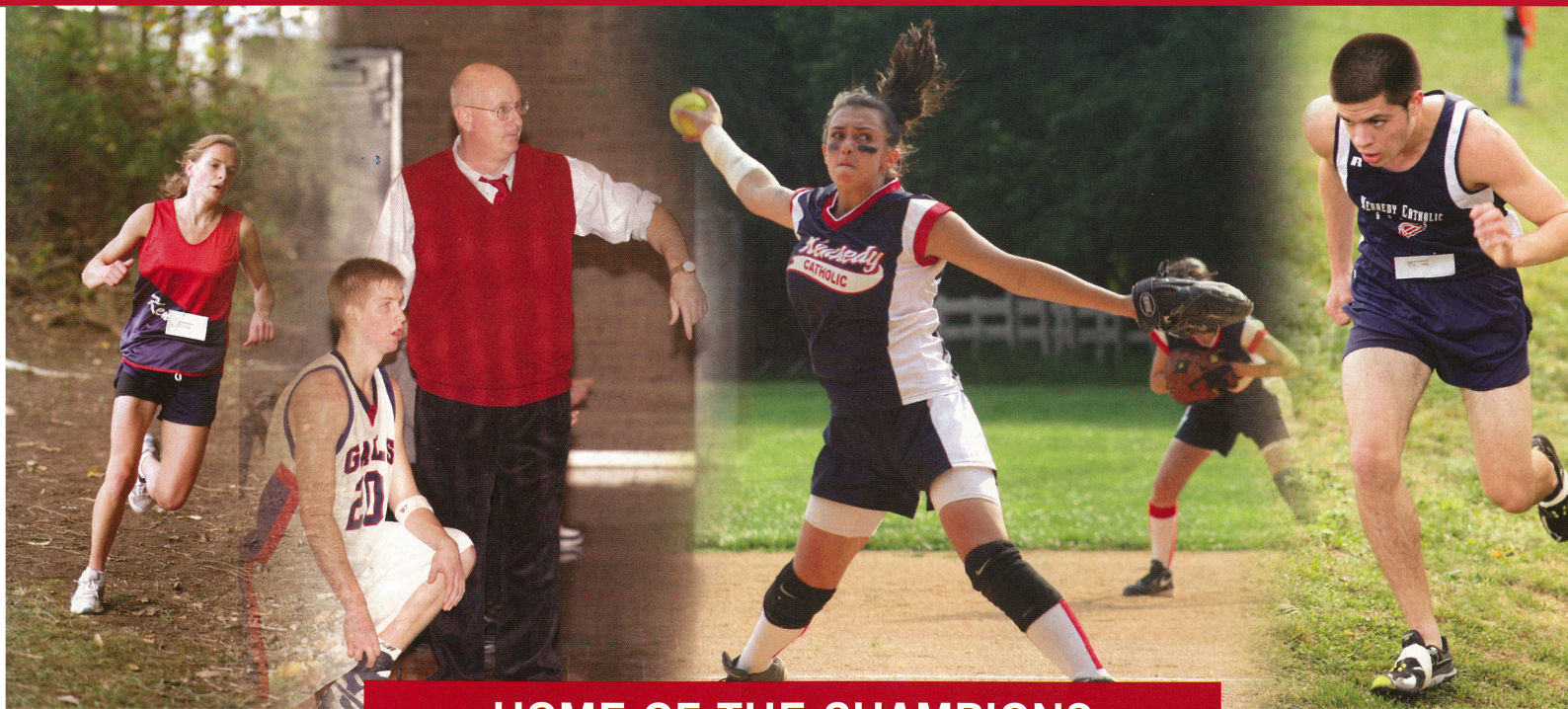


THE GAEL

A Newsletter for St. Mary's/Kennedy Catholic Alumni & Parents



HOME OF THE CHAMPIONS



With five league champions and one state titlist, Kennedy Catholic was the home of the Champions in 2007-2008. Clockwise from left: 2008 North County News (NCN) Runner of the Year Jessica Kendzor '10; 2007-08 leading scorer Ed O'Connell '08 with coach Tom Nelligan,

who retired this year with the second-most wins in program history; All-League pitcher Devon DiSiena '09; NCN Second Team runner Carlos Cartaya '09, a member of the 2008 boys cross-country league champions; the 2008 Class B State Champion varsity baseball team with its

newly blessed championship rings; and Empire State Games gold medalist Sarah Viebrock '09.

Golf Classic 2
2008 Reunions 7-10
Athletic Hall of Fame 14
President's Dinner 15



Matt Day '96, John Sullivan '94, Tim Beyrer '92, Al Z. and the golfer formerly known as Duff (in bronze) have a little fun during dinner.



Past Classic champions Bill Dwyer '78 and Danielle Dwyer Garavito '93 shared a light moment with new teammate George McNair '69, who has played in every single Kennedy Catholic Golf Classic. They are shown here without anchor Larry Dwyer '61, who was busy emceeding the dinner.



The foursome of Chris Mertens '77, Tim Mertens '79, Tom Mertens and alumni parent Richard Podlovits from Hewlett Packard—which co-sponsored the outing along with Swissport North America and parent Joe Pereira—defended its 2007 Classic title admirably with a 64.



KCHS is grateful for Classic newcomers Robert DiSiena '95, Nick Bueti, '95, Diego Bueti and Danielle Wall '96, who clearly brought the sunshine with them.

'HERE COMES THE SUN...'

Golf Outing enjoys perfect weather, strong turnout

CARMEL, N.Y. – Following five straight years of soggy weather, including last year's torrential downpour, the sun finally shone through for the 2008 Kennedy Catholic Golf Classic on Oct. 9. And as the Beatles sang, it was all right.

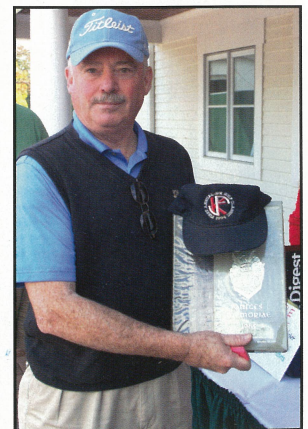
More than 130 alumni, parents and friends of Kennedy Catholic came together on the links of Centennial Golf Club in Carmel to support their school. And while the scores were low—the winning foursome shot a 12-under par 60—the take was high as the duffers raised a collective \$12,000 for academic and athletic programming.

But the big question wasn't the munificence of our golfers; their generosity was never in doubt. Rather, who would unseat the Dwyer and Mertens foursomes, which had won the last two outings, respectively?

This October the winning foursome wasn't headed by an alumnus, but by an alumni parent—Mike O'Donnell, father of Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Brian O'Donnell '01 (see Page 14), and the husband of longtime Guidance Secretary Mrs. Patricia O'Donnell. His Energy Products foursome finished a stroke ahead of Larry Gulley '84, Bryan Parkhurst '84 and Art Weisgerber '83 to take home the 2008 Classic crown.

Special thanks to emcee Larry Dwyer '61, who assumed the duties of his brother and chair of the last four outings, Kevin Dwyer '72. With Larry stepping up to dole out the awards and raffle prizes during dinner, it ensured that a Dwyer has emceed (as well as played in) every outing.

Keep Thursday, Oct. 8, open for the 2009 Kennedy Catholic Golf Classic. With a little luck and prayers from the Sisters of the Divine Compassion, it's going to be a bright, sun-shiny day.



Ed Delaney '65 brought along his Class of '65 yearbook and another piece of history: a hat from the first-ever Kennedy Golf Classic in 1994.

3 STATE CHAMPIONS, 1 TENNIS STAR SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT

As of press time, four Kennedy Catholic athletes have signed National Letters of Intent: three state champion baseball players and a No. 1 singles tennis player.

The signings took place at the school on Nov. 12, beginning with three members of the 2008 Class B State Champion varsity baseball team. Catcher Anthony Corona signed with the C. W. Post Pioneers of Long Island University, first-baseman Luis Gonzalez with the Clippers of Concordia College, and shortstop Michael Mercurio with the Panthers of High Point University in North Carolina.

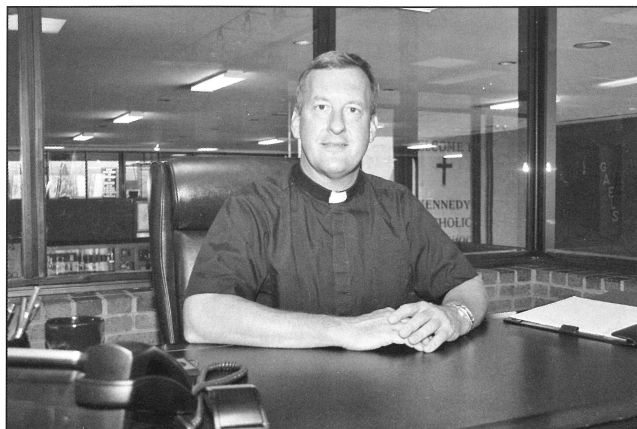
During the Gaels' championship run, Corona batted .465 with 32 RBIs, a .456 on-base percentage and a .756 slugging percentage. Defensively, the 2008 All-Section Player of the Year and League MVP has thrown out 85 percent of attempted base-stealers, the best percentage in Kennedy Catholic history.

"We never thought we would be able to recruit a player of Anthony's caliber," C. W. Post assistant coach Hector Aristy said.

Backing him up was first-baseman Luis Gonzalez, who when Corona went down with an ankle injury late in the season, batted .314 with 20 RBIs and managed a staff that included the Gaels first 20-game winner in Ryan Tatnell.

Entering the 2009 season, Mercurio needs only four hits to surpass the century mark, a feat only three other Gaels have accomplished (Matthew Maher '05, Mike Imbriale '06 and Joe Mercurio '06). Before his high school career is through, this All-League and All-Section selection will also set the school record for runs scored and games played. This past season, Mercurio batted .453 with 32 RBIs and 45 runs scored.

Rounding out the signees was Sarah Viebrock, Kennedy's No. 1 singles player since she was a freshman, who has earned a full ride—half academic, half athletic—to Quinnipiac University. Named to the All-League and All-Section teams each year, Viebrock led the Lady Gaels to three of its four straight league titles and run of three consecutive undefeated seasons. She is a two-time Empire State Games gold medalist and is ranked 15th in the Eastern Section (New York and New Jersey) of the United States Tennis Association.



Dear Alumni and Parents,

In the midst of the Christmas season, I have certainly been counting my blessings that the Lord has called me to serve you as Kennedy Catholic's newest president.

This school has benefited from unprecedented change over the past several years. From a growing enrollment to the influx of new technology to the continuing strength of a sports program that is home to five league champions this year—including a state baseball titlist—and most recently, a boys' cross-country league champion, the foundation of Kennedy Catholic is sound.

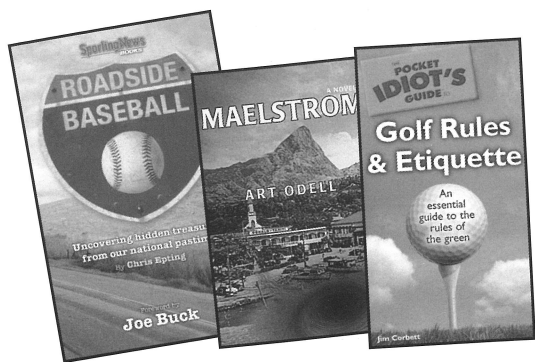
Yet Kennedy has not achieved such success by being content with the way things are or how they've always been done. When the needs of our students called for it, Kennedy forged ahead, bringing new technology into the school along with new methods of funding such improvements. It is imperative that we continue our upward trajectory, even more so now that we find ourselves in such uncertain economic times.

In the midst of the recent changes and innovations, however, one should not think for a minute that Kennedy has strayed from its core. Those of you who returned to your alma mater for Reunion 2008 know that the building and, indeed, some of the very teachers who taught you, are still going strong, as well as the values they have dedicated their lives to instilling in the hearts and minds of our young people. These are the young people who will one day be successful professionals and good Christian men and women like yourselves.

To those I've had the privilege of meeting along the way, thank you for the warm welcome and friendly conversation. I look forward to many more such gatherings. Because no matter how forward into the future we go, Kennedy will always be a place you can come back to.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Mark G. Vaillancourt, Ph.D.
President



Alumni, Parents Earning Bylines

When this alumni director was young, he tended to be quite inquisitive, prompting the following exchange with his father: **Old Man Malecki:** "What are you doing, writing a book?"

Alex Malecki: "What if I am?"

Old Man Malecki: "Good...make it a mystery."

Such conversation was undoubtedly shared by many alumni and their parents. But it's no mystery that, in some cases, they have gone on to write a book or two.

This story begins with Jim Corbett '69, an accomplished harrier who ran with the likes of recent Athletic Hall of Fame inductee John Hand '69. These days, though, you'll find him doing a fair share of walking...on California golf courses, that is. Over the years, Corbett has gained a wealth of experience on the ever-frustrating game, including the proper way to play it. The result has been a number of self-help books, as well as a nickname: "Mr. Golf".

Today, you can pick up copies of Mr. Golf's "Idiot's Guide to Golf Rules & Etiquette" in both its paperback and pocket editions at any major bookstore. You can also visit with Corbett online at MrGolf.com, where you can read up on his latest tips or even send in questions. Let's just pray that golf and gambling aficionado Charles Barkley has been in touch.

Perhaps it's something in the water out there, but another Californian alumnus has also made a career in publishing. Meet Chris Epting '79, a kindred spirit to Kevin Costner's Ray Kinsella. If someone built it, Epting knows where it is and, more importantly, the baseball lore surrounding it.

Forget your Garmin or Tom-Tom; Epting's "Roadside Baseball" is the ultimate GPS for anyone who loves our national pas-

time. During a year in which two historic stadiums, Shea and Yankee, bore witness to their final games, why not let Epting take you to more than 300 baseball shrines across the country.

For Epting, "Roadside Baseball" was a journey that began when he was 11 and had come across a photograph of Ty Cobb taken at Hilltop Park, home to the New York Yankees at the turn of the century. Today his research and writing can take you on a journey spanning a century of baseball history.

To learn more about Epting and his latest project, or to add your own stops on his "Roadside" tour, visit ChrisEpting.com.

Then there's current parent Art Odell, whose connection with Kennedy Catholic began with the wife of its namesake back in the late 60s. The date was May 3, 1968, and Jacqueline Onasis Kennedy was on hand for the dedication of the newly built John F. Kennedy High School. An enterprising

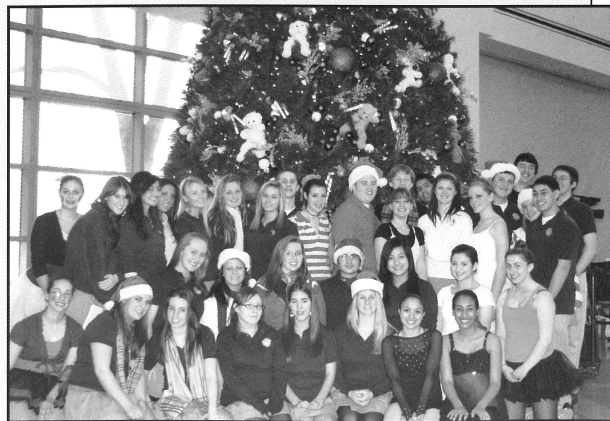
young reporter having just returned from a tour of duty in the Navy, Odell talked his way past security to be front and center during the dedication ceremony and was even able to get a "simply mahvelous" out of Jackie O. when asked what she thought of the school named after her husband.

But Odell's writing career did not end with newsprint. His fictional novel, "Maelstrom," tells the tale of a young man caught up in his own storm of passion and violence. From ribaldry to redemption, Odell crafts a saga of lust, recklessness and murder that will keep the pages turning.

You can find "Maelstrom" through Amazon.com and other online retailers.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Gael knows St. Mary's and Kennedy Catholic has more alumni and parent authors than it has space for in this edition. E-mail alumni@kennedycatholic.org with information about your published work so we can feature you in the next issue.*

Students in Kennedy Catholic's choral and dance classes made Christmas a little brighter for kids at the Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital in New York City on Dec. 8, performing a number of holiday favorites while members of the Community Outreach Club doled out ornaments they had hand-painted themselves to each child.





Mary Vasile '10 lets everyone at the Live Auction know that the next item up is a gift certificate.

KENNEDY BY CANDLELIGHT COMES THROUGH *In Grand Fashion*

Forget about the tanking economy and the draining election, Nov. 1 was about Kennedy Catholic High School and its 2008 Auction: Kennedy by Candlelight. And what a bright night it was.

More than 300 people enjoyed a fabulous night out on the campus, which cleaned up well thanks to elegant touches of decorating committee co-chairs Jaime Campagnoli (mother of Marissa '09 and Matthew '11), Sally Cartaya (mother of Carlos '09 and Nick '10) and Terry Dell'Ollio (mother of Jennifer '09 and Francesca '10). And when the final gavel strike sounded, more than \$65,000 had been raised for Kennedy's academic and athletic programs.

But the numbers don't end there, which is why a special thanks is in order for Event Chair Jennifer Race (mother of Lauren '08

and Sara '10), who galvanized a committee of more than 30 parents and over 100 parent and student volunteers the night of the event. The Kennedy Catholic community is in their debt.

With a boost from past co-chair Anne Ring (mother of Ellen '08) this year's Auction also proved to be one of the most efficient. Some 275 prizes went up for bid on Nov. 1—all of them donated or underwritten by our alumni, parents and friends of the school. All of which makes the 2008 Auction one of Kennedy's most successful events ever.

In the midst of this holiday season, a time when we stop to count our blessings, we were reminded again on Nov. 1 of just how blessed Kennedy Catholic is by our alumni, parents, students and supporters.

Thank you one and all!



Auction Committee members Craig Cecere, Sister Barbara and Event Chair Jennifer Race with Father Mark Vaillancourt, president, and Alumni & PR Director Alex Malecki.



Parent Regina Odell, auctioneer Steve Calleran, alumni parent Anne Ring, current parent Robert Pergola and student volunteer Warren Lucas '10 take a break from the action to share a moment for the camera.



With too many alumni ties to mention, freshman Jacqueline McAvoey continued her family's long history of volunteerism by working the room with hors d'oeuvres.



Now one would figure that teachers get enough of this place Monday through Friday, but even Italian teacher Mario Cartularo can't stay away come Auction time.



Vice President for Advancement Anthony Casella and Event Chair Jennifer Race bask in the glow of a successful evening.

CHAMPS!

27-3 Gaels win first state baseball title in school history

After winning the first league title in program history two years ago, the 2008 boys' varsity baseball team matched that feat and then some—winning the program's first state title with a 5-3 victory over Section 2's Chatham at Broome Community College in Binghamton, N.Y., on June 14.

The New York State Class B championship was the proverbial icing on a 27-3 cake of a season that also included the program's first Regional and Section 1 titles. It was no cakewalk, though, as the Gaels first had to get past Section 6's Gowanda, 5-1, earlier in the day before completing the championship double-header.

Kennedy Catholic topped Section 9's Marlboro, 7-6, and rolled over Oyster Bay of Section 8 en route to the regional crown, while the top-seeded Gaels took care of business after earning home field through-

out the Sectional playoffs, beating Putnam Valley, 4-3, to become the Section 1 champ.

Kennedy Catholic also earned its second League V-III title, in addition to winning the annual Iona Prep Tournament. Four players from this year's squad were named All-Section—Anthony Corona '09, Mike Mercurio '09, Nick Modico '09 and Ryan Tatnell '08—and Tatnell finished his high school pitching career with the best

record in Kennedy Catholic history at 20-2.

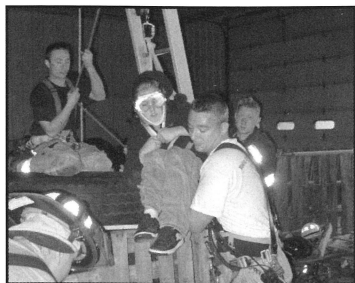
Corona was named the MVP of Section 1, Class B, while Jon Humphrey '08 was named Section 1's Comeback Player of the Year. Modico was the MVP of the Section 1 finals, while Mercurio was named the MVP of the Iona Prep Tourney.

Congratulations to coach Bob Fletcher and assistant coaches Rich Moran and Bill Smith.

2008 KENNEDY CATHOLIC GAELS

Tom Baroni '10	Jon Humphrey '08	Joe Rock '09
Matt Bidwell '09	Rich Lennox '09	Joe Santangelo '09
Joseph Candarelli '10	William Levi '09	Brian Scarano '09
Anthony Corona '09	Kevin Mee '11	Joe Smith '10
Brendan Dowd '09	Mike Mercurio '09	Will Smith '08
Connor Ennis '09	Nick Modico '09	Ryan Tatnell '08
J. T. Flanagan '10	David O'Dell '10	
John Giordano '10	Marc Palmer '10	

KENNEDY PERFORMERS BRING REALISM TO DISASTER DRILL



Teresa Iacovino '09 is extracted from a pit of debris during the Nov. 8 MCI drill at the Somers Highway Garage off of Rt. 100.

Gold '10 spearheads student effort

When disaster strikes, area agencies will be ready, thanks in part to nearly a dozen Kennedy Catholic students, whose acting abilities made the drill a whole lot more real for local emergency crews.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, there has been a great deal of focus on disaster preparedness and Westchester County has spent considerable funds on a new radio system that enables different agencies from different areas the ability to talk to one another in the event of a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI). More than 10 agencies—including Croton Falls, Golden's Bridge, Katonah, Mahopac, Somers, South Salem and Yorktown—put that new system to

the test on Nov. 8 as part of an MCI drill. So when it came time to find "victims" for the exercise, Somers EMS Capt. Bill Rothschild turned to Kennedy Catholic junior and Somers Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) Junior Corp. member Catherine Gold.

"Finding good victims is very tough," Rothschild noted, citing the need for authenticity so that rescue workers can get a feel for what a real MCI might be like.

To ensure that high level of performance, Gold turned to her fellow members of the Kennedy Catholic Players. Ten responded—Annemarie A'Hearn '09, Robert Barrett '11 (a member of the SVFD), Michael Fay '09, Lauren Gillette '09, Teresa Iacovino '09, Katie Heinzinger '09, Paige Hoffmann '09, Cat McDougal '09, Matt Picarillo '10 (a member of the Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps) and Tony Ruperto '11—and in the words of Gold: "They did a fantastic job."

"Once it started," she said, "you could hear the screams."

Gold recalled one particular instance where Heinzinger and Hoffmann had been paired up; when it came time for the rescue workers to move Heinzinger from the scene, Hoffmann screamed bloody murder for her friend.

"It's what they don't train you for," Gold remarked, referring to the added challenge of dealing with distraught family and friends, along with the medical emergencies.

Fay and Gillette found themselves pinned beneath a plow. Each said the experience of playing the victim has given way to a newfound respect for first responders.

"You have all these people screaming at you for help," Gillette said, "and there's only so much you can do so fast."

"It really put the firemen's job in perspective," Fay said.

Gold, who has followed in her parents' footsteps—Zbynek Gold is currently a SVFD member and Lucia Gold a former EMT—said the MCI drill was a good thing for the department because it simulated both the situational and emotional scenarios of an actual disaster. Though she originally joined the Junior Corp. to be the hero like her parents and help people, Gold has discovered that, like her stage crew work for the Kennedy Catholic Players, there's a lot more going on behind the scenes.

"That's half the fun for me."

Photos courtesy of Catherine Gold '10



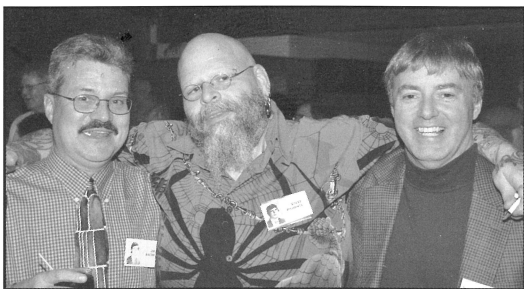
Class rep Judy Rozzi Callahan '73 takes a stroll down memory lane with Elizabeth Colavito Morris '73 and Noreen Clark O'Mahoney '73.



Sister Barbara Heil shares a laugh with Sandy Sabia '73 and Kathy Davis Moker '73.



More than 40 members of the Class of 1973 came out for their 35-year reunion.



Buddies Joe Dalton and John O'Connor were once again caught in classmate Steve Piemonte's web of fun.

COLORING OUR WORLD

Class of '73 reunites for 35th

At their graduation, the members of the Class of 1973 sang Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young's "Teach Your Children" for the parents and teachers who had taught them so well. On Oct. 25, those classmates reunited in the Commons at Kennedy to remember those lessons and for one night at least, the past ceased to be a goodbye.

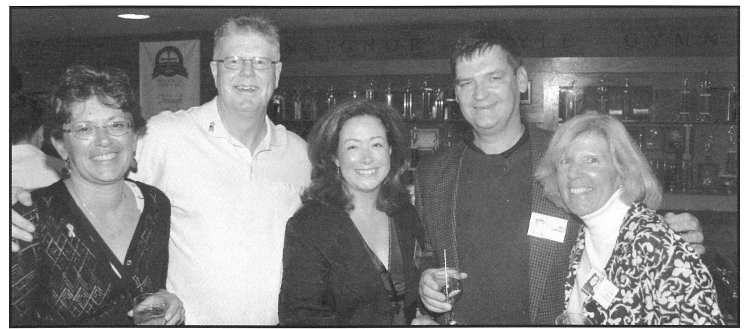
Spearheaded by Judy Rozzi Callahan and Fedela Tranzillo Kessler (now an alumni and current parent), this 35-year reunion brought back more than 40 members of the Class of '73. In addition to the fine fare and flowing beverages, the Class was able to roam the old hallways to see how different Kennedy is now...and yet still very much the same. Classmates also contributed a myriad of pictures new and old for a slideshow that included everything from fish and family to vacations and "Flava" Dave Bruen and Bill LaPerch.

It was approaching the bewitching hour by the time the last guest left, as many stayed to reminisce before continuing their reunion at various after-parties. And so the school that first welcomed them in as freshmen in the fall of 1969 watched them leave once more as adults, fed on dreams that have become reality.

Before going their separate ways, the alumni graciously pledged a substantial gift to their alma mater. Soon, the Sister Mary Christopher Tree of Life will find a new stone plaque at its roots, recognizing a more than \$1,500 donation from the Class of 1973 on the occasion of its 35-year high school reunion.

So to the Class of '73, a sincere thank you; you have colored Kennedy Catholic's world more than you know.

All Photos by Warren Lucas '10



Diana and Ronnie '73 Fallon share a pose with Deborah (Buckley) '75 and Bill '73 LaPerch, along with Anne Smith Guteski '73.



Girlfriends Laura Ambrose '73, Frances Gallacher Walsh '73, Terri Wong Neyhart '73, Rosemary Frattura Zibell '73 and Loretto Smith Hrycenko '73 had a lot of catching up to do.



The Class of 1998.



Jennifer LoGuidice, Jennifer Veljacic and Steve McCabe joined classmates Diana Mejias-Bergmeier, Kerri Hackett John and Rob John for a photo-op.

All Photos by Warren Lucas '10 and Anthony Ruperto '11



Patti Donaghy Higgins, Kate Keenan, Katie Stuart Pelkey, Alison Hanratty Keefe and Brooke Paradise Monahan share a smile while flipping through the yearbook



Liz Micallef, Jennifer LoGuidice, Meghan Danielson and Michelle Maher Zoni took a moment to roam the halls.

10 YEARS AFTER Class of '98 back together after a decade

The Class of 1998 came back to Kennedy on Nov. 22 to celebrate four years of shared memories and the decade of ones it has made on its own.

Some 50 classmates and guests ate, drank and shared music and merriment in the Lakeview Room (a.k.a. the cafeteria), thanks in no small part to the corraling efforts of reunion reps Donnie Giuseppe and Katie Stuart Pelkey. Fun was had by all as the alumni roamed the old halls and classrooms, peeking into the occasional unlocked locker in search of some small piece of history.

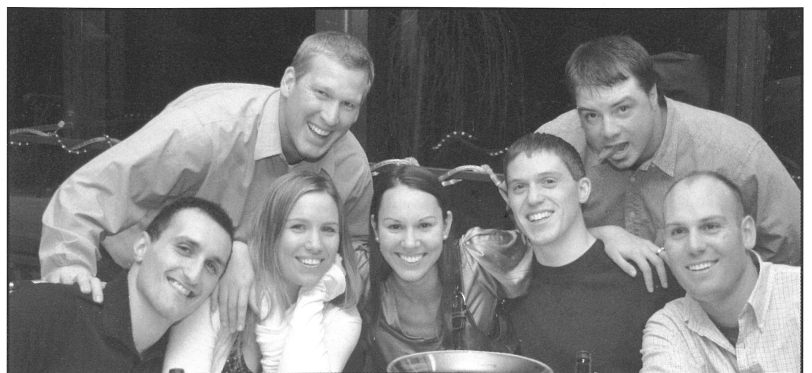
One particularly memorable sight was that of the class, led by Dan Aitchison, sifting through a collection of Emmaus banners, finding theirs and the flood of memories they brought back. Another was watching Mark Drapala hoist himself upon onto the ledge in the library to snap a shot of his name on a plaque as the 1996 winner of the Michael Anderson Memorial Award for outstanding performance, leadership, sportsmanship and character as a member of the varsity football team.

A lot had changed in 10 years. Marriage for some, children for others; there was certainly much to celebrate as old friends reconnected, some for the first time since graduation. Afterward, the party headed north to the Claddagh Pub & Grill where the festivities continued into the wee hours (and a certain alumni director was done in for the night).

And who knows what the future holds. A 15-year celebration to be sure, but a Kennedy bowling league? Stay tuned and stay in touch Class of '98!



GROUP HUG: Stephen Riehl '98, Eileen Sohn '98, Mike Bettini '98, Jeanette Trosa, Vinny Perrin '98 and Heidi Wenderoth.



Greg Quas, Kate Gorey '98, Jen Carey Drapala '98, Mark Drapala '98, Matt Keefe, Geoff Higgins and an overly friendly John Cronin catch up over dinner and drinks.



Dan Mooney extends an arm in celebration as the Class of '88 poses for its 20-year picture.

FACEBOOK FRIENDLY

Social networking site brings back Class of '88

It is ironically amusing that the very Web site blocked by the Kennedy Catholic firewall is largely responsible for the latest 20-year reunion. Bob Martin set up the "John F. Kennedy H.S. (Somers, NY) - Class of 1988" Facebook group back in September and his classmates never looked back.

Just under 80 members of the Class of '88 packed the Commons to celebrate their 20-year reunion. Classmates came from all across the tri-state area, and Mike Ryall from as far away as California.

Kudos to Liana Knudsen Hudson and Dan Mooney for putting the stellar shindig together on Nov. 28. Hudson, in particular, collected pictures from her classmates and used her connections to create fabulous signs and photo banners. By the time Hudson and Mooney were done, the Commons had been transformed into reunion headquarters.

The evening would conclude with a mini gathering in the gymnasium, where former athletes scoured the walls for team banners and the class learned that Matt Searles '88 still holds or shares four Kennedy records: 440 relay, 880 relay (with Tom Piazza '88), 880-yard run and the mile relay.

And what's the point of having one party without planning the next? So naturally ballots were being accepted for host locations for the 25th. The choices included Walt Disney World, Las Vegas, a cruise getaway or an encore performance at Kennedy.

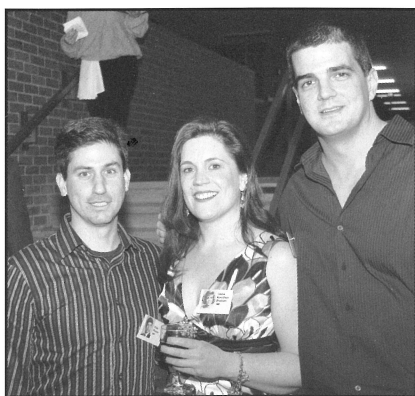
By the end of the night, a clear favorite had emerged—"Vegas, baby, Vegas" (though there was an unconfirmed report that certain members of the class voted multiple times). So keep in touch, keep checking the Facebook group and remember to friend Kennedy Gaels, as the Class of '88 even got the alumni director into the Facebook act.

Just remember, what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. See you in 2013!

All Photos by Warren Lucas '10 and Anthony Ruperto '11



Kennedy couples Kelly Dyer McNamara '88 and Dan McNamara '88 with Patty Cambareri Gstalder '87 and Steve Gstalder '88.



Tom Piazza '88 with reunion reps Liana Knudsen Hudson '88 and Dan Mooney '88.



Dave Koetke '88, Dean DiPierro '88, Jim Grundman '88 and Mike Ryall '88 catch up over some brews.



Tanya Stramowski Pennella '88 and Christine Falussy Lobasso '88 take a break from looking at pictures to pose for one of their own.

SILVER SHINDIG FOR CLASS OF '83

Alumnus returns from the dead to attend 25th

The 25-year reunion for the Class of 1983 ended much the same way it began—with a meeting at The Blazer. But as with any good story, there was also a whole lot of fun in between.

Fun like having reunion reps John Arminio and Pat “Heff” Heffernan, along with Ray Durkin and Mike Burke, take over the Main Office one October evening to phone their classmates and share a few brewskis together. Fun like watching all the pictures from Karen Daggett Cowan, Mary Smith and Donna Kenny Sullivan pour in for the slideshow, supplemented by some shots from former teacher and current principal Steve Schmidt.

Needless to say, a good time was had by all on Nov. 29 as alumni relished the opportunity to reconnect, roam the halls and, if only for a few hours, return to the music and magic of the early 80s.

Speaking of magic, alumnus Bill

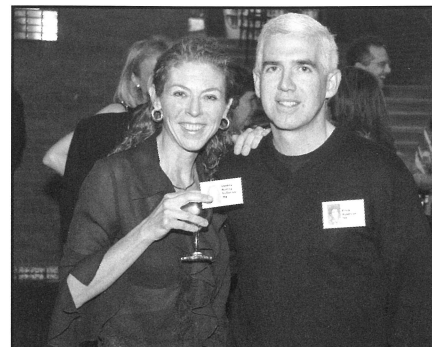
McMahon exercised his illusionist powers in returning from the dead (when planning for the reunion started, Kennedy had been informed that McMahon had died). Thankfully, the alumnus has a sense of humor about such things. In fact, it’s apparently not the first time he’s been mistaken for the undertaken.

McMahon came to learn he shared a name and similar personal information with a gentleman who lived on the other side of his town. Well, it came to pass that the other gentlemen passed, and after some coworkers took liberty with the obituary and McMahon’s ID photo, convinced everyone else that our McMahon had gone on to the Pearly Gates. But not so said a hilarious and very much alive McMahon, who after the Rev. Mark Vaillancourt’s benediction, promised to be out “walking on the pond” before the evening was over.

But the night’s real magic came from

the memories and merriment shared by the Class of ’83. Special thanks to Arminio and Heffernan for making it all happen. Jokes aside, it was truly magical to have all of you back at Kennedy.

*All Photos by Warren Lucas '10
and Anthony Ruperto '11*



It was double the alums double the fun for Donna Kenny Sullivan '83 and husband Fred Sullivan '80.



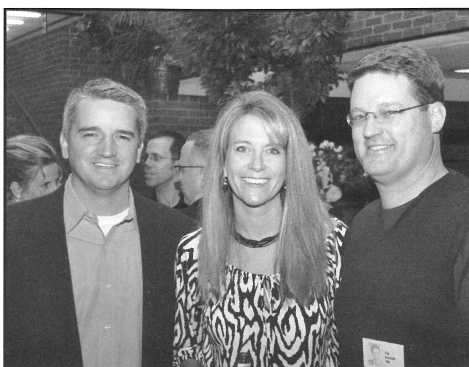
Hangin' with the boys John Montalto '83, Mike Estrada '83 and Emile Menasche '83.



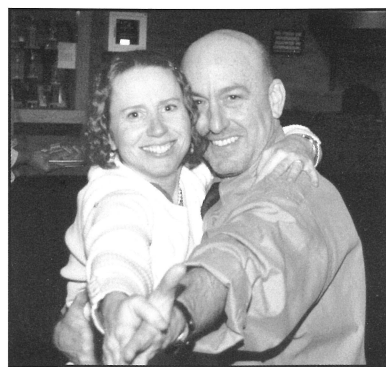
Wave to Rob McCauley and the Class of '83.



Maura O'Shea Devey '83, Karen Maiolo '83, Meg Ecclesine Harris '83 and Ray Durkin '83 get caught in the camera's flash.



Tim Gould '86 with brother Ed Gould '83 and his wife, Jennifer.



Stephanie Madden '83 and reunion rep John Arminio '83 get down to the beat.

BROWN IN BOLIVIA

Alumnus serves South American orphans

By Devin Brown '06

Editor's Note: Devin Brown is currently a junior mechanical engineering major at Villanova University. In December 2007, he accompanied 10 other Villanova students, a campus minister and two Maryknoll lay missionaries on a two-week service trip to Bolivia.

Bolivia is a beautiful country, rich in natural resources and breathtaking scenery. However, it is also one of the poorest and most underdeveloped countries in South America. The country's current president, Juan Evo Morales Ayma (most commonly known as Evo), is the first indigenous head of state since the Spanish Conquest more than 470 years ago. His coming to power has caused controversy among the people because of his ethnic background and his methods of reform. Currently, meetings about a new constitution are taking place which make demonstrations and blockades inside and outside the cities a common occurrence. For the majority of people, these can be frightening experiences.

Our volunteer group was based in Cochabamba, a city located in the center of Bolivia in a valley of the Andes Mountain range. We lived in a Maryknoll guest house with no refrigeration, eating meals that did not vary much from day to day. Every few days we took cold showers and rationed the water we used. None of this mattered, though, because we were there to experience the people of Bolivia and their culture, and to help them in any way that we could. Some Maryknoll sisters run a school in Cochabamba and we worked closely with

them and lay missionaries at two sites, Madre de Dios and Solomon Klein.

Madre de Dios is an orphanage for girls ages 4-16, along with a daycare center for children ages 1-3. In Bolivian culture, sons are considered more desirable than daughters; hence the reason why so many girls have been placed in orphanages. The parents of the children in Madre de Dios' daycare earn no more than a few dollars a day. I worked there the first week of our trip, primarily with two-year-olds, helping to dry their hands after bathroom breaks and to clean up after meals and activities. Since I have not taken Spanish for three years, communicating with them was challenging, but the affection the children showed toward us was remarkable. Their actions and expressions said it all. Every day I was bombarded with little hands wrapped around my neck, legs or fingers. The teachers at the daycare were awesome, providing a nurturing educational environment for children who have so little.

During my second week in Bolivia, I volunteered at Solomon Klein, one of the largest orphanages in Cochabamba. It is home to newborns and children up to about age 6. The children are primarily cared for by "Madres", but the orphanage is understaffed and chaotic. If not for volunteers spending days, weeks, months, and sometimes years helping to establish order

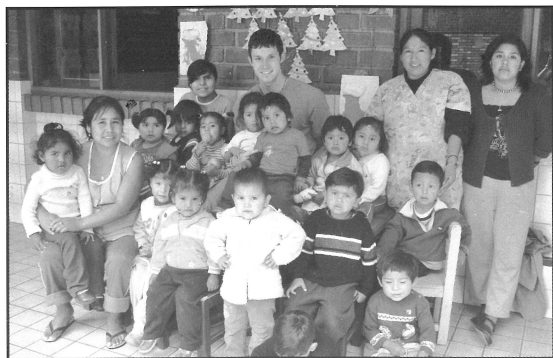
and discipline, the place would be out of control. These orphaned children ran to us as if we were their parents and pleaded "lléveme" or "carry me". It was extremely hard to say no to them or to find enough hands in order to hold, carry and play with the 40 children in my group.

Every night we returned to the guest house exhausted and met as a group to reflect on the experiences of our day. We were all amazed that such beautiful children could be abandoned, but realized that they were much better off than the mothers and children we saw on the streets begging for money and washing their clothes in the public fountains.

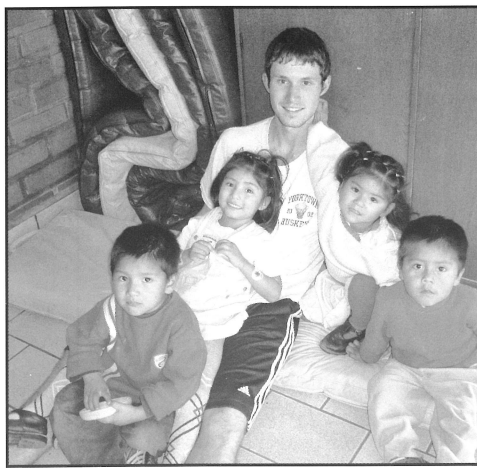
I have always had a desire to serve and love being immersed in new cultures. I am very sad that the trip is over and I wish we could have stayed longer. I am already planning on going on another trip, perhaps back to Bolivia, or maybe to another part of the world.

The Maryknoll community welcomes volunteers. After this trip I cannot think of a better way to spend winter break and I am looking forward to another semester and, hopefully, another trip.

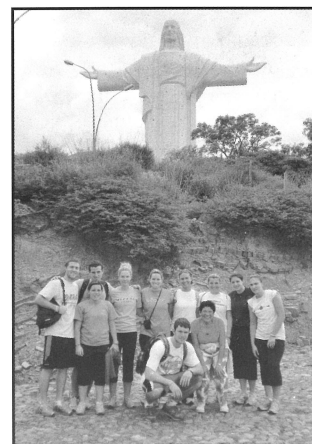
If you are interested in learning more about the trip, please feel free to contact Devin Brown '06 at devin.brown@villanova.edu. There is also information about the Maryknoll lay missionaries at www.maryknoll.org.



Brown '06 spent week with the orphans of Madre de Dios, helping the young children with their daily activities.



To the orphans at Solomon Klein, nothing was as comfortable as this Kennedy Catholic alumnus.



One of 10 students from Villanova to make the service soujourn, Brown '06 (crouching) said his experiences were a reminder that God watches over all His children.

AlumniNEWS

We want to hear from you! Please fax (914-509-1401), e-mail (alumni@kennedycatholic.org) or phone (914-232-5061 Ext.135) in news about you to share with your classmates. Here is a list of notes that fellow alumni shared with us via our Web site since our last newsletter:

CLASS OF 1970



Jean Corbi Ciappa has been hired as the associate executive director of program development for Crystal Run Village, a nonprofit provider of community-based programming for adults and children with intellectual and psychological disabilities. She will be responsible for planning, resource development and the systemic organizational design of new services for the integration and empowerment of people with disabilities living in Orange, Rockland and Sullivan Counties. Ciappa recently retired from the New York State Office of Developmental Disabilities and Mental Retardation after 32 years of service. She holds a bachelor's in psychology from Lehman College in the Bronx, and lives with her husband of 30 years, Harold, and their two children.

CLASS OF 1987

Jacqueline Lahm Gambardella, who helped put together her class' 20th reunion last fall, and her husband James welcomed son Ryan into the world on Oct. 11, 2007, at 2:11 p.m., joining stepsons James and Robert as the newest edition to the Gambardella family. Jackie has been the assistant to the General Manager of Doral Arrowwood in

Rye Brook, N.Y., for 15 years, while James is the director of Food & Beverage.

CLASS OF 1992

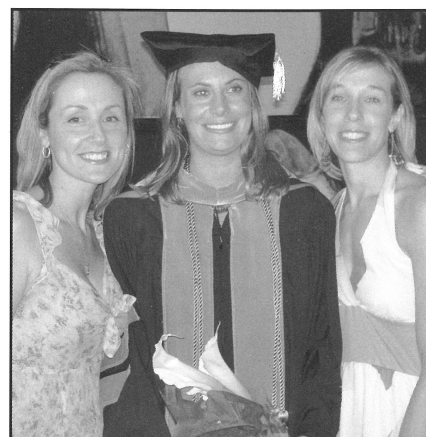
Keith Hauprich is the Vice President of Business & Legal Affairs for Cherry Lane Music Publishing Co., one of the world's leading independent music publishers. He presently serves as general counsel to each of the various Cherry Lane divisions and is responsible for all legal matters. Keith graduated magna cum laude from the Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University in 1996 with a bachelor's in public relations, and in 1999 he graduated from St. John's University School of Law. Keith and his wife Brooke live in Staten Island with their three beautiful daughters Ashleigh Morgan, 5; Mackenna Paige, 3; and Amber Hailey, 1.

CLASS OF 1993



Michael Kennedy is the co-founder and co-director of Dublin Lacrosse, Ireland's inaugural club lacrosse team. He has been part of the national team since 2004, and is also the co-founder and coach of the University College Dublin lacrosse team. Above, see Michael hoisting the Celtic Cup in 2005. For more on Michael and Irish lacrosse, check out the next edition of *The Gael*.

CLASS OF 1995



Meghan Clancy graduated magna cum laude in June 2008 with a doctorate in veterinary medicine. Dr. Clancy plans to live and practice in Seattle, where her fiancé is an engineer for Boeing. She is pictured above, flanked by her Kennedy classmates Danielle Curry Wertman '95 and Kristen Bove Murtagh '95.

CLASS OF 2005

Matthew Maher was named Third Team Academic All-America by ESPN the Magazine earlier this year. He is a First Team All-New Jersey Collegiate Baseball Association outfielder for Fairleigh Dickinson University and led the team in seven statistical categories last season, including finishing 17th in the nation with 33 stolen bases in 37 attempts. The senior communication major entered his senior season with a 3.96 GPA.

Danielle Mandra of Brewster is currently finishing her degree at Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y. Danielle participated in such programs as Hartwick's January Term Off-Campus program in England, where students examine the institutions that create theatre, as well as the aesthetic, social and economic forces that shape them. Danielle saw a dozen plays in such locations as London, Stratford-upon-Avon and Bath, while also being able to speak with current British theatre professionals. The KCHS community wishes the best of luck to Danielle as she finishes her degree.

E-mail your Alumni News to alumni@kennedycatholic.org today!

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

Kennedy home to 5 league titlists in '07-'08

In addition to the Class B State Champion boys' varsity baseball team (see feature story on Page 6), Kennedy Catholic was home to four other league champions in 2007-2008. The title-run began last fall with one historically strong team and another that had been literally unbeatable.

Girls' cross-country at Kennedy Catholic has been synonymous with two things: success and Sister Janet Meehan. Boasting Athletic Hall of Fame names such as Susan Hillery Groth '81, Beth Mobilia '00, Amy Manwaring '00, and Colleen Hillery Strawderman '79, as well as that of its longtime coach, the girls' cross-country team has always been strong. Up-and-coming harriers Jessica Kendzor and Breeda Mannion continued the winning tradition, leading the Lady Gaels to its first league title of the new millennium.

While the harriers were winning their first league title in a number of years, the girls' varsity tennis team was busy repeating, or four-peating, to be precise. These Lady Gaels' put the finishing touches on its third undefeated season in as many years, and fourth consecutive year in which it finished with at least a share of the league title.

Come the winter, one of Kennedy Catholic's most successful programs added another league title to its resume. In what would be coach Tom Nelligan's final season on the Gaels' bench, the boys' varsity basketball team added another banner to the gymnasium rafters. Nelligan, who stepped down over the summer, would finish the season second all-time to Ed Vreeland '54 in coaching victories.

Titles four and five would come within days of each other on the diamond, both baseball and softball. After winning the regular season title several seasons ago, the varsity boys' baseball team put together an unprecedented season that saw the Gaels take home a League, Sectional, Regional and finally a State title, the first in Kennedy Catholic baseball history. Not to be outdone, the Lady Gaels softball team also won its League and finished second in Section 1 following the offseason addition of pitcher Devon DiSiena. For their achievements, coaches Bob Fletcher and Pat Hogan were each named Coach of the Year for their respective leagues.

With the fall season now in the books, Kennedy Catholic has already started building on last year's success. This time, it was the boys' cross-country team getting it done with a league title in November.

Needless to say, when it comes to league championships in 2008-2009, Kennedy Catholic is off and running.

INFORMATION UPDATE

New job? New address? Let us know! alumni@kennedycatholic.org • call: (914) 232-5061 Ext. 135 • fax: (914) 509-1401

Name _____ Class _____

Married Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Alumni E-Mail Address _____

BUSINESS _____ Position _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ E-Mail Address _____

Alumni Class Notes _____

Parents: If your son/daughter no longer maintains a permanent residence at your home, please send us his/her new address. Please check the box below if you would also like to continue receiving *The Gael*.

☐ Please keep me on the mailing list. My son's/daughter's new address is listed below

Name _____ Class _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____

KENNEDY INDUCTS 1ST ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME CLASS

29 earn entry into Blue and White immortality

2008 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Christa Yanarella Bissell '68
 Matthew Braunwart '94
 Joseph Costello '86
 Kathy Courtney '93
 Kevin Courtney '97
 Brian Davidson '68
 John Fleming '82
 Bruce Flynn '79
 Mark Girolamo '71
 Susan Hillery Groth '81
 John Hand '68
 Kevin Hillery '86
 Kevin Barry Jordan '68
 Jessica Swolfs Kisling '92
 Victoria Lynch '92
 Kristin Manwaring McGee '92
 Bernadette Meehan '93
 Amy Manwaring '00
 Patricia McCrudden '83
 Donnie McGrath '02
 Sister Janet Meehan
 Elizabeth Mobilia '00
 Brian O'Donnell '01
 Ellen Pikula '81
 Ronald Przybocki '78
Bob Sterling, posthumously
 Colleen Hillery Strawderman '79
 Jeanne Villegas '85
 Edward Vreeland '54

If 2007-2008 was the year of the Gaels-and with five league champions and one state titlist, who's to say it wasn't-then Kennedy hopefully did right by paying tribute to those who laid the groundwork for such championship squads. For the first time in its 84-year history, the school honored a collection of its greatest athletes on June 14 as the inaugural class of the Kennedy Catholic Athletic Hall of Fame.

In many ways, it was an evening of firsts as the first Hall of Fame class included: the first Con Edison Award winner in former coach and athletic director Ed Vreeland '54; the first All-American relay team in 3,200 runners Jessica Swolfs Kisling '92 (inducted as Jessica Swolfs as a tribute to her late father), Victoria Lynch '92, Kristin Manwaring McGee '92 and Bernadette Meehan '93; the first Dellwood Award winner (track's highest honor for boys and girls) in Susan Hillery Groth '81; and a member of Kennedy's first-ever bowl-winning football team from 1993 in Matt Braunwart '94.

Just under 150 came out for the inaugural ceremony, including former coaches such as John Viniello. All in all, it was a wonderful evening-and long overdue for our standout St. Mary's athletes-and a great start to what Kennedy hopes will become annual tradition.

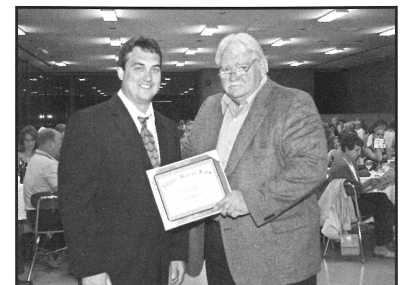
The 2008 inductees spanned six decades and played multiple sports, earning countless All-League, All-County and All-State honors, as well as numerous other accolades. Many of the evening's honorees still have championship banners hanging in the gymnasium or records up on the board.

Now they have a rightful place in Kennedy Catholic's athletic history.

Editor's Note: Planning for the 2009 Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner is already underway. E-mail alumni@kennedycatholic.org or call (914) 232-5061 Ext. 135 to nominate a former athlete for the next induction class.



It wouldn't have been a true Hall of Fame induction without representation from the Courtney, McAvoy and O'Donnell families.



One AD to another-Tom Povall presents former athletic director and Kennedy's all-time coaching wins leader Ed Vreeland '54 with his Hall of Fame Award.



Presenting the inaugural class of Kennedy Catholic Athletic Hall of Fame.



Former championship cross country coach and longtime Kennedy supporter John Viniello with Sister Caroline.

PRESIDENT'S DINNER HONORS KEVIN, NANCY DWYER

**Former chaplain, principal
recognized**

Within the Kennedy Catholic community, there are certain families who have been...well, family for quite some time. So on May 1, it was fitting that the school paid tribute to a couple that represents the best of Kennedy. They are our alumni and our alumni parents. They are benefactors, to be sure, but also people who routinely get their hands dirty as volunteers. They are Kevin '72 and Nancy Dwyer, and they are now members of the Kennedy Catholic Hall of Fame.

Kevin '72 grew up just two blocks from the Sisters of the Divine Compassion at the former St. Mary's High School on Valley Road in Katonah, learning under their tutelage throughout his elementary and high school years. Nancy would share in a similar experience with the Divine Compassion at Good Counsel in White Plains.

The unofficial mascot for the Lady Gaels basketball team at age 4, Kevin '72 has

gone on to chair the annual Golf Classic and several Annual Fund campaigns, as well as help restore the President's Dinner to prominence. Beside him all the while was Nancy, who has put together prize packs for the golf outing, done table arrangements for the President's Dinner, helped plan alumni reunions, volunteered with the Quarterback Club, helped procure new trees for the front entranceway and cooked for class barbecues.

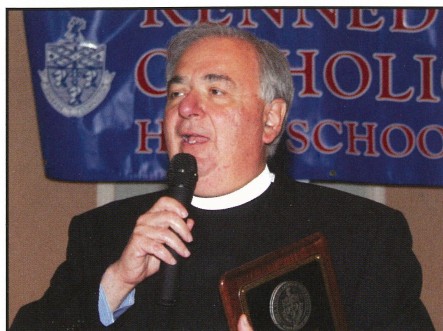
Together, they are the proud parents of Kelly, Heather and Danny '07, all regular volunteers themselves. Fittingly, they were introduced by Kevin's brother and a regular Kennedy Catholic supporter himself, Larry Dwyer '61.

In addition to the Hall of Fame recipients, the 2008 President's Dinner also paid tribute to the Rev. James Teague, who has spent a decade at Kennedy Catholic as a teacher and chaplain, and Monsignor Anthony Marchitelli, who served as president of the school from 1996-2003 and whose tenure was marked by a number of significant improvements.

And, of course, no President's Dinner is complete without recognizing our Students of Excellence-16 seniors presented with certificates for their contributions to the greater school community throughout their years at Kennedy Catholic. The 2008 recipients were Lindsay Burke, John Delfino, Christina Kendzor, Brittany Lloyd, Kelly Mertens, Emily Novak, Ellen Ring, Gabby Sussman, Brian Coughlin, Melissa Imprescia, Danielle Kloster, Nick Lopilato, Stephen Murray, John Oros, Erich Staib and Nicole Visovsky. There is undoubtedly some future Hall of Famers on that list.

All told, more than 270 filled the rooms at Colonial Terrace in Cortlandt Manor, and with a little help from the musical stylings of Vertigo, danced well into the night. The 2008 President's Dinner was one for the ages, as memories of the magnificent May 1 gala continue to reverberate throughout the Kennedy Catholic community.

All Photos by Jacob Bergmeier of NoDo Photography



Monsignor Anthony Marchitelli addresses the crowd after being awarded the 2008 Divine Compassion Medal.



Larry Dwyer '61 introduces the 2008 Hall of Fame inductees in his brother and sister-in-law, Kevin '72 and Nancy Dwyer.



Sister Christopher and Divine Compassion Medal recipient the Rev. James Teague.



The 2008 Students of Excellence.



Then-president the Rev. Stephen Norton with County Legislator and parent George Oros following his special presentation to Nicole Bauso '08.



Consider Kennedy Among Your Philanthropic Endeavors

The 2008-2009 Annual Fund closes in June. Get your gifts in by Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2008, for them to be considered as write-offs for 2008. Remember that all donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law and many companies encourage matching gifts.

Every gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, students who will become the leaders of tomorrow and the next generation of alumni Gaels. For more information or to make a credit card contribution, please call the Advancement Office at (914) 232-5061 Ext. 134.

COME BACK TO KENNEDY

Please save the following dates, as we hope to see you back at your alma mater in the New Year.

Spring Musical & Art Show

March 12-15

An Evening of the Arts

Saturday, March 21

Alumni Easter Mass & Egg Hunt

April 2009

President's Dinner

Thursday, April 30

Spring Concert

Wednesday, May 20, 7 p.m.

Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner

Saturday, May 23

Commencement

Sunday, June 7

Alumni Band Concert

Wednesday, June 10

2008-2009 Annual Fund Ends

Tuesday, June 30

For more information regarding any of the aforementioned events, please contact the Alumni Office at (914) 232-5061, e-mail alumni@kennedycatholic.org or visit KCHS online at www.kennedycatholic.org/alumni.

Kennedy Catholic HIGH SCHOOL
ADVANCEMENT/ALUMNI RELATIONS
54 Route 138 • Somers, NY 10589

The Gael is produced by the Advancement Office. If you have any questions, comments or news you would like to share with us, please call (914) 232-5061 ext. 135, or email alumni@kennedycatholic.org.

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