



Union

DE LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL



WATER OF LIFE

Principal Brother Christopher Brady Says Farewell

Summer Reunions • Why We Give: Alumni Voices • Life: Handle with Care

Bishop of Oakland Celebrates the Founder's Feast

Spring 2011



~ The Brotherhood of the Spartan is Like No Other ~

The Gift of Life Is Our Students' Gift to Us



Mark DeMarco '78
President

*Life is good,
we are accountable
for living it well,
and De La Salle
is a place where
that accountability
can be learned.*

Many of you who read this are currently having the wondrous experience of sharing your home with a teenage boy. And even if you do not currently have this privilege, many of you had it in the recent past. Maybe you've even lived with two teenage boys. Or maybe three? More? You have all my respect.

But I do mean it when I say "privilege," and at this time of year I find myself marveling at the privilege that we have at De La Salle High School, of "sharing our home" with more than a thousand teenage boys, which is a daily experience unlike any other. The sheer vitality here is amazing. I heard that one of our sophomores was developing a Science Fair project to derive energy from people in motion, a project he called "Power Walking," and I wondered: How big a town could be powered just by the energy generated by our hardworking students? Could we call it going green, Spartan Green? Of course, wiring them up would be complicated, and building the grid might be costly.... Well, file that under To Be Worked On Later.

But if the activity here is ceaseless, it is also punctuated by frequent moments of reflection, when we look back, look forward, and, perhaps most importantly, look within, to learn who we really are and how we ought to live. You will see in this magazine some of the school's incredible vitality, and you will hear deep reflections as well, from teachers, students, alumni, and friends, who all seem to sound a common theme: that life is good, and we are accountable for living it well, and De La Salle High School is a place where that accountability can be learned.

As I write this, we are preparing for graduation, when we say goodbye to the Class of 2011. A full report will be forthcoming, but I would like to give you a preview of what I hope to say to the seniors when they are all sitting still, in their green robes, in the sunlight

(we hope), listening attentively. I want to focus not so much on what we have taught them, but on what they have taught me.

Number one, there is perseverance: for instance, the student who is cut from a sport and tries another; works hard at that and then is cut from that sport as a junior; but does not give up, and finds some other worthwhile new skill to pursue. Sure, there is hurt along the way, but there is no wallowing in it—he simply acknowledges it and moves on. An important lesson: Life is going to do this to you—and you need to persevere!

Number two, there is forgiveness. One of the senior parents shared with me their son's reflection on the phrase in the Lord's Prayer that asks: Forgive us our trespasses, as WE forgive those who trespass against US. This student questioned what it really means to pray these words and wondered why we do not take them to heart, not just forgiving those whom we like but also those whom we don't even know.... This senior tried to imagine a world where this would be a lived reality. There's a lesson about how to live well: Live forgivingly.

These are just two of the many spiritual gifts our students have given me, gifts of good example and of profound thought. I am grateful to them—as I will tell them at their Commencement exercise in the Quad.

Perhaps that is what education really is: a mutual exchange of gifts between students and teachers, helping one another to accept, to open, and to treat with care, the wonderful gift of life.

In the spirit of Saint John Baptist
de La Salle,

Mark DeMarco '78
President



Union

Spring 2011

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Read the *Union* online at www.dlshs.org

The De La Salle "Union" is a bond of unity for the extended De La Salle family — alumni, parents, alumni parents and the many friends who make up our school's growing family.

The School Seal

The school seal is an important part of the identity of De La Salle High School. The symbols used to make up the seal have particular meanings that reflect the values and purpose of the school. In the center of the seal is the Chi Rho (Kye Row). This is the Greek abbreviation of the title "Christ." The first two letters of the word *Christos* or "Christ" are "Chi" and "Rho," represented in the Greek alphabet as a capital "X" and "P." The fleur-de-lis, with "lis" meaning lily in French, reminds us of our French origins with Saint John Baptist de La Salle. The lamp is a symbol of knowledge, reminding us of our primary purpose as a school — education. The section of broken chain represents freedom — freedom from ignorance. The chain surrounding the seal signifies strength and unity. "Les Hommes de Foi" is French for "Men of Faith."

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About the cover: "The water of life" was a spiritual theme this Lent, and the winter and spring were rainy and wet (for proof, see inside back cover). The liquid pouring from this spigot looks as if it might flood the school. Not to worry: it's just cardboard and fabric, one of the monumental sculptures created by Rebecca DeWeese's art class and installed on campus in April. This gush of ingenuity, and the first pink blossoms of spring nearby, remind us of the precious gift that life is.

Hail and Farewell, Brother Christopher Brady

Brother Robert Wickman, FSC, returns in Fall 2011, as Brother Christopher Brady, FSC, wraps up eleven years as Principal.



Brother Christopher Brady, FSC

Early in 2011, Brother Christopher Brady, FSC, who has been Principal of De La Salle since 2000, announced that he would wrap up his final year of service at the end of the current academic year. In mid-March, President Mark DeMarco announced that he had secured the agreement of Brother Robert Wickman, FSC, who had been Principal at DLS from 1994 to 1998, to take up the office once again.

At the end of this academic year, the school will complete its 46th year of operation, and Brother Christopher will have been its chief operations officer for 11 of those years, nearly one quarter of the school's history. (For the story of the founding and our 45th anniversary, see the Winter 2011 issue of the *Union*.) Brother Christopher is pleased with the way the school has developed. "The quality of instruction is first-rate and our faculty is incredibly hard-working," he said, "and the students are great young men. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with these successive generations of Spartan Brothers. The school is stronger now than it has ever been, both in terms of the excellent educational program that we offer, and in terms of what our graduates aspire to in their post-De La Salle years."

Brother Robert From East to West

Brother Robert Wickman is a native of New York City who holds master's degrees in theology and educational administration and has served as a teacher and administrator at Lasallian schools and other Catholic schools on both the east coast (Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York) and the west coast. He was principal here 1994-1998 and was president of Justin-Siena High School (Napa) from 2007 to 2009.

"I look forward to welcoming Brother Robert back to De La Salle," said Mark DeMarco. "He was instrumental in laying the foundation on which we continue to build. I am pleased that we have found someone eminently qualified to carry on the many good things that Brother Christopher Brady has accomplished. We are grateful to the District of Eastern North America for allowing Brother Robert to come west again to serve as our principal." The end of Brother Christopher's principalship is June 30, and Brother Robert officially begins his tenure on July 1.

Brother Robert said, "I am very appreciative of this opportunity. Being back at the school and having the opportunity to build on the tremendous work of Brother Christopher Brady and the many others with whom he has collaborated is a great gift. De La Salle is a place of creativity that wonderfully demonstrates a commitment to respond to the needs of young people. The school speaks with conviction of developing men of faith, integrity, and scholarship. It builds a deep sense of brotherhood among its students and looks to its Catholic identity and Lasallian heritage as the foundation for all it does."



Brother Robert Wickman, FSC

Brother Christopher From West to East

In the April issue of the *Spartan Spotlight* newsletter for parents, Brother Christopher addressed the worries of those who were aware that in 2005-2006 a bout with cancer had put him out of action for the better part of a year. He wrote, "Since my departure was announced, I have been asked two questions: First, Is your leaving health-related? Second, What will you be doing next year? In answer to the first question: My health is fine. I've had no recurrence of cancer...thank God! I see all my doctors regularly and they keep a careful watch over me. In answer to the second question, what I will be doing next school year may be answered in next month's *Spartan Spotlight*."

Unwilling to be scooped by the *Spotlight*, the *Union* grabbed Brother Christopher by the rabat (we'll explain that later) as he strode about the campus one day and got him to reveal what he knows. "Well, it's what I almost know," he said. "I am 99 percent sure that this Fall I will be a student again. Yes. Believe me, as I wait to hear the final confirmation of my admission to an institution of higher learning,

I understand what our seniors go through as they wait to hear...! The fact is that the coming year will be a sabbatical year for me, which means a time both for relaxation and for growth, and I have applied to spend the Fall semester 2011 at Boston College, in a program of study in Theology and Ministry. I'm awaiting the final 'yes' as we speak."

So that's what we know as we go to press. We asked Brother Christopher for a final word to share with *Union* readers. He said, "I want to thank you, parents and friends and supporters, for your collaboration in developing this faith community and educational work. Thank you, faculty, for your talent and dedication. You are the frontline ambassadors in this mission, and I am indebted to you for the work you do each day. And thank you, students, past and present. It is you for whom I am most grateful. You have always brought energy, life, and true meaning to the existence of this school. You are why we are here, and I have been blessed by your presence in my life."

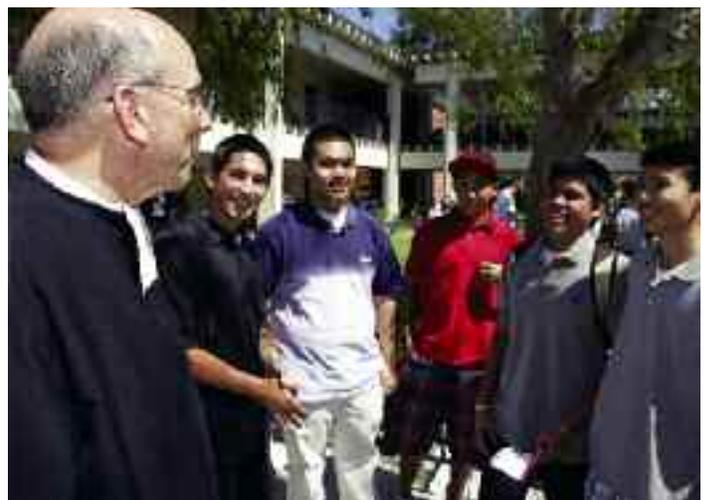
Lasallian Education East, West, and in Between

Brother Christopher belongs to the District of San Francisco, which is the western province of the De La Salle Christian Brothers, with provincial offices at Mont La Salle in Napa. The District was founded in 1868, and today serves more than 10,000 students, with one college, 11 high schools (including De La Salle), one middle school, one tutoring center, and a retreat center. Brother Robert belongs to the District of Eastern North America, which is based in New Jersey and sponsors two colleges, 21 high schools, nine primary schools, five social service agencies, and a retreat center. There are more than a hundred Lasallian educational ministries in the U.S., and 54 of these are secondary schools—which makes Lasallian schools the largest network of Catholic high schools in the nation.

Here's a quick Lasallian quiz: How many high schools in the U.S.-Toronto Region are named "De La Salle"? Answer: There are eight high schools by that name, one each in Chicago, New Orleans, Detroit, Memphis, Portland, Philadelphia, Toronto—and, of course, Concord. Several elementary schools bear that name as well.

We promised to explain "rabat." The distinctive garb of the Christian Brothers, which Brother Christopher is wearing in these photos, is a black robe and a white collar. The special collar preserves the look of the clerical neckwear worn by Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the early Brothers in the 17th century, and it is called, in antique fashion, a rabat. The "FSC" after these men's names stands for *Fratres Scholarum Christianarum* (Brothers of the Christian Schools).

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working with these successive generations of Spartan Brothers. The school is stronger now than it has ever been."



“Find God’s Dream for You – and Follow It.”

The Bishop of Oakland preaches, the children of San Francisco sing, and Concord celebrates the Feast of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Founder of the Christian Brothers and Patron of Teachers.



April has been dubbed the “Official Month of....” dozens of things, from Amateur Radio to Workplace Conflict Awareness. To us, April is Lasallian Month. In April, John Baptist de La Salle was born (April 30, 1651), was ordained a priest (April 9, 1678), and died (April 7, 1719). In May he was declared a saint (May 24, 1900) and was proclaimed Patron of Christian Teachers (May 15, 1950). But April is when the Church celebrates his feast, on the anniversary of his death. Aged nearly 68, he died on Good Friday, worn out from forty years of unremitting effort developing new educational opportunities for the poor and a new kind of vocation in Catholic education for men who would commit themselves to the brotherhood and the mission.

On April 7, 2011, guests flocked to De La Salle High School to celebrate the Founder. The Most Reverend Salvatore Cordileone, the Diocese of Oakland’s new bishop, came to preside at Mass, tour the school, and share a meal. A choir of children from De

Marillac Academy in San Francisco, our “little sister school,” sang for the liturgy and afterward had a tour of campus and a lunch with the DLS students who travel to San Francisco to tutor them.

Bishop Draws Life Lessons

Salvatore Cordileone, a native of San Diego, holds degrees in philosophy and theology and a doctorate in canon law. Ordained for San Diego in 1982, he served as a parish priest in La Mesa and Calexico, worked in the Vatican, and was Auxiliary Bishop of San Diego from 2002 to 2009, before being named bishop of Oakland. As noted in the last issue of the *Union* (Winter 2011) the Oakland Diocese was created in 1962, and new schools were needed; the first planning meeting for De La Salle High School was in late 1962, and construction began in 1965. The fourth bishop in Oakland’s history, Bishop Cordileone gave a well-informed homily on the Founder and his life. For an excerpt, see page 5.

“From Saint John Baptist de La Salle we can learn about having a heart open to God. He was on track to a successful and comfortable life, he was from a wealthy and well-placed family, he had a prestigious position in the Church, but when he heard God’s call to educate the poor, he soon realized that this was not a part-time job, not a hobby, and he gave up his position, recruited men to the work, and joined his new Brothers in voluntary poverty in service to the mission.

“God blessed him with holiness, we might say. But remember that when God blesses someone with holiness, it usually means a life of struggle and difficulty. You students are the beneficiaries of his holiness, and of his struggles. He had many innovative ideas for education, but his idea of making sure that the poor got a good education was revolutionary, and the powers-that-be disagreed with him. They thought that education for the poor meant educating them for manual labor. But De La Salle wanted them to be able to read and write and do math and speak well and have manners and be able to take their place freely in society. So there were lawsuits, harassments, and machinations against him and the teachers and the schools for years. But he persisted, in the confidence that it was God’s work he was doing.

“You hear people saying frequently – Pursue your dream. Yes. But.... Did De La Salle do that, exactly? It seems to me that he pursued God’s will – and that became his dream. A dream of your own is not enough, unless it is God’s dream also. Find God’s dream for you – and follow it. It will mean

giving of yourself, as De La Salle did. But it is in giving of yourself that you truly find yourself – and truly encounter others. De La Salle did not give a handout and keep his distance. He practiced the virtue that we call solidarity, giving of himself, with compassion, to lift the poor out of material and spiritual poverty. So stay open to finding God’s dream for you. You do that by remaining strong in the faith: pray, do service, go to Confession, receive Communion, be active in your parish. There are lots of conflicting messages out in the world, and you and your peers need to hear God’s message. Remember John Baptist de La Salle. Do as he did and seek God’s will. And if God’s will becomes your dream, you can follow that dream to a life of real worth and deep happiness.”

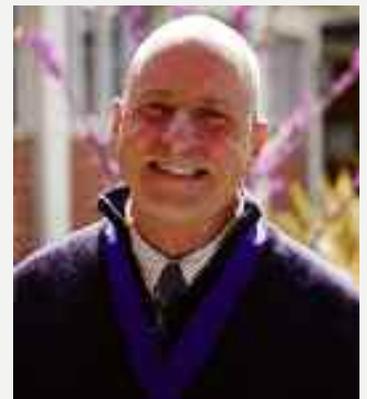


Lasallian Educator of the Year

Before Mass on April 7, Brother Christopher Brady, FSC, announced the school’s 2011 Lasallian Educator of the Year. The honor went to English instructor Steve Oelschlager. When the standing ovation from a thousand students and colleagues had died down, Mr. Oelschlager acknowledged the award and offered the students, as they laughed appreciatively, some wry reflections:

“Truth be told, teaching can be a frustrating and irritating profession. Frustrating? Here we are in the third quarter, having done the same activities in the same order on the same day, week after week, month after month, and you come to me, and you ask, ‘Can I go get my grammar book? I didn’t know we have grammar on Monday.’ Irritating? To think that I have made a thirty-two-year career out of yelling ‘SIT DOWN!’ every afternoon.

“But this is only part of the picture, because there are moments that remind me why I’m here and why I do this. Moments like last semester, when I was correcting a stack of senior short stories and I came upon one that was written with such heart and craft that what was reflected there was not an assignment completed and gotten out of the way, but true learning. Moments like each spring, when you put such hard work and dedication into making the Healing Spaces projects a success, not just transforming rooms but touching lives as well. It is these moments that remind me that I’m here to give the best I am capable of giving. And if this makes me Lasallian Educator of the Year, I thank you. But I can’t accept this award for myself alone, for it belongs to all my fellow teachers and staff members whose collective efforts make De La Salle the place that it is.”



Life and Death on Ash Wednesday



What is the sound of a thousand teenage boys in one room?

It is rapt silence, as they listen to one of their teachers at a prayer service. The silence is broken only by the usual sounds that accompany a homily: First, the sound of King Kong as he reels under bombardment; then, the sound of Godzilla as he is zapped by electricity. And thereafter some laughter. And finally, fervent applause. If a tear or two drops to the floor during all this, they do not make much noise. Sometimes when there has been a unique and indescribable event people will say, “I guess you just had to be there.” But if you were not at De La Salle High School on March 9, 2011, to hear science teacher Viki Acquistapace address the school on the first day of Lent, you can be there now.

I would like to dedicate this talk to the seniors I taught two years ago: Periods 1, 2, 4, and 6. Two years ago, right at this time, I had been diagnosed with cancer and had undergone surgery and was recovering. After surgery I began chemotherapy—and this is what chemotherapy was like:

[Above her head, a movie screen shows King Kong pelted by bombs on a beach].

After chemotherapy I went through radiation—and this is what radiation was like:

[Onscreen, Godzilla is attacked with massive jolts of electricity].

On Ash Wednesday it is my job to address two topics: Pain. And Death.

Now, I think that they are crazy in Campus Ministry to ask me to do this, because I don’t believe in talking about cancer and pain and death to teenagers, because it’s just middle-age drama. My story is a middle-age saga. The “Every 15 Minutes Program” that we have this week delivers a message about pain and death that’s coming right at YOU and YOUR choices. But my story—it’s like tuning in to an oldies radio station.... But, well, I guess everyone can listen to a little classic rock now and then.

So let’s begin...

THE FIRST TOPIC IS PAIN

In the thick of my treatments it was like being thrown into the ring with Manny Pacquiao. He was throwing every punch he had, and I was fighting back. I had listened to what my doctors told me: Go for his head, go for his body—head, body, head, body.... But there was no way around Pacquiao. I was gonna get hurt. And I was hurt. But pain will do a couple of things for you.

It will make your life simpler.

Before I entered the ring with Pacquiao I used to dream.... If only.... If only I could get my teeth whitened. If only I could drive a Dodge Challenger. If only I could go somewhere tropical and wear some swagg designer wraparound skirt.... In cancer treatment, in the chemo ward, none of that mattered anymore. And none of it matters now. In the condition I was in, I couldn’t even make it to Antioch, let alone to Acapulco. But somehow, at the end of the day, when I could sleep, it was weird, I felt one hundred percent completely satisfied with my life. And I hadn’t even left the house! Another thing that pain will do for you:

It will make your life more savory.

Imagine that you are super-hungry, and your favorite food is in front of you, and you’re eating it. What is your favorite food? Life becomes like that plate of food, but more delicious and more wonderful. Things that I had seen a million times—a ray of sun, a rose, even mounds of dirty laundry around my house—would make me smile, inside and out. And I would tell people around me multiple times a day that I loved them. I love you. I LOVE you. I love YOU. Even the postman. (Just kidding.) I don’t know much about world religions, but PAIN forces you to live in the moment, to live in the present, to savor the moment. Maybe if you decide to do something painful for Lent, like giving up chocolate, or giving up Facebook, then your life will become simpler and more savory.

THE SECOND TOPIC IS DEATH

When I was told that I had cancer, my mind went into a tailspin—a whirlwind—a tornado—until one afternoon, before I began chemotherapy, as I was driving down Pleasant Hill Road, grappling with the worst-case scenario, I realized—like some miracle—that I was ready to die. It was OKAY. I was FREE.



CHEMOTHERAPY



RADIATION



PAIN



DEATH?

My life before that moment was like this:

[She holds up above her head a length of heavy chain].

And my life after that moment was like this:

[She tosses the heavy chain far away from her, and it crashes to the floor].

You can put the ashes on my forehead. I have come to see death as my destination. And maybe Death is where the Dodge Challenger and the tropical beach are located?

I can only “talk big” and say these things because when I was diagnosed with cancer I felt God assure me: “Don’t worry. Where you go, I go.... Where you are headed, I am headed with you....” I was never alone, and I was not afraid.

And at three o’clock in the morning, when I felt as if I had large pieces of sharp glass stuck in my bald head from the chemotherapy, and everyone was asleep, and, yes, I was alone, God huddled next to me and said to me, “Try to picture yourself removing the glass. Take it out of your head. And with that glass we’ll make a mosaic work of art, together. Just do it. We can do it.” That’s what God said. And we did.

Students: Don’t be gloomy on Ash Wednesday. Remember King Kong and Godzilla. Conventional warfare had only a temporary effect on them. Smile inside and out. Now is the time to say “I love you.” Now is the time to empty our pockets. Now is the time to take a shower...spiritually. Now is the time to reach out to the geek, the freak, and the meek. Don’t wait!

I know that you won’t.

Every day you remind me how to live. You remind me to slide in the muddy end zone of life—cheering for each other, hugging each other, having fun and working side-by-side—to find the derivative, to build a boat, to haul away the weekly recycling bins.

Let’s make a pact to keep listening to what God is telling us.

I often think that God is a DJ. God IS a DJ. He knows your playlist, and he’s going to play the song that you need to hear, right when you need to hear it. That is why I must end with some of my all-time favorite lyrics. They are in a song by Usher:

The DJ got us falling in love again.

The DJ got us falling in love again.

So dance, dance, like it’s the last, last night of your life, cuz baby tonight,

The DJ got us falling in love—again.



One Classy Teacher: Victoria Acquistapace, M.Ed., with some of her students: (l. to r.) Isidro Valencia, Brandon Roberts, Dominic Santini, Joe Jackson, Zack Lopez, Stephan Spangenberg, Tommy Osofsky-Freitas, William (Justin) Walker, Giordano Jacuzzi, Eddie Prospero, Everett Smith, Nico Chavez. Viki Acquistapace has taught science at De La Salle since 2000. Her two daughters attend Carondelet High School. Each year her sophomore Honors Biology class goes to the county science fair. For the 2011 report, see page 12.

Life in the Fast Lane: Death in the Schoolyard

“Dear Mom and Dad,
Today I died, and I never got a chance to tell you...”

Life is precious. When you as a driver take your life and the lives of others into your hands, you had better be ready for the responsibility. That’s the message that De La Salle and Carondelet students got this spring about the hazards of driving while intoxicated, impaired, or inattentive. Statistics can be quoted and caution can be preached, but nothing is more effective than having the students themselves dramatize the consequences of bad decision-making. On March 10 and 11, 2011, death visited campus, as the community brought to life the need for sobriety, prudence, and a true concern for self and others.

Since 1995, the Every 15 Minutes Organization has worked with schools and public safety officials in the U.S. to create educational events promoting impairment-free—and, more recently, texting-free—motoring. The name comes from a grim statistic: In the U.S. there is a traffic fatality related to alcohol or other impairment every 15 minutes. On Winton Drive, the program involves DLS and CHS juniors and seniors and gives hundreds of new and prospective drivers the chance to experience the results of life in the heedless lane.

The Every 15 Minutes website (www.every15minutes.com) describes the full program: During the first day, every 15 minutes, a student volunteer is called out of class. One by one, students vanish. As each departs, a police officer enters to read an obituary which has been written by the “dead” student’s parent(s). A few minutes later, the student returns as one of “the living dead,” wearing white face paint, a black t-shirt, and a coroner’s tag. The dead do not interact with others for the remainder of the day.

Meanwhile, uniformed officers make mock death notifications to the parents at their homes or places of business.

A simulated traffic collision is unveiled on the school grounds. Actual rescue workers (local firefighters and paramedics) triage and treat the “injured,” taking them from their crushed cars with the jaws of life. The coroner handles fatalities, and police officers investigate, arrest, and book the responsible drivers. There may be an actual trip to the morgue, the hospital emergency room, and the police department to be booked for “drunk driving.” At day’s end, the “living dead” and the students involved in the staged accidents have an overnight retreat, facilitated by counselors and police officers, to simulate separation from friends and family. The students write letters to their parents that start, “Dear Mom and Dad, every fifteen minutes someone in the United States dies from an alcohol-related traffic collision, and today I died. I never had the chance to tell you....” Parents write similar letters to their children, to be shared the following day when students and parents are reunited at a school assembly. Other elements of the program can include such interactive exercises as simulator goggles that allow students to experience the difficulty of impaired driving. The Every 15 Minutes organization says that studies show that those who learn from such hands-on experiences retain two to four times more than those who learn from just listening, or from listening and seeing.

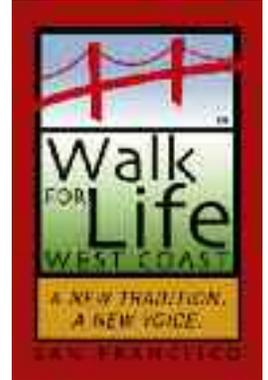
Our thanks to all those who took part and made this event possible and effective, including Joanie Dowd P ’07, Julie Levesque P ’07, ’12, June Shore P ’08, ’13, Terri Watkins P ’11, and Dan O’Malley ’74. Financial underwriters included Marc Samrick and Doug Van Wyck P ’08, ’11 (State Farm Insurance), French Bros. (the Levesque Family), Thomas and Meg Maloney P ’14, Alyssa Levesque, Nob Hill Foods, and Union Bank (the Sitov Family). Major assistance was provided by the California Highway Patrol, California Office of Traffic Safety, Costa County Coroner’s Office, United Professional Fire Fighters of Contra Costa County, Local 1230, Concord Reserve Police Officers, Contra Arrowhead Towing, Oakmont Memorial Park and Mortuary, the Catholic Diocese of Oakland, Lafayette Retreat Center, John Muir Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Medical Center, American Medical Response, and CALSTAR air ambulance.





Walking and Talking About Life

Students, families, staff, and faculty from both sides of Winton Drive made their way to the Walk for Life in San Francisco on January 23.



The De la Salle and Carondelet campus ministry offices sponsored buses, and local parish-sponsored groups and families on their own crossed the bay to hear the speakers at Justin Herman Plaza and walk together to the Marina Green. A few students shared some thoughts about the day:

De La Salle sophomore **Zachary Marez** reflected, “Abortion is an important matter for me because I have been a Catholic all my life and have learned that everyone deserves the right to life and to be cared for. I believe that life begins when we are conceived and not just the moment we are born, so we can’t just decide to terminate the pregnancy halfway through because things don’t happen the way we want them to. The Walk for Life is of interest to me because I like to know that there are others standing for the same purpose. When I bring up the subject that abortion is wrong, I sometimes feel like someone who has been singled out and that what I believe isn’t right. So when I’m walking with thousands of different people who share the same view, I feel like there’s still hope left for the unborn who deserve the right to life.”

Maddie Lopez, a sophomore at Carondelet, who is a founder of the Carondelet Students for Life Club, said: “Men should not be silent on abortion because it is their child, too. No matter what anyone says, men have a say in this so-called ‘choice’ because they are the fathers. I encourage men to stand up for the women in their lives and recognize that they are needed more than ever in this decision. There are better choices and better options. So many women would not have chosen to abort their babies if they knew they had the support of the fathers. I call upon the men in society to be bold, and to realize that, if they find themselves in this situation, they have the potential to be a life-saver.”

This comment was offered by De La Salle freshman **Tony Gonzalez**: “A friend of my family showed me a pin that was shaped like a child’s feet weeks after conception. The feet were smaller than my fingertip and so small that it was hard to realize that this was a model of an actual person. This opened my eyes and helped me realize that no matter how small, everything God creates is precious. I went to the Walk for Life because I really want to become more educated about the world around me and this Walk for Life surely did it. Now that I am getting older I believe that I shouldn’t just believe in what is right, but go the extra step to make a change happen in our world. For instance, I believe that the death penalty should be taken away. All life is precious, and people do not have the right to take a life, only God does. I am doing a project on the death penalty in religion class and I am going to present several cases, facts, and videos with regard to taking someone’s life. I believe it’s important to try to have a conversation with a person who disagrees with me. With faith and religion, to have a conversation with someone who disagrees with you, you have to have information to back up your statement. My religion teacher always says that it is part of developing your faith to question your faith, because that way you can convert others and have conversations with them. With the correct information and a strong belief against abortion, I believe I would be able to have a conversation with someone who disagrees with me.”

Erin Gizzi, who is a Carondelet sophomore, summed up her view of the January 23 event: “The Walk for Life provides a way for people to stand up for those who can’t stand up for themselves.”

This was the seventh year of the Walk for Life West Coast, which has grown in size to more than 50,000 participants annually.

Life Abounding at De La Salle

Sometimes the expected can be unexpected. Ask Scott Drain '94.



“My family got some wonderful news this weekend when our son Samuel was released from the hospital after six and a half weeks in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit. We are thrilled to have him home and are very thankful for all the ways in which you, our Lasallian family, supported us with love, prayers, positive thoughts, and even a few delicious meals. We feel truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful community. Thank you for you.”

*With gratitude,
Scott, Sarah, Catherine, and Sam Drain*



It's polite to be prompt. There are even rare occasions on which it is polite to be a tad early: You can help arrange the chairs, maybe, before the other guests arrive. But in general it's best not to arrive before you are expected. It's even okay to be a wee bit late, so that everybody is prepared to welcome you. Young Samuel Thomas Drain didn't know about this etiquette, apparently. Sam is the first son of Scott Drain '94, Guidance Counselor and Service Learning Coordinator at De La Salle, and he decided to arrive a full two months before his projected due date. In late January 2011, he signaled that he was ready to be welcomed. Mom Sarah told Dad Scott, and the family quickly got to Kaiser Walnut Creek, where



Sam was born on January 27, weighing in at 4 lbs. 1 oz. Young children don't usually like being at sleep-away camp for extended periods, but Sam made himself comfortable at the hospital for a few weeks, and Mom and Dad and other family and friends spent a good deal of time there with him.

Scott's email announcing Sam's homecoming was sent

on March 13. The latest update: Big sister Catherine, almost three now, helps change diapers and sings little Sam to sleep. Sam just passed his three-month birthday and is “eating like a champ”: “This weekend he smiled for the first time. It might have been gas, but we're going with happiness!”

Other DLS alumni have also contributed to the growing De La Salle Infants Brigade. The most recent additions are: **Charlotte Laverne Gai**, born on May 8, 2011 (yes, Mother's Day), to mathematics instructor Vanessa Gai and husband Patrick. **Bennett Neil Lopo**, born April 26, 2011, to Athletic Director Leo Lopo '94 and wife Megan. **Ashlyn Ann Harrison**, born November 23, 2010, to social studies instructor Matthew Harrison '96 and wife Mary Ann. **Peyton Leigh Roberts**, born June 29, 2010, to Director of Alumni Relations Tim Roberts '88 and wife Leigh Anne. **Tyler Joseph Wiese** (“TJ”), born November 22, 2009, to Director of Development Karla Wiese and husband David Wiese. Congratulations, parents.

And let there be no wisecracks from readers, please, about, What are they running there, a high school or a nursery school? Nor any along the lines of, Is it something in the water?

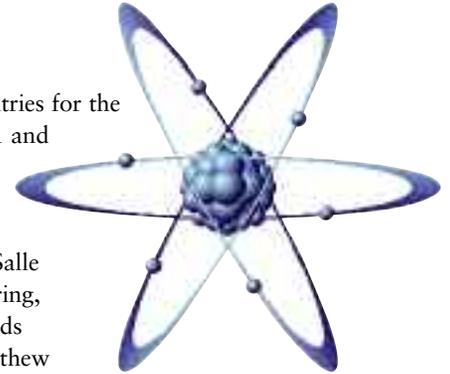


The March of Science 2011

Science March is on, and DLS students learn new things and test new skills.

SCIENCE FAIR

Every March the sophomores of the Honors Biology class taught by Viki Acquistapace create entries for the Intel-Affiliated Contra Costa County Science & Engineering Fair. This year they spent March 31 and April 1-2 “at the fair” and came away with high commendations and several opportunities to take their work further. The Grand Prize went to Nicholas Paz’s project on oceanic pollution and coral reefs (in the Environmental Science category), and First Place in Biology went to John Jankowski’s investigation of the effects of fish oil on cell membrane strength in humans. De La Salle students took three Second Places in Biology, one in Environmental Science, and one in Engineering, as well as numerous Third Places, Fourth Places, and Honorable Mentions. Eleven Special Awards were taken, including a prize from the Goethe Institute to Matthew Garcia, which will give Matthew an opportunity to travel to Germany to present his robotics work. Five students go on to the State Science Fair in May: Nicholas Paz, John Jankowski, Justin Jorge, Eric Machado, and Kevin Gunderson.



SPARTONICS ROBOTICS

March saw the Robotics Team at two tournaments in the FIRST (“For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology”) Competition. The challenge: In 2 min. 15 sec. your robot must lift as many inflated shapes as high as possible, hang them on a pole, and deploy a mini-robot that will race to the top of the pole, getting extra points if the shapes form the FIRST logo (triangle, circle, square, left to right). At UC Davis, the team was hobbled by a bad interface between netbook and controller (troubleshooting found a defective USB jack), but in San Jose the robot worked flawlessly, and the team placed 4th in scoring out of 57 teams and went on to compete in the elimination round. It was the team’s highest-ever tournament ranking. Team Moderators are David Fryman and John Stewart, and aid was provided by Curtis Ray P ’08, ’10, Mr. and Mrs. John Dzenitis, and Mr. and Mrs. Keith Bauer P ’11. Support also came from Bishop-Wisecarver Corporation, a manufacturer of motion systems, which made a video of the Spartonics team during the building process. [Check YouTube to see “Relying on Each Other: Meet FIRST Team #2141”](#), and for videos of the competitions.

National Honor Society Welcomes Spartans

Founded in 1921, the National Honor Society is the premier organization promoting and recognizing achievement by high school students. The Society requires applicants to demonstrate outstanding performance in scholarship, service, leadership, and character. The following students were accepted as De La Salle members for 2011-2012:

JUNIORS (Class of 2012):

Declan Ayres, Andy Dasso, Michael Ellenwood, Chris Homburger, Sam Higbee, Ryan Long, Matt Mapua, Matthew Millsaps, Brandon Roberts, Brian Trinh, Thomas Sandri, Will Thornbury, Jeremy Uang, Matt Wallace, Brendan Weber, Eric Wiskocil.

SOPHOMORES (Class of 2013):

Hunter Aliotti, Aloizio Costa, Thomas Desmond, Max Goodrich, Joseph Hoffman, Kyle Hulburd, John Jankowski.

FRESHMEN (Class of 2014):

Colin Chiapello, Alex See.



Winter Harvest



Call it a windfall.

The last issue of the *Union* (Winter 2011) featured the trees of the Quad in all their autumn glory. We mentioned that, being male trees, they don't bear fruit; and though they are Ginkgo Bilobas their leaves are not nutritionally useful without laborious processing. Each autumn, the trees lose their golden leaves, and through the winter they stand stark and gray. But even though the branches are bare, there is often a bumper crop that can be plucked up from the ground beneath them. On many days you can find beneath the trees of the Quad a rich harvest of backpacks to be had. But please—only one to a customer. Thank you.

Seen Around Campus



Ready to Rumble?

As a crowd looks on, two men face each other. This is the moment when a man learns just how good he is. Or maybe, how lucky? When flyweight freshman Kevin Dille went up against heavyweight senior Dylan Wynn, it looked like a mismatch. But there's always hope. Especially when you know that you have already fought your way into the finals. Yes, it's the final match of the Rock Paper Scissors Tournament: Rock breaks Scissors, Scissors cut Paper, Paper wraps Rock. Two long lines of players faced off in the Quad, and by elimination the field was winnowed to this ultimate match-up. The winner: Kevin Dille. The weapon: Paper, wrapping Rock.

Giant Hamsters at Play. Captured in the wild and cared for by the Science Department, the oversized rodents were allowed to exercise with our students during the Five Days of Games in April. The furry creatures stay fit and sleek by rolling their self-powered balls around the football field. Terry Eidson, Director of Student Activities, made sure that none of the mammals involved, either inside the balls or out, was injured, and that all participants got safely back to their cages and/or classes.



Over the Rainbow. Company's spring musical *The Wizard of Oz* ran March 25 to April 2. Director Kimberly MacLean says that the show, adapted in the 1940s from the 1939 movie, "Features the same songs, but is a little darker than the movie." Reporter Mike Dunn of Concord Patch wrote: "The script adds elements from the first 'Oz' book by L. Frank Baum, and the play is true to Baum's intention to portray an undercurrent of repression, industrialism, and darkness." Dunn's gallery of photos is online at Concord Patch. Rebecca Capriulo is Dorothy, Everett Smith is the Cowardly Lion, Zach Wolf is the Scarecrow, Dominic Hassett is the Tin Man.

Truer Words Were Never Ignored. This cautionary sign posted in a classroom seems to have been adapted from that WARNING decal that you find on every automobile's passenger-side door mirror. Interesting how tips for safer driving can lend themselves to safer studying, too. Let's hope that a word to the wise, or even to the sophomoric, is sufficient.



U.S. Census Bureau Names De La Salle the County's "Population Center"



Demographic scientists identify campus as the tipping point

In our last issue, we reported the strange but true fact that the De La Salle campus contains the world's oldest trees. The ginkgo biloba tree, which graces our campus in springtime with green and in autumn with gold, has a fossil record that dates back more than 200 million years. (See the story and the photos in the Winter 2011 *Union*, pages 12-13. And for a more recent seasonal view of these versatile trees and the rich harvest they yield in winter, turn to page 13 of this issue.)

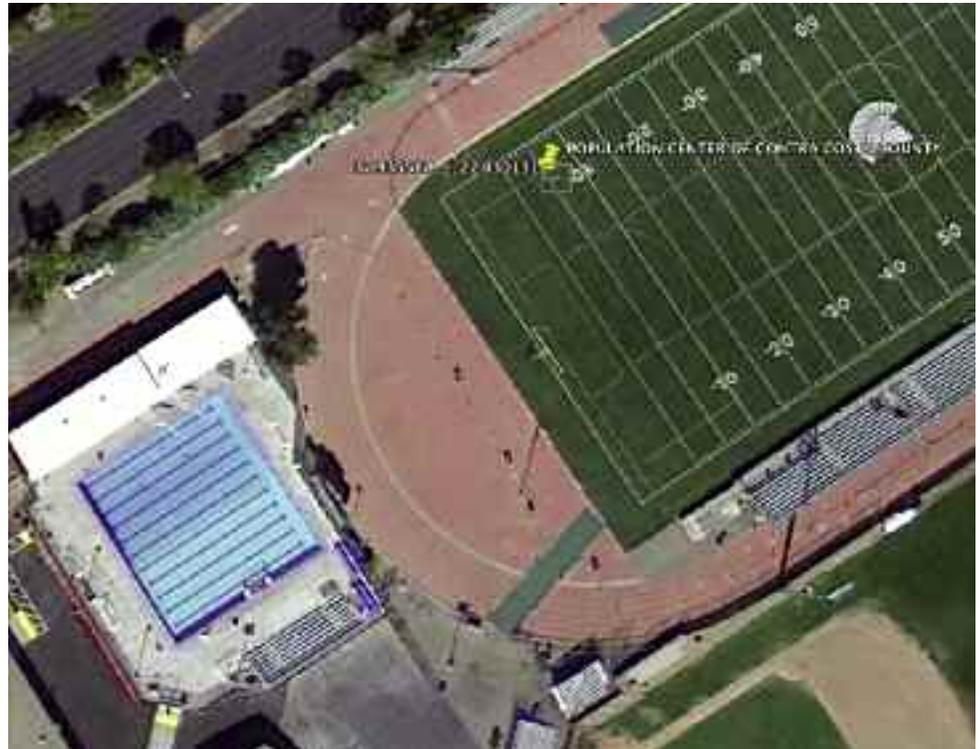
So much for the arboreal news. But there is more scientific news to report, this time of a demographic nature. The U.S. Census Bureau reported in April 2011 that the "population center" of Contra Costa County is located right here on campus. In fact, as a *Contra Costa Times* news story put it: "The population center of Contra Costa County is in a De La Salle High School sports field." We went out to the field to take a look, but apart from a few teenagers kicking soccer balls or running laps, there was no population to speak of.

What is a population center? Reporter Matt O'Brien of the *Contra Costa Times* quotes a government surveyor who explains, "Look at it as the fulcrum point...from which in any different direction you have an equivalent population." So the "population center" is the geographic point at the center of a population's geographic distribution. O'Brien supplies this helpful way to envision it: Imagine that the county is a flat, rigid board, and each person in its population weighs the same amount, and that rigid board, with all the people on it, is lifted up and placed, like a giant seesaw, upon a basal point. "The center of population is the place on that board where they would balance," says Michael Ratcliffe of the U.S. Census Bureau. "It gives you a sense of the way the population is distributed."

The 2010 census says that the population of Contra Costa County is 1,049,025 people. And the scientists say that the geographic center of that population falls at latitude 37.935588 degrees north and longitude 122.030131 degrees west. Those coordinates meet on Owen Owens Field, somewhere between the fifty-yard line and the end zone nearest the swimming pool. Try Google-Earthing it for yourself to see what results you get.

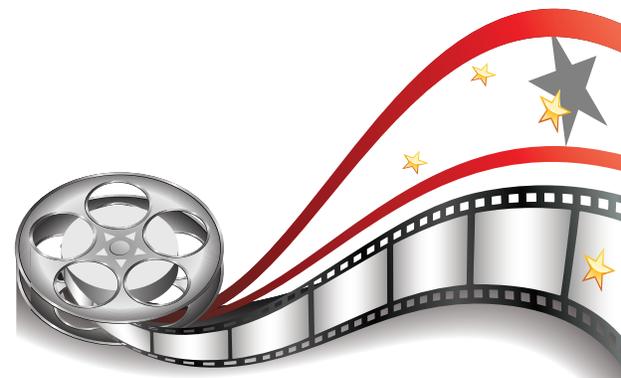
It's true that at De La Salle we often feel that we are, in many ways, at the center of things, but this is a strange and almost mystical affirmation of our feeling. De La Salle High School turns out to be something like what T.S. Eliot imagined in *The Four Quartets*; "the still point of the turning world." Well, anyway, of the turning county. We recommend that on your next visit to campus you go out to the gridiron and stand at midfield, with the white Spartan helmet beneath your feet, and close your eyes and let yourself feel what it's like to have a million Contra Costans perfectly balanced around you. Wow.

Maybe we could sell tickets?



+37.935588, -122.030131

Spring Auction Gala: A Night of Spartan Stars



It was an intimate dinner for three hundred friends, graciously hosted by KTVU news anchor Julie Haener and six Hollywood-handsome Spartans in white dinner jackets, who told the guests some of their best De La Salle stories. The dulcet tones of announcer Dave George and the rapid patter of auctioneer Jose Bonilla (both De La Salle Dads) enlivened the evening, as guests bid on nineteen live auction extravagances and more than 200 fabulous silent auction items. Adding to the glamour was the Blackhawk Automobile Museum backdrop of gleaming fenders and glistening chrome. Julie Haener spoke to the appreciative crowd about “our Spartan stars.”

Record Breaking!!



Oscar Worthy!!

“I love my work in TV news, but many nights it’s my responsibility to tell people the latest bad news. So I’m happy to be here with you to celebrate the good news. The good news is Catholic, Lasallian education thriving here in Contra Costa County. The good news is 45 years of De La Salle High School history, and more than eight thousand De La Salle alumni out in the world doing great things. So tonight we roll out the red carpet and celebrate our Spartan stars. There are lots of them, folks.

“Are you ready for a pop quiz on Spartan Stars? Can you name your Rhodes Scholar over at Oxford University? Scott Hugo, class of 2005. This year’s Most Valuable Player in Major League Soccer? Chris Wondolowski, class of 2001. What about your Super Bowl Winners—not one but two? Amani Toomer, class of 1992, and Aaron Taylor, class of 1990. What about the President of GMAC Mortgage? It’s Steve Abreu, class of 1983. And the CEO of Interwest Insurance? Keith Schuler, class of 1980. And the former Peace Corps volunteer who takes soccer equipment to children in the poorest countries in the world, to let them play and help them grow? It’s Mike Mitchell, class of 1975, the founder of Project Play Africa.

“And what about stars in education? Listen to this: Today at De La Salle High School there are 23 alumni working as teachers and staff. And there are dozens more Spartan alumni who donate their time to the boys as coaches and mentors and volunteers and advisors and board members.

“And it’s not just alumni who are stars: In the student body right now you have National Merit Scholars, all-star athletes, community-service award winners, and more Eagle Scouts than

you can shake a stick at. Your sophomores did brilliantly in the County Science Fair again this year, taking dozens of prizes—and five of them are going on to the State Science Fair in May.

“But let’s focus on a different kind of stardom.

“What about the boy who might have fallen through the cracks in some other school? Somebody unsure of his way, unable to find the support he needs, and who sees high-school graduation and college and a professional career as maybe just a set of distant dreams—as somebody else’s future, not his?

“When that boy gets the opportunity for a De La Salle education and is welcomed into the Spartan brotherhood, what is he doing? He is working on his algebra, he is raising his hand in class to offer his thoughts, he is writing that difficult essay, he is trying that new activity or sport. Is he perfect? Is he a genius? Maybe not. But he is making that solid grade point average, he is fulfilling his college requirements, and he is making his college applications, and being accepted—when elsewhere he might have been lost, and he might, as too many kids do, have simply dropped out before graduation.

“His name may not be up in lights. His achievements may not be reported in the *Contra Costa Times*. But he IS a star. Why? Because he shows up on the set every day, and he takes the responsibility for playing the leading role in the story of his own life. This is his big break. This is the role he was born to play. And he is making the most of it—thanks to YOU—to all the members of the De La Salle family who make his education and this school possible.”



All roses, no thorns: from left, junior Dominic Santini, sophomore Aloizio Costa Jr., junior Diego Ramos, Julie Haener, junior Johnny Marcinkowski, senior James Butler, senior Eddie Estrada.



Big Box Office

Our “Roll Out the Red Carpet” auction broke all records, raising more than \$200,000 (a 25 percent increase over 2010) to support co-curricular programs in music, theatre, art, religion, service, sports, clubs, and dozens of activities and the De La Salle Brotherhood Fund, which answers specific student financial needs. Our deepest thanks to the Auction Committee, the Auction Sponsors, and all the donors, volunteers, supporters, and friends whose support of our mission is invaluable.



Bacchanalia 2011 Is a Fine Vintage Evening

Seventeen wineries and ten restaurants all in one room? It was quite a “pairing” of plates and vintages on Thursday, March 3, as the Hofmann Student Center was turned into a fine-food-and-drink paradise for the evening, and more than 300 guests had a “Taste of De La Salle.” A highlight was the first official public tasting and sales of Speratus Wine, the unique label created to benefit De La Salle scholarship students. With boutique shopping, silent auctions, and live jazz by a student combo, Bacchanalia 2011 was a great night and a great deal—only \$40 per person—made possible by these good friends of De La Salle:

Wineries:

- Alpha Omega Winery
- Andrus Island Vineyards
- Baldacci Family Vineyards
- Bray Vineyards
- Cuda Ridge Wines
- Ehlers Estate Winery
- Everett Ridge Vineyards and Winery
- Groppallo Winery
- Lasallian Education Fund
- Mitchell Katz Winery
- Padis Vineyards
- R&B Cellars
- Simoncini Vineyards
- Speratus Winery
- Topel Winery
- Troll Bridge Cellars
- Wentle Family Estates



Restaurants and Caterers

- A Taste of Life Catering
- Baci Bistro and Bar
- Epicurean Group
- Maria Maria La Cantina
- McCovey’s Restaurant
- Pyramid Alehouse
- Scott’s Seafood
- Skipolini’s Pizza
- Sweet Springs Chocolate Fountains
- Yankee Pier Lafayette

The annual Bacchanalia is an important fundraiser for our co-curricular programs, benefiting music, theater, science clubs, athletics, campus ministry, and the many other student activities that make a De La Salle education complete. We will see YOU there next year! Look for the ad in a future *Union* and online at www.dlshs.org.



Speratus Wines

The art of winemaking supports the art of education

As *Diablo* magazine (April 2011 issue) put it in the Food News department under the headline “Good Cheers: Wine for a Cause,” the new Speratus Winery “donates all proceeds to De La Salle High School’s low-income scholarship program. Wines are made by acclaimed Napa winemaker Jean Hoefliger—so you can enjoy, and feel good about, every sip.” The current releases are Cabernet Sauvignon 2008, Sauvignon Blanc 2009, and a fine dessert wine, the 2009 late harvest Riesling. The wines were featured at De La Salle’s Bacchanalia in March and at an Alpha Omega/Speratus winemaker’s dinner at Diablo Valley Country Club in April. If you are a wine-lover or know anyone who is, the news is great: Great wines supporting great education for families in great need.

Take careful note: These are wines by a world-class winemaker that are a fraction of the price of his famous products, and the royalties to De La Salle are huge: 75 percent of gross sales (before taxes) is contributed to our Bishop John S. Cummins Scholarship Program.

Visit www.speratuswinery.com for complete information and purchasing.

Winter SPORTS OVERVIEW



Basketball

EBAL Champions
NCS Championship Finalist
NorCal Champions
CIF State Championship Finalist



Soccer

EBAL Fourth Place
NCS Champions



Wrestling

EBAL Champions
NCS Champions
CIF State Championship Fourth Place

Men of Faith, Integrity, and Sportsmanship. School photographer and social studies instructor Bob Sansoe captured the soccer team and wrestling team at prayer before their matches this season.



Spartan Athletic Success: Honors in Wrestling, Soccer, and Basketball



Wrestling

EBAL Champions:

- 103 lbs. David Conte
- 112 lbs. Joe Ramirez
- 119 lbs. Jon Jay Chavez
- 125 lbs. Joe Moita
- 135 lbs. Payton Russum
- 140 lbs. Alex Abono

- 145 lbs. Tyler Hunter
- 160 lbs. Curtis Siegfried
- 171 lbs. Aaron Pease
- 189 lbs. Luke Sheridan
- 215 lbs. Justin Walker
- 285 lbs. Dylan Wynn

NCS Champions:

- 112 lbs. Joe Ramirez
- 125 lbs. Joe Moita
- 140 lbs. Alex Abono
- 160 lbs. Curtis Siegfried
- 189 lbs. Luke Sheridan
- 215 lbs. Justin Walker

The Bay Area News Group's All East Bay Wrestling Team includes Joe Ramirez, Jon Jay Chavez, Joe Moita, Alex Abono, Curtis Siegfried, Luke Sheridan, and William Walker. Mark Halvorson was also honored as East Bay Wrestling Coach of Year. Coach Halvorson (left) led the varsity wrestlers

to a repeat of their feat of last season, as they once again won the NCS Division I dual meet title and the team title at the NCS Championships—and this year they set an NCS tournament record by scoring 309 points. At NCS, the Spartans won medals in 10 of the 14 weight classes and had six individual champions. The team sent nine wrestlers to the CIF state competition and came away with a fourth-place team finish at state. “If you had told me at the beginning of the season that we would finish where we did, it would have been very hard to see that as a possibility,” said Halvorson to reporter Tony Gonzalez of the *Contra Costa Times*.

Soccer

All EBAL soccer honors went to Michael Bernardi and Anthony DeCosta (first team); and Jake Martellaro, Damian Martinez, and Andrew Konstantino (honorable mention). Cal Hi Sports Bay Area bestows its Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award on a player who excels in sports and also has an exemplary GPA. Only one Scholar-Athlete in the North Coast Section is named, and this year, it is senior soccer player Anthony DeCosta, a defender and team captain. The All East Bay Soccer Team (named by Bay Area News Group) also includes Anthony DeCosta on the First Team and Michael Bernardi on the Second Team. Both players are three-time NCS Division I champions.

Basketball

The All EBAL First Team includes Travis Pacos and Amadi Udenyi; the Second Team includes Duke DaRe; and Honorable Mention goes to Elliott Pitts. Forward Travis Pacos is also named to the All Northern California Third Team. For complete basketball information, see the story on page 21.

College Commitments for Spartan Athletes

The NCAA signee class of 2011 includes:

- Luke Sheridan (wrestling, Indiana University)
- Jonathan De Los Reyes (golf, Saint Mary's College of California)
- Blake Renaud (football, Boise State University)
- Dylan Wynn (football, Oregon State University)
- Kristian Ipsen (diving, Stanford University)
- Thomas Nelson (water polo, Princeton University)
- Michael Bernardi (soccer, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo)
- Lucas Shapiro (football, Cornell University)
- Antoine Pickett (football, Sacramento State University)
- Andy Wooldridge (swimming, University of Hawaii)
- Preston Lyon (football, College of William & Mary)
- Anthony DeCosta (soccer, Santa Clara University)

Spartans Hoopsters Take It to the Limit



Fighting their way through a tough EBAL schedule, the varsity won the league title for the third year in a row. Advancing through the NCS tournament, they lost the final game to Castro Valley High, 60-42. Undaunted, the undersized but never outlasted Spartans entered the NorCal playoffs and advanced to the finals, where they again met Castro Valley, this time winning 49-43. This earned the Spartans a berth in the CIF state championship game against SoCal champion Mater Dei of Santa Ana. On March 26, the two teams met at Power Balance Pavilion (Arco Arena) in Sacramento.

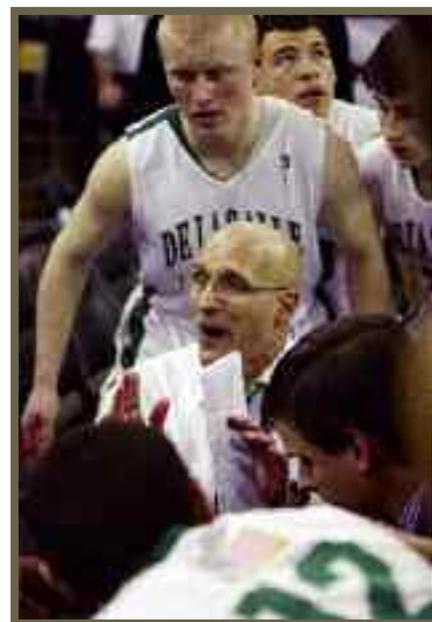
Mater Dei brought an offense that averaged more than 75 points a game during a 30-win season and a defense that had held opponents to an average of 58. The Spartans brought a remarkable statistic of their own: eleven times they had held their opponents to 30 points or fewer. Four thousand fans in the seats and thousands more watching on Comcast Sports Net saw the Spartans stifle the Monarchs for three quarters with tenacious defense and ball-control offense. Leading 18-12 at halftime and 28-27 after three periods, the Spartans were down by 3 points with 24 seconds left in the game, and had to foul to get the ball back. Result: The Monarchs made their free throws and then another bucket to seal a 43-36 win. The Spartans finished the season 27-6 overall. “I don’t know that any team we’ve had has gotten as much out of their ability as this team did,” said head coach Frank Allocco. “We’ve had state championship teams and teams that got to the state finals, but I’m not sure any of those teams had the challenges that this team met.”

Honorable Men

Honors to players include: All EBAL: Amadi Udenyi and Travis Pacos (first team), Duke DaRe (second team), and Elliott Pitts (honorable mention). All Northern California: Travis Pacos (third team). All San Francisco Metro: Travis Pacos (second team). All Contra Costa County (*SF Examiner*): Duke DaRe, Elliott Pitts, and Amadi Udenyi (honorable mention). Frank Allocco was named Boys Coach of the Fall (*Sport Stars* magazine), East Bay Basketball Coach of the Year (Bay Area News Group), and California State Boys Coach of the Year (MaxPreps).

Not So Trivial Pursuit

Here is a Spartan Sports Fun Fact with which to amaze and impress your friends: In the 2010-2011 season, which Spartan varsity team averaged more points per game: Was it basketball—or was it football? Turn to page 24 for the interesting answer.



“I don’t know that any team we’ve had has gotten as much out of their ability as this team did.”





Summer Is the Season for Reunions

Come back to Concord to reunite, reflect, relax, and recharge. Special hotel rates for De La Salle and Carondelet grads.

Class of 1971

August 20, 2011

40 Year Reunion
Renaissance ClubSport
2805 Jones Road, Walnut Creek
6:00 p.m.
\$55 Early Bird Price - ends 7/29
\$65 Regular Price - RSVP by 8/12

Class of 1976

August 20, 2011

35 Year Reunion
Pyramid Alehouse Private Beer Garden
1410 Locust Street, Walnut Creek
7:30 p.m.
\$25 Early Bird Price - ends 7/29
\$35 Regular Price - RSVP by 8/12

Class of 1981

July 30, 2011

30 Year Reunion
Renaissance ClubSport
2805 Jones Road, Walnut Creek
6:00 p.m.
\$55 Early Bird Price - ends 7/8
\$65 Regular Price - RSVP by 7/22

Class of 1986

July 16, 2011

25 Year Reunion
Pyramid Alehouse Private Beer Garden
1410 Locust Street, Walnut Creek
7:30 p.m.
\$25 Early Bird Price - ends 6/24
\$35 Regular Price - RSVP by 7/8

Class of 1991

July 30, 2011

20 Year Reunion
Pyramid Alehouse, Private Party
1410 Locust Street, Walnut Creek
6:00 p.m.
\$60 Early Bird Price - ends 7/8
\$75 Regular Price - RSVP by 7/22

Class of 1996

August 6, 2011

15 Year Reunion
Pyramid Alehouse Private Beer Garden
1410 Locust Street, Walnut Creek
7:30 p.m.
\$25 Early Bird Price - ends 7/15
\$35 Regular Price - RSVP by 7/29

Class of 2001

August 6, 2011

10 Year Reunion
Scott's Garden
1333 N. California Blvd.,
Walnut Creek
6:00 p.m.
\$65 Early Bird Price - ends 7/15
\$75 Regular Price - RSVP by 7/29

Class of 2006

June 25, 2011

5 Year Reunion
Pyramid Alehouse Private Beer Garden
1410 Locust Street, Walnut Creek
7:30 p.m.
\$20 Early Bird Price - ends 6/3
\$30 Regular Price - RSVP by 6/17

For complete information and to RSVP, visit www.dlshs.org/alumni/reunions or contact Director of Alumni Relations Tim Roberts '88 at (925) 288-8171, or e-mail at robertst@dlshs.org.

Make your gift to the 2011 Spartan Reunion Challenge

A message from the Reunion Gift Committee

Our summer reunions are times not only to celebrate, but also to reflect on the powerful impact of the education we received and the experiences we had at De La Salle. To honor the gift of education we received and the brotherhood we developed, and to make sure that the school remains strong for the boys who follow us, we encourage you to join in our 2011 Spartan Reunion Challenge. Proceeds from the Reunion Challenge will benefit the De La Salle Annual Fund, which supports:

- Student programs—to make educational tools available in the classroom and on the field;
- Financial aid—to provide a Catholic, Lasallian education to students from lower-income families;
- Faculty development—to ensure that our educators continue to provide quality instruction.

At De La Salle we are taught to be Men of Faith, Integrity, and Scholarship. In these challenging economic times, your gift to the Annual Fund, in honor of your reunion, will allow De La Salle to continue to teach these principles to future Spartan generations. **Regardless of its size, your contribution makes a difference.** And by all means, do what you can to make it to your reunion: There is nothing like reconnecting with your fellow Spartans years later. But even if you cannot be here in person, you can join us by making a tax-deductible contribution to the De La Salle Annual Fund today. Use the enclosed envelope (see page 14) or donate online at www.dlshs.org.

In Memoriam

May they rest in peace...with God forever.

Paul Vincent Bisio '80

Joan Beering grandmother of Benjamin Beering '10, Samuel Beering '11

Thomas O'Donnell Connolly father of Thomas Connolly '77, John Connolly '78, and Matthew Connolly '82

Marie Damaschino grandmother of Phillip Damaschino '00

Anthony J. Di Loreto uncle of Dominic Di Loreto '08

Carol Colleen Edman grandmother of Richard Edman '13

Eileen Mary Engler grandmother of Daniel Engler '98

Harold Ferrari father of Matthew Ferrari '78

Ruth H. Forhan grandmother of Sean Farnham '96

William Jacob Frederickson grandfather of Chad Frederickson '98

Margaret Gardner grandmother of Cameron Kalin '07

Robert Kenneth Glanzman grandfather of Brian Evola '09

Joseph Harrison grandfather of R. J. Harrison '85, Kevin Harrison '87, Matthew Harrison '96

Maxine Delores Higgins mother of Daniel (Fr. Damian) Higgins '78, grandmother of Thomas Cox '06, Gregory Cox '12

Harold H. Humes father of Aaron Humes '99

Edward Keenan grandfather of David Morgan '13

Annie Kirkland grandmother of Matthew Kirkland '04, Adam Kirkland '06

James Kirkland grandfather of Matthew Kirkland '04, Adam Kirkland '06

Mary Louise Lacy great-grandmother of Kye Dohrmann '04

D. Gene Ladarre father of Douglas Ladarre '99

Wilma Lanzafame aunt of Andrea Lanzafame Campos (BOT), Douglas Magnoli '71, Marc Magnoli '73

Carolee La Mar Larson grandmother of Adam La Mar '12, Alexander La Mar '14

Major William "Bill" Lettore grandfather of Nicholas Lettore '12

Donald Morales father of Christopher Morales '78, David Morales '85, Paul Morales '89

Mary Jane Morgan mother of Gerald Morgan '70, Timothy Morgan '73

Sandy Ortiz mother of Michael Ortiz '80

Georgia Paslay mother of Robert Sausedo '70

Alice McEachran Pierson grandmother of Christopher Borba '95, Nicholas Borba '98

Anna P. Puentes grandmother of Javier Carlos '02

Robert How Pulford father of Thomas Pulford '69 (deceased)

Danette Ann Quigley mother of Steven Quigley '93

Jean Robinson grandmother of Matthew Hudkins '05

Irena May Rocca mother of Christopher Rocca '69

Steven Michael Russo '80

John Robert Signer father of Ian Signer '87

Linda Lee Smith De La Salle employee, 1976 - 2005

James E. Stanton father of Matthew Stanton '81

Herbert Arnole Swedberg father of Mark Swedberg '73, Eric Swedberg '74

Susan Marion Vought grandmother of Nicholas Woodbridge '11

Stephanie Veronica Walton wife of Christopher Walton '88

F. Hugh Wiley grandfather of Zachary Wiley '08

Dorothy Faye Woodruff grandmother of Ryan Clancy '00

Pamela Zin grandmother of Hayden Pastorini '14



Easter Meditation

"The Resurrection of Jesus Christ was glorious for him and advantageous for us.... He rose again so that we might live with a new life."

— Saint John Baptist de La Salle

Neither snow nor rain...

...shall stay these Spartan alumni from the swift completion of their appointed fun. Wrap up warm: it's the Winter Wrap-up.

It was a wet and wild winter. First, our **Winter Mixer with Carondelet** at Boundary Oak, December 17. The first joint mixer with the CHS Alumnae Association was a great success.

Alumni Mixer in Sacramento at Pyramid Brewery, March 10. Hosts Mark Christian '80 and Sean Edgar '84 promote the DLS connection for the hundreds of alumni in the Sacramento area. • **Alumni Baseball Game**, March 26. Despite the brave headline, we were rained out. Your rain check is good for spring 2012. • **Musical *The Wizard of Oz*** opened March 25, and April 1 was Alumni Night. See page 14 for more about this great Company production. "Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Concord anymore." • **Christian Brothers Classic** at Oracle Arena in Oakland, April 10. The inaugural roundball tournament for alumni from Lasallian schools. The drill: play basketball on the Warriors' floor, have BBQ, and stay for the Warriors' game. The Ancient Spartans played the Aged Irish of Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep (SF). Sorry, Irish, but we have to report that the Spartans won by about 40 (but who's counting?) Lots of fun, and we expect more schools next year.

Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting, April 27. Your alumni board met to review, plan, and promote activities. You'll meet the 16 DLSAA leaders up close and personal in the next *Union*.

As we go to press, the **Brother Maris Golf Tournament** (May 10) is shaping up well for its 27th year. Weather forecast: sunny and warm. Players who swam through 18 holes of aqua-golf last year should stay dry this year, proudly wearing the mythical Croix de Maris in their lapels. Look for a Brother Maris 2011 report in our next issue and online.

The **Bacchanalia** food-and-wine fest was March 3 and the **Spring Auction Gala** was April 16. If you couldn't be there, enjoy them vicariously on pages 16-18. We hope you can join us in 2012.

Dates for Summer Reunions are on page 22.

Classes that end in -1 and in -6, it's your year to come home.



Battle of the Brothers' Boys: Spartan and Irish alumni at Oracle Arena in the inaugural Christian Brothers Classic, April 10..

Who scored more points per game?

On page 21, in the story on the varsity's great basketball season, we posed the question: Which team had the higher per-game points average: basketball, or football? Well, the Spartan football team scored 46.8 points per game over 14 contests, a pretty fair average. Did the Spartan hoopsters beat that stat?

The answer: In their 33-game season, the basketball team averaged 50.8 points per game. Good going, gentlemen. Whether with the roundball on the hardwood or the prolate spheroid on the gridiron, it was two great seasons of superb team effort in 2010-2011.

Why We Give: Three Spartans Speak

Meet three De La Salle alumni who are proud to be connected, clear about the mission, and convinced of its importance. Their reasons for giving could be yours.



Christopher N. Odne, class of 1997

Christopher N. Odne, class of 1997, lives in Concord with his wife and is a partner in the law firm of Andersen, Roscha & Odne. He began making regular financial gifts to De La Salle while he was still in college. Chris's view:

"My wife and I choose to make an annual financial contribution to De La Salle for a variety of reasons. One, it is important that DLS alumni support the new generations of Spartans to ensure that they have an equally special experience at DLS. Two, each and every dollar helps. I was surprised to learn recently that while other Catholic schools in the area consistently have 15 percent of their alumni supporting the school, at DLS only 5 percent of alumni contribute on an annual basis. As alumni of De La Salle, we should each take on this challenge and personally encourage a larger number of alumni to contribute to the school, whether it be for 5, 50, or 500 dollars per year. While I enjoyed participating in athletics and other extracurricular activities as a student, I allocate my contribution to the General Fund, which allows the school to use the dollars wherever needed. I typically make my donation in honor of my classmates and friends, John Hallett and Mark Ayres, both of whom have untimely passed away, but with whom I shared great memories at De La Salle. At the end of the day, several fellow alumni are among my closest friends, and I think most alumni can agree that DLS played a positive role in our

lives. It's important that we make it our mission to support the next generations who need this education, and I look forward to contributing for years to come."

Daniel J. Freeman, class of 1990, lives with his family in Pleasant Hill. Dan works in the homebuilding industry as an officer of Focus Realty and Lenox Homes, and has often commented that making a regular donation, whatever size it may be, is an important way to stand up and be counted. Dan said further:

"I was the youngest of five kids, with an older brother who went to DLS and three big sisters who went to Carondelet, so the school was like a second home to me from the time I was eight or nine years old. In later years, I realized that the feeling I had, of the school as a home away from home, ties in with the mission that John Baptist de La Salle started, where he provided places for kids to be welcomed, understood, and educated. The Christian Brothers' mission that De La Salle High School carries on is about supporting kids and giving them an opportunity—not a handout, but an opportunity. Being a donor to De La Salle, I have seen the school in action, and I know that they have a way of exponentially increasing the usefulness of each monetary gift. They make the whole greater than the sum of the parts. The school has earned my trust. And as I get older, I appreciate more and more the value of what they do. At a stage in life when young men really need some guidance, some steering if you will, De La Salle provides it, not decreeing from on high who you are and what you should do but helping you find out. My wife's primary job is with United Friends of the Children in Los Angeles, which provides support for foster youth transitioning into adulthood. And we are the parents of three young children. Today, more than ever, we are proud to be a small part of this De La Salle community as it continues to enrich the lives of thousands of young men each year.

Other schools have 15 percent of their alumni supporting them, but at DLS only 5 percent of alumni contribute on an annual basis.

continued on page 26

continued from page 25



Rick E. Koch, class of 1973

Rick E. Koch, class of 1973, lives in Seattle and owns Koch Holdings, Inc. (dba All City Fence Company), and is as entrepreneurial in philanthropy as he is in business. Rick has included De La Salle in his regular giving and long-term planning. Rick wrote recently to the school's Advancement Department:

"Here is an update on where I am with De La Salle and my estate planning. As you know, I have had in place one life insurance policy with De La Salle as the beneficiary, with a benefit amount of \$100,000. I've recently added a second insurance policy naming De La Salle as beneficiary, with an additional benefit of \$250,000." Rick went on to explain other details of his planning, which includes leaving a significant portion of his eventual estate to De La Salle, in addition to the insurance policy proceeds. Rick told the Union, "I've been giving back to the school in various ways for many years, even though I don't live nearby, because I understand the value of what it does. I think I'm the first alum to take out life insurance policies with the school as beneficiary. When I first began to donate, the Alumni Association was not as strong, and

**We are proud to be part of this
De La Salle community that enriches
the lives of thousands of young men.**

the importance of well-planned fundraising for the school's future was not well understood. But the message is getting out now: It's a great school, and deserves support. I've been thinking lately that in addition to service learning, the students today should learn something about philanthropy. Let's plant the seeds of the understanding that giving back financially should become a regular habit in adult life."

continued on page 27

WWGFS? What would Guy Fieri say?

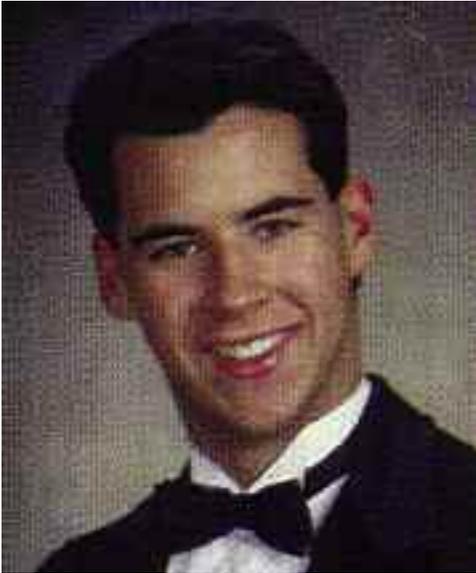
"Out of bounds" and "Off the hook" are the favorite phrases of the TV chef who travels the U.S. finding great, fun eating in unexpected places. If he had made it to the annual Crab Feed at De La Salle on January 22, 2011, he would have experienced the Parents Association outdoing itself. Here it is by the numbers. Guests: 880 (beating the attendance record from last year by more than 200, with seating expanded into the Old Cafeteria to accommodate everybody). Crab: 2,600 pounds gross, yielding 1,350 pounds cleaned and cracked. Pasta: 120 pounds dry weight. Romaine lettuce for Caesar salad: 9 cases. Key Lime pie: 86 cases. Add a carload of croutons, a mountain of parmesano, and a few bottles of vino. As for human resources, the event consumed the services of 18 staff members, 55 parent volunteers, and 97 student servers. The verdict: It was off the hook delicious and out of bounds fun.



At your service at the 2011 Crab Feed.

27TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

10.10.2011



Daniel J. Freeman, class of 1990

Heather Pastorini, the school’s Chief Advancement Officer, works with Rick and other donors to ensure that the funds realized from their generosity will be designated to the categorical uses that the donors feel are most important or have the greatest need. She said, “Rick has always been an alumnus that I think of for inspiration. The school has been blessed by his consistent Annual Fund participation and now also by his major initiative in legacy giving.” (For the many ways that a gift can be structured and directed, see the box below on this page.)

How big is the need that Rick, Dan, and Chris are helping to meet? Each year in the Winter issue of the *Union* we publish our Annual Report (see page 16 of the Winter 2011 *Union*). As the school’s operating costs have grown, financial aid to our families has grown as well, and at an even faster pace. For the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the school’s total expenses were just over \$16 million, and financial aid totaled \$1,520,000, or 9 percent of the total budget. Two years later, in 2009-2010, the financial aid had

For 2011-2012, we will provide financial aid of nearly \$2.2 million, which will go to nearly 30 percent of our families.

increased to \$1,970,000, and was 11 percent of the budget. In planning for 2011-2012, we have committed to providing financial aid of nearly \$2.2 million, which will be 13 percent of our budget, and this aid will go to nearly 30 percent of our families.

Tim Roberts ’88, Director of Alumni Relations, says, “We have a message for the eight thousand Spartan alumni out there: We are proud of you—and we want you to be proud of us. We want you to be proud to be connected, clear about the mission, convinced of its importance—and ready to take part. It’s up to all of us to help De La Salle High School succeed. Remember that every dollar counts, and every gift is a major gift.”

Every Gift Is a Major Gift

Every supporter and every gift is crucial to the fulfillment of our mission, and there are many ways to give:

- Pledges — commitments payable over three to five years.
- Outright Gifts — gifts of cash are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.
- Endowed Gifts — a lasting tribute to your chosen honoree or for a specific program.
- Stocks, Securities, Real Property — are tax-deductible based on market value, and donors can avoid capital gains taxes on appreciated property.
- Matching Gifts — employers will double or even triple an employee’s gift. Currently more than 145 companies take part.
- In-Kind Gifts — goods or commodities relevant to our educational program.
- Vehicles — a car, truck, RV, or boat can be a tax-deductible donation.
- United Way — De La Salle is qualified as a recipient of United Way donations.
- Bequests — Remembering De La Salle in your will creates a lasting legacy (see above).
- Planned Giving — Planned and deferred gifts, through appreciated stock, bonds, real property, bequests, trusts, and insurance, provide mutually beneficial giving opportunities; and can provide significant tax advantages to donors.

Visit www.dlshs.org and click on the *Support De La Salle* tab for complete information, forms, and secure online transactions. Or contact Chief Advancement Officer Heather Pastorini at (925) 288-8106 or pastorinih@dlshs.org. De La Salle High School thanks you for your support.

Staying in Touch: What's Happening?

As the old song says, so many men, so little space. "What's Happening?" is skeletal in this issue, as we can only squeeze so much into print. Visit dlshs.org/alumni to read much more.

William Fahey 1970. After the 40th reunion last year, Bill reflected on the prospect of age 60: "We baby boomers are celebrating our advanced age with the same gusto that we once derided it in our elders. We have seamlessly gone from "trust no one over 30" to "60 is the new 30." If I celebrate 60 in another country, does it really count, or will I be able to do the entire decade all over again? It's been quite a trip, and promises to continue until it is over."

Steven M. Abreu 1983. Steve, who lives in New York, is the president of GMAC Mortgage LLC, and has just been named by the DLS Alumni Association as the 2011 Alumnus of the Year. Kudos to Steve for his accomplishments and his dedication to De La Salle. A full report will be at www.dlshs.org and in the next *Union*.

Clayton Daspit 1985. After our "45th Anniversary Issue" (Winter 2011 *Union*), Clayton asked to see more of the old snapshots and new aerial views. His professional opinion: DLS is "built to last a very long time" and "the new student center looks great; the architect and contractor did a fantastic job." Clayton works at Collins Cooper Carusi Architects in Atlanta, Georgia specializing in architecture for schools and universities.

Christopher Lopez 1986. Captain Chris Lopez, USAF, resides in Oakley with his family and is currently deployed in Afghanistan on active duty with the Air Force.

Kevin Pride 1996. The singer-songwriter released his new record "King of Hearts" in April. Check out www.kevinpride.com for discography, photos, purchases, and everything about Kevin's music. The Pride of De La Salle will perform on August 6 at the 15-year reunion for DLS and CHS classes of 1996.



Casey Keefe 1998. Casey got a B.S. in Information Systems from San Diego State in 2003, and in 2010 married the love of his life, Julie. He is a firefighter-paramedic with the South San Francisco Fire Department, and on September 9, 2010, was among the first responders to the San Bruno gas explosion and fire. We plan to hear more from Casey about the events



of that night and about what fire safety pros are doing in the aftermath.

Robert Scheffler 2004. Forensic accountant for Deloitte and pro bike racer for Fremont Bank, Rob is also a writer, with a report on the Mineral Wells Stage Race in Texas in *The Racing Post* (April 2011). Recounting the criterium, Rob says, "Ladies were holding up signs saying 'Marry Me Fremont Bank Guy!' and I saw an impromptu mariachi band form and start singing songs in my honor. I later realized that these were just mirages brought on by my anaerobic delirium, but it was great motivation at the time." Read it all at www.theracingpost.us.

Zachary Klass 2007. The forward for the Golden Bears rugby team is profiled in the *Cal Sports Quarterly* (Spring 2011), and credits DLS with teaching him discipline and accountability, saying that he learned from Spartan football about being "a stand-up character first. If you're not doing your job, you're letting all these guys down." His UC coach agrees: "Zack is part of the long line of proud and high-achieving men that come out of De La Salle football and Cal rugby." The article is on our Alumni page at www.dlshs.org.

What's Happening?
Send your news and photos to Tim Roberts, Director of Alumni Relations, at robertst@dlshs.org.
—
Log on at www.dlshs.org/alumni.

Hall of Fame Induction Is June 5 on Campus

June 5, 2011, at De La Salle we welcome into the Athletic Hall of Fame **Bernie Stenson '70** (swimmer), **Scott Molina '78** (runner and triathlete), **Mark Panella '85** (football and baseball), **Patrick Walsh '93** (football and baseball), **Adin Brown '96** (water polo and soccer), **Frank Tamony** (teacher, coach, mentor, and dean), and the 1991 Cross Country Team. Look for a full report online and in the next issue of the *Union*.



Fan us on Facebook: We're dlshsalumni.
Alumni, discover the Facebook Store: Make a donation and get a unique gift.

Somewhere under the rainbow...



March rainstorms sweeping through the Bay Area during California's official wettest winter in five years brought both good and bad. They laid a monster snow pack in the Sierras for skiing on now and for drinking up later, but they also sent some unfortunate homes in hillside neighborhoods sliding down saturated slopes. There were noisy episodes of hail, with the rattling downpours of ice illuminated by lightning and underscored by thunder. There was a waterspout off San Francisco and a tornado warning in the South Bay. Perhaps most remarkable, however, was one wet day at De La Salle High School that yielded new insight into that wonder of nature that we call the rainbow. There is an ancient legend about what can be found at the end of the rainbow—they say that you will find gold. But here is the modern scientific evidence that disproves the myth. As the photo above clearly shows, what you will find at the end of the rainbow is, in fact, a diamond. The green-clad creatures around the diamond are not leprechauns but Spartans, and the sticks they carry are not shillelaghs but regulation baseball bats. Rain or shine, gold or no gold, De La Salle students know that it's practice that makes perfect, in the classroom and on the field. (For our Winter Sports, see pages 19-21.)

Notice the double rainbow? Physics fans may already know: The lower and brighter rainbow is the "primary rainbow," and it shows red on its upper edge and violet on its lower edge. This rainbow is caused by light being reflected once in droplets of water. The higher rainbow is the "secondary rainbow," and on it the order of colors is reversed, with red on the inner edge and violet on the outer. The secondary rainbow is caused by light reflecting twice inside water droplets.

If you want to think of this as the heavens smiling down upon De La Salle High School, please do.

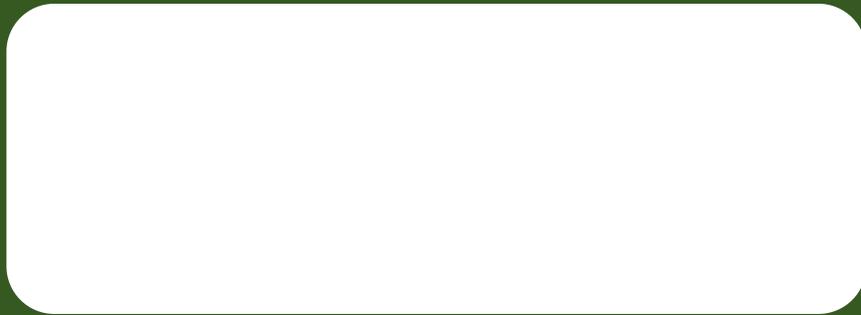


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 High School



SAVE THE DATE

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, June 16	Alumni Mixer, 6 to 9 p.m.	Pyramid Alehouse, Walnut Creek
Saturday, June 25	Class of 2006: 5 Year Reunion	Pyramid Alehouse, Walnut Creek
Saturday, July 16	Class of 1986: 25 Year Reunion	Pyramid Alehouse, Walnut Creek
Saturday, July 30	Class of 1991: 20 Year Reunion	Pyramid Alehouse, Walnut Creek
Saturday, July 30	Class of 1981: 30 Year Reunion	Renaissance ClubSport, Walnut Creek
Saturday, August 6	Class of 2001: 10 Year Reunion	Scott's Garden, Walnut Creek
Saturday, August 6	Class of 1996: 15 Year Reunion	Pyramid Alehouse, Walnut Creek
Saturday, August 20	Class of 1976: 35 Year Reunion	Pyramid Alehouse, Walnut Creek
Saturday, August 20	Class of 1971: 40 Year Reunion	Renaissance ClubSport, Walnut Creek
Monday, October 10	De La Salle Golf Classic	Diablo Country Club, Diablo

2011

