joined approximately 100 more experienced alumni (graduates between 1940 and 1994) to produce a record-setting LEF spring drive in which volunteers were asked to focus on “connecting with their classmates” and not entirely on “dialing for dollars,” according to Bagwill. With volunteers fully embracing the difference in dynamics, the bottom line generated several hundred first-time donors.

“True development isn’t about money, it is about building relationships with our alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff, and those who aren’t connected, but may choose to be if personally invited,” says Bagwill, who has served on the school’s President’s Advisory Council for the past two years. “It’s about moving from paper to people—challenging in today’s email world. And ultimately, it is about creating meaningful involvement for those stakeholders in our mission and vision for the future.”

Prior to accepting his new position at Jesuit, Bagwill was director of development for the Christian Brothers Foundation in City Park, and a development consultant with the Institute of School and Parish Development, a Metairie-based company which works with Catholic schools and churches across the nation.

He has also worked as a television news director, anchor, reporter, and press secretary on Capitol Hill. During his two-decade career as a journalist, he won two regional Emmy awards, a regional Edward R. Murrow award, the Jim Metcalf Memorial award, and numerous first place awards from the New Orleans Press Club and the Louisiana Associated Press.

In addition to his duties at Jesuit, Bagwill serves as the host of Greater New Orleans on WLAE-TV.

Bagwill and his wife, Dana, are the parents of two Blue Jays—Chase Bagwill ’08 and Ben Bagwill, a member of the Class of 2012.
Fr. Fitzgerald’s appointment will become effective at the end of the 2010–11 school year, which allows sufficient time for him to complete his current assignment with the Jesuits’ New Orleans Province.

Fr. Anthony McGinn, S.J. will continue to serve as president of Jesuit High School through the 2010–11 school year. This will help to ensure a seamless transition to Fr. Fitzgerald’s administration, while giving Fr. McGinn additional time to focus on completing several projects that are currently underway.

The tandem announcement of Fr. Fitzgerald’s selection as the school’s next president and Fr. McGinn’s remaining on the job for an extra year, was made jointly in January by the board of directors of Jesuit High School and the New Orleans Province of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits).

The announcement concluded a search process that started last summer, soon after it had been made known that Fr. McGinn would be stepping down from the post he has held since the 1992–93 school year. The search attracted widespread interest among the Jesuits, but in the end, it was a local candidate who was unanimously chosen to take over the school’s top job—a native New Orleanian and a Blue Jay alumnus who entered the Society of Jesus in 1980 and was ordained a priest in 1991.

“Fr. Fitzgerald’s impeccable credentials, his keen intellect and analytical abilities, his reverence and devout spirituality, his intimate knowledge of Jesuit as an alumnus, teacher, and administrator, and his allegiance to Jesuit’s excellent academic and athletic traditions were critical factors which made him the search committee’s preeminent choice to succeed Fr. McGinn,” said Arthur S. Mann III ’64, who served as chairman of the search committee.

After selecting Fr. Fitzgerald, Jesuit’s board of directors requested that Fr. Mark A. Lewis, S.J., who serves as the provincial of the New Orleans Province, approve its choice.

“I am happy to approve Fr. Fitzgerald as the next president of Jesuit High School,” said Fr. Lewis. “Having worked closely with Fr. Fitzgerald for these past years, I know that he will bring the same diligence and hard work to this position that he has shown as a member of the Province staff. Given his long experience and great love for Jesuit secondary education, I know he will be an excellent leader for the Jesuit High School community.

“I am grateful to Fr. McGinn for his flexibility and openness to remain in his post for an additional year,” he added. “Fr. Fitzgerald has been a key member of my staff and while I willingly make him available for this mission to Jesuit High School.”
School, I appreciate the additional time that this will provide to allow a smooth transition.”

Fr. Fitzgerald will become only the 15th president since 1919, when the school was located downtown on the corner of Baronne and Common Streets and adjacent to the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Jesuit moved to its present Mid-City location of Carrollton and Banks in 1926. He will be the fifth consecutive alumnus to occupy the president’s office.

Fr. Fitzgerald said he is “honored and humbled” by his appointment. “I approach this office with a deep sense of gratitude and respect for all the administrators, teachers, benefactors, and alumni whose dedication and sacrifice for 163 years have made Jesuit the fine school that it is,” said Fr. Fitzgerald.

“I wish to acknowledge particularly the great work of Fr. McGinn, whose wise and principled guidance continues to serve Jesuit and its families well,” he added. “I find great encouragement in knowing the Jesuits, faculty, and students now at Carrollton and Banks. Their example and spirit give me great hope for the future. Jesuit’s mission statement calls upon all in the school to foster ‘men of faith and men for others.’ I look forward to working with all those connected to Jesuit to strive for this goal.”

Until the appointed time arrives for Fr. Fitzgerald to assume his new role, Fr. McGinn remains Jesuit’s president. Although his next assignment has not been determined, Fr. McGinn is using his extra year in office to oversee all facets of the Home Field Advantage campaign and the development of a new sports complex and field for Jesuit athletes. He has been busy raising the $5 million needed to build the facility. (Read the article about the HFA campaign beginning on page 22.)

“I am looking forward to the challenges of bringing this project to completion in spring 2010 as it will be the first home field for many Jesuit athletic teams,” said Fr. McGinn.

Fr. McGinn is credited with leading the extraordinary efforts to quickly repair significant water damage to Jesuit in the aftermath of Katrina. His commitment to Blue Jays and their parents, along with his dogged perseverance, enabled Jesuit to reopen its campus only 90 days after the storm. During this time, he orchestrated the openings of two satellite schools so that displaced Blue Jays were able to continue their Jesuit education uninterrupted.

Fr. Fitzgerald’s curriculum vitae is posted on Jesuit’s web site: http://www.jesuitnola.org/about/Raymond_Fitzgerald_CV_011910.htm. ■

On January 19, 2010, it was officially announced that Fr. Raymond Fitzgerald, S.J. of the Class of 1976 would become the next president of Jesuit High School. He will be the 15th president of the school since 1919, succeeding Fr. Anthony McGinn, S.J. ’66, who will stay at his post through the 2010–11 school year. Jaynotes recently interviewed Fr. Fitzgerald about a number of topics, including his impending new position, his current job at the Jesuits’ Southern Province, and his thoughts about parents who remain strangely silent when it is time for their son to choose a high school.

**Jaynotes:** Let’s start with your reaction when the search committee offered you the job as Jesuit’s next president.

**Fr. Fitzgerald:** It was a Saturday morning and I was in my room on the fifth floor when I got the call. I think the big reaction was a mental shift of gears where it goes from “what would happen if this might be the case” to “what’s going to happen now that this will be the case?” We have to look at a number of decisions and start the timeline for transition. What are the things that I need to learn and in what order? Look at the school’s calendar, my calendar, Fr. McGinn’s calendar, and where do we start trying to make these things mesh a little more closely over the next few months? What and how can I be of help to the school? There was a sense of taking a deep breath, counting to three a couple of times, and saying, “All right, let’s go ahead and do this.” There was a real sense of both humbleness and honor that I was offered the job. I presumed the search committee looked at a number of candidates. It was, of course, very helpful to know that Fr. McGinn was willing to stay on for the duration.

**Jaynotes:** Originally, a new president was to be in place at the end of the 2009–10 school year. But as the search committee focused on you as its prime candidate, that time frame changed. What happened?

**Fr. Fitzgerald:** From the beginning of the search, one of the issues was my availability. When the search firm approached me to ask if I was willing to be considered, I first went and talked to the provincial superior (Fr. Mark Lewis, S.J.), who has the assigning authority for me. It seemed pretty clear that the provincial and I didn’t start 2009 with the idea that I’d be replaced by the end of it, or by June 2010. I convinced him that my becoming a candidate hopefully would make it a better search. I wasn’t saying that I would be picked or not, but the more candidates the committee looked at, the bigger a pool it could judge from. As I was working on the search, the original idea that I would be in this job for several years beyond June 2010, and knowing the provincial would have to begin
the process of finding my replacement, which involves approval by Rome, becoming president at the end of the 2009–10 school year was not feasible. There would have to be some kind of longer transition. At that point, Fr. McGinn came to the rescue. He said he would be willing to stay on. It was a pretty fast decision. Rather than try to do something in the middle of the year, the transition would be at the beginning of a whole academic year. Fr. McGinn and I will have the time that is necessary to do this well. I am working with him and a lot of folks for an entire year.

Jaynotes: What exactly is your job with the Southern Province?
Fr. Fitzgerald: I am what is called the socius, which means companion in Latin, or assistant provincial. There are a couple of things that the socius has to do by statute in society law. Keep the official records. Right now there are 211 Jesuits in the southern province and it’s my job to know who they are and where they are, how many priests, how many scholastics, how many brothers. It’s my job to submit a couple of annual reports to the general office in Rome, mostly numbers but also some background information, such as when men enter the society, when they take final vows, and when they die. The socius handles the details of the burial arrangements when a Jesuit dies. I am responsible for a lot of communications, including email blasts to the Jesuits in the province informing them that someone’s mother has just gone into the hospital, or someone is scheduled for surgery in the morning, and please pray for them. Some official recordkeeping work is a big chunk of the job. The rest of it falls into a pretty amorphous category of chief of staff or, if you were using a military model, executive officer. At that point, the job description is whatever the commanding officer wants you to do. Once I get past submitting reports by certain deadlines, the main job of the socius is to be of as much help to the provincial as possible.

Jaynotes: What is usually the reaction of people when you tell them you are the socius for the province?
Fr. Fitzgerald: Mostly, they don’t know that this is part of the work a Jesuit does. And that is a good thing. At the province office, if we do our job right, most people shouldn’t know we’re doing it. It’s all behind the scenes work by and large.

Jaynotes: Sounds like you’re going from something that’s bureaucratic to something, well, more exciting.
Fr. Fitzgerald: Well, it will be a different pace. As any bureaucrat will tell you, moments of excitement are usually not good.

Jaynotes: Now that you have had some time to reflect on your impending new job, have you come to terms with anything in particular?
Fr. Fitzgerald: Yes, the more I think about it and pray over it, and meet and re-meet all the people who are connected with Jesuit—the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and parents—I am happy that I was offered the job. I have become more and more excited about what is a terrific opportunity to serve a wonderful school and to work with some great people.

Jaynotes: Part of your new job will require you to attend a lot of funerals and wakes.
Fr. Fitzgerald: That to me is part of the service we’re called to do as priests. You’ve just described my last three years. Already, I’ve gotten to know all the folks pretty well at the funeral homes.

Jaynotes: Can you describe your working style?
Fr. Fitzgerald: Proper planning prevents poor performance would sum it up. However, on the presumption that some Jesuits believe the socius does not work at all, I would say it is a style where I try to plan as much as
possible ahead of time on the theory that something will always happen at the last minute which requires my spare time and energy to resolve. I find it helpful that as I look toward an event or a task, I try to get a sense of who’s supposed to do what, or if I am supposed to be someplace, where and when?

Jaynotes: You were at the Blue Jay Bazaar on March 28. Whom did you run into?
Fr. Fitzgerald: A number of former students who are now starting their families. It was really neat to see guys I taught, or knew while I was chaplain, with their wives and a couple of kids. It is very heartening to see someone you remember as being a great young man when he was at Jesuit, who is now a really fine husband and father. Fortunately, since living in New Orleans for the past three years, I have been able to meet a few students going from one event to the next.

Jaynotes: Who are your friends from the Class of ’76?
Fr. Fitzgerald: I can rattle off a few in my class. Cliff Larson is currently working and teaching law in Germany. Andy Boulet and Eddie LaCour are both doctors, one in Washington State, the other in Alabama. Locally, Arthur Dupre has two sons who are current students. Bob Angelico practices law here in town. I taught Bob’s oldest son, and his twins are current seniors.

Jaynotes: Are there some things that you especially look forward to when your new job as president officially begins?
Fr. Fitzgerald: Yes, being with the students. And events such as the Blue Jay Bazaar and Celebration.

Jaynotes: Where do you see Jesuit today as a Catholic high school?
Fr. Fitzgerald: It is a very fine school. Jesuit has a strong intellectual and academic theology program, but also there is a very vibrant Catholic culture where daily Mass, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and devotions like the rosary are part of the fabric of the school. To me, that is what it should be — this is the air we breathe. One of the other key features of our Catholic identity is Jesuit’s service program which has expanded marvelously over the past 30 years to include projects in Latin America. One of the great days of the year, and something we don’t think twice about doing, is the Thanksgiving drive. It involves the whole school community — parents, students, faculty, and alums, especially the great Class of ’83. Robért Fresh Market has been great opening its store early for the students to buy provisions. In the chapel, everyone is reminded we do this every Thanksgiving because Jesus said, “What you do to the least of my brothers, you do to me.” It is a way of tying together prayer, community, and service, which spells out our Catholic culture.

Jaynotes: Have you thought about what it will be like to succeed Fr. McGinn?
Fr. Fitzgerald: Personally, it will be a great privilege. When I was a student here, he was a Jesuit scholastic known as Mr. McGinn. I had him for American history as a sophomore and as a senior, economics and advanced U.S. history. He was one of my best teachers and I’ve had some great teachers. As a student, I learned from the best, and in preparing to be president, I will have the chance to learn from the best. Fr. McGinn has been president for a generation — the seniors of the Class of 2010 were born when he became president of the school. So, yes, I am following a legend. But if you take a look at the portraits of Jesuit’s presidents on the wall outside St. Ignatius Hall, we’ve had quite a few legends. That is one of the strengths of a school with a history as deep as Jesuit’s. Jesuit is bigger than any one man, which is true of anything. But you can also look and say that Fr. McGinn had a distinct personality, a distinct style, and he brought distinct gifts to the job. So did other Jesuit presidents like Frs. Paul Schott, Harry Tompson, Larry O’Neill, and Phil Postell. You would never mistake any of the two of them. It will be an opportunity and a call for me to bring what I can to the table, to learn a lot, and to develop new talents. I also think that everybody is changed by the job of president, and ideally, changed for the better. My hope would be to follow in Fr. McGinn’s footsteps and honor the legacy he’s leaving. If I can do that, I will be very happy.

Jaynotes: You are currently on the boards of directors of the three high schools in the Southern Province — Jesuit New Orleans, Jesuit Tampa, and Jesuit Dallas. What are some of the similarities between Jesuit New Orleans and the other two Jesuit schools?
Fr. Fitzgerald: Each school reflects its native city. Then again, one never mistakes Dallas and New Orleans. And one would never mistake the schools. Each of the three schools has the policy that no young man who has been accepted to the school will be turned away because of finances. And each school very much lives up to that commitment, which is a great thing to see. Tuition just can’t keep shooting up forever and it is important to have a sense of community, of folks saying we want an economically diverse background in the student body. All three schools have the same basic educational philosophy. Jesuit Prep in Dallas does a very fine job of providing a Jesuit education for boys in the city of Dallas. I thoroughly enjoyed my years there. I’ve made some wonderful friends there, some great people. Its class size has increased in recent years as the Catholic population of Dallas has grown enormously. Dallas does not have an 8th grade. Each graduating class is now a little more than 250 seniors, roughly equivalent to Jesuit New Orleans. Its...
Messages from a Jesuit Presidential Trio

With Fr. Raymond Fitzgerald, S.J. ’76 poised to become the next president of Jesuit High School at the end of the 2010–11 school year, Annus Mirabilis seemed to be an appropriate venue to showcase the writings of a trio of Jesuit’s past presidents. Their “messages” were published in Jaynotes after each had assumed the school’s highest office. Fr. Paul Schott, S.J. ’40 and Fr. Harry Tompson, S.J. ’54 each penned a “Message from the President” in Jaynotes. Fr. Philip Postell, S.J. ’56 apparently did not write similar messages, but soon after he became president in 1987, a lengthy article about him appeared in Jaynotes, complete with detailed quotes.

Fr. Harry Tompson, who was president of Jesuit High School from 1979–1987 (and served as principal from 1974–1979), wrote one of his first “messages” for the fall 1979 issue of Jaynotes.

While a young man is at Jesuit, we hope that every possible avenue in helping him is explored both by teachers and administrators. I know it was the experience of many of you that, while you were here, the Jesuits and the lay faculty and administrators took care of you and watched and worried about every aspect of your life. Perhaps some of us feel they even watched and tried to help us too closely.

Then came graduation; we became alumni of Jesuit High. We heard a little from Jesuit; they heard a little from us, but I think essentially the Jesuits felt that the job was done on their part. They had helped mold a young man, and a graduation sent him out to face both college and the world; they felt that what they had given him was enough for the challenges of both.

In our day, of course, through the science of psychology as well as our own experience, we realize that a person is always growing, that he really is never finished growing until the day his Creator calls him. Jesuit High School is part of that growing process very intimately for four of five years.

However, at the end of that four or five years, even though there is not such intimate contact as there was in high school, it is the wish of our Father General in Rome and certainly all of the Jesuit administrators, Jesuit faculty, and lay faculty and administrators that we still keep up some connection between us so that we can be of further assistance to you as you continue to grow in the many challenges of college, professional school, and life in general. Even though we are not as intimately connected as we were during the high school times, we still want to be a part of your life; and we want you to be a part of ours.

We here at Jesuit High School, especially those of us involved in administration, can help you and are willing to help you, and feel privileged to help you in any way that you need us at any time. Whether it be a small conversation on the phone, a note in the mail, an informal or formal meeting, presence in a sick room, presence at a birth or a birthday party, or even a casual hello and good-bye, we are very willing to be of service to you whenever we can.

It is my hope that the Alumni Association will find ways to have greater contact with the alumni than we have had in the past, and I know Phil Schoen and Fritz Veters appreciate hearing your thoughts on these subjects.

Although the Alumni Association can help, the best way we have of knowing about you or your friends is through you and your friends. Jesuit High is eager to continue being of help in your growing challenges of everyday.

Fr. Paul Schott was president of Jesuit from 1974–1977. He wrote this “message” for the 1976 spring issue of Jaynotes.

My Dear Friends:

Recently I was talking to an alumnus of some years ago who admitted that he hadn’t been around Jesuit in some years. In the course of our conversation he observed: “Jesuit isn’t like it used to be in the old days.” Taken aback, my first response was, “How do you know?” He admitted readily that he based his judgment on a few superficial remarks “others” had made, and a few casual observations when he had seen Jesuit boys with longer hair than he had worn when he was their age, and their shirt tails out of their pants on their way home from school.
My immediate response, “Mirabile auditi!” If you remember your Latin—“incredible to hear!” Surely it proves one thing. This young man hasn’t been around Jesuit in a long, long time.

There is no question that the Jesuit High School of 1976 is far superior to what it was in 1926 or 1936 or 1946 or 1956 or 1966. And every one of us who graduated at sometime during these previous fifty years shouldn’t feel anything but pride and happiness about that.

As the oldest boys’ high school in the city of New Orleans, Jesuit is still a truly Catholic school. This is affirmed again and again by our whole religious program, well planned theological curriculum, frequent community liturgical celebrations, retreats for all seniors, days of recollections for all of our underclassmen. In a word, Jesuit makes it patently clear to anyone and everyone who has eyes to see and ears to hear that this is a Catholic school, training young people to take their places in the world of ‘“eyes to see and ears to hear” that this is a Catholic school, training young people to take their places in the world of

The species rapidly deteriorates inbreeding occurs rampantly. Jesuit is a community which reflects the real world in which we must live, work, and love. There are rich boys here, poor boys here, a vast number of comfortable middle class boys here. There are white boys here, black boys here, and boys whose skins are brown and olive and whose origins are in Mexico, Central, South America, and the Orient. The faculty also reflects this diversity.

Besides this beautiful cross section of people here, we have the most generous and involved parents that Jesuit’s history has ever seen. They are involved in the Parents Club, the Annual Giving Drive, the Bazaar; they are here frequently for student-faculty-parent Masses, meetings, activities; many of them are key members of the President’s Advisory Council.

In a word, our parents are sharing in an integral part of the Jesuit Community.

And, by the way, one-third of our students, 360 of them, are sons of alumni. These dads have come back and found that Jesuit is indeed an even greater school than they remember. So you see what makes Jesuit great really has nothing to do with hair and shirt tails!

Fr. Postell served as president from 1987–1992. The following direct quotes were included in a summer 1988 Jaynotes feature article in which he described himself as “a priest and an educator.”

I was able to come to this job familiar with Jesuit High School, its policies, its faculty, its staff and its students. Then, of course, as an alumnus, I know the tradition and spirit of Jesuit High School. I know what Jesuit means. I am very much at home here.

We were THE first pre-freshmen class at Jesuit. It was a real pioneering move back then.

I’m a firm supporter of the Team Concept we instituted a couple of years ago here. We’re experimenting with the concept in our Jesuit Schools. There’s a twofold reason for it and my support for it. First, we have fewer Jesuits to go around. Second, the president of the school is the chief executive officer of a corporation. If the CEO of a school is going to be called to task by parents, alumni or the community for something that is going on at school, he should have a firsthand knowledge of, and a participation in, the decision making process that brought that situation into being.

We’ve got a wealth of talent and ideas at this school in the students, the faculty, the parents, the alumni. All parts of this Jesuit community are constantly bursting with ideas and initiative. This is an exciting school: organizationally, academically, and demographically. Part of the reason it’s exciting is that it has remained a school drawing from all financial levels of the city. We have to continue to reach out to those who don’t know that Jesuit is for everyone. We have to continue to transcend neighborhoods and class. We have to insure that our product stays excellent and is not hampered by social limits.

We should always be looking for additional ways in which a student can excel. We should be presenting them with as many avenues, as many options, as many disciplines as possible to find their area of excellence. Why? I’d rather ask, “Why not?”

Jesuit has set the standard for academic excellence in New Orleans for 140 years. We have to make sure that not only is that standard maintained and fostered here, but at the other educational institutions in the city and state as well.

I like athletics. I play tennis, and I got into running a few years ago. For me, exercise is an excellent release from tension. I play tennis, but you need someone else to play with. Running I can do by myself when I want. But let me assure you, I’m a very casual runner.
Kevin Heigle ’69

—a Blue Jay who has served as an active alumni leader for more than 25 years while also providing counsel to the school on a variety of real estate issues—was honored in October at Homecoming as Jesuit’s 2009 Alumnus of the Year.

"Kevin is a true Blue Jay and a dedicated alumnus who is always caring, kind, and unselfish," said Fr. Anthony McGinn, S.J., president of Jesuit High School. "I am truly grateful that for many years I relied on Kevin’s sound and practical advice regarding real estate issues. As the attorney representing Jesuit in numerous real estate transactions spanning two decades, Kevin has worked diligently and tirelessly without compensation. Kevin’s Irish mother gave him a very strong sense of memory, so he remembers Jesuit. His German father taught him the duty to respond to the call of Jesuit, and that’s why Kevin has been such a great man for our school, for his family, for his friends, and for the city of New Orleans."

At Jesuit High School, Heigle has been an active leader, taking on the role of class captain shortly after his graduation from law school and joining the board of the Alumni Association in 1984. Since 2003, when the Alumni Association became the Alumni Steering Committee, Heigle has remained a guiding force of the group. As a member of the President’s Advisory Council (PAC) since 1990, Heigle has chaired the group’s real estate committee, which advises Jesuit on property matters as part of the school’s capital campaigns.

With Humility and Succinctness, Jesuit’s AOY Happily Explains “THAT JESUIT THING”

It’s a great day to be a Jesuit Blue Jay, but then every day is. Any superlatives I use to describe my feelings of happiness, humility, and honor at receiving this award fall well short of my actual feelings. Let me just say that it’s even better then what I imagined running into Tiger Stadium with the Tigers would be.

Jesuit High School is a very important part of my family and it always will be. It feels like home to me. The Jesuits have always been there for me and for all of us. Ann and I were married right here in this Chapel with Fr. Curtin celebrating, Fr. Schott on the altar and Fr. O’Neal there. When my dad was nearing death this January, there was Fr. O’Neal at our house giving him the last rites. When my mother died six weeks later suddenly of a broken heart, Fr. McGinn got up at 5:30 in the morning, came to the hospital, and said the prayers for the dead.

There were great Jesuit teachers who were able to penetrate my thick skull with the wisdom of ages and who pushed me to fully develop into a young man. Men like Frs. J.B. Leininger, John Condry, Hervé Racivich, Milton Reich, and, of course, Fr. Norman O’Neal. And never underestimate the continued assistance, kindness, and happy service of Brother (Billy) Dardis and the many, many things that he does for this school. At a time when I needed spiritual guidance at Manresa, Fr. Harry Tompson had a very simple answer for me that solved my questions.

I view Jesuit through the eyes of a timid, awestruck young student; as a proud alumnus; as a parent looking at it from a new, unique perspective; and, as someone closely involved in the operation of this incredible place. And I have to tell you, after 45 years, I am still in awe of this place and the great people who are associated with it.

Jesuit High School is one of the great academic beacons, not just in our city and state, but in our country. Every year, Jesuit takes 1,300 boys and helps them to become men, not just men, but men of competence, conscience, and compassion. Just think for a second, go back four years and think about how Fr. McGinn, the faculty, and the administration handled Hurricane Katrina. They shepherded 1,300 traumatized students and their parents into continuing to learn to adapt, and not only survive, but to thrive in the darkest times.

I’ve worked under the administrations of Frs. Schott, Tompson, Postell, and McGinn—all very unique and different people, but each one of them in their own different style played a critical part in establishing and sustaining the excellence of this school. People will never know how hard Fr. McGinn has quietly worked in one of the toughest jobs in the city of New Orleans and how thoughtful he has been to so many people. He will go down as one of the best presidents of Jesuit High School.

I’ve had the privilege of working with people in the administration, like Mat Grau (’68) and Pierre DeGruy (’69) who work tirelessly to make Jesuit better for the students. And then I have worked with many, many alumni, most of whom will never be honored like I have been, but who have given a great deal of their time and who will do whatever is necessary to keep Jesuit at the top—people like Hank Ecuver (’51), Al Dittmann (’59), Jim Rabalais (’60), Adrian Colon (’59), Rob Foley (’69), and too many others to mention.
“This is a humbling honor and one of the greatest moments of my life,” said Heigle. “I could never do enough for Jesuit to make up for all it has done for me. When I started Jesuit as a pre-freshman, I had been a shy, quiet boy from St. Catherine of Siena school. Jesuit pushed me to accomplish things that I thought I was incapable of doing. I not only received an excellent education, but also Jesuit gave me the confidence to tackle all the challenges, issues, and problems that life brings on a daily basis.”

While a student at Jesuit from 1964–1969, Heigle was a member of the Sodality and on the staff of The Blue Jay magazine. In his senior year, he served as sports editor of the magazine. Heigle was a member of the Cabinet for four years and was the group’s treasurer in his final year.

Heigle attended Louisiana State University where he graduated in 1973 with a bachelor of arts degree in political science. In 1976, he received his Juris Doctorate from Loyola University’s School of Law. An attorney for 33 years, Heigle specializes in real estate law and practices with Heigle & Associates.

Besides volunteering at Jesuit, Heigle has been involved in several other organizations, including his church parish of St. Angela Merici, where at various times he has served on the pastoral council, the finance council, and the school board. In 1997 the Archdiocese of New Orleans recognized him for his service to St. Angela Merici Parish by awarding Heigle the Order of St. Louis Medalion.

Heigle is married to the former Ann Briggs. The couple has three children—Jill, Eric (a 2002 Jesuit alumnus), and Julie.

The one thing that I have learned in my years at Jesuit High School is that its alums will gladly do whatever they’re asked. I would never have gotten involved in Jesuit if Ralph Alexis (‘67) and Rob Foley hadn’t asked me to, so now I am asking all of you to get involved. Start as a class captain.

My wife Ann, for the longest time, couldn’t understand that “Jesuit thing,” as she would call it. She and many other wives of alums thought there was some brainwashing technique that the Jesuits used to make us all love the school, because everyone she ran across who went to Jesuit felt the same way—we had a bond, a special love for each other and for the school, and that we would accomplish much because we went to this very special place. That is what is called Blue Jay Spirit and it endures to this day. We had discovered AMDG—those four letters that we had to put on all of our papers. Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam really meant that God has blessed us each with certain gifts that we are to develop to the fullest and to use for the benefit of others. It is only after doing this that we come to realize that we are the ones who actually benefit from these gifts the most. All of us have learned that when you finish Jesuit High School, you know how to work and to learn, and you are prepared with the necessary knowledge and confidence that you can accomplish anything.

My story at Jesuit, and this great honor I am receiving today, is the direct result of two incredible people who are not physically with us today, but without whom this story would not have been written. Florence and Earl Heigle were people who knew the critical value and the importance of education the hard way. My father left Fortier High School early to enlist in the Navy and fight for his country in World War II. When he came back, he worked two jobs and attended night school, taking buses and walking to classes at Tulane and Loyola.

As his family grew, he simply had to give up his dream of being a pharmacist. My mother was the valedictorian of her high school class, but she couldn’t go to college because her family didn’t have the money and there weren’t many scholarships in those days. So they decided that the frustrations that they felt from the lack of education would not be suffered by their children. Their children would have a better life because of a better education. They knew one thing for sure, that Jesuit was the best place for that, and they made sure that I thought the same thing.

After I was accepted, my mother was so proud that she carried my “Dear Blue Jay” letter in her purse for 10 years until it withered away. If you knew my mother you’d understand. There was, however, the problem of how to pay the tuition. After all, tuition was $225 and we couldn’t afford it. My father was the proudest man in the world and I know it killed him not to have the money for tuition. Their hard work and sacrifice was simply not enough, but Jesuit was too important for their family, and so with the kindness of the Jesuit Fathers and the generosity of the Jesuit alums, particularly Mr. (Henry) Prevost, I was able to be a Blue Jay. And 14 years later, when it was time for Tommy to come to Jesuit, mom and dad did not need the financial aid. They proudly and gratefully paid full tuition. Their dream that Jesuit High School was the ticket to our family’s dreams of a better life came true, and Tommy and I were able to achieve not only our own visions, but theirs too.

To the Jesuit Fathers and Brothers, and to the dedicated faculty members of Jesuit High School, past and present, to my fellow alumnis, particularly my classmates, thank you, thank you, thank you for all you have done for me and for the Heigle family—something that I could never repay.

They say that Jesuit is a place that will change your life. Well, the Heigles are living proof of that. It not only changes your life, it changes it for the better. So remember when LEF or PAG come calling, you are helping families like the Heigles have an opportunity for a better life.

Thank you, once again, and God Bless Jesuit High School.
RETURN OF A BLUE JAY

The 1966 Jesuit Yearbook contains a classic photo (left) of a senior standing atop a square of scaffolding in the school yard exhorting his fellow Blue Jays to support their football team. The senior was Charlie Vodanovich. Fast forward 45 years to October 24, 2009 and there is Vodanovich standing before a yard full of Blue Jays exhorting them to support their team. As many did on that Saturday last fall, Vodanovich came to Back to Banks to experience Homecoming 2009 and to once again lead the Jays in conjuring up the timeless Blue Jay Spirit. But before he would inspire a yard full of Blue Jays, Vodanovich visited his alma mater to pick up the vibes of Jesuit today, to rekindle the Blue Jay Spirit, and to speak with alumni director Mat Grau ’68.

Jaynotes: Welcome back to Jesuit. Do you keep up with your classmates?

Charlie Vodanovich: It’s great being back on campus. You know, I haven’t missed a reunion and it’s great that we have our reunions every five years. The last one we had happened to be in July, right before that unfortunate event hit us in August 2005. It’s always great to see my classmates. My experience was the same as many of my classmates—my friends to this day are the guys I went to Jesuit with. And we call on each other. We may not see each other often, but when we do it’s like we never missed a beat. And we can still talk about our days at Jesuit.

Jaynotes: You are talking about the brotherhood of Jesuit alumni.

Vodanovich: Yes. There’s a bond that you develop when you go to Jesuit because, while there is independence of thought and action, there are common belief systems that drive us all in the Jesuit community. It’s why we come to Jesuit. It’s why we stay at Jesuit. It’s why we brag about Jesuit as we go through life. In New Orleans when somebody asks where you went to school, they don’t want to know if you went to LSU, Tulane, or Loyola. They want to know which high school. And if you went to Jesuit, you stick out your chest a bit and proudly say, “Yeah, I went to Jesuit.”

Jaynotes: What do you think are those common traits that Jesuit instills in its students, back when we were in school and still today?

Vodanovich: I can think of many synonyms I might use to describe it. We call it Blue Jay Spirit, which embodies many characteristics. I think if you ask a thousand Blue Jays the definition of Blue Jay Spirit, you would get a thousand different words and phrases, but they would all say the same thing—integrity, courage, intelligence, character, and commitment to excellence—those traits that make not just a great Blue Jay, but a great citizen for our country.

Jaynotes: Let’s talk about life before Jesuit and how you came to be a student at Jesuit High School.

Vodanovich: I was born in the Irish Channel, but my family moved to Gentilly when I was five or six years old. My dad was a World War II veteran. I went to St. Raphael Elementary School and played NORD athletics at Filmore Playground. I lived in a neighborhood where everybody went to Holy Cross or St. Aloysius. Nobody went to Jesuit. So, when it came time to take the entry test, I took it for Holy Cross and for Jesuit. Lucky enough, I passed both entrance exams. Holy Cross offered me a scholarship to play football. Jesuit offered me the opportunity to get a great education, not that Holy Cross would not have offered me the same opportunity. But Jesuit is a cut above, really stories above. And I say that with respect and admiration for all the other Catholic schools. So Jesuit or Holy Cross? Obviously, I chose Jesuit. Later my mother told me that she promised she would give up smoking if I got into Jesuit. And she did. I think she was 35 or 36 years old at the time. She never smoked another day in her life for 40-something years because of that commitment to God and to me to make sure that I would get into Jesuit.

Jaynotes: That’s a great story. Did your family have to stretch to send you to Jesuit?

Vodanovich: Yes. My dad was a longshoreman. He worked some unusually long and hard hours, sometimes working 12 to 24 hours a day depending on how many ships were in port at the time. Money was tight at our house. I can’t say we wanted for anything. We had the basics,
but there weren’t a lot of extras left over. It was a stretch for my parents to pay tuition to Jesuit. The tuition was $22.50 a month. I remember it well. Sometimes my dad would give me 22 one dollar bills and 50 cents. I would go to the 2nd floor to Mr. Paquette’s office and I would put my $22.50 on the counter, and then I would get my receipt. That was every month. I know there were some months that it was a struggle for my dad, especially if there was no work at the port and there were other bills to pay while they were raising a family. At the time I didn’t realize how much of a sacrifice they had made at that point in their lives, in our lives. I will always be most appreciative and loving for what they did for me.

Jaynotes: So you represent something that Jesuit has always prided itself on: the diversity of its student body—that students come from different backgrounds.

Vodanovich: Absolutely. If I were to go through the yearbook, I could point to other guys who came from similar circumstances. We all brought to Jesuit High School a good blend of various socioeconomic environments. And the beautiful thing about it is that I never felt poor at Jesuit. I didn’t have as much money in my pocket as some of the guys did, but nobody ever made me feel poor or sorry that I came to Jesuit.

Jaynotes: What about your teachers? Do any stand out?

Vodanovich: Just as 4F had its characters, so too did the faculty, and I say that with love, admiration, and respect for their ability to teach and impart knowledge. Fr. (Gerry) Baudouin was a stocky, tough looking guy. He could have played football, put on shoulder pads, but he probably would have played without a helmet. That’s how tough he was. He would walk around campus with his cassock open and underneath it he had a t-shirt with a Superman logo on it. That probably gives you some insight as to the type of personality he was. He was memorable. Mr. Willie Brown taught us physics. To this day, I still remember Mr. Brown standing up in front of the class making a motion with his hands, showing the everlasting dance of the molecules to demonstrate some of the basics of physics. Another colorful personality, Mr. Eddie Gendron, taught us chemistry. Coach Tarzetti taught us math and was probably one of the finest high school football coaches that this city had ever seen. He was very creative. We learned from every one of our teachers. They were intelligent and dedicated. And because of them, we left Jesuit better men than when we entered.
Young Alumni Strike Chord of Unity, Pledging to Become Involved and Connected to Their Alma Mater

JESU FORMS YOUNG ALUMNI LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

One distinguishing trait of Jesuit High School is the strength of its alumni.

It is what many people first associate with the school. Play the word association game and say “Jesuit High School” and the quick response just might be “great, passionate alumni.”

Why then in recent years have pews reserved for young alumni at the Homecoming Mass been so scarcely populated? Why have the faces of recent graduates not been seen at events such as the Commencement Luncheon and Back to Banks?

To answer these questions, alumni from the classes of 1995 to 2005 were invited to a focus group meeting in April 2009. Presented with this hard observation, the young alumni responded quickly. “We are definitely connected with each other as classmates. We just have to do a better job of interfacing with our alma mater.”

Hearing this, Jesuit’s alumni office crafted a plan to help the young alumni classes reconnect with their high school. Defining young alumni as graduates from the past 15 years, the office hosted several luncheon meetings and invited small groups of Blue Jays who graduated between 1995 and 2005. Each meeting consisted of five to eight alums who formed the leadership team of that class. Mat Grau ’68, who has served as Jesuit’s alumni director since 2002, led the meetings which included a key ingredient—a “mentor,” a veteran leader who is active in his class and remains connected to the school.

“The purpose of the meetings was two-fold,” says Grau. “First, we wanted to create a structure of leadership in our young alumni classes and identify the leaders of each class. Second, we wanted these leaders to be aware of their assignments as class leaders.”

To this end, each class leader received a job description and a list of responsibilities which outlined such duties as promoting attendance at certain school events, creating class activities, capturing current contact information, and creating a system of communication among class members.

Each leadership team was asked to select one captain. Together, these captains form the Young Alumni Executive Council, while the members of the leadership teams comprise the Young Alumni Leadership Council. In effect, the school now has a Young Alumni Association, a sub-group of the Jesuit Alumni Association.

The leadership teams quickly answered the call, meeting on their own to map out a plan of fostering the connection among themselves and to the school. A common structure is the formation of committees to manage such areas as class social events, communication, financial support of the school, class service projects, and participation at alumni events.

“To see these young alumni accept our very personal invitation to become meaningfully involved in our mission and vision is exciting for our school and uplifting to our older alumni who have been generously supporting Jesuit for decades,” says Jesuit president Fr. Anthony McGinn, S.J.

Indications are that the new structure is already paying dividends. Attendance at the Blue Jay Bazaar was up this year due mainly to an influx of young alumni. And the recent spring campaign of the Living Endowment Fund set records with 75 callers from the young alumni classes garnering 422 pledges, many of which were first-time gifts.

In describing the enhanced Alumni Association, Grau quips, “I am reminded of that tagline in the Snapple commercial: ‘The best stuff on earth just got better.’”
Young Alums

Bowled Over at “Thank You” Event

More than 30 young Blue Jay leaders from the Classes of 1995 through 2005 recently convened on the bowling lanes of the new Rock ‘n Bowl for a “thank you” reception that recognized their ground-breaking work during the recent LEF spring phone and email drive.

“Besides showing our appreciation for delivering results at the LEF spring drive, the event at Rock ‘n Bowl also was a celebration of the meaningful connections Jesuit’s young alumni have made with each other and their alma mater,” says Tom Bagwill, who is Jesuit’s director of institutional advancement, which hosted the gathering.

Jesuit’s Young Alumni Leadership Council was organized over the course of several months, and represents a new initiative launched by the office of institutional advancement to recruit more young Blue Jay graduates to connect and stay involved with their alma mater (story on opposite page). At the LEF spring phone drive, the initiative began to gel as young alumni displayed their muscle, organization, and fund-raising skills. The LEF spring campaign was a tremendous success, mainly because of the outstanding efforts put forth by dozens of young Blue Jays. The leadership team worked hard to ensure that the three-night LEF spring drive had representatives present from the various classes.

For many of the young Jay leaders, it was their first time volunteering for Jesuit and beseeching their classmates to participate in the LEF. The young Blue Jays on the leadership team “walked the talk” by making their own pledges to this important annual campaign. Like many of the classmates they contacted who were making their first pledge or donation to Jesuit, some team members were making their own initial gift.

Within a few days following the conclusion of the spring phone and email drive, pledges to the LEF climbed past the $1 million ceiling! The LEF has topped $1 million in pledges for three consecutive years, but this year was the first time that this magic mark was exceeded three months before the end of the drive, which ends June 30.

View the photo gallery of this event and many other alumni activities: http://www.jesuitnola.org/alumni/alumniindex.htm

Adrian Colon, Sr. ’59 Honored for His Volunteer Work

Since his graduation in 1959, Adrian Colon, Sr. thoroughly enjoys attending Jesuit alumni events, and if the activities involve a reunion of his classmates, he will surely be among them front and center. As a longtime member and past chairman (2001-02) of the President’s Advisory Council (PAC), he is respected as the knowledgeable leader of its health insurance committee.

Colon has rarely missed any of the eight meetings the PAC has held annually for the past 25 years. Each July, Colon can be counted on to join other PAC members at Manresa Retreat House for the group’s annual meeting. With a sparkle in his eyes and in an authoritative, barking voice, Colon is not shy to “tell it like it is.”

As the indefatigable leader of the Class of 1959, Colon has spent the past 50 years passionately shepherding his classmates to remain connected and of service to each other and to their alma mater. Alumni events such as the Jesuit Alumni Golf Classic have benefitted from his leadership and enthusiasm.

Colon has a simple explanation to justify the time he spends volunteering at Jesuit. “Jesuit made me feel good about myself,” he says matter-of-factly. “It is gratifying to help Jesuit remain the school I experienced. And, besides, it’s fun.”

Other Jesuit alumni receiving the award were Dr. Alvin Rouchell ’62 for his involvement in the Boys Hope/ Girls Hope program and Bruce Hoefer, Jr. ’72 for his work on behalf of Café Reconcile. A special award was presented to Jesuit’s outgoing president, Fr. Anthony McGinn, S.J. ’66, for his many years of leadership to the Jesuit High School community, the province, and the city of New Orleans.

A. Joseph Kaiser ‘49 has been appointed by Gov. Bev Perdue to the North Carolina Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services. Joe, who has a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from Loyola University of New Orleans, is a certified peer support specialist in North Carolina.

Gasper Schiro ‘53 has retired from Civil District Court after serving 31 years as the register of conveyances for Orleans Parish. In June, Gasper was honored as a 50-year graduate from Loyola Law School and a 50-year member of the Louisiana State Bar Association. In July, Gasper and his wife Mel celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Upon his retirement, Gasper proclaimed, “It’s been a life of prayers, parties, parades, and politics.”

Don Moreau ‘54 was honored by Loyola University’s baseball program, which retired his jersey. Don was instrumental in Loyola’s return to collegiate athletics. He served as head baseball coach for the Wolfpack from the program’s rebirth in 1991 until his retirement in 2002. During his tenure, Don recorded the most victories by a Loyola skipper with 252 wins.

Roy Lombardo ‘55 visited the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vicenza, Italy last year. This was the unit in which Roy served with in Vietnam from 1963-1965. During his visit, he received a certificate of achievement for the support he has provided to the brigade during its deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan from 2002 to present.

Ray Condon ‘56 retired at AT&T/Lucent Technologies in 1999 after 38 years. He volunteers by serving on the board of directors of the Greater New Orleans Federal Credit Union.

Louis Menard ‘56 is retired from St. Louis University and serves as a deacon in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Louis writes, “My bride (Angie) of 48 years and I are enjoying our time together.”

Dr. Leon Fournet ’58, oral surgeon at East Jefferson Hospital and instructor at the LSU Dental School, has retired. He and his wife, Michelle, live in Saratosa, FL.

Jim Tallon ‘60 is retired and enjoys woodworking, building furniture, and turning bowls. He also fishes and adores his grandchildren. Jim lives in Webster, NY.

Brent Barron ‘61, who is president and CEO of Uretek USA, Inc., lives in Houston with his wife Stephanie. They are the grandparents of six grandsons and four granddaughters. Brent carries an 8 handicap at Champions Golf Club. He writes: “We remain loyal Jesuit supporters and, though we certainly will miss Fr. McGinn’s leadership as he changes the focus of his ministry, we are confident and prayerful that Jesuit New Orleans will continue the legacy of AMDG.”

Jack Boudreaux ’61 lives in Frederick, Maryland and works for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which was founded in 1901 as the nation’s first federal physical science research laboratory. The NIST is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

John D. Fitzmorris ‘61 has published his first novel, Looking for J.C. John’s story of adventure and deceit has a school similar to Jesuit as part of its background, and one of the characters is a Jesuit priest. Ultimately, his story presents the struggle to triumph over past demons and to conquer the dark angels of men’s souls.

John Crawford ’62 still lives in the Washington D.C. area working for the Coast Guard. Currently he specializes in finance for disaster operations and teaches finance for disaster organizations. “My next promotion will be retirement and that’s on the horizon,” writes Jack. “Also, I was pleased to see the Who-Dats beat the Redskins! At least something is right in this world.”

Raymond Gonzalez ‘62 retired from the political science department at Columbus State University in Columbus, GA. He was awarded professor emeritus status by the board of regents of the University System of Georgia.

Walt Phiblin ’62 was honored in July with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Press Club of New Orleans. Walt retired after more than 35 years of covering police, crime, and courts for The States-Item and The Times-Picayune. He hopes to spend his retirement writing a book, either a collection of true stories or a memoir.

Gary Breedlove ’63 has retired from law practice and now lives in Mississippi.


Ralph Cox ’64 has been appointed to the board of directors of the Catholic Foundation of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Dr. Craig W. Maumus ’64 retired from the private practice of psychiatry a few years back and since Katrina, has been working for the VA system at its community based out-patient clinic in Reserve.

Mike Coogan ‘65 lives in Baton Rouge where he has practiced pediatrics for 32 years. Last year, he left private practice to merge with the new Pediatric Residency Program at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, where he is director of the pediatric academic clinic in the ambulatory care section. Mike looks forward to teaching the next generation of pediatrics at the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Hospital. He recently completed an eight-year term on the board of directors of the Woman’s Hospital Foundation, where he also served as board chairman. He and his wife, Debbie, have three children and four grandchildren.

Jason Berry ‘67 has been awarded the St. Catherine of Siena Distinguished Lay Person Award by Voice of the Faithful, a national Catholic organization formed out of the 2002 Catholic clergy sex-abuse crisis. The organization cited Jason’s 24 years of investigative reporting and coverage of the Catholic church’s response to sexual abuse in its ranks.

Edgar “Dooky” Chase ‘67 recently retired from Dillard University. Dooky is now a writer of historical fiction, specifically his family’s rich New Orleans history.

Robert Cliserones ‘68 is still a faculty member in the College of Pharmacy at Campbell University. He serves on the university’s student conduct committee and the athletic committee and also assists in the university’s NCAA recertification self-study.

Dr. John McNamara ’68 has been named chief medical officer of Torrance Memorial Medical Center in Torrance, CA. Before his appointment, John practiced vascular surgery in the South Bay area of Los Angeles for more than 29 years. As CMO, his responsibilities include leading physician education and deployment of the hospital’s electronic medical records, and overseeing quality improvement initiatives and a new hospitalist program.

John Oertling ‘68 has been awarded the 2009 Illinois Theatre Association Award for Excellence for University Theatre. John is chair of theatre arts at Eastern Illinois University. His resume includes a long list of leadership in theatre at the university level and professional acting credits, including Tulane’s Summer Lyric Theatre.
Ron Pursell ’68 has retired as chief of staff of the New Orleans City Council. Ron held the position since it was created in 1995. During his tenure, the council initiated a committee system to deal with complex issues before they go to the full council, an innovation that helped streamline the council’s biweekly meetings.

Stephen Cristina ’69 is the U.S. State Department’s 2009 Linguist of the Year. The award is given to those who epitomize the use of language proficiency to achieve and further the goals of the State Department. Stephen is proficient in eight languages. In announcing the award, the selection committee commended Stephen “for his exemplary achievements through the use of his extraordinary language skills in support of U.S. foreign policy objectives including democratization and reduction of dangerous weapons stockpiles in Albania.” Stephen is currently serving in Kabul, where he speaks the Dari language.

Mick Quinlan ’69 is a guidance counselor at St. Stanislaus High School in Bay St. Louis. Mick and his wife Adrienne have three children and five grandchildren.

David Sabrio ’69 is co-author of a new freshman composition text entitled Insightful Writing, which is currently being used in colleges and universities across the country.

Ed Weiss ’69 is chair of the biology, chemistry and environmental science department at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, VA. He has been teaching at the university for 30 years.

Ricardo Ortega ’71, his wife Marcy, and their daughter Tracy reside in Houston.

Tim Flynn ’75 retired from the Navy last February and moved to San Diego where he works for Accenture. Tim’s classmates David Patenostro and Jim Grady attended his retirement ceremony in the Washington Navy Yard.

Karl Hoefer ’76 has been named executive vice-president of Iberia Bank in New Orleans as well as regional president of the bank in Louisiana.

Christian LeBlanc ’76 recently won his third Emmy as “Best Actor in a Daytime Drama” for his role on The Young and the Restless.

Gary Dildy ’77, his wife Suzanne, and their two-year-old daughter Sophie reside in Park City, UT. Gary is the director of maternal-fetal medicine, MountainStar Division, Hospital Corporation of America.

Val LaCour ’78 is back in New Orleans after living in New York for the past eight years.

Clifton Sanchez ’78 was promoted to vice president of engineering at SMSC, Inc. in Austin. SMSC is a leading developer of Smart Mixed-Signal Connectivity™ solutions and a key semiconductor supplier to numerous major consumer electronics companies all over the world.

Barry E. Goodspeed ’79 recently became assistant cub master for his seven year-old son’s Cub Scout pack. He is also getting back into his trumpeter while organizing and participating in a New Orleans-esque rendition of “Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In” for his church’s All Saints Day celebration. Barry writes: “Thank you, Mr. Marion Caluda, Mr. Boudreaux, and Spitz for the strong music foundation!”

Ben Walsh ’79, aka Sgt. T-Ben Boudreaux and Benny the Joke Man, has been writing jokes for comedian Jay Leno for the past ten years. Ben reports that Leno uses three or four of his jokes weekly. He also writes jokes for popular Russian comedian Yakov Smirnoff, who performs in the country music mecca of Branson, MO. Before the joke-writing career, Ben endeared himself to local radio listeners as the wacky Sgt. T-Ben Boudreaux, the traffic reporter on Bob Walker’s WTX-FM oldies show.

Thomas Gancheau ’81, a partner with Beck, Redden, & Secret, L.L.P., has been elected the 2009-2010 executive vice-president of the executive committee of the Texas Association of Defense Counsel. He will assume the position of president in 2011-2012. TADC is a statewide professional association of approximately 2,000 attorneys in private practice specializing in civil defense trial law.

Dan Crumb ’82 is senior vice-president and chief financial officer of the New Orleans Hornets.

Fr. John Lasseigne ’82 is known as the “foreclosure-fighting father” because of his work in his parish of Pacoima in Los Angeles. Armed with a law degree, a passion for social justice, and a collar, John advises his parishioners, who are mostly Latino, how to survive the hardships and injustices of the real-estate crisis. His passion for justice has led John to lobby congressmen, councilmen, and corporate executives for laws, money, and loan reductions.

Dr. James Moises ’83 is now producing wine. In addition to directing the emergency room at Ochsner Baptist Medical Center and teaching at Tulane and LSU’s medical schools, James now produces a pinot noir in Oregon’s Willamette Valley.

Nabil Al-Tikriti ’84 teaches history at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA. He and his wife have two daughters, Maral Margo (3) and Ranya Louise (see Bib List). Nabil writes that he tries to come home every Christmas, Mardi Gras, and Jazz Fest.

Glynn Cyprien ’85 is the assistant coach of Memphis University’s men’s basketball team. Glynn moves to Memphis after serving two years as assistant coach at the University of Kentucky. Glynn and his wife Monique have two daughters.

David Brinks ’85, a stalwart of the local poetry scene, recently published The Caveat Onus, a complex, four-volume poem cycle rooted in Mayan mythology. Begun before but completed after Katrina, the book stands as an epic of that tumultuous time. In reviewing Dave’s book, The Times-Picayune said, “Part myth, part dream, part close observation, The Caveat Onus might just be the great New Orleans poem of its time.”

Tommy Kurtz ’85 completed his first year serving as the executive director of the Louisiana Business Expansion and Retention Group, part of the Louisiana Department of Economic Development. The group focuses solely on the retention and growth of Louisiana’s existing industry base. Tommy and his wife Rachel live in Prairieville with their two children, Sarah (10) and Dylan (8).

Michael Becker ’87 has a neurolology practice on the Northshore. He and his wife have 8-year-old twin boys.

Russell Cresson ’87 is an orthodontist practicing in Metairie. His patients must always brace themselves because Russ has a wonderfully zany sense of humor.

David McGovern ’87 was featured in the February issue of Mergers & Acquisitions magazine. After serving as the head of mergers and acquisitions at the Gores Group, David founded the private investment firm Marlin Equity.

Michael Smith ’88 has returned to his alma mater, Kansas State, to serve as assistant coach in charge of the wide receivers on the K-State football team. Mike had coached at the Big-12 school for 11 years before moving on to coach at Rice and Arizona. Mike and his wife Karyn have two daughters and one son.

Kyle Happel ’89 was recently promoted to the tenured rank of associate professor of medicine in the section of pulmonary/ critical care at the LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans.
Christopher Gontar ’90 is working towards an M.A. in philosophy at Loyola University of Chicago. He already holds an M.A. in humanities, which he received in 2006 from the University of Chicago. Chris left the Marine Corps as a sergeant in 2002 after serving mostly as a Marine musician.

Justin Ansel, Jr., ’91 currently is serving as the executive officer for the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines.

Erik Bjerke ’91 lives in Atlanta running an institutional coverage team for Merrill Lynch/Bank of America. Another major job for Erik and his wife is running a family with four children, two of whom are twins. Through his start-up ministry, Erik is trying to impact the culture of the investment industry by changing how financial professionals prioritize their resources to give, save, and spend. “A lot is happening in my life right now, but I will always miss Jesuit and all the great friends I made there,” Erik writes. “What an impact the school has had on my life.”

Dr. Steven Filby ’91 recently completed a two year interventional cardiovascular and endovascular fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Steven, his wife Kim, and their three daughters live in Pinehurst, NC where he has started his cardiology practice.

MAJ Brandon Gregoire ’91 recently completed a Congressional fellowship in which he advised U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) on national security related issues involving defense, intelligence, foreign relations, and veterans’ affairs matters. Pictured with Brandon (right) are Commandant of the Marine Corps General James Conway and Senator McCaskill.

Scott Roos ’91 is working in San Francisco teaching for the Schools of the Sacred Heart. He teaches Latin at Convent of the Sacred Heart High School and World History at Stuart Hall High School, where he is also director of student activities.

Aaron Burgau ’92 was a semifinalist for the Best Chef: South Award bestowed by the James Beard Foundation. Aaron is the executive chef at his Restaurant Patois in uptown New Orleans.

David Tanner ’92 is a marketing product director for Rolaid and Imodium at McNeil Consumer Healthcare, a division of Johnson & Johnson.

Andrew Duggan ’93 is enjoying his new son Christopher, born in June 2009, along with the little guy’s two older sisters. Still a landscape architect, Andrew has completed planning work on two major projects—a 100-year-old college campus in upstate New York and a 1,000-acre park in northern Canada. Andrew is also helping his local church parish, All Saints, complete a new campus plan. He and wife Kerri reside in Richardson, TX and they sorely miss fried oysters and the ambiance of New Orleans.

Gerald Gerdes ’93 has been selected as Louisiana’s 2009 Young Optometrist of the Year by the Optometry Association of Louisiana. Jerry serves as president of the central division of the association and co-chairs the InfantSee Committee for the state. His practice is in Oakdale, LA.

Marchant Kenney ’93 is now a member of the University of Southern Mississippi Athletic Hall of Fame. Marchant was a four-year letterman as a middle linebacker for the Golden Eagles from 1994-1997. He was named to the first team All-Conferece USA in 1996 and 1997.

James O’Connor ’93 is an attorney practicing with the law firm of Barrett & McNagny, L.L.P. in Fort Wayne, IN. He and his wife, Kim, are the proud parents of Caroline Grace (5) and twins Catherine “Cate” Cain and Claire Elizabeth (19 months).

Andrew Veprek ’93 is stationed at the U.S. Consulate General in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where he is chief of the consular section. (See Bib section)

MAJ Etienne Sabate ’94 recently concluded a one year tour of service as a military advisor to Prince Mit‘eb bin Abdul Aziz bin Muhammed Al-Saud, the deputy commander of military affairs for the Saudi Arabian National Guard, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Etienne is pictured wearing the traditional Bedouin Thobe (robes) and Gutta (headpiece) at a Caspa dinner. “It was a post-Ramadan feast that one of the Saudi generals invited me to,” Etienne reports. “Everybody sits around a platter with a boiled goat in a bed of rice and grabs pieces of it.” He is currently enrolled in the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, KS.

Mike Ellis ’95 is the father of three boys and two girls. Mike and his brother Joseph Ellis ’00 own Squarefour, a web application and site building company.

Donald Mouldedouz ’95 was promoted to plant manager for InterMetro Industries, a division of Emerson Electric Company. Don also completed his first marathon in December, finishing in 3 hours, 44 minutes. In the fall, Don will begin working on an MBA at Indiana University.

Andre Baldauf ’96 teaches 10th grade world history at Napa New Technology High School. He and his wife live in San Francisco with their cat and dog.

Gregory Wilde ’96 is currently completing a one year fellowship in musculoskeletal radiology at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City.

Christopher Buckley ’97 moved to Minnesota in 2004 after returning from Japan where he lived for two years while participating in the Japan Exchange & Teaching Program. Christopher received an M.A. in educational psychology from the University of Minnesota, where he works in career services in the University’s College of Liberal Arts. He currently resides in St. Paul.

Thomas Lynn ’97 and Michael Villlon ’97 have opened the Evening Call, a daiquiri shop in the Mandalay Bay casino in Las Vegas.

James Whitney ’98 is working in the music industry doing production work while juggling various marketing projects.

Michael Balch ’99 and his wife Amanda live in San Diego, both working on degrees at San Diego State University. They plan to move back east after graduation. Michael is a member of the Marine Reserves.

Jonathan Hobbs ’99 is an associate with the Metairie law firm of McRanie, Sistrunk, Anzelmo, Hardy, McDaniel, & Welch.

Michael “Fletcher” Maumus ’99 married Lindsay Todd of Akron, OH last year and they reside in Brooklyn. Fletcher is ABD (All But Dissertation) for his Ph.D in philosophy of mind and language from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He teaches philosophy at Brooklyn College.


Ted Joyner ’00 and Grant Widmer ’09, together known as the rock ‘n roll duo Generationals, were featured in a January edition of The New York Times Style Magazine. Upon the release of their debut album Con Law, critics noted the group’s throw-back sound to the cheery pop tunes of the 1960s.
Peter Finney III ‘02 will be ordained a priest in July. As a transitional deacon, Peter is in the final year of studies and preparation for the priesthood. Last summer he received a bachelor of sacred theology degree from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, known as the Angelicum.

Eric Heigle ‘02 is one of Gambit Weekly’s 2009 “40 Under 40,” young New Orleanians who have achieved amazing accomplishments. As the founder of WhatNoise! Studios, and a talented drummer, Eric is heavily involved in the business and performance world of the music scene in New Orleans.

Justin Hayes ‘03 completed his first year at Tulane University’s School of Medicine.

Lt. Richard Reese ‘03 is a crew member of the U.S.S. New York, a landing platform dock ship built recently at Avondale. The ship’s bow contains 7.5 tons of steel from the collapsed Twin Towers in New York. “It’s what leads us forward at sea,” explains Richard. The shipbuilders “took an attack on us and turned it around. It’s awesome.” Richard is living a dream of serving in the Navy, one that began when he watched the attack on the Twin Towers while in college. ‘40 Under 40,” young New Orleanians who have achieved amazing accomplishments. As the founder of WhatNoise! Studios, and a talented drummer, Eric is heavily involved in the business and performance world of the music scene in New Orleans.

Paul Baxter ‘05 received a B.S. in mechanical engineering with a specialization in aviation systems from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Following completion of the engineer basic officer leadership course, he will join the 101st Airborne Division at Ft. Campbell, KY.

John-Michael Early ‘05 was named the 2009 LSU College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Senior. At the same time, he was selected a member of the Tiger Twelve, Class of 2009, an honor which recognizes the 12 top seniors in the entire university. John-Michael received the Virginia Purtle Outstanding Senior Award presented to the distinguished senior member of the College Council, the collective body of all student government agencies.

Jay Daigle ‘04 received a certificate of advanced studies in pure mathematics from Cambridge University. While at Cambridge, he competed all across England on the ballroom dance team and toured northern Italy last summer as a member of the university choir. Jay is now a Ph.D candidate in theoretical mathematics at Cal Tech, thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Mark Duggan ‘04 is in his second year at Rutgers University, working on a Ph.D in British history. “My current research partly involves the activities of Jesuits in 17th century England, especially those executed following the non-existent ‘Popish Plot’,” he writes.

James Villarrubia ‘04 is one element of the a capella singing group The New Dominions. Based at the University of Virginia, the group recently released the CD Tip Your Barista. James is solo vocalist on two cuts of the CD. James holds a masters degree in public policy from UVA and has completed a two-year Presidential Management Fellowship with the U.S. Department of Defense.


Theo Smith ’07, starting linebacker on the University of Louisiana at Monroe football team, was named the Louisiana and Sun Belt Conference Defensive Player of the Week during the first week of October. In that week’s victory over Florida International, Theo had 12 tackles (seven solo), one tackle for a loss, a pass breakup, and an interception—quite a game for the former Blue Jay standout.

Darren Hayes ‘08 has accepted membership in the Golden Key International Honour Society. He was honored during a recent ceremony at The University of Southern Mississippi. Also, as part of his Presidential Scholarship, Darren will study abroad in London this summer.

Trey Kramer ’09, a freshman defender on the West Florida soccer team, was named to the 2009 All-Gulf States Conference Men’s Soccer Team.

Daniel Moise ’09 contributed to the success of the Millsaps College soccer season this past fall. A freshman on the team, Daniel scored two goals in the Majors’ 3-2 victory over Southwestern University in an October match.

In August the New Orleans Boosters baseball team won the national championship behind the leadership of Coach Billy Babin ’74 (front row, second from left). In the championship game, several Blue Jays contributed to the win, most notably Jordan Rittiner ’09, who came on in relief to get the final four outs to nail down the victory, and Mason Katz ’09, who drove in an important run in the seventh inning. Other Blue Jays on the Boosters’ roster were Cory ’08 and Chad Gildry ’08, and Stephen Lukinovich ’08.

Four Blue Jays were named to the Clarion-Herald’s “Elite Football Team of the Decade”: Corey Hilliard ’03, Chris Brown ’04, Chris Markey ’04, and Anthony Scelfo ’05.

LET US KNOW...
WHERE Y’AT!

You enjoy reading about fellow Blue Jay alumni and they enjoy reading about you. Take a moment to tell ‘em WHERE Y’AT!

Mail to Jaynotes, Alumni Office, Jesuit High School, 4133 Banks St., New Orleans, LA 70119; or email: degryj@jesuitnola.org. Send one or two high resolution digital photos.

Jesuit encourages alumni to contribute to the LEF or the scholarship funds, or both. No contribution is too small and your gift to Jesuit will help the school in many ways. You may donate online.

Go to www.jesuitnola.org and click on Jayson in the upper left corner.
Mr. and Mrs. James Arnett ’69 on the birth of their first grandchild, Ian Patrick Bankson, October 7, 2009.

Mr. and Mrs. Darryl Foster ’69 on the birth of their granddaughter, Olivia Rose Hollis, July 29, 2009.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dwyer III ’73 on the birth of their first grandchild, Gwendolyn Betpouey Dwyer Carbine, on October 15, 2009.

Gwendolyn is the great-granddaughter of the late Clement Betpouey, Jr. ’24, the great-granddaughter of the late Ralph Dwyer, Jr. ’40, the great-great-niece of Clement Betpouey III ’56, and the great niece of Frederick Guste ’95, Sean Mayfield ’89, and Tim Romero ’84.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brodtmann ’77 on the birth of their grandson, Charles John Greenleaf, October 13, 2009. Charles is the grand-nephew of Anthony Engolia III ’78 and Lance Engolia, Sr. ’83.

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Jennings ’78 on the birth of their son, Christopher Paul Jennings, Jr., October 28, 2009. Christopher is the nephew of Thomas Jennings’66 and the late Bruce Jennings’70. Christopher’s mother is Jesuit fine arts teacher Meg Feinman Jennings.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lafranca III ’82 on the birth of their second son, Jacob James Lafranca, February 11, 2009. Jacob is the nephew of Timothy Lafranca ’84 and David Lafranca ’89.

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Frey ’85 on the birth of their second son, Michael Joseph Frey, on August 6, 2009.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Huck ’87 on the birth of their daughter, Meredith Maria Huck, July 5, 2009. Meredith is the granddaughter of Jesuit maintenance director Jimmy Huck and the niece of James Huck ’86, Brother Larry Huck, S.J. ’87, and John Huck ’91.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jeanfreau ’87 on the birth of their daughter, Katherine Laura Jeanfreau, August 21, 2009. Katherine is the niece of André Jeanfreau ’89 and Mark Jeanfreau ’93.

Mr. and Mrs. John Dardis, Jr. ’88 on the birth of their daughter, Frances Mildred Dardis, December 8, 2009. Frances is the granddaughter of John Dardis, Sr. ’59 and the niece of William Dardis ’90 and Stephen Dardis ’97.

Mr. and Mrs. André Jeanfreau ’89 on the birth of two daughters, Shelby Lauren and Taylor Paige Jeanfreau, March 24, 2008. Shelby and Taylor are the nieces of Charles Jeanfreau ’87 and Mark Jeanfreau ’93.

Dr. and Mrs. Jason Mayfield ’89 on the birth of their daughter, Beatrix Ann Mayfield, September 16, 2009. Beatrix is the granddaughter of Ralph Junius, Jr. ’66 and the niece of William Junius ’93, Nathan Junius ’97, Michael Mayfield ’93, and Henry Guste ’95.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Demarest ’90 on the birth of their daughter, Gisele Elizabeth Demarest, September 2, 2009. Gisele is the granddaughter of Al Demarest ’57.

Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Culotta ’91 on the birth of their son, Henry Peter Culotta, July 27, 2009.

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick McMahon ’91 on the birth of their son, Patrick David McMahon, Jr., July 28, 2009. Patrick is the grandson of Joseph McMahon ’60 and the nephew of Joseph McMahon ’84, Michael McMahon ’85, and John McMahon ’87.

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Taffaro, Jr. ’91 on the birth of their daughter, Olivia Gabrielle Esther Taffaro, November 29, 2009. Olivia is the niece of Michael Taffaro ’95 and Joseph LaHatte III ’99.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Crane ’92 on the birth of their first child, Paul Randall Crane, August 30, 2009. Paul is the nephew of Michael Crane, Jr. ’85 and Allan Crane ’86.

Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Abercrombie ’92 on the birth of their son, Nathan Benjamin Abercrombie, Jr., January 15, 2009.


Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Piacun ’93 on the birth of their son, Bennett Christopher Piacun, March 25, 2009. Bennett is the nephew of Joseph Piacun ’90.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Veprek ’93 on the birth of their son, Alex, on June 28, 2009 in Thailand.

Mr. and Mrs. John DeLuca ’94 on the birth of their first child, a daughter, Cienna Ward DeLuca, September 27, 2009.

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Kreller ’94 on the birth of their daughter, Emma Grace Kreller, September 24, 2009. Emma is the granddaughter of longtime Jesuit teachers David and Rosalyn Moreau.

Mr. and Mrs. Brian Landry ’94 on the birth of their third child and second daughter, Corinne Marie Landry, November 2, 2009. Corinne is the niece of Brad Landry ’97.

Mr. and Mrs. Brent Barber ’95 on the birth of their first child, Derek Regis Barber, on September 6, 2009.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Burke ’95 on the birth of their first child, Lucie Marie Burke, September 3, 2009. Lucie is the niece of Jeremy Burke ’97.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Guste ’95 on the birth of their daughter, Simone Felicia Guste, September 23, 2009. Simone is the granddaughter of Ralph Junius, Jr. ’66 and the niece of Bernard Guste ’93, William Junius ’93, Nathan Junius ’97, and Sean Mayfield ’89.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Mouledoux ’95 on the birth of their second child, Charles Landon Mouledoux, February 15, 2010. Charles is the grandson of Donald Mouledoux ’71 and the nephew of Thomas Mouledoux ’97.

Dr. and Mrs. Brian Porche ’95 on the birth of their daughter, Makinley Dianne Porche, September 21, 2009. Makinley is the niece of Robert Porche ’91.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Wheeler ’95 on the birth of their daughter, Remy Elizabeth Wheeler, May 12, 2009. Remy is the niece of Maxwell Wheeler ’91.

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Milazzo II ’96 on the birth of their daughter, Cate Elizabeth Milazzo, August 27, 2009. Cate is the granddaughter of Anthony Milazzo, Jr. ’67, and the niece of Eric Milazzo ’01 and Geoff Brien ’97.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Passantino ’96 on the birth of their second child and first son, Theodore Joseph Passantino, October 24, 2009. Theodore is the nephew of Brian Passantino ’87 and Patrick Passantino ’94.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael DeGruy ’97 on the birth of their second son, Julian Bennett DeGruy, August 21, 2009. Julian is the grandson of Pierre DeGruy ’69 and the great-grandson of the late Louis DeGruy ’33.

Mr. and Mrs. Chad Evans ’97 on the birth of their first child, Sandlin Elisabeth Evans, on October 24, 2009. Sandlin is the niece of Robert Evans ‘01.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Hamilton ’97 on the birth of their son, Reese Robert Hamil­ton, September 14, 2009. Reese is the grandson of Michael Hamilton ’70 and the nephew of Todd Hamilton ’01.

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Lane ’97 on the birth of their second child, Cameron John Lane, May 6, 2009. Cameron is the nephew of Ryan Lane ’04.

Dr. and Mrs. Christopher Forstall ’98 on the birth of their daughter, Reese Rachel Forstall, September 26, 2009.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Orillion ’98 on the birth of their daughter, Adelaide Therese Orillion, December 28, 2009. Adelaide is the niece of Jonathon Orillion ’01.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Perez ’98 on the birth of their daughter, Avery Grace Perez, July 27, 2009. Avery is the granddaughter of Robert Perez ’61 and the niece of Robert Perez ’86, William Perez ’87, Brian Perez ’88, and Benjamin Perez ’95.

Mr. and Mrs. John Van Vranken IV ’98 on the birth of their son, John William Van Vranken V, July 8, 2009.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph LaHatte III ’99 on the birth of their second child, Charlotte Grace, October 14, 2009. Charlotte is the niece of Jonathan LaHatte ’02, Anthony Taffaro, Jr. ’91, and Michael Taffaro ’95.

Dr. and Mrs. Keith LeBlanc ’00 on the birth of their son, Ian Robert LeBlanc, October 15, 2009.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Bertucci ’01 on the birth of their daughter, Monica Lee Bertucci, May 5, 2009. Monica is the great-granddaughter of the late Emile Bertucci ’37, the granddaughter of Bryan Bertucci ’68, and the niece of Bryan Bertucci ’91, Nicholas Bertucci ’93, and Matthew Bertucci ’95.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Harlan ’01 on the birth of their son, Clark Bennett Harlan, July 28, 2009.

Clare is the nephew of Christopher Harlan ’97 and Mark Harlan ’99.

(Send birth announcements to alumni@jesuitnola. org and receive a bib from Jason)
In December 2009, Jules Coco of the Class of 1969 wired funds in the amount of $60,000 to fully endow a scholarship at Jesuit High School. A few months later, while visiting family in New Orleans (he relocated his computer software consulting business to North Carolina following Katrina), Coco arranged to visit Jesuit and address a student assembly. He wanted to explain more fully, particularly to the 300-plus students who currently receive financial aid courtesy of Jesuit’s endowment, why he chose to set up a scholarship. Below is his address to Blue Jays.

Forty-five years ago, when I had a full head of hair, I was taught, inspired, motivated, challenged, and yes, punished in these same hallowed halls. Way back in 1965, the Dark Ages. Our prefect of discipline back then made Attila the Hun and Top Abshire, Jesuit's current disciplinarian) seem downright friendly, and penance hall (Abshire, Jesuit’s current disciplinarian) was truly where you did penance.

At Carrollton and Banks, like no other place I can imagine, I was guided to manhood, and challenged to always be a man for others. As your arm patch states, manhood, and challenged to always be a man for others. As Jesus said in the parable of the talents: “To whom much is given, much is expected.”

Gentlemen, rise to that God-given command. Blue Jays, rise to the Jesuit Ignatian command and be “men for others.” Pay it forward, in time, talent, and treasure as, and whenever, you can. Not only talk the talk, but truly walk the walk.

My father died when I was only five years old and my now departed mother, who is a saint in heaven, raised five children single-handedly. I was able to attend Jesuit because of the contributions of others. It was a great blessing! And I knew when I graduated from Jesuit in 1969 that my everyday life should be lived for the greater glory of God and as a man for others. Hopefully I succeed more than I fail.

Last year, on my 40th Jesuit graduation anniversary, despite being my worst year in business, economically, I was delighted to be able to fully endow a scholarship so that current and future Blue Jays, in similar situations as I was decades ago, could attend the finest school in New Orleans without having to worry about paying full tuition. For these Blue Jays, they would be blessed with a life-inspiring experience.

Fellow Blue Jays: always live, love, and learn what this incredible experience offers you, not only today, but for all your lives. Honor God in each and every action, whether large or small, and never, never surrender nor set aside your integrity. The only impression that counts is the impression you make with God. And if you get that right, you will live a most admirable life.

Thank you and always…AMDG.

Audio of Jules Coco’s address to Blue Jays may be heard by going to Jesuit’s alumni home page: http://www.jesuitnola.org/alumni/alumniindex.htm.
Each edition of *Jaynotes* lists those members of the Jesuit High School community who have died. Please remember our deceased classmates in prayer.
For the First Time in Jesuit’s Storied Athletic History, Blue Jays Will Experience a...

$5 Million Investment for First-Class Stadium Complex to Use for Practice and Home Games.

New Field Expected to be Completed in Spring 2011.
Jesuit alumnus and benefactor **Milton Retif, Sr. ’51** is no different from the thousands of other Blue Jay athletes who, over the years and decades after school, scampered aboard busses driven by irascible and madcap coaches where the final destination was team practice in what was typically a field of grass and weeds several inches high in nearby City Park.

Just getting to football or baseball practice in those days conjure up chaotic helter-skelter images—a Jesuit bus, crammed with players holding on to their seats and bouncing crazily down Carrollton Avenue, driven by an edgy and impatient coach who was determined to find a prime practice field for his team before the competition showed up.

“Everyday when the dismissal bell rang, all of us players and our coaches would hurry up and rush out to City Park so we would be the first ones to claim the baseball diamond for practice instead of St. Aloysius,” recalls Retif, who was a senior star shortstop for the Blue Jays. “Sometimes, the St. Aloysius players were the first ones out there and we would have to find some other place for baseball practice. There weren’t that many baseball diamonds or wide open fields back then for high schools to use for practice.”

The passage of time has done remarkably little to vanquish the eternal quest for Jesuit to be the first team to arrive at what seems like every other high school squad’s ideal practice location (although today’s coaches drive safely and sanely and obey all traffic rules). The problem always has been particularly acute for Jesuit’s football, baseball, and soccer teams, not just the varsity squads, but also the junior varsity, the ninth grade, and the eighth grade teams. Factor four lacrosse teams and the rugby club, the dearth of practice areas becomes easily exacerbated.

For the first time in Jesuit’s long and glorious athletic history, the Blue Jays soon will have a field of its own. For the first time, the Jays will claim “Home Field Advantage,” thus changing the current and future dynamics of Jesuit’s and other high schools’ sports programs. What exactly is Home Field Advantage, or HFA? Someone recently wisecracked that Jesuit came up with the name Home Field Advantage because when an opponent attempts to steal second base, he will keep sliding on the artificial turf.

Actually, HFA refers to the capital campaign by which Jesuit intends to raise $5 million from its generous alumni and parent benefactors to build this first class stadium complex and practice field. Approximately $2 million has been committed or pledged to the HFA drive. Many benefactors are pledging amounts to be donated over a multi-year period, anywhere from two to five years.

The HFA campaign began its “quiet phase” when a group of 50 potential donors assembled in St. Ignatius Hall on a Wednesday evening in January to learn more about the project. Co-chairing the HFA drive is a pair of classmates and teammates—**Billy Babin** and **Terry Billings**
of the Class of ’74. (There is the near-
mystical lore that while shortstop Billings and second baseman Babin were outstanding players in their own right, they also happened to be one of the most lethal double-play combos to take the field in Jesuit’s colorful baseball history. What’s more, at least according to Babin, is that Billings still believes it.)

The HFA campaign recently climbed a few noisy notches when the project was announced at a Blue Jay baseball reunion that brought together a couple of hundred former players, parents of players, and coaches to the Student Commons on Saturday, May 15 (the reunion was preceded by a Vigil Mass in the Chapel of the North American Martyrs).

Make no mistake who the guiding force is behind Home Field Advantage — Fr. Anthony McGinn, S.J. ’66, president of Jesuit High School—has nurtured this project since day one. At the baseball reunion in May, he reminded alumni and guests that finding a permanent and suitable place for Jesuit teams to regularly hold practices always has been the main impetus for bringing this project to fruition.

“In looking for the appropriate piece of property, we found a parcel that also will be good for playing games,” says Fr. McGinn. “This is an exciting development for our teams, which will soon be able to practice and play games instead of wasting time lugging their equipment and wandering around looking for a place to practice. And it is especially good that this much needed facility will be only a five-minute drive from Jesuit.”

The field will be used primarily for Jesuit’s varsity and sub-varsity football, baseball, and soccer teams to practice. The stadium complex will not be large enough to accommodate the crowds that attend Jesuit’s varsity football games. As a result, the varsity football team must continue to play their games at the familiar venues it currently uses. The varsity and sub-varsity baseball and soccer teams will practice and play home games on their new field. However, the varsity football players will be able to practice alongside their younger counterparts. Jesuit’s lacrosse and rugby teams are also expected to use the field for practice and games.

Jesuit’s new athletic complex and field will be situated on 6.86 acres that was the site of the former New Orleans Cold Storage Warehouse. The property is located just off Airline Highway near the Orleans-Jefferson Parish line. The acreage is part of the LaBarre Business Park and was acquired earlier this year. Fr. McGinn says he is thankful and most appreciative to Kevin Heigle ’69 and Robert Talbot, Jr. ’55, both of whom were instrumental in negotiating and executing the sale of the property.

Ryan Gootee General Contractors, L.L.C. (owned by Jesuit alumnus Ryan Gootee ’91) is overseeing all aspects of construction of the new stadium complex. One of the first tasks involved demolishing the Cold Storage Warehouse, abandoned since Katrina. Work crews cleared the property of trash from the many impromptu and illegal dump sites and secured the site. A boat that had been on the property since Katrina had to be removed.

Mathes Brierre Architects (one of whose principals is Jesuit alumnus Creed Brierre ’64) designed the facility, a challenging job because of space limitations. There are many features
and amenities in the current design plan, including:

- An elevated and covered grandstand behind home plate will seat 628 fans.
- Elevated bleachers overlooking the third base line and left field will accommodate 700 fans.
- Artificial turf on the field means fewer injuries, less maintenance, and improved drainage.
- Stadium lights will allow practice or play after the sun goes down.
- The facility’s paved and landscaped parking lot will hold 233 cars.

A pedestrian plaza will feature a ticketing area and direct spectators to the stadium’s main entrance.

The grandstand will have a concession area, restrooms, locker rooms (including one for the visiting team), and a room for umpires and referees.

There will be two baseball dugouts, two batting cages, and two bullpens where relief pitchers can warm up.

- A paved and covered pavilion, measuring 28 feet wide and 100 feet in length, will occupy space between the parking lot and the south end of the field. The pavilion will be used for a variety of activities, including pre-game pep rallies, alumni reunion crawfish boils, and tailgate parties.

- A “Donor Recognition Wall” will prominently, yet tastefully, display the names of the project’s benefactors.

Neither the facility nor the field has a formal name yet, and potential benefactors might consider several levels of naming opportunities that are available.

Following a groundbreaking ceremony sometime in July, Jesuit’s new stadium and practice field is expected to be completed in spring 2011.

“The reality of a sports complex and field that Jesuit will use for baseball, soccer, and most football games is also fantastic news for New Orleans and Jefferson Parish prep athletics,” says Fr. McGinn. “Whenever possible, we will allow other schools to share the use of our facility and field.”

Jesuit intends to rename the road which will serve as the new athletic facility’s main entrance and exit. “Cold Storage Road,” by which it is currently known, just doesn’t seem a good fit. Certainly, it is not as warm and friendly as “Blue Jay Way.”

Email your suggestions to rename the road to alumni@jesuitnola.org

WHAT THEY SAY...

The Home Field Advantage campaign announcement at the May 15, 2010 baseball reunion (held in Jesuit’s Student Commons) generated much praise, excitement, anticipation, and optimism from numerous Blue Jays. Here is a sampling of some of their comments...

FRANK MISURACA, Jesuit’s retired athletic director and longtime coach of Blue Jay baseball: It will be an outstanding facility and well received not only by the Jesuit community but also the prep sports community. I know it will be a lot easier on the coaches and the players to have a designated practice field. Not having a regular place to practice was not beneficial to our players. Blue Jays will finally have a field they can call their own.

RAYMOND FITZGERALD, S.J. ’76, who will be Jesuit’s next president at the end of the 2010-11 school year: This is a great opportunity to take a fine athletic program and make sure it stays that way. It gives us a whole new range of possibilities and opportunities.

MILTON RETIF ’51, a star shortstop for the Blue Jays who went on to coach the Tulane Green Wave baseball team: It brings back memories of how we used to rush out to City Park and get to the diamond before St. Aloysius did. I also think a facility like this will improve the whole area of LaBarre Industrial Park. (Read Retif’s entire quote in the main story.)

BUDDY LAZARE ’43, a Jesuit alumni who rarely misses attending a Blue Jay sports event, especially baseball games where he is known to occasionally voice his opinion to fans, coaches, and especially umpires: As a fan for a number of years, I’ll be glad to see a stadium with the name Jesuit somewhere on it. It is something we’ve needed for a long time. I just hope that they don’t make me sit in a soundproof booth. That would make me mad.

BILLY BABIN ’74, a second baseman for the Jays, longtime coach of the pre-freshmen baseball team, and co-chair of the Home Field Advantage campaign: Billy (Babin) is absolutely correct about Margaret coming up with the name. It is the perfect name for the campaign. The skills of Blue Jays will be refined on a real field. It will be great for young and immature players to practice alongside the older boys, who will serve as their inspiration.

DAVE MOREAU, Jesuit’s athletic director, history teacher, and former longtime baseball coach: This will be a top notch facility and field. With the artificial turf, games might be postponed for a little while, but they won’t be canceled as a result of the field being unplayable. The facility will be fan friendly with spectators close to the action. The name of the campaign fits perfectly. Jesuit has never had home field advantage, so it will be neat to say we are playing at home.

JOEY LATINO, Jesuit’s assistant athletic director and science teacher who recently was named head baseball coach for the Blue Jays: Our teams will rely on their home field everyday. Besides being a great recruiting tool for Jesuit, the facility will generate a lot of enthusiasm among players, their parents, and alumni. The Home Field Advantage drive encompasses everything that a facility such as this one can bring to our sports program.
We live in a very confusing and often troubled world. Parents entrust their sons to us here at Jesuit High School because they believe we will provide the tools to help guide them into a world colored with various shades of grey. We are blessed and grateful for the sacred trust that our parents place in us as we challenge and nurture their sons through the high school years. We value the partnership that we have with our parents, and we are thankful for their boundless generosity they have bestowed on Jesuit in so many ways. We would not be able to do what we do without our parents.

Having said that, we have seen over the last few years the emergence of a growing trend among some of our parents. This trend has come in the form of parents whose concern for their child sometimes works against the child’s need to grow into an independent and confident adult. It is time that we share our concern with our parents, particularly those who are “helicopter parents.”

My hope in writing this article is to generate some reflection and discussion among the various segments of our school community so that our students have the opportunity to grow into the men that God wants them to be.

Who are helicopter parents? Helicopter parents are parents overly-involved in their child’s day-to-day lives. There is no question that helicopter parents are caring, loving, supportive, protective, and involved, but there are times when even the best parents probably cross that line and become helicopters. I know that as a parent myself, I have crossed that line at times.

The most serious helicopter parents are ever ready to swoop down to intervene in any situation in which their child may potentially experience a setback or failure. The message that helicopter parents send to their child is, “You need me!” Somewhere along the way helicopter parents have blurred that line between supporting and controlling their children. And while it is understandable that helicopter parents only want to help, their overprotective actions often result in a disservice to their child.

Helicopter parents can be found in all income levels, races, ethnicities, and both genders. Most helicopter parents are smart, well-educated, competitive, and highly motivated. Most are very anxious about their children’s futures. Sixty percent of all helicopter parenting is performed by mothers, and is usually directed at the social, academic, and domestic aspects of their sons’ lives. Fathers are more typically involved with grades and finances, and fathers are more forceful in contacting school administrators directly.

What are the origins and causes of this helicopter parent phenomenon? Research shows that most of the helicopter parents seem to have been born after 1964, waited longer to marry, and had fewer children. Because these parents have fewer children, they are much more predisposed to protect them zealously. Some observers point to the overprotective behavior of helicopter parents and explain it as parents trying to give their own children the childhood they never experienced. Helicopter parents often hold that their children are rarely, if ever, wrong. They prefer to be “friends” with their children. Many helicopter parents live vicariously through their children in the classrooms, on the athletic fields, and in social situations.

Researchers even have delineated various categories of helicopter parents.

- The agents or lobbyists are the parents who on the front end smooth everything out for their child. They don’t hesitate to contact administrators to discuss policies, ideas, or get involved in their child’s education any way they can.
- The bankers or enablers provide everything to their children in terms of resources. They are often guilty of spoiling their children by doing their laundry, cleaning their rooms, and even giving daily wake-up calls in their children’s college years.
- The bodyguards or safety-minded helicopter parents typically protect their child from everything that can go wrong—usually in their child’s interacting with others.
- The academic watchdogs continue to monitor their child’s grades and homework in high school and college as much as they did in elementary school.
- The tied-at-the-hip parents are saddened by their child’s growing independence, and they miss the close connection they had with their child when the child depended on them entirely. They often experience more separation anxiety than their child does.
- The white knights hover just out of sight but are ready to swoop down at a moment’s notice and save the day in any situation.
- And, last but not least, are the Blackhawk helicopter parents. These are parents who will do whatever it takes to give their child an advantage. They view protecting and promoting their child with the fervor of soldiers engaged in battle.

If you see that you might fall into one or more of these categories, you might consider taking a step back to encourage your son’s independence. Your son will not be able to do things for himself if you “swoop in” to rescue him whenever he is in a situation which is challenging. Dealing with hardship, conflict, and failure is a healthy and necessary aspect of life. He needs to begin to develop the skills to figure it all out and learn to deal with it on his own terms. It is especially important in the high school years for some children to fail so that they experience the reassurance that the world isn’t coming to an end because they did fail.

Listening to your son’s problems and supporting him is a necessary aspect of parenting, but it would be better to allow him to come to you for help rather than you inserting yourself into his daily life. Of course, as appropriately loving and concerned
parents, it is sometimes difficult to know where that line exists between just being supportive or becoming a helicopter parent. The temptation is to think that there is some magic formula to “perfect, one-size-fits-all parenting” if you just find that special book, that expert parenting coach, or that stellar program. The truth is that there is no such quick fix. All parents know that parenting is messy work, and that which works for one child does not work for the others.

One of my all-time favorite films is Parenthood, which stars Steve Martin, the comedian-writer-actor-author-and parent. The movie is wonderful in its honest look at the difficult work of parents. This film abounds with helicopter parents and I wholeheartedly recommend that you see it while soaking up the real world parenting wisdom that it offers.

All of at Jesuit—teachers, administrators, and staff—deal with parents on many levels. As I stated at the beginning of this article, we need our parents as partners. This partnership is easier for some parents to establish with us than it is for other parents. This partnership is easier for some teachers, administrators, and staff to establish with parents than it is for other teachers, administrators, and staff. There is no magic formula.

What we hope to create with our parents is a level of trust and respectful communication that helps us all reach a shared goal; namely, that your sons, our students, begin here at Jesuit to grow into the men that God wants them to be — so that when they leave us in four or five years, they have the tools to promote their own growth into being men who are not “best in the world,” but “best for the world.” This is our singular mission.

We appreciate the support that our parents give us in helping to foster this mission. Our parents help us the most in supporting this mission when they are willing and able to be present for their son at a necessary time, but also when they are able to recognize and encourage their son’s need to establish his independence.

Note: I have relied on three sources of information for this article:
• a presentation at the October 2009 Catholic Administrators’ Conference by Dr. Lisa Rae Vartanian of Purdue and Indiana Universities;
• “Are You a Helicopter Parent? Get Help!” by Stacy DeBroff, a 2007 article that was distributed to all metro area Catholic high school principals; and,
• “Can These Parents Be Saved?” by Nancy Gibbs, an article published in the November 30, 2009 edition of Time magazine.

AMDG
Mike Giambelluca ’82

12 TEACHERS JOINED JESUIT’S FACULTY AT START OF 2009–10 SCHOOL YEAR

New faces for the 2009-10 school year were, from left, Anne Bryant (English); Susan deBoisblanc (theology); Christine Hernandez (theology); Jerry Hernandez (social studies); Mr. Joseph Hill, S.J. (theology); Graham Jarrott (social studies); Andea Mika (computer studies and math), Catherine Mifsud (theology and speech); Joseph Nolfe (science); Osvaldo Ortega (Spanish); Katie Single (Spanish); and Julia Wilson (Spanish). Read their bios on Jesuit’s web site: http://www.jesuitnola.org/academics/New_Faculty_2009-10_082709.htm.
Each year, as has been the custom at Jesuit High School since the early 1900s (and quite possibly, even earlier), Blue Jays participate in the Thanksgiving Drive. During the days leading up to the drive, Blue Jays creatively raise money in homerooms, lunchtime, recess, and after school. The money is used to buy carts full of groceries from Robert Fresh Market on Robert E. Lee Boulevard, which opens its doors to Blue Jays at 5 a.m. on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

The annual Thanksgiving drive is more than a day of buying groceries, or packing them into boxes, or delivering the boxes to families who really are in need. At some point, it dawns on all Blue Jays the unselfish worth of it all. The place Blue Jays’ eyes are opened to this visible and fervent realization is at the brief prayer service in the Chapel of the North American Martyrs.

At the 2009 Thanksgiving Drive, Blue Jays gathered in the chapel and listened intently as Jesuit math teacher Leslie Merritt explained the true significance of participating in this special day.

By Giving...

It is my honor to speak to you today. This is one of my favorite days of the year, and not just because I was asked to speak to you. It is a wonderful day for many reasons.

One reason is that today is so different. Today is not about subject matter or co-curricular activities. Today is not about tournaments or homework or tests. It is about something much bigger. It is about being of service, being men and women for others and each other. It is our tradition, all of us — faculty, staff, students, and alumni — and it takes all of us to get the job done.

There is another reason why I enjoy this day so much. It can best be illustrated by a story.

There was a village and in this village there was a craftsman. Everyday he would walk to the edge of the village and sit under a tree. He would take a block of marble and carve the most amazing animals. The children of the village were fascinated and sat there for hours and watched him.

One day, after the craftsman had carved a remarkable tiger, a young boy asked a question. “Excuse me sir, how did you know there was a tiger in that block?”

Jesuit math teacher Leslie Merritt addresses Blue Jays during the 2009 Thanksgiving Drive chapel service. Mrs. Merritt is the mother in a family of Blue Jays. Her husband, Greg, graduated in 1980. Their three sons are also Blue Jays: Jeffrey ’07, Stephen ’09, and David ’11.
The man replied: “The tiger in my heart saw the tiger in the block, and the tiger in the block saw the tiger in my heart, and they called each other forward.”

Much like the good in you sees the good in me, and the good in me sees the good in you, and they call each other forth….the good in him sees the good in him.

Open your eyes today and be inspired by the people around you, not just the people in this chapel but also the people we will serve. Allow the good in them to see the good in you, and the good in you to see the good in them.

Katrina has taught us that sometimes we give and sometimes we receive. Somewhere in Tennessee there is a truck driver who picked up my family’s Subway bill in 2005 after learning we were from New Orleans. I was moved by the goodness of this total stranger. It was as if God was letting me know it would be okay.

Today is full of opportunities. In our giving we will receive, and in our receiving, we also give.

If you are not delivering, pray for the families you have been assigned and for your fellow Blue Jays who will be traveling to their homes.

If you are delivering, take the time to meet those you have been called to serve. Allow the goodness in them to see the goodness in you and vice versa.

Enjoy this day…enjoy the tradition…be inspired and be inspiring!

All for the Greater Glory of God.

Listen to Leslie Merritt’s address to Blue Jays, complete with adlibs, on Jesuit’s website: http://www.jesuitnola.org/extra/thanksgiving.htm.
FOOTBALL

Leaning on its wealth of experience on both sides of the ball — 14 starters returned from the 2008 squad, ten of them seniors — the football team showcased an inspired brand of ball throughout the 2009 season that resulted in a solid 7-5 record and Jesuit’s first football playoff victory since 2004.

En route to becoming the Jays’ all-time leader in career passing yards, senior quarterback Ethan Oddo engineered an explosive passing attack that balanced nicely with a sturdy running game and a gritty, unrelenting defensive attack. The squad disposed of Airline 29-7 in the opening round of the Class 5A state playoffs before narrowly succumbing to Rummel 14-7 in an unforgettable Catholic League brawl. Five seniors were named to the All-District Team, and senior offensive lineman Kenneth Bourgeois also garnered a spot on the All-Metro Team.

CROSS COUNTRY

What the 2009 cross country team lacked in seasoning — three freshmen ran in the squad’s top seven runners — it made up for in quality, winning a seventh consecutive district championship and finishing second to Catholic-Br at the Class 5A State Meet, making it eight straight years that Coach Peter Kernion’s Jays have finished in the top two spots in Louisiana. The charge was led by junior Phil Aucoin, the District 10-5A individual champion and the sixth runner across the line at the state race. Seniors Fritz Metzinger and Stanton Murray — second and third at district, respectively — joined Aucoin on the All-Metro and All-State Composite Teams.

SWIMMING—STATE!

Infused with a mixture of stellar individual performers and unparalleled depth, Jesuit’s most decorated athletic program swept the Metro and Division I State Swimming Championships for the fourth consecutive year and the 22nd in the last 23 years. The Jays’ now legendary senior trio of Ramsay Burch, Brian Carr, and Marc Dorsey finished their careers like the champions they have proved themselves to be since their freshman year, combining for four individual state titles, two runner-up performances, and contributing to all three winning relays. The rest of the team hardly rode the coattails of the team’s superstars, however; a staggering 13 Jays scored in the state meet, fueling their 124.5 point margin of victory over Catholic-Br.

WRESTLING

The wrestling team enjoyed yet another banner year, touting an undefeated record during the district season and a close runner-up finish to Catholic-Br at the Division I State Tournament. Despite their disappointing team finish, three Jesuit grapplers emerged as individual state champions — junior Jay Ferrero (103 lbs.), junior David Mahoney (125 lbs.), and senior Patrick Fitzsimmons (140 lbs.). Timmy Harris (130 lbs.), Trevor Johnson (145 lbs.), and Gerard Braud (152 lbs.) finished second individually. A mere six Jays won spots on the All-Metro team; and Ferrero (ranked 6th nationally in the 103 lb. division), Mahoney, and Fitzsimmons were honored by USA Wrestling Magazine for their impressive accomplishments on the mat in 2010. Carlos Bertot was deemed Metro Coach of the Year by The Times-Picayune.

SOCCER—STATE!

Even without its two most celebrated players entering the 2010 season — would-be senior and 2009 State Player of the Year Patrick Mullins departed a semester early for the University of Maryland, and junior Steven

There is nobody more qualified to undertake the herculean task of summarizing an entire year of Jesuit athletics than Walter “Fritz” Metzinger, who served as sports editor of the student newspaper The Blue Jay. Metzinger was one of 10 valedictorians from Jesuit’s recently graduated Class of 2010.
Cabos sustained a grave knee injury in the opening round of the playoffs — the soccer team finished the year with the state championship trophy in its clutches and its top 5 national ranking intact. Senior Jordan Schwartz drilled a penalty kick into the back left corner of the goal to secure the Jays’ 2-1 triumph over Lafayette in the State Finals and their second consecutive championship. In compiling an imposing 30-0-1 record, Jesuit featured an unfathomable six players on the All-State 50 rankings for boys’ soccer. Jesuit featured their second consecutive championship.

In a sense, the final sports heartbreaker to the Class 5A All-District First Team, and Cornell Brothers’ Kennedy baseball team, epitomized Jesuit’s overall athletic campaign: effective, gritty, and cohesive. Rather than allow a brutally competitive district schedule wither their resolve, the Jays clawed their way to a 3-2 for Jesuit’s third straight championship in the doubles’ division. The tennis team’s juggernaut status was bolstered by its inimitable depth: the JV squad beat many of the area’s best varsity teams, and the Brothers’ Kennedy (senior Theo and sophomore Dylan) reached the semifinals of the state tournament as the Jays’ second doubles team.

GOLF—STATE!
Coupled with Jesuit’s astounding fourth straight individual championship at the 2010 Division I State Golf Tournament came a long-answered team title, as the Jays used a furious second day surge to outpace Catholic-BR and Barbe by 14 strokes. The third time proved to be just as charming as the first two for junior Myles Lewis, who again displayed his uncanny ability to excel in the most crucial moments in conquering the Atchafalaya Golf Club Course for his third straight victory. His two-day total of 141 bettered teammate and third place finisher sophomore Taylor Billings’ mark by two strokes. Lewis and Billings were placed on the All-State First Team for their sensational performances while junior standout Peyton Vitter made the All-State Second Team.

JESUIT TODAY

BASKETBALL
More than any other group during the 2009-2010 season, the basketball team ignited the fervor of the student body in the midst of its storybook run to the Top 28 Tournament (State Semifinals) at the Cajundome in Lafayette. The Class of 2010 left its imprint on yet another sport in basketball, with five seniors receiving significant playing time. After triumphing over St. Thomas More in a frenzied state quarterfinal match at the Birdcage, 57-54, Jesuit lost a heartbreaker to the Scotlandville Hornets 60-58 to finish with a 25-11 record. Senior Brady Hadden was recognized on the Class 5A All-State Second Team and the All-District First Team. Senior Colby Kiefer joined him on the All-District First Team, and Cornell university bound senior Dominick Scelfo earned a spot on the All-District Second Team.

BASEBALL
In a sense, the final sports squad to conclude its season in 2010, the baseball team, epitomized Jesuit’s overall athletic campaign: effective, gritty, and cohesive. Rather than allow a brutally competitive district schedule wither their resolve, the Jays clawed their way to a 3-2 victory over Hahnville in the Class 5A State Tournament opening round game—a ten-inning barn burner ended by senior Derek Dunham’s dramatic walk-off homer. In what would be head coach Tim Parenton’s last game, Jesuit then pushed eventual state champion Catholic-BR to ten innings before finally falling just short, 9-8, in another instant classic. Five Blue Jay sluggers—senior first baseman Briggs Barrios, senior catcher Derek Dunham, senior pitcher Brady Hadden, junior infielder Tony Fortier-Bensen, and junior outfielder Bubby Riley — crowded the All-District Team.

TENNIS—STATE!
A perfect harmony between super-talented young guns and seasoned senior stars spelled victory for the tennis team, granting Jesuit its third straight state championship and its seventh in the last eight years. Freshman phenom Hobie Hotard blazed through the completion during the season and in the Division I State Tournament, where he captured singles championship over his highly-touted senior opponent from St. Paul’s. In the doubles competition experienced seniors Paul Mickan and Taylor Smith combined

TRACK
Virtually unheralded by any heading into the district meet, the Jesuit track and field team nearly snagged district and regional titles from St. Augustine before finishing fifth at the Class 5A Outdoor Championship. Junior Jarvis Harris proved the catalyst for the Jays’ close runners-up performances at the District 10-5A and Region 3-5A meets and stunning fifth place finish at State, sweeping the 110 hurdles titles at all three meets and setting a new school record of 39.83 seconds in the 300 hurdles. Senior Fritz Metzinger sprinted to second in the 3200-meter run at the state meet, joining Harris on the All-State Composite Team.

RUGBY—STATE!
The rugby team successfully recaptured their standing as Louisiana’s premier rugby program with their 27-3 victory over Brother Martin in the state finals. Senior David Gonzalez was marked the state tournament’s most outstanding player.

LACROSSE
After a dominating undefeated regular season which sent shockwaves of fear throughout the rest of the state, the lacrosse team finished the year as state runners-up to St. Thomas More. Five lax players earned All-State recognition.

View the numerous sports galleries on Jesuit’s web site.
Greg Bensel, a Jesuit alumnus who graduated in the Class of 1980, is the vice-president of communications for the New Orleans Saints. Prior to the playoffs, Jesuit alumni director Mat Grau ’68 interviewed Bensel at Saints headquarters on David Drive in Metairie.

After the Saints won the Super Bowl, Grau tossed Bensel the first three questions.

GREG BENSEL ’80
A Blue Jay Among Saints

Before the playoffs began, I asked if you had a wish list of items you would love to see the Saints have, and you responded, “The Lombardi Trophy. I’d love to get the Lombardi Trophy here. Then have that Lombardi Trophy on display atop a float in what would be the parade of a lifetime for everyone in New Orleans.”

Are you a prophet?
Having now completed that, sharing it with the fans made it all that much more special. The fans actually made winning this thing in this city at this time something that will never be forgotten.

Can you put the entire experience of the Saints’ winning the Super Bowl into perspective?
I do not believe, and I said this to Sean Payton, that there is a better city to win a Super Bowl than New Orleans. Our fans take their winning and losing seriously and they do it with passion. New Orleans winning the Super Bowl was like an eruption of years of emotion and heartache and suffering to complete unadulterated joy.

How has life changed since winning the Super Bowl?
The Saints organization is obviously busier, and there are greater demands on the team along with a shorter off season, all things that are worth the effort. At the end of the day, this was a team effort, and that team is everyone who has ever paid the price of putting their emotions out there for the team. We can all be proud, and walk together for the rest of our lives as World Champions.

Do you see any similarities between the Saints and the Blue Jays?
Definitely. Both the New Orleans Saints and the Jesuit Blue Jays are ingrained in the social fabric of the city. The people from Jesuit and the New Orleans Saints have had an incredible impact on this city. And I am very fortunate to have had the chance to be part of both.

What are your memories of Jesuit?
I remember walking through the halls of Jesuit so clearly like it was yesterday, and being in awe of the pictures of the past classes and the state championship trophies. And I remember the teachers: Fr. O’Neal’s chemistry class, summer school with Gerson Brown, Ray Coates, Teddy O’Dwyer, and Sidney Menard, the Silver Fox. And then there was Fr. Thompson. You don’t forget these people. They were classics. And I remember the academics and the athletics being paramount, just top notch.

What skills did you take from Jesuit?
I brought from Jesuit an understanding of English and good writing skills. Combine that with a facility in public speaking and you have a combination that results in confidence. And that ability to be confident in any setting has helped me tremendously. You were around guys who were committed to learning. There was no time to loaf at Jesuit. If you did, you were left behind. But there were resources to help you keep up. The end result of the experience, though, is that it instilled confidence in you.

What do you enjoy most about your job?
I like that it’s unique, different, and fun. I love just seeing the city electrified. When we come back from a road game, win or lose, 10,000 fans are at the airport to greet the team. I love that the New Orleans Saints have an impact in this community and are so interwoven into the social fabric of the city.

Was the success of the Saints this past year part of some plan that was put in place a few years ago?
When we came home after Katrina and the San Antonio year, we knew we had to put a whole new face on this organization. We needed a clean start. After the 2005 season, our owners told (general manager) Mickey Loomis to go out and get a new coach. Mickey went out and got Sean Payton. Then we got Drew Brees. Then we got Reggie Bush. All of a sudden, we had a great foundation. And we had hope.

What does the Saints organization do better than any other NFL team?
We commit to our community better than any other team in the NFL.
We have been recognized by humanitarian groups as one of the top giving organizations in professional sports. Our commitment to this community—to help rebuild our city, to help make this community better—that’s the number one thing we do best.

Is there an NFL organization that does something you would like to emulate, a team that you would like to model the Saints after?

To be honest with you, if you look at the NFL landscape right now and what we have done, we have become that model franchise. We are the team that has sold out our games for four straight years and has a season ticket waiting list of 50,000-plus. We are the team with the highest broadcast ratings. And we are the team that is a leader in its community.

What are your thoughts on the Superdome?

Love it. It’s iconic. It’s symbolic. It is our home. It is our home field advantage that is second to none in the NFL. Our relationship with the people who run the Superdome has never been better. We are here through 2025 and probably beyond. And significant changes are coming. It is going to be more square and the fans will be closer. We will have more restaurants, wider concourses, and even some windows. By the time of the 2013 Super Bowl, the Superdome will be a state of the art building.

Does any on-field moment this past season stand out for you, a moment that the fans might not be aware of?

We were walking off the field at halftime at the New England game, and I’m actually between Sean Payton and Drew Brees. Drew is yelling at Sean, “Coach, when we run a XY Sluggo Right, I want to move Colston to the slot and I want to move Meacham to the Y. I wanna flip flop ’em ’cause I like Colston in this slot, on the nickel, right here.” And Coach says, “Let’s go talk about it.” At the end of halftime, they come back out, they switch it, they run that play, and, bam, it’s a touchdown to Colston. We had our guys miked in that game by NFL films. All the footage is sent by NFL films for me to review. When I heard it, when I heard Drew call that play, I thought, “Holy cow, that’s it. That’s the play.” It was the fifth touchdown of that night. Just incredible.

Excluding the Saints, tell us which NFL team fits the description, starting with who wears the NFL’s best looking uniform.

Miami Dolphins
Worst uniform? Cleveland Browns

Best stadium? Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis
Worst stadium? Oakland Alameda County Coliseum

Best spirit? Green Bay Packers. Great fans.
Worst fans? Chicago Bears

Best traditions? The Packers, the Redskins, the Dolphins, the Chargers. There are a number of teams that have cool traditions.

Best tailgating? Without question, the Kansas City Chiefs. Expansive parking lots and great barbeques. They get there two or three days in advance. It’s family oriented. A very cool tradition—great tailgating.

Best official (referee)? Mike Carey, great guy. No, wait. Gene Steratore. Gene Steratore first, then Mike Carey.
Worst official? He’s retired, thank God. ■
Miami is immaculate. And New Orleans could, should, and will learn much from the so-called “Vice City.” My hope is that our community will come together and kick ourselves into a higher gear. I see the mutual Spanish and tropical influences between our city and theirs. Only in Miami they are further ahead on the curve. But look out South Florida, the Gulf Coast is a force to be reckoned with. We are a regional economic engine that can rival any in the country. For far too long, New Orleans has been a city of declining status. History books, and our parents and grandparents, tell us about the past grandeur of our city. Why is it always past?

Somewhere we lost touch with our pride. But the spirit, as Super Bowl Sunday proved, was never lost. On August 29, 2005 our apathy almost drowned and killed New Orleans. Why did we not hold our elected officials accountable? Why did we allow such terrible malaise to infect the Corps of Engineers? Where are the days of Eades, Humphreys, Percy, and Parker? It is time we reclaim our dignity and remind the world that we are a proud city. We are a city that wants visitors to be in town for more than just Third World-esque mission trips. Come enjoy us. Come enjoy our culture. Come be part of New Orleans.

Today we experience the revival. It is more than football. It is about New Orleans. We are a city ready to explode with creative passion. The fuse? The last four years of hard work from (Saints general manager) Mickey Loomis, Coach Sean Payton, Gregg Williams, and the rest of the staff. The Benson family finally got it right. Thank you. And thank you, Paul Tagliabue. I am not in New Orleans tonight for the Saints’ Super Bowl Parade, but around mid-afternoon I heard a rumbling. I felt some agitated vibes. That meant only one thing—humongous traffic jams. Just before 7 p.m. (EDT), an explosion of updates rang out across the Southeast, into the stratosphere, and onto the TVs, computers, and cell phones around the world.

Super Bowl Reflections from Miami

There were several Blue Jays, including alumni and current students with their parents, who were fortunate (or just plain lucky) enough to witness the Saints beat the Colts in the Super Bowl in Miami. Everyone attending the big game came back with an interesting story to tell. One of Jesuit’s young alumni, Mason Eustis ’08, reflects on his Super Bowl experience, penning his memoir below in the days following the Saints coming home with the coveted Vince Lombardi Trophy.
New Orleans, it’s ok. This feeling is good. I’m pretty sure this feeling is pride. And our citizens must remain proud and remain bold. The world around is experiencing an unprecedented renaissance. As the world changes, we must responsibly, rationally change with it. We can be that change.

Change in two words? **Mitch Landrieu** (’78). New leadership. I pray and hope that Mitch captures this historic moment, and with the world watching him, leads the way to restoring our position among the Great. The city gave Mitch a referendum in the mayoral election on Saturday. Mr. Landrieu, please use it!

Saints players Garrett Hartley and Tracy Porter have more in common than being World Champions. They were both born in 1986. Today New Orleans is undergoing a revival, one driven by youthfulness. But everyone can be youthful. If my aunts and uncles can use iPods and laptops, anyone can. New Orleans is dynamic and creative. New Orleans is Hollywood South.

I went through a transcendent experience this past Monday. I stood in the moist, chilly Miami morning next to Garrett Hartley and Tracy Porter. After dismissing the immediate question of “What in the world am I doing here?”, I looked at Porter. I was on cloud nine.

But he was in another universe. We made eye contact and we both nodded. We both knew. Something spiritual was transmitted into each of our souls. And each and every person who knows what it means to miss New Orleans understands this “it” was the revived Spirit of New Orleans. Ponder this: a boy from Baton Rouge picks off two future Hall of Famers from Uptown and Kiln to help bring the Vince Lombardi Trophy to New Orleans. Sean Peyton takes a calculated, stunning risk with an onside kick, and the Spirit of New Orleans beats the odds. Yes, we even beat Vegas.

When I was in my early adolescence, I joked with friends that when I grow up, I would make New Orleans great again. I wish that I could. Lucky for me, Tracy Porter and the New Orleans Saints have rekindled the fire. New Orleans, throw your creativity into the flame. Keep this *espirit* going. Let your greatness show.

Oh, and please, no more violence. Those dark days are over, I hope.

To Happy Days, I raise my glass.

A proud New Orleanian.

*Mason Eustis* ’08
Published in August of 2006, the document Profile of a Jesuit High School Teacher has been an important tool in teacher formation at the school. To remind our community of the great traits of the Jesuit High School teacher, Jaynotes has presented the first five characteristics in the past five issues: Open to Growth, Religious, Loving, Intellectually Competent, and Professionally Competent. This issue presents the final characteristic, Committed to Justice. The booklet is also posted on Jesuit’s website: http://www.jesuitnola.org/jesdata/pdf/Profile_JHS_Teacher(2).pdf.

VI. Committed to Justice

A teacher at Jesuit High School acknowledges that all men and women should have equal opportunity to partake of God’s creation. He also realizes that sometimes this opportunity is compromised and that man must work toward the elimination of these obstacles to a fuller realization of God’s commands of justice. Because the work of Jesuit education is formative for life in the modern world, it is important that the Jesuit educator inspire a thirst for justice through his work. Therefore, the teacher is committed both to promoting the dignity of the human person and to taking an active stance against all forces that oppose it.

A member of the Jesuit High School faculty…

- establishes a classroom atmosphere that fosters understanding, tolerance, and acceptance of others.
- integrates ideals of social justice into subject matter and educates students in confronting moral ambiguities in our society.
- promotes a culture of life that respects the dignity of the human person from the moment of conception until death.
- responds to social issues on local, national, and world stages by promoting and engaging in community service.
- uses the opportunities afforded by co-curricular activities and organizations to address issues of social justice.
- opposes, both in word and deed, all forms of hatred and intolerance.

Rodney Louque, a beloved teacher and coach at Jesuit High School for 23 years, died on August 19, 2009 following a courageous four-year battle against cancer. Coach Louque exhibited enthusiasm, compassion, dedication, and spirituality in the classroom as well as on the field. He taught biology and physical science while juggling coaching responsibilities for Jesuit’s football, track, and cross country teams.

Coach Louque was married for 40 years to Jeanie Stein Louque, who teaches computer science at Jesuit. They have three daughters and six grandchildren. One of their grandsons, Tyler Gonzales, is a Blue Jay (Class of 2013).

Jesuit extends its sincere condolences to the Louque Family.

Read the entire article about Coach Louque on Jesuit’s web site: http://www.jesuitnola.org/about/Rodney_Louque_Memorial_081909.htm.


Coach Rodney Louque
(1944 – 2009)
One hallmark trait of a Jesuit education is an emphasis on debate—the ability to take a stand and defend it. In this testimonial, Peter Tumminello ’80 pays tribute to a Jesuit priest and teacher who demanded that his students never reflect the superficial, but always embody the depth of thought of an educated man.

PADRE

Gave Blue Jays a Great and Rare Gift

By Peter Tumminello ’80

Which Jesuit High School teacher had a significant positive impact on my life? Hands down, no doubt about it, without hesitation, it was Fr. Wayne Roca, S.J., or, as we simply called him, Padre. Padre just had it when it came to communicating with Jesuit teenagers. The year was 1979, and the focus in class was Plato’s Republic; certainly material that could be a sleep-aid for a room full of impatient, high strung 17-year-olds. But Padre brought the discussion of philosophy to life. He would not just blindly accept our initial answers to issues presented in the book. “What is justice?”, “What can really be considered virtuous?”, or “Does wealth by itself bring happiness?” These concepts never even crossed our 17-year-old minds. More interesting concepts were the girls from Cabrini, Mount Carmel, Dominican, Ursuline, and, for us West Bankers, Archbishop Blenk. What we thought about such topics had to find clear, solid expression. BS-ing was not an option. Fr. Roca wanted open, honest, and lively debate. This just did not happen in other classes. Padre, however, made it fun, and, at times, eye opening. If we did not participate at his expected level of excellence, Padre’s loud, deep voice would encourage us to do so. He demanded plenty from us, but he was willing to give fully of himself. Often the debates would continue in his office where we would try to wear him down with our arguments, always a futile endeavor. Sometimes I thought he just liked to argue. Now, of course, I see that he was giving us the greatest gift a teacher can give—the ability to think on our own.

A highlight of my academic life with Fr. Roca was a trip to Washington D.C. during my junior year. Here was this treasure trove of historical information just waiting to be unlocked. And Fr. Roca was the key that would open this gold mine. And sure enough, Padre opened up the whole world of U.S. government in a way that we could understand and appreciate. We walked for miles around the nation’s capitol and learned from him a side of American history not found in any textbook.

After Jesuit, Fr. Roca would impact my life in a different way. In my senior year at Louisiana Tech, I met the girl who would become my wife. When I told Fr. Roca about her, it was 1979 all over again. “Why is she the one?” “What is it about her that makes you want to spend the rest of your life with her?” I told him, “You will meet her and you will understand.” Eventually, Padre did meet Susan. And the rest, as we say, is history. Any issues that could have arisen from Susan being Baptist and my being Catholic dissolved in Padre’s hands. Twenty-two years later, my wife and I still think of him. And so do our 19 and 17-year-old daughters, both of whom have heard so many stories of Padre.

Fr. Roca died several years ago, much too soon. He was truly a man who served others. He was able to break through to a bunch of teenagers and did it on his terms. If he were alive today to read this, I am sure he would have questions. Just saying that he had the greatest impact on my life at Jesuit would not be enough. He would want to debate the issue at length. That was just Padre’s way.

Peter Tumminello and his family live in Katy, Texas, just outside Houston. Since 1984 Tumminello has worked in the energy industry, and in April 2010 was named president of Sequent Energy Management, a natural gas management and marketing company. Tumminello earned a masters degree in business administration from the University of Southwestern Louisiana and his BS degree in petroleum engineering from Louisiana Tech University. He frequently speaks on natural gas storage, transportation, and asset management at energy industry conferences. One of the ways Tumminello stays connected to his hometown is with his membership in the Krewe of Hermes. As a result, he rarely misses Mardi Gras.

Teacher testimonials will continue to be a regular feature in Jaynotes. Send your essay about a Jesuit teacher who influenced you to Jaynotes editor Pierre DeGruy at degruy@jesuitnola.org.
In the spring of 2003, I was blessed with the opportunity to renew my studies of Medieval and Renaissance Literature in the Master’s program at the University of New Orleans. My motivations for such studies were primarily recreational. My passion for the literature of this period would only later be outdone by my passion for the faith which such literature would begin to instill within me.

Almost all serious literature from these periods was, in fact, religious literature—a reality often overlooked in secular education. Faith was not a private matter in the medieval and renaissance worlds. On the contrary, one’s faith defined the person in many ways. In my earlier studies of English literature, this clear fact escaped my notice because I myself possessed no serious faith. I had rejected the faith of my youth—my Catholic faith—and accepted the secular worldview so effectively promoted by our modern culture. My reconnection with the Catholic faith during my studies at the University of New Orleans allowed for a more intimate understanding of not only the literature, but also the people of these literary periods.

Empowered by this newfound faith, I delved into the literature of these periods with a new fervor and a new direction, always focusing on the faith of the people and situations described. I became increasingly interested in the literature of Elizabethan England—Shakespeare, Spenser, Marlowe. This period, often referred to as the “golden age” of English literature, had been described by many of my university professors as a time of freedom and enlightenment. All of England was united under the leadership of the Virgin Queen. Intrigued by the almost mythical persona of this great queen, I delved ever deeper into the history of the period.

What I discovered was not a story of grandeur and tolerance for all expressions of thought, but a story of spiritual oppression and violence toward a large percentage of the population of England—the Catholic population. King Henry VIII had defied the Pope and cleaved England from the Catholic world by making himself the head of the Church of England.

After the brief reign of her sister Mary, Elizabeth furthered the separation of England and Rome by surrounding herself with politicians particularly hostile to the Catholic faith, who were determined to systematically eliminate the old faith from England. Laws were enacted; taxes were levied; the Catholic Mass was strictly forbidden.

This was the time of John Fisher and Thomas Becket, those great Catholic saints who defied a king in support of their Pope. This was the time of an ever growing number of young Jesuit priests ordained to bring the Catholic faith to the people of England, ordained to be martyrs for their faith, foremost among them a young man named Edmund Campion.

A shining star at Oxford and a favorite of Queen Elizabeth, Campion had at an early age allowed the allurements of fame and success to distract him from his Catholic faith. He took the Oath of Supremacy, promising loyalty to the Queen as head of the church, and deacon’s orders in the new “anglican” rite.
However, plagued by regrets for abandoning his Catholic faith, Campion soon left Oxford, fleeing first to Ireland and later to Douai, France, where he re-affirmed his Catholicism and entered the seminary, and later the Society of Jesus.

Soon Campion was ordered to return to his native England to provide for the needs of his Catholic countrymen — Mass, confession, prayer — and to win souls for Christ. The night before he left for England, a fellow priest inscribed on his doorstep: “Father Edmund Campion Martyr.” And martyr he would be! But not yet!

In June 1580, Campion returned to an England in which the whole Catholic manner of life had been dubbed criminal. Catholic priests and those who aided them were guilty of treason against the crown.

Despite such dangers, Campion’s return to his native country was not somber in any way. He was a missionary of hope, introducing a palpable gaiety wherever he traveled. Fear and despair fled before him. He stood for the Creed! He stood for Rome! The gates of hell could not prevail against this power!

Expecting to die for Christ, Campion wrote his final vindication, his final testament, to be dispersed on the occasion of his martyrdom. This document, known thereafter as Campion’s Brag, was prematurely dispersed among Catholics throughout England. In it he put forth his mission “to preach the Gospel, to minister the Sacraments, to instruct the simple, to reforme sinners, to confute errors — in brief, to trie alarme spiritual against foul vice and proud ignorance, wherewith many my dear Countryman are abused.”

He also pleaded with Queen Elizabeth to recognize the truth of the faith of her ancestors and return the country into the loving hands of the Roman Catholic Church.

Soon, the Brag found its way into the hands of the hostile authorities, and a countrywide manhunt for the Jesuit priest, Edmund Campion, was set in motion. Travel became increasingly difficult for Campion. He was forced to travel by cover of night, donning sometimes laughable costumes to escape detection. He traveled from one Catholic household to another, bringing a supernatural joy and the sacraments wherever he went. The authorities were always close behind. Campion, and those who traveled with him, oftentimes hid in secret corridors or behind walls for days until once again safe to embark to the next household. Nevertheless, his fervor never waned. He spoke with such eloquence and exuberance that many were converted by his words despite the imminent threat to Catholics.

In July 1581, just over a year after returning to England to spread the gospel of Christ and his Church, Campion was betrayed and captured. He soon found himself before the Queen herself. He pledged allegiance to her as his sovereign ruler, but refused to accept her as head of the Church. She offered him his freedom and a public office if he would only become Protestant. He adamantly refused.

He was cast into prison and tortured. In an attempt to destroy Campion’s reputation, the authorities forced him into a public trial and theological debate in which, by all accounts, he came away the victor. Then on December 1, 1581, Campion became the martyr he felt called to be — executed at Tyburn while praying for Queen Elizabeth.

In 1970 Edmund Campion, the English martyr, was declared a saint by the Church he so loved. His feast day continues to be celebrated on December 1, the day of his glorious martyrdom.

Many people, including myself, have neglected to recognize the grave injustices perpetrated against Catholics in the history of the English reformation. Many men and women lost their lives because of their strong conviction that the Pope is the spiritual head of the Church in the world. For centuries the Society of Jesus has defended this doctrine of the faith. Edmund Campion exemplifies this dedication. I often look to his example — the example of a man who, as a young man, shed his faith for earthly glories, but later came to know that only through his faith could he truly come to know himself.

His story is my story. His story is your story. Perhaps we will not be called to a bloody martyrdom, but we are all called to give our lives for Christ and his Church. Let the devotion of Saint Edmund Campion guide us in this calling. Let us never forget those who gave their lives for the Catholic faith.

St. Edmund Campion…pray for us.

Fr. Nile Gross ’95 was ordained a priest on June 6, 2009. He serves at St. Clement of Rome Parish in Metairie where he oversees youth activities, adult education, and instruction for those interested in converting to Catholicism.
Fr. Fitzgerald
Continued from Page 5

president, Fr. Postell, has been serving there as long as Fr. McGinn has in New Orleans. With Jesuit Tampa, the school is over 100-years-old, it is located in a well known part of the city, and it has lots of sons and grandchildren of alumni, just like Jesuit New Orleans, which has been a part of this city’s life for 160-plus years. The president of Jesuit Tampa is Fr. Richard Hermes (S.J.), who worked here for a number of years. All three schools have large numbers of alums who are happy to serve on various boards, phone-a-thons, and they get results. A key indication of the current health of all three schools is the young alumni coming out of college who are happy to come back to teach and work, even if it might be only for a couple of years before they move on to something else. All three schools have a really splendid faculty, many of whom are graduates of the last 10 years.

Jaynotes: What is an important difference between Jesuit New Orleans and the other two schools?
Fr. Fitzgerald: One of the distinctions is the web site of Jesuit New Orleans. It is the only high school web site I know of that allows viewers the opportunity to follow an event in real time. When an event happens in the morning, by noon the pictures are up. As far as being able to stay connected as an alumnus, a former teacher, and a Jesuit, the web site is great. I found that for the years I was away, wherever I was in the world for my job, I had a pretty good idea of what was happening at Jesuit on a day-by-day basis simply by checking the web site.

Jaynotes: Would you share any observations about fund raising at the three schools?
Fr. Fitzgerald: Dallas and New Orleans are similar. Each has a parents’ annual giving drive and a phone drive for alums. Dallas and Tampa do not have a spring Bazaar like Jesuit New Orleans. In fact, not many places in the world do. There is an auction in Dallas that is the big fundraiser of the year, similar to the auction at the Jesuit New Orleans’ Celebration event. My last year I was in Dallas (2007), their auction netted a million dollars. Dallas happens to have a fair amount of fluid wealth.

Jaynotes: What made you decide to apply for admission to Jesuit back in 1971?
Fr. Fitzgerald: Its reputation as a good school. A couple of my cousins had gone here and so I knew something about it. I was coming from New Orleans Academy which I had attended from first through seventh grade. I wanted a good education and my parents and I talked about Jesuit. I took the entrance test and was accepted. The rest is history.

Jaynotes: How does it strike you that some parents today leave the decision of choosing a high school entirely up to their kids?
Fr. Fitzgerald: I guess each family has its own way of doing things. It seems that it is an opportunity for parents and their son, someone who is now moving into adolescence and the beginnings of young adulthood, to forge a good partnership on a major decision. It is something parents and their sons ought to be talking about. It is a decision they should make jointly because parents have seen a lot of the world, they have experience, and they certainly have their own son’s interest at heart.

Jaynotes: How would you respond if a parent told you, “My son wants to go to school where his friends are going, which is not Jesuit? What can I say to convince him that he would be better off at Jesuit?”
Fr. Fitzgerald: I would strongly suggest that the family attend Jesuit’s open house, which is in November. The boy, and his friends, should also attend Blue & White Friday Night, a new event in October. I’d invite them to tour the school, either privately or with a group. I would suggest to the parents that they sit and talk with their son and tell him that this is a decision that will affect the rest of his life. Choosing a school can be a great way for a young man to learn how to make a good decision. At least put this question to him. “OK, you are 13. At this point, can you even begin to say where you want to be when you are 18?” This is a decision affecting not just his immediate future. Life will change in high school, that’s a given. The question for him is, “How do you want it to change?” It may be helpful for parents to remind their sons that some of the friends he made in grade school he will keep for the rest of his life, while others will go their separate ways.

Ask your son: “Where do you want to be, what environment do you want to be in to make new friends, what kind of new friends do you want to make, and what do you want by way of an education involving religion, academics, social attitudes, service, athletics, and co-curriculars?”

I would want a chance to tell the kid, “Let me show you what we have to offer. I’ll grant you, Jesuit’s not for everybody, not everybody’s for Jesuit. Fine, I want you to go where you’ll thrive and become the man God wants you to be. Think about Jesuit that way. And if you won’t choose us, choose us because you’ve looked at yourself, you’ve looked at us, and you have decided we’re not a good fit, as opposed to you going to school wherever the crowd goes. That’s not a good way to make a decision.” I don’t know if a 12- or 13-year-old will buy that, but I would hope the parents do.

Jaynotes: What about books, Father? What are you reading these days?
Fr. Fitzgerald: With my current job as socius, I am on the road at least a third of every month. On planes and in airports, I have a lot of time. I always try to keep about three books going at any one time. To keep my own mind from getting confused, the books are always three different genres. I try to keep moving through one of the ancient classics. Right now I am re-reading The Iliad—it has a wonderful way of making sure nobody will disturb me when I’m sitting on an airplane. I read a theological book, a spiritual reading, to keep updated and to keep myself fresh. And, finally, a history work or a detective novel. The great classic writer I love is Dorothy Sayers, who wrote the Lord Peter Wimsey series. And I like historical detective novels, such as March Violets by Philip Kerr. It was set in Germany in the 1930s and the main character is a cop who investigates murders, but after the Nazis take power, he does so in a new and scary context. It was an interesting book, the first of Kerr’s series.

Jaynotes: Do you exercise?
Fr. Fitzgerald: I like to take walks. If I can get a good walk for a half hour to an hour a few times a week, that’s good. Of course, when I was teaching here, I figured I did a stairs routine that folks pay several hundred dollars to do in a gym. I was doing it just getting around the building and the school.

Jaynotes: What is life like for you up on the 5th and 6th floors right now?
Fr. Fitzgerald: Actually, it is really a great community. We have a wonderful diversity of age and experience in the society, including two of the best young scholastics I’ve met in my life, Nathan Halloran and Joe Hill. And we have two really great wisdom figures in Frs. Norman O’Neal and Nick Schiro, men who have, in a very edifying fashion, given their lives to God and service as Jesuit priests. And Fr. Schiro is a splendid cook. Then there is Brother Billy Dardis — there is not much going on in New Orleans that he doesn’t know about, especially at Jesuit High School. It’s a wonderful community. When I’m away for a week or so and return to join the other Jesuits at dinner, I find that I’ve missed them. It is a home I like to come back to.

Jaynotes: Do you have a favorite meal you like to come home to eat?
Fr. Fitzgerald: In New Orleans, that’s an unfair question. Favorite seafood, favorite Italian food? Anything with seafood, and if it has seafood and pasta, that’s even better. One of the joys of living at Jesuit right now is we are in walking distance of about 20 pretty decent restaurants. Having had the privilege of living here for a number of years, I don’t take good food for granted.

Jaynotes: Do you cook?
Fr. Fitzgerald: No. One of my contributions to community life is that I force no one to eat what I have prepared.
Class of 2010 Boasts 36 National Merit Semifinalists, 3 National Hispanic Scholars

Soon after the 2009–10 school year began, 36 seniors from Jesuit High School found out they made the cut and were named as National Merit Semifinalists.

With scores ranging from 207 to 237, this year’s NMS’s are, front row from left: John Anjier, Roger Bacon, Taylor Bologna, Seth Bourg, Ethan Caballero, John Canada, Brian Carr, Tyler Champion, Ian deBoisblanc, Andrew DeGenova, Robert Fink, and Michael Geohegan.


Top row, from left, are: Evan Shea, John Skelton, Austin Smith, Lawrence Stansberry, Bradford Stewart, Tyler Treuting, Ryan Velez, Brett Weber, Paul Wedig, Alexander Wolff, and Triston Wong. Missing from the photo is Nicholas Falba.

Additionally, three seniors were honored as National Hispanic Scholars: Paul Mickan, Sam Morel, and John Simpson.

A brochure featuring the National Merit Semifinalists, National Hispanic Scholars, and the 14 seniors who attained Commended status (just missing the cut as semifinalists), may be viewed online at: http://www.jesuitnola.org/jesdata/pdf/National_Merit_Semi_Brochure_Class_of_2010(Web_111109).pdf.

Lacrosse
Continued from Page 30

coaching oversight to other people,” said Brantley. “I had a quick meeting with my coaches and key parents, who immediately volunteered to run with the ball. That made it a lot easier for me.”

However, the biggest vote of confidence came from his nine year-old son, Jordan, who, after hearing news reports about the 200,000-plus casualties, urged his father to accept the assignment. Jordan wanted to go, too. The call for help was “yes.” Jordan received an appreciative, but firm, “no” from his father.

Brantley and Carlson are part of a disaster rapid deployment team, which Brantley created several years ago to mobilize on very short notice — in this case about 30 hours — to any disaster in the world to “make it happen.” Their experience in Indonesia with assisting tsunami victims in 2005 would help immeasurably after that country’s natural disaster.

This time, Brantley’s team created a critical logistics line, delivering supplies such as food, water, medicine, tools and fuel from the Dominican Republic to neighboring Haiti.

Brantley said while the large relief organizations do great work, they often run into a variety of problems and may take longer to gain access and set up operations.

Brantley’s group, Communitas, provided lifesaving fuel for hospital generators and quickly established local connections that made the entry easier for larger relief organizations such as the Red Cross and the United Nations.

Brantley’s family and extended Jesuit family kept him connected to home with text messages, emails, and Internet updates. And the coach reciprocated with notes from the frontline.

After three and half weeks, Brantley and Carlson returned to New Orleans and rejoined the Jesuit team.

“It’s one thing to talk to our guys about being ‘Men for Others,’” said Brantley. “It’s another to show them. We’re not just coaching lacrosse, we are teaching life lessons they will be able to use long after they leave the field.

Brantley adds that the work Communitas did in Haiti was “a lot more than deliver supplies, as urgent as that was. Our goal was to incarnate the Body of Christ, and bring about true impact.”

Almost any conversation with Mike Brantley includes the line, “I get it.”

Thanks to Jesuit lacrosse coaches Brantley and Carlson, now their players get it.

Tom Bagwill is director of the office of institutional advancement at Jesuit High School. His son Ben ’12 plays on Jesuit’s junior varsity lacrosse team.
Parents: If you are receiving your son’s copy of Jaynotes and he no longer lives with you, please let us know so we can update our database and send the magazine directly to him. Let us know if you enjoy reading your son’s copy of Jaynotes. We will be glad to send a copy to his new address and a copy to you. Email changes to: alumni@jesuitnola.org.

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