

WHAT'S BRUIN?

■ Fall 2007

Alumni Newsletter

www.bssbruins.org

Annual Report

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

The first Annual School Support Fund drive was a marvelous success. \$50,000 was raised to support the operational budget and physical plant needs of the school. According to Kim Hoffmann, Director of Development, "We were not sure what to expect in year one, but we were extremely gratified by the response of alumni, parents and parishioners."

Hoping to build on last year's success, the goal for this year's Annual Fund has been set at \$60,000. The costs of Catholic education continue to increase, and the Annual Fund plays an important role in efforts to control the cost of tuition for parents. We also continue to work on enhancement and renovation of our beautiful, but aging, building; a portion of Annual Fund dollars is earmarked for maintenance of the facilities. Last year's Annual Fund enabled the school to purchase new computers for our lab.



"The Father Hoefler Challenge," named after our Pastor, Father Dave Hoefler, recognizes those individuals who make donations of \$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund. A list of all donors from last year can be found in this issue of the newsletter.

You will receive further information about the Annual School Support Fund later this fall. Please consider a gift to this important effort.

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Life is a Cabernet!

On Sunday, November 4, Blessed Sacrament Parish will host its first wine tasting, "Life is a Cabernet". The event, to be held in the historic Blessed Sacrament gym, will take place from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. The wine tasting is for adults, 21 and over, and will benefit the Blessed Sacrament Annual School Support Fund. Tickets are available in advance for \$15.00 per person or on the day of the event for \$17.00 per person.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about wine and enjoy a fun evening. A variety of wines will be offered for sampling accompanied by light hors d'oeuvres. You can order your favorite wine selections to be picked up in the gym on Saturday, November 10. Creative wine glasses will also be available for purchase.

The holiday season comes quickly, BE PREPARED! This event enables you to serve the perfect wines at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. Here's your chance to pair the optimal wines with your holiday parties and gift giving. We'd love to see you on November 4. Please contact Tina Saunderson at (217) 789-1836 or Cathy Padget at (217) 528-6506 with any questions you might have.

Donor List for Annual Fund

The Father Hoefler Challenge

(Gifts of \$1,000 or more)

Anonymous
Stuart Brown, Jr.
Dan & Peggy Cadigan
Ray & Anne Capestrain
Father David Hoefler
Mike & Kim Hoffmann
Jim & Annette McDermott
Mike & Tina Morehead
Dr. Joseph & Kelli Nyre
Mike & Carrie O'Brien
Bryan & Cathy Padget
Pat & Carla Sheehan Family
Doug & Leslie Shevlin
The Tracy Family Foundation
Jim & Kathy Wear
Sam & Ann Witsman
Bill & Ruth Yu

Friends of Blessed Sacrament School

Jamie & Debbie Adams
Peg Adams
Debra A. Alexander
Gianni & Sarah Antonacci
Larry & Anne Antonacci
Sharlene Antonacci
Bill & Nichol Antonacci
Bob & Nancy Barber
Bob & Anne Barker
Tom and Beth Bayer
Pat & Barry Becker
Fritzie Belz
John & Lisa Belz
Rita D. Bernet
Henrietta Berning
Richard H. Berry
Marilyn O'Hara Beveridge
David & Chris Bitzer
Helen Blalock
Josh & Wendy Bluhm
Todd & Stacey Boll
Mrs. Maxine Bretz
Missy & John Broeker
Nancy Natterman Brophy
Greg Brown
Brad & Patty Bucklin
George & Jane Bunn
Kevin Burns
Tom & Mary Ann Burns
Todd Burns
Kathy Caruso
Don & Joan Casper
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Cavanagh
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Clark
Rex & Linda Coble
Dr. Robert & Nancy Colantino
Bernie Coleman
James Corrigan
Celeste Costa
Lori Criscione
Peter & Kristen Curtis
Lorraine Cusick
The DePooter Family
Pat Denny
Joan Wendell Denton
John & Pat Dietrich
Craig Kniffin & Rachel Doctors
Rebecca E. Doefler
Bob Donath
Joseph & Ruth Donelan
Patricia Downey
Patrick J. Doyle
Mick & Barb Doyle
Michael & Barbara Drake
Tim & Christina Dunbar
Michael & Peggy Dunlap
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Ebel

John & Linda Eck
John & Lynn Eck, Jr.
Dave & Barbara Erdmann
John & Donna Evans
Chris & Lori Faber
Frank & Becky Farley
Jeff & Janine Feller
Dave Ficke Family
Carole & George Ficke
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Figge
Brian & Laurie Fitzgerald
Madonna & Humphrey Fluckiger
John & Elinor Franz
Lawrence & Jeanne Franz
Robert Franz
Catherine Annette Fuchs
Debbie Stapleton Fulton
Ed & Chris Gaffigan
Bernice (Eck) Gard
Frank & Jennifer Gardner
Melinda Garvert
Lorraine Gillespie
Mike & Cindi Goza
Jim & Carolyn Graham
The Greater New Orleans Foundation
Joe & Marilyn Harris
Mike & Kathy Harth
Joe & Mary Claire Haugh
Tim & Ann Healy
Kristin Heiple
Mark & Beth Henderson
Bob Henneberry
Dave & Stacey Herman
Matt Hitzemann
Dennis & Mary Ellen Hollahan
Judith (Stukenberg) Holley
Linda H. Holsapple
Mike & Carolyn Houston
Mrs. Patricia Howard
Janet Howe
Mary E. Jennings
Dr. Francisco Jimenez
John & Susan Keating
Teresa & Drew Keller
Pat & Julie Ketchum
Ms. Edna Kienzler
John Kihn
Paul & Barbara Killion
Mr. & Mrs. Merle King
Edward Kwedar
Bertha Lederle
Michael P. Levis, M.D.
Doug & Danielle Lindquist
Jack Link
Joseph & Catherine Link
Gregg & Tracie Lewis
Al Lucas
Kevin & Cris Lust
Eric & Jennifer Madiar
Barbara Malkus
Glenn A. Mandeville
Bob and Alma Mandeville
Ana Manriquez
Camilla Manzella
Marilyn E. Mason
Jack & Jeanne McCarthy
Jean (Foster) McColgin
Mr. & Mrs. Philip McFadden
Patrick & Jane McGarry
Charles Meeker
Steve & Sue Melton
Mr. & Mrs. David Menzel
Leonard Metz
Pat & Janet Metz
Christine Meyer
Marilyn A. Meyer
Leon & Ellen Mizour
Tim & Donna Moore

Bill & Chrissie Moran
 Suzanne & Jim Morphew
 Lloyd & Marty Mosley
 Richard F. Mulcahy
 Charles T. & Cathy Murphy
 Serge & Valerie Njapa
 Gerald Lee Nudo
 Mary Frances Nuess
 Bud & Helene O'Shea
 Paul O'Shea
 James & Cindy Oh
 Chris & Rhonda Owsley
 Bob Parker
 Sally Hull Patton
 Tom & Sarah Delano Pavlik
 Linda Penniman
 Dr. & Mrs. H. Larry Penning
 Chris & Amy Perrin
 Dr. & Mrs. William Peterson
 Robert & Patricia Pierce
 Arman & Barb Prosperini
 Bernard & Jean Quigley
 Joan Riedel Ramelon
 David & Molly Rearden
 Al & Therese Rechner
 Suzanne Rechner
 Karen Reed
 Thomas P. Regan
 Dr. & Mrs. Christopher Reid
 Scott & Lori Reimers
 Shaun & Amy Riedell
 Evelyn Robison
 The Rock Family
 Elizabeth Phipps Sanborn
 Steve & Lori Scheufele
 Tom Schmidt & Tina Saunderson
 Kevin & Sharon Schraeder
 Susan Senger
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert Seymour
 Margaret R. Sheehan
 Tim & Mary Jo Sheehan
 Sue Maggio Sim
 Marilyn Skube
 George M. Smith
 Chris & Pam Smith
 Dorothy Spence
 Michael & Dodie Stannard
 Dennis G. Stapleton
 Drs. Jim & Susan Stegeman
 Ann Bodewes Stephens
 Darrell & Cathy Stoddard
 John & Dianne Sullivan
 The Sweetin Family
 Lance & Carol Taylor
 Mary Monica Thompson
 Tim & Linda Thornberry
 Don & Wanda Tracy
 Virginia Valdez
 Marie Valenti
 Josephine Vespa
 Denise & Marty Vespa
 Michael & Barbara Vincent
 Helen M. Voyles
 Barbara Fuhrman Wagner
 Christina Warren
 Stanley & Mary Jo Wasser
 Sarah Wear
 Regina Wheeling
 Ray & Janice White
 Pam White
 Bob & Roseanne Wiatrolak
 Karen Williams
 Jim & Nora Yochim
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Zink

Gifts In Memoriam

In Memory of Lillian Fox
 Larry & Anne Antonacci

In Memory of Robert Ankenbrandt
 Larry & Anne Antonacci
 In Memory of Charles "Chick" Delano
 Edward & Judith Bunnell
 In Memory of Sister Suzanne Seibert
 Dan & Peggy Cadigan
 John & Pat Dietrich
 In Memory of Kenneth Kurz
 Larry & Anne Antonacci
 In Memory of Mary Louis Stapleton
 Corcoran
 Dennis Corcoran
 In Memory of George & Betty Jennings
 Mary E. Jennings
 In Memory of Marita Child
 Tim & Donna Moore
 In Memory of Dick McDermott
 Kevin McDermott
 In Memory of Marion Perrin
 Tom & Sarah Delano Pavlik
 In Memory of George Ann Martin
 Margaret R. Sheehan

Matching Gift Companies/Organizations

The Boeing Company
 GE Foundation
 Heartland Credit Union

The Tracy Family Foundation
Wells Fargo

In-Kind Gifts

Barb Pape

Magic Match Sponsors

The Blessed Sacrament Men's
 Club
 Dr. Jim McDermott
 Beth Hudson
 Reid Chiropractic and The
 Nutrition Center
 The Broecker Family
 Tom & Beth Bayer
 Marty & Denise Vespa
 Anonymous Friends
 Dan Cadigan
 Tom & Tina Saunderson Schmidt
 Jim & Annette McDermott
 Lust Development Group
 The Athlete's Foot, Kevin and Alesha
 Gamble
 Giffin, Winning, Cohen &
 Bodewes, PC
 The Tracy Family Foundation
 Luers Kids Kloz

Graduate Teaches about African Culture

Chris Bodewes, Blessed Sacrament Class of 1979, visited with sixth and seventh graders to speak with them about African culture. Chris, who spent several years practicing law in Kenya as a Maryknoll lay missionary, brought a number of items from Africa to share with the students.



Chris Bodewes with fellow BSS classmates (and current BSS teachers) Ann (Cavanaugh) Healy and Lisa (Becker) Belz.



Learning about African culture.



Looking for Lost Bruins

In an effort to make our records more accurate and include more of your classmates in our correspondence, we are looking to update the addresses in our database. We have twice the number of names as addresses so we have a long way to go. If you can help us with addresses for your classmates or family members, please call Kim Hoffmann in the Blessed Sacrament Development Office at 217-522-7534. Likewise, if you received this newsletter at your parents' home and have long since or recently moved out of the nest, please use the enclosed envelope to update us.

Life in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps

By Courtney Adams, BSS Class of 1998

The changes in the seasons in Southwest Alaska are quick but subtle. The change from summer to fall is marked by golden hues in the tundra, lots of rain, and mud up to your knees. Falling temperatures, the first hard frost, and the first snow mark the change from fall to winter. The first snow just so happens to be in the beginning of October, and the cold will last until about April, when the residents of Bethel and other nearby villages will start making bets on when the river will break up. I'm hoping that by April or May I will be able to be considered enough of a Bethelite to make (and win) that bet.

I am currently in my second year of service as a part of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps: Northwest. JVC:NW is a yearlong domestic service program, much like Americorps, but with a Catholic and spiritual foundation. When deciding that I wanted to participate in at least a year of post-graduate service, I considered going abroad, but knew I was destined to stay in the United States. I also knew that I felt called to serve in an organization like JVC, which focuses on Spirituality, Simplicity, Community, and Social Justice. After a long discernment and application process, I was placed in Seattle last year as a volunteer at the Matt Talbot Center, a faith-based drug and alcohol treatment center. After a very difficult but rewarding year, I decided that I much preferred snow to rain, and that I could best recover from my Starbucks addiction away from Seattle, so I signed on for a year here in Bethel, Alaska.

Bethel is a town of about 6,000 people, located on the Kuskokwim River, about 30 miles from the Bering Sea. There are three grocery stores, lots of family owned restaurants and a Subway—all of which cost three times as much as it would at home. Many residents of the area fish and hunt to support their families and sustain themselves through the winter. There's nothing quite like the taste of a fresh Alaskan Salmon pulled from the river and then grilled before your eyes that very night. It is an area plagued with alcoholism, despite its "dry" status, and also by domestic violence and teenage pregnancies. There are no roads leading in or out of town, and of all the roads in town, only about six miles are paved. All travel in and out of Bethel is done by air, or as an alternative, in the summer by boat & in the winter by snowmobiles. It is not uncommon to meet someone who has never been out of the river delta region, or even out of the state of Alaska. Travel is expensive and often inconvenient. It takes at least two days of travel to get to the lower 48, or the "outside" as it is so often called.

This year, I am a Direct Care Provider and program coordinator for the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation at the Learning Resource Center, a day center for people with developmental disabilities and behavioral health issues. Many of my clients struggle from the extreme effects of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, or other issues that may have been caused by FASD. I have clients who suffer from traumatic brain injury or Down's syndrome. Some are artistic, some are quiet and shy, some throw some major tantrums and five minutes later are throwing their arms around me for a hug. My job is to be present to the clients, by sitting and talking, doing art projects, playing endless card games, or simply by just being in



Courtney Adams (far left) with other Jesuit volunteers in Bethel Alaska.

Continued on next page

LEARNING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Putting the Mission Statement into Action

Class of 1998

Adam Kohlrus, Peace Corps Volunteer

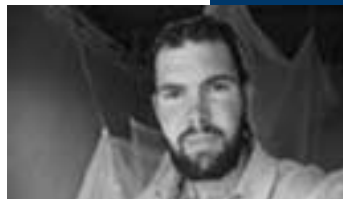
Adam Kohlrus, a graduate of Blessed Sacrament School in 1998, took a remarkable career step after his graduation from Loyola University in 2006. Adam signed on as a member of the Peace Corps and was assigned to Swaziland in southern Africa, where he will serve until August of 2008. After an initial training period of three months, during which he learned the language (SiSwati) and the culture, he was sent out into the field.

As the first Peace Corps volunteer in his African community, the first few weeks were spent getting acclimated with the town and terrain, and especially the local people. He has a sponsor family, and lives in a 150 square foot hut without electricity or running water. The only concession to modern technology is the cell phone that keeps him in touch with his family.

Adam's job entails working in both the schools and local community. Swaziland has the highest AIDS/HIV rate per capita in the world so he spends much of his time providing AIDS awareness programs and education. He is also undertaking efforts to secure grant funding to increase the size of the local school, which contains inadequate space for the number of children in attendance.

A high school and college soccer player, Adam has formed two girls' soccer teams in his town. Opportunities for girls in Swaziland are limited, and this is one of the few activities available to them. Adam's dad assisted in the effort by having his engineering firm provide uniforms for the girls. Adam is the son of Chris and Betsy (Dennison) Kohlrus. Betsy is a member of the Blessed Sacrament Class of 1976.

We commend Adam's service to the global community!



Adam in
bedroom
August 2006.



Adam's house
in Swaziland.

Courtney Adams Continued

the same room while they watch a movie. My job is to increase their quality of life, but really, they increase mine.

While many people leave work at the end of the day, I often take mine home with me. I live in an intentional community with five other Jesuit Volunteers who work for various agencies in Bethel. At the end of the day, we come together to rant about a bad day or talk about a good one. We break bread together and share in discussions about social justice issues that affect the larger community around us, like alcoholism, domestic abuse, and mental illness. We share in and support each others faith lives and our spiritual journeys. We support each other staying within our individual \$80 per month personal stipend and our communal food, rent and utilities budget, and are willing to light a candle instead of a lamp, or share a blanket when we can't heat our house above 60 degrees. We provide each other with family and friendship when we miss home the most and are willing to take part in silly dance parties or family traditions during the holidays. These girls are my lifelines and I am proud to call myself a Jesuit Volunteer—even on the hardest of days.

Blessed Sacrament Auction

The biggest fundraising event of the year took place on September 29 with the Annual Auction. Auctioneer M.T. Vann led an evening of good food, fun and spirited bidding on a large number of fantastic auction items. Included this year were "shadowing opportunities" where volunteer alums and/or friends of Blessed Sacrament School agreed to share their unique career experiences with the high bidder. Included were the bidders' choice of three days with architect and B.S.S. alum Jim Graham (Class of 1981) in Seattle, two evenings working in the kitchen with award winning chef Jean-Louis Montecot in Park City, Utah, two days with Gucci event planner Susan Chokachi in Los Angeles, two days in New York with Les Vann, Executive Vice-President of Granite Broadcasting, and two days with Nikki Wheeler, music agent for United Talent Agency in Los Angeles. We were very excited about being able to offer these wonderful opportunities.

Not only was a good time had by all, but the Auction netted a record \$105,000 this year. Congratulations to all the hard-working volunteers who made the evening possible.



Vicki Compton, Blessed Sacrament parent sells Pat (Ebel) Dietrich (BSS Class of 1951) a raffle ticket at the Auction.

Enjoying the Auction are left to right: Dr. Donald Graham (BSS Class of 1962), Madonna (Gietl) Fluckiger (BSS Class of 1961), Dr. Humphrey Fluckiger, and Mary (Gietl) Maloy (BSS Class of 1956).

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Springfield, Illinois 62704

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