Last year, the San Jose Mercury News ran a series of investigative reports entitled “Tainted Justice” concerning the reality or illusion of fairness in our legal system. A quick glance at the rolls of attorneys and judges in the Bay Area would remind you that Bellarmine graduates play no little part in this system of law, rights and punishment: a system which, even under harsh scrutiny, represents a hallmark of civilized society.

Our Bellarmine family should feel great pride in those graduates who have chosen the law and or law enforcement as their passion. One can find our alumni sitting on judicial benches all the way up to our state Supreme Court (see our profile of Justice Ming Chin, ’60), working as prosecutors and defense attorneys, as well as teachers of the law and police officers. And for how many did these careers first get encouraged during their time at Bellarmine?

This issue’s focus is called “Law & Order.” Our centerpiece interview features Superior Court Judge Paul Bernal ’80, sitting down with Asst. District Attorney Chuck Gillingham ’86, and defense specialist Jim Wagstaffe ’74. We examine in some depth the current foibles, fancies and fortes of the legal system. Our “Point — Counterpoint” debaters, Eric Beerbohm ’94 and Adam Lauridsen ’97, will argue over whether our courts have become politicized.

Take a close look at our related article, the Co-curricular Connection, on the history and current state of our debate program, by Coach Chris Wolf. And, in the Classroom Connection, we conjure up some memories from the Science Fiction class’s infamous Dune Trial.

Our Spring 2007 issue will focus on “Science Fiction — Science Fact.” So all you alums working and studying in the fields of scientific inquiry, please contact us soon and let us know about your work and accomplishments.

We continue to hope that this magazine not only serves to keep you all connected to “the mother ship,” but also more actively engaged. One step can be reminding you that we encourage letters to the editor (praise, criticism, reflection, etc.) hopefully prompted by the articles.

Ave atque vale…

TOM ALESSANDRI
A career in the law remains a popular choice for Bellarmine alumni. Three of those graduates sit down to discuss the current state of the legal system. Read an interview with Chuck Gillingham ’86, a deputy district attorney in San Jose; Paul Bernal ’80, a Superior Court judge in San Jose; and Jim Wagstaffe ’74, a litigator specializing in First Amendment matters and media cases.

And Justice for All

California Supreme Court Justice Ming Chin ’60 was a resident student at Bellarmine but was inspired to pursue law by a family friend in his home state of Oregon.

The Sleeper Awakens

Alumni reflect on a Science Fiction class’s favorite pastime. The Dune Trial is alive and well at Bellarmine.

Faculty File

Where are they now? Catch up with those faculty and staff members who have retired, changed careers, been honored or moved on to different roles on campus.
GOLF

Varsity golf finished second in the WCAL with an 11-3 record, and fifth in the CCS Finals. Eric Mina ’07 was an All WCAL golfer. Peter Singh ’06 earned the Billy Schmidt Award and was the Most Inspirational Player. Garrison Rajkovich ’06 was given the Coach’s Award for his outstanding leadership and example. Steven O’Dowd ’08 was named the Most Improved Player.

Singh won the individual championship at the Carson Invitational in Carson City, Nevada. He shot 73-65 = 138 (4 under par). Bellarmine was the only WCAL team to beat Sacred Heart Cathedral on its home course of Glen Eagles and shot the best score of any visiting team at that course during the past four years.

BASEBALL

Varsity baseball had one of the most outstanding seasons in Bellarmine history. They were WCAL co-champs with Serra High School. They then went on to win the CCS Championship in a thrilling extra inning 5-4 victory over WCAL rival Valley Christian. Cal Hi Sports named Bellarmine the #1 Baseball Team in California for 2006. This was the first time Bellarmine had received this honor. The Bells finished with a 34-4 record.

Nate Garcia ’06 was named Team co-MVP, WCAL Pitcher of the Year and CCS Player of the Year. Tommy Medica ’06 was named Team co-MVP, WCAL Player of the Year, and first Team All CCS Catcher. The Billy Schmidt Award went to Nick Aurelio ’06 (2B), Most Outstanding Senior Season went to Wil Dugoni ’06 (SS), Rookie of the Year went to junior Ben Ruder ’07 (P), and the Captain’s Award went to Garcia, Medica, and Erik Goeddel ’07 (P, OF).

The Bells finished the 2006 season ranked 5th in the nation by USA Today newspaper.

VERNAL VICTORIES

helped to turn the season around. Some hard-fought games included beating Serra, both at home and away, as well as beating SL, both at home and away. The CCS quarter-final victory against Alisal, and their star player from Mexico’s junior national team was also memorable.

WRESTLING

The 2005-06 Bellarmine wrestling team completed another sweep of the WCAL on all three levels. The varsity squad, led by all-time career wins leader and two-time state place winner Daniel Summers ’06, finished first in league, and fourth in the CCS behind state powerhouses Gilroy and Fremont. They went undefeated in dual meet competition for the first time in school history with a 13-0 campaign and tournament championships at the Las Vegas Wildcat Rumble and the Silicon Valley Challenge Cup.

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VOLLEYBALL

Hunter Current ’06 made the All-CCS San Jose Mercury News first team and Colin Kerr ’06 and Andrew Crummey ’06 made the second team.

TENNIS

The Bell tennis squad repeated as WCAL champs with another undefeated run through the league schedule. In CCS play, the Bells avenged a 2005 loss by knocking off defending champ Los Gatos High School in the semi-finals. They continued to the school’s first CCS championship in 17 years with a 4-3 victory over Los Altos in the finals. The Bells went on to take a runner-up finish in the NorCal Championships, bowing to a tough Sacred Heart Prep team in the finals and finishing with a season record of 21-1.
**Film Fest Premieres Student Work**

The third annual Bellarmine Film Festival premiered the work of more than 20 student film-makers last April. The two categories of film — short form: music and promotional videos; and long form: original screenplays, original footage, were screened before a sold-out house in Benson Theatre.

Faculty advisors, Kevin McMahon ‘90 and Tom Alessandri ‘69, and their student committee including Jim Fields ‘06, Kevin Doherty ‘07, Dan Cook ‘06, and Bobby Hornung ‘06 began setting up the evening months before. Junior Jeff Damasco’s work was selected as audience favorite in the short form category; while Fields, Mike Bachand ‘06 and Kyle Wulff ‘06 took the honors in the long form slot with “Prometheus Unwound,” a film about an over-stressed Bellarmine senior becoming attracted to the violence of a “Fight Club” group. The evening also featured a documentary on waning school spirit, a moving film called “meTanoia” about a middle-aged man’s epiphany, a mockumentary titled “The Bellhevik Revolution,” a mood piece based on Wilco’s song “Hell is Chrome” and a heart-wrenching study of a teen suicide called “At the Moon.”

Many alumni, including Ben Fohner ‘02, Alex Alvarez ‘05, Chris Pecchenino ‘05 and Jeremy Cesena ‘96 attended, as well as three special guests: Matt Sobel ‘05, Jeremy Lum ‘02 and Chris Browne ‘98. They spoke to the film-makers and audience about their recent work in the film industry. Sobel’s Bell Film Fest entry from 2005 had recently been named an official selection of the 2006 Cinequest Film Festival of San Jose.

Look for Bell Film Festival IV on Friday, April 27, featuring special guest Ted Kroeber ‘95, the Bell and LMU film alum who recently produced his first film, “American Gun.”

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**Coach Janda Earns Winning Honor**

Bellarmine varsity football head coach Mike Janda earned his 171st career victory on September 8 as the Bells defeated Piedmont Hills 21-11. The win made him the most winning coach, surpassing Bellarmine coach John Hanna. Janda, in his 23rd season as head coach of the Bells, tied coach Hanna late last season with a victory over Riordan in the regular season finale.

Hanna capped his 25-year career in 1976 with an overall coaching mark of 170-58-9. Hanna is best remembered for a three-year string from 1963-1965 in which the Bells ran off 28 consecutive victories highlighted by the 1965 team, which allowed a mere six points on an interception return for the season.

Janda took over head football coaching duty in 1984 when he became the third person in the last 54 years to lead the Bells (John Hanna (1952-1976) and Walt Arnold (1977-1983). Janda’s squads have compiled a 171-79-2 record in his 22-plus seasons and have appeared in six CCS Championship games while capturing the titles in 1986 and 1990.
IN THE CLASSROOM

Grads Return to Teach

This fall semester, Bellarmine welcomed back three recent graduates from the class of 2002. Jeremy Lum graduated early from New York University’s Tisch School in 2005. Taking the long-term substitute teacher position at Bellarmine has been an easy transition for Jeremy, as he returned frequently to Bellarmine over the past four years to see friends, speak at the film festival, and guest lecture in classes. While in New York, Jeremy worked at New Line Cinema and returns to the Bay Area not only to work at Bellarmine, but also to begin preproduction and find financing for his first feature film, “Elise,” set to shoot this April. “Elise” is the story of a 19-year-old girl faced with a burden that no child should bear: death. Elise has AIDS. Forced to face her own mortality, Elise begins to question her past and explore a dark secret that shaped her life.

Dan Baxter, returning to teach Latin and work in Student Activities, spent the past four years at Whitman College. He majored in English and minored in Classics and performed nationally as a member of the Theatre Sports improvisational comedy group.

“I always knew I wanted to teach — I even imagined being a Bellarmine teacher when I was a senior here,” said Dan. “A career in service to others was my real interest, but I was surprised to see the opportunity to work at Bellarmine presented itself so early in my life.”

Sam Bliss, class of ’02 valedictorian, received his B.A. in English with a Medieval Studies certificate from Princeton University this past spring. He played water polo at Princeton until shoulder injuries required major surgery. This year, he is teaching English, both American and British Literature, and serves as the head coach for the Frosh/Soph Water Polo team.

“I love being back and am having a great time teaching this game to our young freshmen and sophomores,” said Sam. “It is an honor to work with Larry Rogers, who taught me everything I know about this game.”

Prayers for a New Year

The Bellarmine community celebrated the first day of school with the Mass of the Holy Spirit. Students, priests, faculty, and staff joined together for a morning of prayer, song, reflection, and hope for the coming academic year. President Fr. Paul Sheridan, S.J., greeted returning students and welcomed the freshman class. Seniors Jonathan Padilla and Mark Pan also addressed the school.

What is Ignatian Spirituality?

Brother Charles J. Jackson, S.J., offers this concise definition: “Ignatian spirituality can be described as an active attentiveness to God joined with a prompt responsiveness to God, who is ever active in our lives. Although it includes many forms of prayer, discernment, and apostolic service, it is the interior dispositions of attentiveness and responsiveness that are ultimately crucial. The result is that Ignatian spirituality has a remarkable ‘nowness,’ both in its attentiveness to God and in its desire to respond to what God is asking of the person now.”

From: http://www.jesuitscalifornia.org
Supreme Achievement

By Estelle Hayes

From his days as a resident student at Bellarmine in the late 1950s, Ming Chin ’60 was already imagining a career in law. What he could not contemplate was that his journey would take him all the way to California’s Supreme Court.

Chin’s parents, who were Chinese immigrants, believed strongly in the value of education. After moving several times in search of fertile land, the Chin family eventually ended up in Klamath Falls, Oregon, where they raised potato crops. Chin’s father sent him, the youngest of eight children, and his brother to live at Bellarmine.

“My parents taught us the importance of education, optimism, determination, and hard work,” said Chin. “My father once shared an old Chinese proverb with me: ‘If you want to plan for one year — plant rice. If you want to plan for 10 years — plant a tree. If you want to plan for 100 years — educate a child.’”

On those weekend and summer trips home, Chin would spend time with his father’s friend, a local judge. He would go to court with him and read law books. He would also work long days on the farm — an experience he credits with discouraging him from a life of manual labor.

As with many former resident students, Chin holds fond memories of life at Bellarmine and his time living four to a room in Kostka Hall. He also reflects on the sheer number of Jesuits who roamed the halls and grounds of Bellarmine.

“The ‘J’s’ were everywhere,” said Chin. “They were terrific teachers — nurturing, but strict. They taught me to write and to think for myself. There’s really no way for me to express the amount of influence they had on my life.”

Following high school graduation, Chin studied at the University of San Francisco, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in political science and a law degree. He served one year in Vietnam as a captain in the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps, and still keeps a tri-folded U.S. flag in his office.

Chin returned to the Bay Area where he was appointed Deputy District Attorney for Alameda County. Following that came a 16-year stint in private practice at the law firm of Aiken, Kramer & Cummings. In 1988, Chin was appointed to the bench by Governor George Deukmajian. He briefly served in the criminal and civil jury trial division in Oakland before being assigned to the family law court in Hayward. At the time, family law was not his specialty and he had some apprehension about the new assignment. He soon found similarities between dissolving marriages and businesses. Dividing assets among business partners and spouses had some common threads. Chin was quoted at the time as saying, “The business part of family law is something that I am familiar with.” He found this work to be surprisingly rewarding, as he saw it as one of the few courts where he could have a positive impact on people’s lives.

In 1996, Governor Pete Wilson appointed Chin to California’s highest court. He is now one of seven Supreme Court Justices who, at times, make life and death decisions in the state of California.

As a Superior Court Judge, Chin’s profile was significantly raised in the community. He says that people frequently want to talk about controversial court cases. He often gives speeches about daily workings of the court, but cannot discuss issues relating to specific cases.

Known for his opinions on DNA evidence, Chin wrote a decision in 1992 stating that DNA evidence was not reliable enough to be admissible in the case of People v. Barney, 8 Cal. App. 4th 798. As a result, he has been asked to speak about DNA evidence throughout the country and even in Europe and Asia.

Chin and his wife of 34 years, Carol, have two children. And it should come as no surprise that both Jason and Jennifer are attorneys.

Today it seems that Justice Chin could not be happier in his chosen career. His term expires in 2010 and until then he is savoring every bit of the experience.
A married couple with a start-up company decides to forestall having a family until their business takes off. Worried, however, about increased risks in births by older women, they have a lab create three embryos from their own genetic material and freeze them for later implantation. Their business takes off with wild success but just prior to finally starting their family, they both die in a plane crash. What happens to the frozen embryos? Who are the real parents? Do the embryos have any right to inherit? Can relatives of the couple who might otherwise inherit great wealth prevent the embryos from being thawed and gestated? Where stands the law in this case (based on numerous real-life court cases)?

A career in the law has been and remains one of the more popular career choices for our Bellarmine alumni. Some of our graduates sit at the defense table, others are serving as prosecutors. A goodly number of Bells also occupy the benches of some of our most prestigious court rooms. A growing number of recent graduates have even chosen to teach the law.

by Tom Alessandri
Photography by Dave Monley
Three of those grads cordially agreed to find time in their busy schedules, not charge me $600 an hour, and discuss the current state of the legal system. Chuck Gillingham graduated from Bellarmine in 1980, and then Stanford University in 1991. He then earned his J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law in 1994. Chuck has been a deputy district attorney since 1994, and is currently supervising deputy district attorney in San Jose. He is also an adjunct professor of law at Santa Clara University and is an elected member of the California District Attorney’s Association Board of Directors.

Paul Bernal graduated in 1980 and did his undergraduate work at Loyola Marymount University, getting his J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law in 1987. After practicing employment law at Littler, Mendelson, he was a prosecutor at the Office of the District Attorney from 1989 to 2000 in San Jose, handling cases of child abuse, molestation, rape and homicide. He became a Superior Court judge in 2000.

Jim Wagstaffe graduated from Bellarmine in 1974 and handles diverse litigation, emphasizing professional and governmental representation, business litigation, First Amendment matters, and media cases. In 1977, Jim received his B.A. with distinction from Stanford University. In 1980, Jim received his J.D. from the University of California, Hastings College of Law. In December 1999, California Lawyer named Jim as one of its Top Twenty Lawyers of the Year.

Tom Alessandi: Okay, esteemed gentlemen of the bar, let’s provoke your reactions to the following quotation from Mr. Bumble in Dickens’ Oliver Twist: “The law is a ass—the law is a idiot.” Chuck Gillingham: The criminal justice system is frequently described as making sausage. It is often ugly and you don’t want to know what goes into it, but for the most part it comes out the way it is supposed to. It’s like any human endeavor involving process: it’s not perfect. If you think about the way law is written—by committee—which comprises individuals with different viewpoints who end up compromising—the results are frequently less than satisfactory. In the legal system, you can certainly be affected by who your lawyer is, who your judge is…there are so many factors.

Paul Bernal: Well, it will be remembered that Mr. Bumble recited “The law is a ass” when trying to shift blame to his wife for the theft of a ring. The law was not an ass; Mr. Bumble was. Dickens was making fun of a fool who believed the laws to be unworkable. Nonetheless, turning the corner on Oliver Twist, Dickens raised concerns about institutional injustice, a topic we should all be concerned with even today.

Jim Wagstaffe: You know, most people tend to put lawyers in the position of attacking them. Ironically they don’t feel antipathy when they need lawyers. We’re easy targets but the reality is we are in a service profession. They turn to us when they are arrested, they turn to us when there’s a death... my father was a lawyer for 55 years—and I grew up with this model: he was a probate lawyer, so when the phone rang at home on the weekend, it was a client and it usually meant someone had died. My dad was the first person they called.

Building off of what Chuck seemed to be suggesting in his comment: is there luck involved in the justice system?

CG: There are so many factors weighing into outcome. If you are arrested in San Francisco County the potential penalties may be different than they are going to be in Santa Clara County, than they are in Kern County. Depending on who the lawyers are and who’s involved in your case, often out-lawyer the privately retained defense attorney. The deputy public defenders are in trial almost every week and they have tremendous court experience.

PB: Let’s say hypothetically... even if you assume that of the 90 percent of cases that come through a court, it matters who the lawyer is, that still leaves 10 percent where it does matter. So, does luck have any factor in the justice system? Yes, to a small degree.

The famous trial lawyer Melvin Belli once said, “a lawyer’s performance in the courtroom is responsible for about 25 percent of the outcome, the remaining 75 percent depends on the facts.” If the case is close, the affect of the attorney is incredibly important... to a degree, how the advocate presents herself/himself is more important than what they are saying?

PB: Let me back you up a bit on that. Most people have the notion that you always have to spend the most money to get the best lawyer. In my estimation, some of the public defenders in our community
Tell me the characteristics of a good prosecutor.

CG: Common sense. Also some sense of what the community you serve is looking for and what is the right thing in an individual case. Sometimes the best thing a prosecutor can do is just get out of the way, and allow the case to try itself. The evidence normally wins out.

JW: Good prosecutors make good judgments, and they don’t charge cases in which the evidence is insufficient.

PB: I worked in the district attorney’s office before being a judge, in addition to practicing a wide variety of types of law. The answer for me is preparation, common sense, and being able to connect with the jury. Some people have it and some don’t. I have seen academically brilliant advocates who just don’t know how to tell a story, and so the jury will not be able to listen well or consistently or fully.

JW: I couldn’t agree more that the skill is really how to tell a story. The law is like everything else: we are story-based creatures. Like any good story you have to have setting, character, plot, climax and denouement. You’re right, Judge [Bernal]. Many people have trouble telling a story clearly and well. The jury needs the chronological story. It’s not different than the work of the best novelists.

CG: Amen. As a prosecutor, remember, I have to have all 12 of those jurors agree. Try getting 12 strangers to agree on anything. So, like a good storyteller you must know your audience as a way to determine how to tell the story. Jurors do not know courtroom life like we daily practitioners do, nor are they familiar with crime that occurs in their community. They come from the outside. The well-told story hopefully invites them in to real understanding as the truth is pursued.

Isn’t any jury panel going to be a hodge-podge of personalities and backgrounds, so, rather difficult to read?

CG: Absolutely. Draw 12 people who don’t know each other, have had very little contact with the criminal justice system, have them passively watch a case and then lock them in a room to decide with little guidance on how to make the decision. But it works. I would just note that there was a real change when the jury pool went from registered voters to using California driver’s license lists. When you pulled potential jurors from the voter polls – those people, from a prosecutor’s perspective, have shown a caring about what goes on civically. They took the time to register to vote, which is evidence of a modicum of civic engagement.

What drew you three to the law as a career choice?

CG: I come from a long line of law enforcement people. My grandfather and uncle were police officers; my father was the county sheriff. One of my earlier memories was going to court with my father and watching a suppression motion. I saw how the attorney spoke, carried himself — and that was so very impressive. In terms of being a lawyer, I always assumed I’d go into a large law firm, make partner and make a lot of money. I did that for a while and I wanted to jump out the window. That kind of work has no resonance with me. A good friend suggested that I check out the DA’s office; I did, and have not regretted a single day of my decision.

PB: In my case, I decided to become a lawyer when I was a sophomore at Bellarmine. I think it was because people told me that I was terrible in math, but pretty good with the written word. You know that may have been Rudy Schulze, when he was a scholastic here in the late ’70s. When I vacationed with attorney Sal Liccardo and his family, he always brought his work with him and would let me read his pleadings. I was totally fascinated by the process and the content. I was just fascinated by the attorney’s universe... the language, the feel of it, even the pages with numbers down the side. It just seemed to fit who I was. I always knew I was going to be a trial attorney. As an attorney, if you love the law and you love the courtroom, becoming a judge is a natural fit.

So, Paul, what got to you was the geography of the profession.

JW: And for me... organic chemistry. (knowing laughter) You see my lawyer-father gave me a stethoscope when I was five years old, maybe I’d be the doctor in the family. And I always loved science throughout school, but when I was a Stanford undergrad and got to organic chemistry, my professor told me to look elsewhere for a profession. And then I thought about what attracted me to being a doctor. It was that when people are in trouble and something awful has happened to them or a loved one, they turn to the doctor. And the good doctor has what’s called “bedside manner.” And so, given my dad being a lawyer, and given the successes I had with speaking through NFL, the law seemed the next best choice for me. Like the doctor, people come to the lawyer when they are facing a real problem. I like to think that what I do with the law is what I would have done as a medical practitioner — take people in tough situations, and help them through the process and let them tell me their story.

In our pre-interview notes, Paul reminded me of the famous quotation from Herbert’s novel Dune (see related article on Dune trials on page 18): “When religion and politics travel in the same cart...” all hell breaks loose. How well does the justice system deal with religion and morality? Why do I hear an almost ongoing reference to the “godless judiciary”?

PB: I am a bit hamstrung, because the Canons of Judicial Ethics do not permit me to comment on pending cases or judges. But as a
general, philosophical rule... this tension is all about the balance between judicial activism and judicial restraint — usually at the federal level of the court system. Some people believe, based on what the media feeds them, that judges are belying their personal, religious or political biases when they make decisions. My observation is that it just doesn’t happen. Even when a judge removes the religious and political bias from the equation, and the judge decides the issue on an intellectual level, the result may nonetheless still line up with a particular religious dogma. Although, judges are trained very carefully to avoid placing their religion or politics into their decisions. We have what is called “Judges’ College.” Most people don’t even know there is such a thing.

Fascinating! Do you have, like, sports teams? Cheerleaders? What’s your mascot? Are there intramurals?
PB: We play volleyball in our robes. Actually it is usually held at UC — Berkeley, and we stay in the dorms.
CG: Do you have a secret handshake?
PB: I can’t tell you that.

You can’t tell me how long it lasts? Oh... because that might undermine our confidence in the judiciary that you have to go to school.
PB: Exactly. (Laughter) In any event, they spend a great deal of structured time helping you make the transition from what part of the law you are coming from — the prosecution, the defense, civil plaintiff background, criminal practice background — and how to rid yourself of the biases related to those advocacy positions. And beyond that they really try to make sure that you are open to the varieties of perspectives and concerns of the community, in all its forms.

JW: As to the original question, I think that religion is actually the 800-pound gorilla in the courtroom. Judges are certainly taught to ignore it because justice is supposed to be blind to many things: to color, to class and to religion. The reality, of course, is that judges are human beings; jurors are human beings — they bring their values with them. So, while we are a pluralistic society, we are still, by and large, a religious society. The hard part is the first amendment, which is one of my specialties — free speech and religion — is designed by its nature to protect minorities. The majority doesn’t need the protection of the first amendment either in speech or religion.

Okay, let’s focus this discussion, using a case study Paul told me about. Man and woman come to family court for a divorce. The custody of the children is the issue. One parent allows the child to watch R-rated movies, the other only G. One wants to pay for a Catholic education, the other will not based on their personal beliefs. The child goes between two homes: one celebrates Christmas, the other does not... they can’t, in short, agree on anything. They submit it to the judge. How does the judge proceed?
JW: Solomon in the 21st century. It highlights my point that religion is not an absent consideration. You take a normative principle: the best interest of the child. So, how does a judge — supposedly neutral — decide what is or isn’t best. I think it is impossible, despite Judges’ College, to leave behind certain normative values you hold personally. If you are raised in a religious family, you probably think such upbringing has value. For me personally, though something of a “cafeteria Catholic,” I happen to believe that the story of religion being part of growing up has extraordinary value to the child... so I might bring that into the decision. I think most in heart of their religious would agree that as you go back into chambers to deliberate it is hard to leave that personal life experience entirely at the door.

PB: I know it is possible because judges are asked to make these decisions every day. How does a judge leave out his or her own morality? A judge thinks: This case isn’t my life; it isn’t my divorce; these are not my children; so their desired outcome is theirs and I am not to judge their morality. For me it was rather easy to separate myself out. Though I personally believe in the value of a religious education or upbringing, I always look at other factors. Which parent has the primary responsibility for raising that child? What had the child done educationally up to that point? If the child has never been to Catholic school then the child should probably continue going where that child is, because that would create less change, less negative impact on the child. More than that, you try to work out compromise with the two warring parents. Maybe Sunday school, maybe Christian or Jewish camp in the summer. You have to learn to maintain your neutrality — and if you are not comfortable with that — don’t become a judge.

So in essence, frequently, the judge is really a mediator.
PB: When I was in family court I did mediation work in 100 percent of my cases. Mediation means the parents come up with the solutions, not the judge. I sat next to them — not in an adversarial setting, but around a table with the interested parties. Now that is hard to do in criminal court — the judge is usually not allowed to speak to the defendant and there can be no ex parte (one party) communication.

In criminal law, then, the judge is really mediating between the two advocate attorneys?
PB: Yes, and that sense of compromise is very often at the heart of criminal trial work. Often it is in everyone’s interest to work out a middle ground. But if mediation does not lead to a result, and I chose not to impose my own result, my role is to let the trial occur.

CG: A strong judge can certainly play a big role in how a case will resolve itself. Clear signals to the parties as to how the judge sees the case will go a long way to helping the lawyers resolve the matter.

Related issue: “Judicial activism” — isn’t that an oxymoron? The charge is that since the late ’50s, we have been living through a period of judges making law and policy, which was never part of their constitutional intent. True? Is it a danger? Has it occurred but is due to a vacuum in traditional leadership? Or is it just hogwash fostered by those who don’t like the decisions that have been made?
JW: First of all, there is a difference between what happens at Appellate Courts and the Supreme Court and what happens in lower courts. I do think that certain Supreme Court decisions happen due to perceived vacuum of decision making... for good and ill. Roe v. Wade is clearly an activist decision — they create legislative lines of conduct.

A year or two ago, the Supreme Court decided that punitive damages as a matter of constitutional
that narrow path. Judges are supposed to walk along a line of restraint. That’s a fine line and some people are not happy with the decisions. So, yes, there is some perceived activism by the courts. But the Supreme Court saw that damages were out of control.

When we lawyers in the lower courts get a case assigned to a particular judge, we wonder what that will do to our case, how will our case be perceived? We are being “Pollyanna-ish” to think that isn’t the case in the real world. There are judges who seem to dislike plaintiffs in civil matters...so are they being activist, or are they bringing natural predispositions? Which is why I like jury trials; I generally trust the collective wisdom of our community as reflected in a jury panel selected by both sides. My concern about judges is that they aren’t the last word, but it is just one person with tough decisions to make, and at the appellate level I think there is a little agenda going on by many judges.

**PB:** The way the three branches of government were set up allows judges to make law. This does not mean judges should be activists, but rather judges must provide answers when questions are presented to the court. The nature of the appellate system means courts often make law when there is no other answer in the statutes. Of course, sometimes the genesis of those appellate decisions is a trial court decision. And not everyone is happy with the result. So yes, there is some perceived activism as opposed to judicial restraint. That’s a fine line and judges are supposed to walk along that narrow path.

**CG:** Judicial activism is in the eye of the beholder. The perception on both sides is that a small group decides what the legislature and executive couldn’t or wouldn’t, and they are not beholden to the voters. On the right they cite Roe, and the Warren Court; on the left Bush v. Gore, and the Rehnquist Court. There is plenty of judicial activism to go around. It is exactly the perceived lack of leadership in the legislature and executive branch that leads both sides to fight as hard as they do to control the judiciary. But one person’s judicial activism is another’s living Constitution is another’s strict construction. Paul points out the real rub in the system: there are those cases that fall in the cracks, that the law does not cover or legislation resulted in unintended consequences. Cases where the “right thing” might be clear or obvious to some, but not covered by the written law — there is a gray area. I think that one thing is clear, there is a pendulum in the courts and it swings left and right and one side or the other feels aggrieved.

**JW:** Well the short answer is yes. But realize that civil rights are almost always in jeopardy in times of war or times of fear. Within seven years of the adoption of the First Amendment – Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech – Congress made a law saying it is illegal to criticize the government because at the time we were considering going to war with France. Some editors were put in jail under the Alien and Sedition Act. In the Civil War, as you said, Lincoln and suspension of habeus corpus, in World War I people were put in jail for handing out flyers saying we should not be in war, in World War II and the Cold War aftermath, the Red Scare caused us to restrict liberties.

It is the natural tension of democracy that when what is perceived to be at issue is the nation’s right to preserve itself – there will be many who say that if the nation is not preserved the constitution goes with it. Lincoln would advocate this. Of course, the other side would say if you don’t have the liberties what’s the point of the nation? This conflict comes because of the fear. And sometimes the fear is very justified. All of us remember where we were on 9/11. My dad was a WWII vet and I recall when I wrote a paper here at Bellarmine about “Executive Order 9066: Hoax or Panacea?” – the order interning the Japanese-Americans. And I remember a very heated debate with my father about how the internment could have happened, and his answer was very brief: “you weren’t there... the fear of attack was real.” And I said, but “that’s what the Constitution is for.” So what is going on now is very much a part of our past as well as our present.

**CG:** Historically in this country, as Jim pointed out, in a time of war civil rights are challenged. There are many who believe that that is just fine. The sacrifices for security are necessary. Look, we were attacked on 9/11, there are those out there who would attack us again. The threat is real. Yet we live in the most open society known to man. The extent to which we have been infringed upon is that you cannot take a steak knife on an airplane and you have to take off your shoes when going through security.

**PB:** It is the age-old tension between individual rights vs. sacrificing for the general good. But the difference in the “here and now” is the average person is a lot more educated, more savvy, more inured to media opinions, so that people aren’t as accepting as they once were. I just don’t see what I would call super-egregious things happening to Americans right now. Actually I am seeing a good deal of restraint. Does that mean injustices aren’t happening... no, they are. From a judicial perspective, I think the courts on a national level have been very careful about their handling of civil rights and terrorism.

**Do new advances in technology represent a threat to privacy?**

**PB:** It’s a double-edged sword. Technology now allows us, at sports arenas, to have face-recognition software to spot criminals. Data mining with telecommunications systems is quite advanced now. Statutory law is several steps behind. So, sometimes what is done by the courts is a stop-gap that enjoins use of some forms of new tech until the ramifications are worked out. But that’s problematic for the free market. So, does new...
Jim Wagstaffe

There’s a revolution, genetically speaking, in what parentage means. Ask any student at Bellarmine in 2007 what family means and he will have a much broader sense of the meaning of the term than I did as a student 30 years ago. [JIM WAGSTAFFE]

CG: Media scrutiny is frankly so colored with political agendas it is ridiculous. One might as well subscribe to the political parties for their news delivery. The nice thing is that there are so many choices now. One might get a balanced perspective flipping the channels or reading multiple newspapers. New technologies both provide extraordinary privacy, for instance in free downloadable encryption that the NSA cannot break and threaten privacy such as data mining. The legal system is out in front on these issues, frequently in the criminal arena.

A classic issue in which the law seems behind the reality is in the area of human reproduction. The purposeful control of our genetic destiny is with us now, but there is a vacuum of law on the new science. For example: a couple causes several embryos to be created and frozen for their future use, but a year later they both die in an accident. What is the disposition of those frozen embryos?

JW: I think the law is way behind on genetic issues. When I was a junior at Bellarmine I did an oratory at the 1973 state championships on human cloning. One of the judges wrote on his form, after giving me a 5 (worst score): “This cloning will never happen and so the speech has no relevance.” God, I wish I could track down that judge and show him what he wrote. And I didn’t make final round! Listen, the scientific community is not inherently as regulated as other aspects of business, given their concern for academic openness and sharing. And international boundaries make it hard for one country to regulate what may go on in another. Face it; we will have a cloned human in our lifetime. We will have that kind of breakthrough or horror, if one feels that. And so, this may be one area in which religion may be ahead of the rest of the field. Maybe religion will lead the march toward caution before the courts or the elected houses.

PB: I think it’s all going to Hades. I don’t think courts will have control of this issue; I don’t think the government will have control of this issue; I don’t think the people will have control of this issue. The scientists will. Certainly, American courts cannot control foreign jurisdictions. Cloning will happen.

CG: I agree with Paul, the scientists will control this issue and because of the amount of variation possible in process, outcome, testing, the law will never be able to catch up. At a very base level this issue will be regulated only by the ethics of the scientists involved.

What if Roe v. Wade were reversed? And conception was accepted legally as the standard? Then couldn’t you imagine the court involved? In the Roe v. Wade world the embryo has no rights akin to the rest of us in theory, embryos could be bought and sold and that would not abridge the laws against slavery.

PB: Here are some examples of what’s happening right now in our courts. California statutory law says that the biological connection between a parent and child is presumptive, though not necessarily controlling. Well for most, human nature, hormones and happiness are far more compelling than a set of rules. Reproductive science now allows non-biological parents to have children without the need to adopt. We have divorcing parents who come before the court where neither parent has a biological connection to the baby: who gets the child? Today, a “psychological” parent might have more rights than the mere seed donor. What if the absent egg donor wants the child? What if one woman in a same-sex relationship has her egg implanted in a non-parent’s womb? And what happens when the same-sex partners split up before the baby is born? So far, the court-generated laws have addressed all these issues by adapting to what people do. But we are at a “jumping off” point. We are on the edge of babies being born in laboratories. The court may or may not have to wait for the child to come to full term because, in the future, the zygote is not in one parent’s “possession” such as in a womb, or generated from their biological egg/sperm. And when is that laboratory embryo “born?” When do the rights of the child vest? What if the lab embryo needs vital medical attention upon which the parents cannot agree? Without a doubt, a judge will one day be asked to make this call.

JW: There’s a revolution, genetically speaking, in what parentage means. If you ask me, if they remake the movie “The Graduate” today, the man would say to Dustin Hoffman not “plastics” but rather “genetics” – that is going to permeate the lives of my grandchildren. The courts can expand or contract meaning and interpretation. Roe will change one way or the other... the vast majority of case law does not stay put for 100 years. In the last 20 years we have all lived through an incredible change in the meaning of the word “family.” Ask any student at Bellarmine in 2007 what family means and he will have a much broader sense of the meaning of the term than I did as a student 30 years ago.

CG: If Roe is overruled the issue returns to the states. Some states...
will stay with the state of the law as it is, and a minority will place severe restrictions. Irrespective of that in these areas the courts absolutely will be in front of the legislative branch. Real people have real issues that need to be resolved. The expansion of the idea of family and legal definitions not fitting what is happening in the real world is what I was referring to earlier. One, or three or nine people are going to have to decide before those issues ever make it through the legislative process.

Some last specific issues: Does the “three strikes law” work?

PB: I am not permitted to give you my opinion of Three Strikes, but I can address the practical logistics of what happens with Three Strikes cases. Obviously, Three Strikes has a profound impact on the community, but less so than we thought it would. Before being elevated to the bench, I worked on the Crime Task Force surveying the efficacy of the policy as it was about to be passed into law. And we thought it would be the end of the world: jails massively overcrowded, financial bankruptcy of the penal system. But that didn’t happen. The reason why is, at least in our county, there is a Three Strike review committee that adjusts some of the pleadings, so that each prior “strike” was not considered a “strike.”

JW: I don’t think Three Strikes is a good law. I was concerned that it was a reactionary, political knee-jerk to what was perceived as lenient punishments. But the natural flexibility of the justice system Paul just alluded to mollifies some of that concern. It gives me pause when the legislature or the electorate via state-wide initiative acts upon the courts — that is not a very well-vetted process. If every case is different, and I think the system works justly on that key premise, then we must trust the judge on hand to do the right thing based on specifics.

CG: It depends on what you mean by “work.” Working with what Jim mentioned, the first area of review is the prosecuting office. Every office in the state has a different policy regarding three-strike cases. Many defendants who are eligible are not prosecuted as three strikers. That is the DA representing the community in which he or she is based. The court then obviously has a review role. Let’s remember that the defendants we are referring to are those who have committed two serious or violent felony convictions. I have prosecuted defendants with “three strikes” and I am thankful that there is such a law. Many of these individuals are absolute dangers to our society and have forfeited the right to walk among us.

Does plea bargaining do more harm than good?

JW: I think it does more good because it still works within the advocacy system of the courts. And without such bargaining as an option the courts would be totally inundated with criminal trials. Currently, a very small percentage actually come to trial.

CG: As to plea bargaining, every Wednesday I cover a morning and afternoon calendar where we discuss as many as 50 cases in a day. It is a guilty plea calendar. The goal of the calendar is to settle cases — plea bargain. In every case, the defendant is certainly looking at a prison commitment vs. a county jail sentence. That is where most of the argument takes place, what is the commitment level of that defendant. That is a significant issue for each of those defendants. The justice system would grind to a halt if plea bargaining did not exist.

PB: Plea bargaining is a good thing. First, systemically, the court would not work, period, without it. We haven’t the personnel, the space, or the wherewithal to conduct more trials. There is the constitutional right to a speedy trial that we can’t ignore. Second, and more philosophically, I can’t tell you the number of times a plea bargain is turned down and the trial goes forward and the result is almost exactly the same as what the plea bargain would have been. The attorneys and judges are good at knowing “what a case is worth” and trying to resolve it early in a worthy manner.

Your field of law is often represented in art: books, films, plays. Is there such a piece of art that comes closest in your mind to accurately or artistically representing the “it” about this field of endeavor?

PB: Inherit the Wind is the most valuable regarding how to think like a lawyer. To Kill a Mockingbird is best on the issue of what is justice. A German film titled “M” (1931, Fritz Lang) is the most thought-provoking court film made. But for accuracy of the experience, it’s “My Cousin Vinny.” It’s real; it’s funny. Despite having no clue, Vinny has excellent courtroom skill which wins the day. The judge doesn’t know what’s going on. It’s priceless.

JW: Atticus Finch in To Kill a Mockingbird. Each of us wants to think that when called to do so we will stand up and fight for Tom Robinson (the defendant) and do what is, very simply, right. And don’t forget, Atticus lost that case. In fact, I start every one of the law classes I teach with Atticus Finch’s closing argument that is, or should be, our ideal. You know, whatever courtroom drama that captures us, from “Perry Mason” to “Law & Order,” we all love a story, and the law is all about telling a story.

CG: I have never considered that question. “Braveheart.”

Ah, Chuck, to see you in face paint, riding a horse. Gentlemen, this has been so much fun. Your willingness to share of yourselves is both laudatory and impressive, and I thank you in all the ways there are to thank.

CONNECT ONLINE

To read the full length interview with these alumni, visit Connections online at www.bcp.org/go/connections.

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WEB SITES

www.sccsuperiorcourt.org

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Chief Justice John Roberts, in the opening statement of his confirmation hearings, explained: “Judges are like umpires. Umpires don’t make the rules; they apply them… It’s my job to call balls and strikes, and not to pitch or bat.”

Unfortunately for American democracy, politicians have ignored Chief Justice Roberts’ assessment of the judge’s role, increasingly dragging the Third Branch onto the partisan playing field. By politicizing the judicial appointment process and threatening judges with impeachment for politically unpopular decisions, politicians threaten the core of our federal judicial system.

Article III of the Constitution provided federal judges with life tenure to insulate them from the hot-tempered fluctuations of public opinion. By placing judges beyond the reach of the democratic process, with its party squabbles and abrupt ideological upheavals, the Founding Fathers hoped to ensure that our Constitution and laws were applied consistently and impartially. This structure recognizes an essential aspiration of American democracy: that our nation was founded upon shared values. Judges are charged with preserving the nonpartisan backbone of a democracy in which, as Thomas Jefferson said during his first inaugural address, “We are all Republicans, we are all Federalists.”

Increasingly, however, Congresses and presidents of both parties have not only ignored the founders’ ambitions for the judiciary, but inverted them, using life tenure as a political prize. Judicial appointment battles present a classic “chicken or the egg” problem, where Congress and the president point fingers at each other for politically motivated obstinacy. In 1987, a Democratic Senate rejected President Ronald Reagan’s choice for the Supreme Court, Robert Bork, on the grounds that his conservative beliefs were beyond the political mainstream. A decade later, a Republican Congress launched identical attacks when indefinitely delaying consideration of President Clinton’s judicial appointments to the lower federal courts.

The battles have continued during President George W. Bush’s terms, with Democrats threatening to filibuster judicial choices and the president making limited-period “recess appointments,” without Senate approval, to skirt political opposition. Most alarmingly, members of Congress have raised the specter of impeachment for federal judges making politically controversial decisions. Such calls for removal seek to obliterate the fundamental Constitutional safeguard of judicial impartiality.

It doesn’t have to be this way. Over this same acrimonious period, presidents have appointed and senators have confirmed countless well-qualified lawyers to carry forth the Founding Fathers’ hopes for the judiciary. Increasingly, however, presidents are overreaching in seeking unshakably loyal candidates, such as Harriet Miers, and senators are clinging more tightly to litmus tests on single issues, such as abortion rights. While politicians fight and grandstand, the judicial system and the American people suffer. The vast majority of cases, from interpreting contract language to determining the guilt of a criminal defendant, can’t be broken down along party lines. In these instances, lawyers appointed for the strength of their party allegiances rather than the sharpness of their analytical skills run a higher risk of making sloppy decisions, denying the litigants of justice and often creating unwieldy precedents binding on future cases. Such creeping partisanship not only deepens America’s red-state, blue-state divide, but knocks the judiciary from its unique position as the defender of core American values, commonly held by all citizens. Finally, adding insult to injury, when judges do set out to make political decisions, they usually end up creating lousy policy. Constrained by the facts of a single case and unauthorized to add specific language to laws, judges seeking to bring about political change might as well be conducting brain surgery wearing boxing gloves.

America’s judicial system is built upon trust. The Constitution placed judges beyond the reach of politics on the condition that they would work impartially, as free as possible from partisan bias. By demanding political accountability from judges, both at appointment and through threatened impeachment, presidents and Congress have violated this delicate balance. American democracy, like the Great American Pastime, needs its umpires behind the plate, not squaring up to swing a bat.

Adam Lauridsen ’97 received a degree in social studies from Harvard University in 2001, a master’s in philosophy from Cambridge University in 2002, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School in 2005. He is currently clerking for a federal judge in Sacramento.
Counterpoint

Supreme Court hopefuls have recently seized upon a slogan, assuring us that they will simply “follow the law.” Reading through the testimony of John Roberts and Samuel Alito makes the work of a judge – even a Supreme Court Justice – seem highly mechanical, even algorithmic. Answers to questions are filled with references to “humility” and “deference.” We are left with the impression that the Supreme Court should live in a politics-free zone. I will argue that Constitutional interpretation unavoidably engages our moral convictions about politics. If this is right, it is not desirable, or even possible, to appoint justices responsibly while bracketing our own political morality.

Consider the popular line that justices are robed baseball umpires. Both Democratic and Republican nominees have used it. But is it a good analogy? When umpires distinguish between a triple and a foul, they are “eyeing it.” They are relying upon their limited point of view to make a judgment that could be more reliably determined by a supercomputer. In so doing, they need not appeal to any of their own convictions about what the world of baseball should be like. Even tough judgments about what constitutes the strike zone answer to a reasonably precise definition. As the official rulebook of the Major Baseball League puts it: The strike zone is that area over home plate the upper limit of which is a horizontal line at the midpoint between the top of the shoulders and the top of the uniform pants, and the lower level is a line at the hollow beneath the knee cap.

Now contrast the law of the strike zone with clauses of the Fourth and Eighth Amendments: The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated... Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

The Major League umpire and the Supreme Court justice both engage in textual interpretation. Neither makes judgments that are completely automatic. But, I want to suggest, they are involved in radically different enterprises. We need only look at the above passages to see the distinction. For the Constitution is laden with language about political values. Its text requires us to make sense of moral concepts. No supercomputer will be able to rule on the constitutionality of President Bush’s approval of warrantless wiretaps or Guantanamo tribunals. These decisions can hardly be “eyed” – like the fine-line between a ball and a strike.

To be sure, how we interpret the ideas of “unreasonable,” “cruel,” and “excessive” will turn on our judicial philosophy, a set of principles that guide us in interpretation. This points to a troubling feature of recent confirmation hearings. Nominees who ritualistically deny that they have any such philosophy, more often than not, sail through the process. Portraying oneself as a simple deputy of the law is now a proven formula. But this strategy relies on the false analogy of justices as dutiful umpires.

When, in June 2006, the Supreme Court found the war-crimes trials proposed by the Bush Administration lacking authority, they were relying on a conception of the Constitution. Those who upheld the decision believe that the constitution’s deliberately abstract language gives judges room to construe phrases like “sovereignty” and “equal protection” in a way that can change in response to moral considerations. Those writing the dissent deny that these concepts have this dynamism. The character of this disagreement is, in a real sense, partisan.

So, I conclude with a counterintuitive thought: The judicial confirmation process is insufficiently political. Or at least it is political in the wrong way. We should expect prospective federal judges to reveal their settled views about Constitutional adjudication. And these views will inevitably be informed by their beliefs about social justice. It’s not enough for nominees to promise to rule on a case-by-case basis, humbly following what the law says. For this is an empty promise. It tells us nothing about the principles of interpretation that will guide their reasoning.

Eric Beerbohm ’94 teaches political theory in the Department of Government at Harvard University. He earned his B.A. with honors from Stanford University, and graduate degrees from Oxford and Princeton universities.
Tradition

By Kim Jones, Chris Wolf, and Jim Harville

Last June, we watched in Dallas, Texas as Bellarmine NFLers Matt Grimes ’06 and Dylan Groves ’06 put on a policy debate clinic while in the national spotlight.

Teachers across the country told us that they would buy the DVD of the national championship round to show how good debate can be as a tool of communication: That champions can win without a huge circuit reputation; that great thinkers in evidence-based debate can be great speakers as well; that policy debaters can be cordial and considerate as they earn a 10 – 3 ballot win; and that, after more than half a century of Bellarmine forensics success — a long-hoped-for national championship in debate was brought home to San Jose.

From the mists of the Bellarmine Policy Debate history — or “debate,” as it was known then — came the dominating team of Lambert Spronck ’59 and Vincent Mirrione ’59 in the late ’50s. Spronck and Mirrione won the state championship in 1959, and their reputation remained mythical well into the ’60s. Bellarmine’s next state championship in team debate did not come until 1986, with Jon Garcia ’86 and Randy Shoup ’86. Soon after, The Bells became a California powerhouse, with the teams of Dan Mueller-Chris Hersey ’89 and Harold Yu ’89-Bill Kroenung ’89 “closing out” the state championship in 1989, each of the teams winning their semifinal rounds, and sharing the trophy. National reputation followed soon after, when juniors Dale Ho ’93 and Alex Wong ’93 took third at the National Tournament in 1994, a feat equaled by State Champions and then seniors Kyle Warneck and Gaurav Reddy in 2001.

Many wondered how did our Bell team (the first from California) beat perennial national champions Montgomery Bell Academy (Nashville), The Greenhill School (Dallas), and the Glenbrooks (near Chicago) for the first time in 31 years? As always, it begins with talented students choosing that path. Policy debate preparation at that level can be described as “Olympian.” Beyond daily research and practice all year long, each student spends four to six summer weeks of intensive study on the upcoming debate topic in a university program.

Equally important are the hundreds of hours of active support and intellectual guidance of their coach. Policy coach Chris Wolf took the team of Grimes and Groves to both local as well as national circuit tournaments monthly to ensure their adaptability to the wide-ranging national judge pool. In addition, it was Chris who recalled a Supreme Court case of Verdugo-Urquidez as it pertained to the 2001 policy topic. Dylan and Matt also talked to then State champs Gaurev Reddy ’01 and Kyle Warneck ’01 about the possibility of using that case under the 2006 topic of search and seizure and border security.

Convinced new evidence would show the problem still relevant, the ’06 seniors pursued the new affirmative case. Along the way to the national stage, the
debaters received help from an armada of alums: Tim Alderete '86, Vipin Narang '97, Adam Lauridsen '97, Alex D’Amour '04, and Brandon Garrett ’05, as well as Bellarmine assistant coaches Craig Wickersham ’02 and David Sepetka ’04. The support continued into the tightly knit policy debate community as coaches and students from St. Francis, Jesuit and Los Gatos High Schools spent hours researching and working through arguments with the Bellarmine team.

Another important question is how has Bellarmine had a student in the National final round of debate three of the last four years? (Chad Callaghan ’03 and Chris Lin ’05 were in the final rounds of Lincoln-Douglas Debate in 2003 and 2005.) All aspects of the debate program (Policy and Lincoln-Douglas events) are grounded in the philosophical and practical foundations of the modern debate program, begun almost 40 years ago by Director Emeritus, Jim Harville ’63. The secret to the success of the program is the prominence of the Jesuit ideal of service to one’s teammates and opponents.

The ability to communicate to a diverse, lay audience is at the very foundation of Jesuit education. Thus, students coach each other, especially the younger students, daily before and after school all year long. In addition, Bellarmine is the only program nationwide that requires debaters to compete in individual events as well. The ability to communicate to a diverse, lay audience is at the very foundation of Jesuit education. The student’s parents also play a role, as they judge and host tournaments, sometimes volunteering every weekend for months at a time.

Bellarmine’s administration supports the program in very real ways: beyond words of encouragement, Bellarmine supports the largest paid coaching staff in the country, and allows both teachers and students to miss occasional class time.

Another luxury that debaters from other schools only dream of is the support of our larger school community. Debaters rely on the breadth of their education in every round. Economics, statistics, history and literature are woven into every case and that knowledge they have gained from their Bellarmine teachers. Those same teachers and fellow students show the respect usually reserved for athletes toward our debate team, as they recognize that hard work toward any kind of excellence, whether athletic or academic, is to be honored.

I have always said, and only partly in jest, that when a debate coach passes on to her great reward, she goes to Bellarmine. We coaches count it very much a privilege to work with these young men at a pivotal point in their intellectual and moral development in such a demanding and rewarding activity. History shows that Bell debate grads reflect the combination of these skills and Jesuit values of service to others and a search for a more just world. As leaders in their colleges and later, in their communities, they often serve as a voice for those who society will not hear, and speak for those of justice denied.

Seventy-two members of the class of 2010 signed up to continue in the tradition of Vincent Mirrione, Eric Beerbohm, Adam Lauridsen, Mathew Grimes and Dylan Groves and that tradition is what sets Bellarmine Speech and Debate apart from the rest.
The worst thing that can happen is for your people to fall into the hands of a hero.

Frank Herbert

So many years, so many trials. It is not by accident that much-honored TV writer David Kelly frequently features courtroom settings in his dramas (“Boston Legal,” “Picket Fences,” “The Practice,” etc.). For him, like many other writers, the courtroom is a dynamic arena that gives dramatic reality to the sometimes overly abstract discussion of values, morality, and current events.

Years ago, in my younger and more vulnerable years as a teacher, it struck me, too, that in-class trials might be the way to get students on their feet, and make the issues in literature come to argumentative life. (Got the idea from *Up the Down Staircase.*

In the old junior-senior honors English class, which I team-taught with Jim Harville, we began trials about Dr. Dysart in “Equus,” or Mr. Conchis in *The Magus.*

Chris Block ’79 recalls being an attorney in one of those early days. “The role of Jesuit education is to allow people the opportunity to participate in life with both sleeves rolled up, and make sure that justice prevailed.”

One of the most memorable early judges in the trials was Craig Berry ’79 whose weak vision and thick glasses gave new meaning to “blind justice.” And who can forget how manipulative and over-the-top was one of the first witnesses played by Kit (Gross) Wilder ’79?

After experiments with other novels, such as the Huck Finn legal proceedings, the real breakthrough came with the first Dune Trial in 1980. Since then, in more than 100 trials conducted based on Herbert’s famous science fiction novel, seniors have been attorneys, witnesses (Paul, the Baron, Gurney, Rev. Mo, Shaddam, etc.), jurors, or judge/bailiffs. The trial as a whole is now a

**Witness under cross-examination.**

*The Sleeper Awakens*

By Tom Alessandri

Photography by Alexander Atkins
three-week adventure all oriented around the trial charge: “Paul Atreides is bad for society.” One alumnus, Sohrab Ghassemi ’98 says, “The Dune Trial was great because we were able to debate such relevant issues as religious fanaticism, access to energy resources, and environmental degradation.” Still others will remember the occasional battles royal between the Sardaukar and Stilgar — part of the reason I got gray as soon as I did.

Dune trials work best when the students really get into their roles. About seven years ago, one group of attorneys stole into Room 614 over the weekend and transformed the floor of the room with eight tons of sand, rock out-croppings, and several pounds of cinnamon powder. Another group of witnesses and attorneys brought in more than 50 large plants and turned the courtroom into an ecological preserve, even coloring the fluorescents with green paper.

“What did I do at school today? Well mom, today in class I got into a fight against a Fremen sand person with nerf guns and was held in contempt for doing a bad impression of a Southern attorney. What did you do?” says Chris Pecchenino ’05.

And so the trial begins. The prosecution makes its opening, beginning to argue that Paul is a dictator, subverts the Fremen dream, enables the coming jihad. Witnesses get called to the “rock of truth” (the witness seat) for five minutes of direct examination, followed by three minutes of cross-examination. Jessica screaming epithets when her son is maligned on the stand; Shaddam ordering his fanatic warriors to attack at the drop of a crysknife. And jurors struggling to make sense of a case whose evidence comes from a 560-plus page novel.

And, ah... the Baron V. Harkonnen — perhaps the most unique of characters in the history of the trial. Offers Adam Kingl ’89, “I had a collection of different hats at home (Moroccan fez, Chinese cap, etc.), so I decided — as the Baron — to cook a different dish each day during the trial, following the cuisine of that day’s new hat. The point was to be as distracting as possible, but only when Paul’s defense lawyers were speaking! On the last day, I mixed and baked a cake in the microwave. The judge let me finish the whole thing and then confiscated the cake before I could eat it. I’ll never forgive or forget.”

Omar Nakib ’94, now an attorney, also lims the Baron: “I have suffered all means of humiliations and tortures in the course of my existence, but none have been quite so sadistic, cruel, and memorable.” And, Eric Reyes ’81 suggests, “I decided to embody (the Baron’s) evil by showing up in a kind of lawyer-from-hell outfit.”

The 2006 spring classes (echoing a stunt from their ’99 brethren) took real ownership of the trial and got into Room 614 on the weekend and transformed the classroom floor into a desert oasis (read: nine cubic yards of sand and six pounds of cinnamon). One attorney team managed to cyber-steal their opponents’ case briefs before the trial began; another decided to come dressed as the crew from “The Love Boat.” And beloved Mick Markham ’86 and Terry Olson ’86 once created a 70-plus page binder of information and quotations and evidence only to lose their case... as did Olympian Pablo Morales ’83.

Paul Windust ’86 offers: “I recall the Dune Trial like it was yesterday. I have the same feeling today, as I did then, before I have to go argue a case for a real client – stomach turns a bit, get ready for the argument.” Scott Carter ’85 writes, “I do definitely remember that in all of my years of education (I went on to get a math degree/English minor at Cal Poly SLO), it was the most creative school project I was ever a part of, showing me how teaching could be fun, completely out-of-the-box, creative and educational.” Mike Wueste sums up being an attorney: “Losing the Dune Trial remains one of the most bitter experiences of my life.”

In the end, what do they learn? 1) How important a charismatic attorney can be; 2) how hard it can be to prove a likeable defendant guilty; 3) how rich and deep Herbert’s novel really is; 4) how to interact with a novel and each other; 5) how learning can sometimes be so much fun.
No other team has won the same event more than three years in a row. Our season concluded in Atlanta for nationals, where the team finished in fourth place. It was a very long and enjoyable ride, and Jason was dead on: we had a successful year.

Build season began in January when FIRST unveiled the year’s game. Each season, a new challenge is announced and this past season it was a game very similar to basketball. The objective was to shoot as many poof balls as possible into a 3-foot diameter hole. The hole was centered 8.5 feet from the ground and was slightly off vertical. Each ball that made it through the hole earned three points for an alliance. Balls could also be rolled through a hole on the ground for one point. Bonus points were awarded for winning autonomously and getting on a ramp at the end of the match.

Once we saw the objective for this year we knew exactly what we wanted to do: Build a robot that would be fast, with the ability to shoot balls into the top goal at an incredible rate. It needed to be versatile and able to play defense and offense and we would need to reload the hopper from both our human player behind the glass and from the floor of the field. To do this we developed a conveyer system that would suck the balls up from the floor and store them inside a hopper. From there we could drive a separate conveyer that would funnel the balls to our shooter, which was designed similar to a pitching machine in baseball.

The regional competition in Oregon allowed us to work many bugs out of the robot before the high profile regional match in San Jose. In Portland we went 7-2-1 during qualifying, giving us the fourth seed going into the playoffs when we chose our alliance. We chose to be the alliance captain for our team and 753 was our first pick. We chose this team for one reason: they were the only team during qualifying that prevented us from scoring. Our second pick was 1887, a rookie team out of Idaho that had a solid defensive robot that could also score in autonomously. There are eight alliances in the playoffs and alliances are put into brackets based on their seed. There are three best of three rounds, so to win it all a team needs to win six matches. We went 6-1 in the playoffs, losing only the second match of the finals by a few points due to a broken set screw on our shooter. During the second match of the quarter finals, we were down by about 15 points with 20 seconds left and we were being pinned by the other team and could not shoot. Bellarmine’s driver, Matt Yu ’07, was able to break free and with 10 seconds left in the match we scored 30 points to take the lead.

Excitement, innovation, competition: those make up the robotics season.

Rob Janke is a physics teacher and head coach of the robotics team.

Seniors Matt Wong (left) and Matt Yu, who drives the robot, are members of Bellarmine’s award-winning robotics team. They are standing with last year’s robot.
Chris Dempsey
Thirty-five years as a social science teacher, and coach of many Bellarmine athletic teams, Chris retired with his wife to the Portland, Oregon area.

**Positive changes:** The most positive change I have seen in my 35 years is the development of the total individual as a caring and doing young man and the movement toward diversity in both the student body and the faculty.

**What he misses:** The lunches (big time); the unexpected Christmas gifts from students. I will miss the laughter of the faculty when I say something stupid or maybe even funny. And I will miss the friendship I have received from faculty colleagues.

**Best memories:** About 18 years after graduation, Rick Caragher ’83 came back for a visit, and reminded me that long ago I had complimented his oral report and mentioned he might think about a career in education. He did just that and has loved every year of it. Best memory as a coach? Also, the end-of-year banquet for the ’86 CCS Champion tennis team. These guys gave me an engraved director’s chair, since I did so much sitting while leading them to victory — the chair is going with me to Oregon.

Mike Lowney
Thirty-six years as a chemistry teacher and coach.

**Best memories:** Coaching my four sons in football, watching my son Patrick win his second CCS championship in soccer, seeing the light bulb over students’ heads often go on in the classroom, and the friendships I have made with some wonderful football players.

**Colleagues who made a difference:** Frs. Wade, Cobb, McFadden, Shinney, as well as John Hanna, Brother Ryan, Leo Ruth, Mike Janda, Jim Harville and Tom Alessandri.

**Words of advice to students:** Be involved, keep up the Bell tradition and spirit, work hard and ‘Go Bells!’

Shannon Nessier
Seven years as an English teacher, yearbook moderator and swimming coach and omnipresent fan at most all school activities, Shannon is attending Hastings School of Law at UC Berkeley.

**Bellarmine experience:** The openness of the faculty... even on a bad day, I know my colleagues are constantly recommitting themselves to their vocation.

**What she misses:** The kids. Over the past seven years my daily contact with them has made me a richer person. I will miss their love and support, their confidences, and heartbreaks shared.

**Best memories:** Getting thrown in the pool at Stanford after we won CCS and Fr. McFadden telling me that we young lay teachers were the new scholastics — how honored I felt when he said that.

**Words of advice to students:** Make sure every student knows their life is a gift from God. Live that life with unrelenting passion.

Patricia Page
Patricia left Bellarmine in 2000 and began working for the AVID program at the County Office of Education. AVID is a college prep elective for underserved students with the potential and desire to go to college. She trains, coaches, and supports teachers in four different counties. Also, she married Cliff Jolley in 2003 and they live in Morgan Hill.

Kim Jones
Kim was inducted into the National Forensic League’s Hall of Fame in April 2006 at Sierra College in Rocklin, Calif. Kim was introduced for her award by fellow Hall of Fame member Jim Harville. Kim is currently the assistant director of admissions.
Sponsor a Student—Change a Life

During the 2006-2007 academic year, more than 300 Bellarmine students will benefit from financial aid. In many cases these young men would not otherwise be able to attend Bellarmine, and some have parents who are facing unexpected economic hardships. Regardless of the situation, their educational opportunities are supported through Bellarmine’s $2 million financial aid program.

The belief of educating every qualified student is rooted in the Jesuit tradition, but it is only made possible by the generous nature of the Bellarmine community. Every year, alumni, parents, friends, and even grandparents make donations to Bellarmine’s financial aid program, which includes an endowment fund and direct aid program.

All gifts designated for direct aid are used in the year they are given. Bellarmine’s financial aid endowment generates almost half of the $2 million financial aid budget, while the direct aid program makes up the other half. Some donors prefer to support financial aid through gifts to the endowment, knowing that their original gift will never be used, but rather will forever generate a 5 percent payout annually. These are two different ways to support financial aid at Bellarmine, and both are vital to the financial health of the school.

Some donors are able to establish a named endowment fund to honor or memorialize a friend, family member, teacher, coach, or person of their choosing. These funds can be designated to support financial aid, academics, athletics, co-curriculars, and spiritual programs. The fund is then managed through the school’s overall endowment and invested to provide annual support while preserving the principal. For example, a $25,000 gift generates $1,250 in annual support.

Gifts that are specified for direct aid provide just that—direct financial aid to a student in need. Many donors choose to commit a four-year pledge, which helps secure tuition funding for a specific student throughout his time at Bellarmine. Donors who sponsor a student receive a letter of appreciation from the sponsored student and in many cases arrangements can be made for a face-to-face introduction.

Whether you are considering a gift to Bellarmine’s financial aid program through direct aid, the general endowment, or even through a named endowment, know that your generosity makes a difference in a young man’s life.

For more information about Bellarmine’s financial aid program or to sponsor a student, contact the Advancement Office at 408.294.9224.

Pension Protection Act Provides New Giving Opportunity

With the passage of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, Congress has made it advantageous for individuals to make charitable gifts from Individual Retirement Accounts. This tax provision permits people over the age of 70 1/2 to make cash donations of up to $100,000 from their IRAs in 2006 and 2007 to charitable organizations without adverse income tax consequences. For more information or to determine if this is a good opportunity for you, we encourage you to consult your tax advisor or contact Ron Pine, Sr. Esq. ’57, counsel for major and planned gifts at rpine@bcp.org or 408.537.9220.
The Bellarmine Mothers’ Guild held its 52nd annual fashion show for financial aid, “Silhouettes of Style,” in November at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. More than 1,900 guests attended an afternoon and evening show that featured contemporary fashions from local stores modeled by Bellarmine students, moms, faculty, and staff and female students from local high schools. An estimated $200,000 was raised to benefit Bellarmine’s financial aid program.
The 11th Annual Fr. Joe Costa, S.J. ’41 Bocce Ball Tournament hosted a record-breaking 48 teams and more than 220 alumni spanning seven decades to Campo di Bocce in Los Gatos on July 22.

With the thermometer breaking new marks as the crowd played under the intense 107˚ heat, the tournament crowned its second set of repeat champions in Phil Albanese ’04, Andy Alves ’03, Michael Glomb ’03, and Andrew Kawahara ’03. They outlasted the field to join the ranks of Tubby Ferrari ’35 and Charlie Reitano ’39, who won the tournament in 1998 and 1999 when it was played on the infield of Bob Fatjo Field. They earned their second title with a 13-7 victory over the team of Kevin Albanese ’92, Mike Donahue ’92, Steve Giachetti ’92, and Mark Imelli ’92.

The event was clearly a success largely due to the remarkable efforts of Tom Albanese ’64 and his attentive staff at Campo di Bocce. Alums snacked on Italian food and quenched their thirst with soda and beer throughout the afternoon.

To view the complete photo album of the bocce ball tournament, visit www.gobells.org.

Below: Bob Grover ’65, Keith Dorsa ’71, Joe Melehan ’71, and Mark Block ’71.

The 19th Annual Bellarmine Alumni Golf Classic presented by Comerica was held on Monday, October 9 at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club with more than 180 alumni participating in the event.

Spearheaded by Chairman Anthony Saglimbeni ’81 and the Alumni Golf Committee, the golfers were treated to a full day including an outing to the Mobile Titleist Pro Shop, the Cigar Bar and a BBQ between nine’s hosted by Steve Pera ’75 and Jason Pera ’99.

Following the round of golf, the group gathered for dinner and a raffle where more than $40,000 was raised for Bellarmine’s Financial Aid Program.

The Golf Classic was organized by the golf committee consisting of Anthony Saglimbeni ’81, Mark Block ’70, John Callan ’65, Todd Duncan ’95, Dominic Giacalone ’90, Chuck Gillingham ’86, Matt Mingrone ’86, Ken Mobeck ’88, Scott O’Brien ’90, Tony Sortino ’49, and Jim Vanderbosch ’86.

The Golf Classic’s success is made possible by the generous donations from community businesses. Normandin Chrysler Jeep, Capitol Buick-Pontiac-GMC and Glenn Hartzheim’s Dodge donated vehicles as hole-in-one prizes. Los Gatos Brewing Company, ME Fox Distributors and Pepsi sponsored beverages for the event. Michelelli & Associates was this year’s driving range sponsor.

Mark your calendars for October 8, 2007 for the 20th Annual Alumni Golf Classic.
Half a Century: Half a Decade

The class of 1956 celebrated its “Golden Jubilee” in June with more than 70 members of the class returning to the hallowed halls of Bellarmine. The weekend activities included a class-only BBQ on Friday evening followed by the reunion dinner Saturday night, which also included alumni dating back to the class of 1929. In total more than 300 people attended the Saturday reunion dinner.

In July the class of 2001 returned to campus for its 5-year reunion. The afternoon BBQ allowed more than 90 classmates to reminisce and share stories with the faculty and staff in attendance.

For complete photos and stories about the summer reunions, visit www.gobells.org.

Top: James White '56, Steve Guss '56 and Larry Atwell '56 celebrate a few stories about Bellarmine in the mid-50’s as Atwell was a former resident student and Guss was making his first appearance on Bellarmine’s campus since 1956. Center: Scott Siegfried '01, Dan Judnick '01, Matt Mahan '01 and Bellarmine faculty member Jose Molina at the Class of 2001 reunion. Bottom: John Sobrato '56, Bellarmine Chancellor Fr. Jerry Wade, S.J. ’55 and Dr. Jim Vaudagna ’44 at the 50-Year reunion honoring the class of 1956. Once alumni reach their 50th reunion, they are welcome back each year. Dr. Vaudagna and his classmates from 1944 usually have one of the largest contingencies thanks to the efforts of Stan Rose ’44.
More than 1,500 people participated in Grand Reunion Weekend 2006 as Bellarmine welcomed back the classes of 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996 and all former resident students. The festivities kicked off on Friday, September 29 with a golf outing at San Jose Municipal Golf Course and for the non-golfers the opportunity to “shadow” a current student and attend classes followed by lunch with the faculty. The evening brought more than 950 people to San Jose City College for the 25th Annual Football Tailgate presented by the Bellarmine Alumni Council. Halftime honorees were the members of the 1946 and 1956 undefeated football teams. On Saturday, more than 500 alumni and guests returned to campus for class receptions and dinner in Liccardo Center. The resident students were treated to the unveiling of the new “Resident Student Plaza” located outside O’Donnell Hall as well as having the opportunity to leave behind their video memoirs of residential life for a future project on the history of residential life at Bellarmine. The weekend came to a close with a “state-of-the-school” address by President Fr. Paul Sheridan, S.J., as he informed the crowd of some of the projects happening at Bellarmine, including the completion of the newly renovated Mathewson Library, the FieldTurf playing surface for the soccer field and in the foul territory of Bob Fatjo Field as well as the new turf being installed next summer on Ghiorso Field.
GRAND REUNION WEEKEND 2007

The alumni office has already begun preparation for this year’s activities, which will include the classes of 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992 and 1997 for Grand Reunion Weekend 2007 to be held on September 14 - 15. If you would like to assist with your reunion activities, please contact Alumni Director John Callan ‘89 at 408.537.9230 or (888) GO BELLS, ext. 230 or jcallan@bcp.org.

Top Row (l–r): Jim Foley ’97, Brendan Horgan ’97, and Thomas Bisceglia ’97 taking a break from barbequing at the annual Football Tailgate and Reunion. Michelle and Robert Ahearn ’81 and Don ’81 and Peggy Blach. Former resident students Matt Noonan ’67, Marshall Moran ’68, and Jim Muenzer ’67 reminisce about life in the residence halls. Kellyann Lamb, Dawn Wood, Winston Wood ’86 and Rob Lamb ’86 were part of the largest 20 year reunion in school history. Bottom Row: Joe Scheid ’62, Mark Franich ’62, Don Imwalle ’63 and Ron Covington ’62. Student body president Alex Bozzo ’07 (son of Gus ’80) takes a photo with former boarders Dan Bozzo ’76 (Alex’s uncle), Bart Tiernan ’76 and Bob Tiernan ’73 at the new Resident Student Plaza located outside O’Donnell Hall. Ken Doran ’76, Bob Phelan and Jack Maitre ’86 gather outside the Leontyne Chapel during the class receptions. Longtime Resident Student Director Pat Taylor (left) with his wife Mary Taylor, Greg Pruett ’78, and Gus Bozzo ’80.

Event photography: Al Bacosa; studio photography: Alexander Atkins
40s

1944
Alums from the class of ’44 gathered to celebrate Jim Vaudagna’s 80th birthday at the Fairmont in San Jose on January 6. Pictured here (l-r) are Bob Ferrari, Jack Smrekar, Jim Vaudagna, Sam Rose and Sam Schaeffer.

1945
E. Jackson Going and his wife, Audrey, recently retired to Lafayette, Louisiana.

1947
Jack Bartlett helped to build houses with Habitat for Humanity last year in Chile, Malaysia, Korea and Cambodia.

Bells Take Reunion Cruise
Alumni from the class of 1954 created their own mini reunion over the summer of 2006 when they gathered with their wives and two couples from Willow Glen High School’s class of ’53 for a trip to Vancouver and cruise to Alaska. The alumni were celebrating their collective 70th birthdays. Coincidentally, they also ran into Linda and Bill Gianinni ’59 while at sea. Pictured in top row (l-r) are Bob Pace, JB Howeard, Jim Healey, Jim Pfaff, Mike McBride. Second row: Tony Passarelli (WGHS), Ron Pieracci, Pat Passarelli (WGHS), Ann Pfaff, Marje McBride and Lou Valli. Third row: Chuck and Joan Buckley, Sue Howard, Katie Pace, Betty Pieraccio, Elaine Healey, Maureen Valli, Nan and Bob Boitano (WGHS).

50s

1950
Gerald DeNardo, MD, professor emeritus of internal medicine, radiology and pathology at UC Davis, and his wife, Sally DeNardo, MD, a senior professor in the departments of Internal Medicine (Hematology/Oncology) and Radiology (Nuclear Medicine) at UC Davis, spoke at the 25th Annual Philip M. Johnson Memorial Lecture at the New York Academy of Medicine Section on Nuclear Medicine and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Department of Radiology, in May. They spoke about recent advances in radioimmunotherapy.

1951
Gerald Terranova has four children, two grandchildren and one great-grandson and celebrates his 50th wedding anniversary this year. He retired in 1999.

1955
Joseph Rosso received the President’s Volunteer Service Award from President Bush in April. He was honored for his dedication to the elderly at the Willows Senior Center, where he teaches computer classes.

1958
William Del Biaggio was recognized as “Father of the Year” by the Father’s Day Council - Silicon Valley at an awards dinner in June.

1970
Joe Lanzone welcomed his first grandson, Joseph Alan Lanzone, on October 27, 2006.

1974
San Jose City Councilmember Dave Cortese was named vice mayor of San Jose in January, under newly elected Mayor Chuck Reed.

1975
Michael Schmitt was appointed president and CEO of Sidercan Software in El Segundo, California.

1976
Ted Terrazas is chairman and chief executive officer of THI. He was recently awarded the Latin Pride Magazine Businessman of the Year award at an event in Andover, Massachusetts, honoring Latinos.

1977
Peter Kirwan was appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to Santa Clara County’s bench, as a Superior Court judge, last year.

1979
Fr. Kevin Connell, S.J., was recently appointed principal of Gonzaga Preparatory High School in Spokane, Washington.

60s

1960
Hugh F. Mullin III recently retired from the Santa Clara County Superior Court and moved to Cambria, California with his wife, Anna.

1975
Michael Schmitt was appointed president and CEO of Sidercan Software in El Segundo, California.

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Fr. Kevin Connell, S.J., was recently appointed principal of Gonzaga Preparatory High School in Spokane, Washington.

Thomas J. Ferrari Jr. graduated from USC in 1981 with a BA in mechanical engineering. He worked at Exxon Mobil Refining and Supply in Torrance, CA. He and his wife, Susan, and son James live in Rancho Palos Verdes.
80s

1980
Steve Moreno and his wife, Monica, welcomed the birth of Ana Lucia on October 25, 2005.


The San Francisco 49ers hired Jude Barry to help them gain political support for a new stadium in Santa Clara. Barry is a longtime Sacramento lobbyist.

Greg Pilska married Jessica Switzer in Manhattan on June 3, 2006. Their marriage was profiled in the Sunday addition of the New York Times Style section on June 25, 2006 highlighting their passion for crossword puzzles.

1981
Jack Going and his wife, Mary Kay, celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in December 2006. Jack is a nurse at O’Connor Hospital in San Jose and Mary Kay is the director of curriculum and instruction with Santa Clara Unified School District. They live in Santa Clara with their three daughters, Laura, 17; Megan, 13; and Katie, 9.

1982
Steve Eckstrom and his wife, Julie, welcomed the birth of William Joseph on January 11, 2006.

1983
Scott Asher was named chairman of the Football Game Operations Committee for the 2007 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl and the 2007 BCS National Championship Game. He was also appointed to the Board of Directors for the Arizona Chapter of the National Football Foundation/College Football Hall of Fame.

Kenneth Palattao and his wife, Julie, welcomed the birth of their third child, Kristian Edward-Robert on December 5, 2005. He joins older siblings, Kenneth Agustin-Dolorfino Jr. and Kalli Anne-Marie.

1984
Scott Swall and his wife, Gretchen, recently welcomed the birth of Charles Duke.

1985
Ron Caragher was appointed head football coach for the University of San Diego.

Alec Lee and his wife, Melissa, welcomed the birth of Jason Philip on August 28, 2006.

1986
Paul Windust graduated from USC’s Law School and passed the bar in 1993. He currently practices business and real estate litigation with the Berding & Weil LLP firm in Alamo, California. He and his wife, Elizabeth, and three daughters, Ashley, Kayla, and Reese, live in Danville.

1987
Steve Santucci and his wife, Peggy, welcomed the birth of twins, Sophia and Juliana, on June 1, 2006.

Santa Clara County prosecutor Sam Liccardo won the city council race for San Jose’s District 3.

1988
Ian Champeny was appointed as a planning commissioner for the City of Santa Clara in 2005.

Paul Tamayo and his wife, Marian, welcomed the birth of Philip Paul, on October 2, 2006.

1989
Jonathan D’Amico and his wife, Gina, welcomed the birth of Christopher James on February 22, 2006.

Matthew Kazmierzczak and Amanda Torres welcomed the birth of Aleksander on October 2, 2006.

David Imahara and his wife, Kari, welcomed the birth of Matthew James on May 3, 2006. They live in Atlanta, Georgia.


Sargeant Kent Crandall ’89 shows his Bell pride in front of his up-armored humvee. Crandall is currently leading a psychological operations team for the US Army Reserves in Salah-ad-Din Province, Iraq.

90s

1990
Scott O’Brien and his wife, Lara, recently welcomed the birth of Charles Thomas.

Paul Canavese and his wife, Ann Naffziger, welcomed the birth of Madeleine Grace on July 11, 2006. Paul works as a software engineer, creating games for mobile phones at Digital Chocolate in San Mateo.

A Bell at the Ballpark

I have known Dave and Tracie Frandsen for more than 30 years. My son Taylor ’04 and I went to Giants spring training in March of 2005 and Gary Cunningham, Bellarmine’s baseball coach, and I went to the Arizona Fall League for the top prospects later that year. So, when we heard Kevin Frandsen ’00 had been called up from the Minor Leagues to play for the San Francisco Giants, I knew I could not miss his first night in the Big Leagues.

We arrived right as the gates opened at 5:15 p.m. and went down to watch the end of the Giants’ batting practice. We talked to Kevin and his dad, as well as John Shrader, whose son Ben ’00 was Kevin’s classmate at Bellarmine. Kevin told us he was in the starting line-up and it was an amazing thrill to see his name up on the scoreboard. But that was nothing compared to what happened later during the game.

When they announced the starting line-ups, “and making his major league debut at second base, number 8, Kevin Frandsen,” it sent a chill down my spine. As the game went on, the excitement over what Kevin was doing just seemed to grow and grow. He ended up going 3 for 4 without an HBP and was named “player of the game” on the post-game radio show. It was a very special night and the groundswell of support and excitement for Kevin was truly amazing to behold. I am just glad I could be there.

Mark Riese is a biology teacher at Bellarmine.
I. It's 2:30 in the afternoon and the sun sank about an hour ago. The clouds on the horizon mean that it is going to be a rough night, probably a gale, but we are on the fish and if the fishermen don't sleep, neither do I. Working 20-hour days for months on end, in the worst possible conditions, cold, wet, and tired, these are the fishermen of the Bering Sea. Luckily, I just watch.

As a fishery observer stationed in the North Pacific, my job entails working alongside fishermen to collect biological data vital to managing the world's second largest fishery. This boils down to counting fish, a lot of fish. In a single day, one boat can harvest upwards of 300 metric tons of fish. This program represents the National Marine Fisheries Service's attempt to gain independent information about the size of each catch and the composition of untargeted species, or bycatch, and has helped in the North Pacific stand out as the world's best model of sustainable fisheries management.

My study of conservation biology began at Bellarmine in Mr. McCullough's AP Environmental Science class, where I began to understand our role as stewards for the environment. To me this translated into protecting our natural places and resources for future generations. With 75 percent of the world's fisheries overfished it is important for us as consumers to be conscious of the seafood choices we make and understand where and how your seafood is caught is crucial to making informed decisions.

My experience in Alaska helped me realize that I share the same goal as the hard-working fishermen I observed - to sustain wild fish populations for generations to come.

Todd R. Hallenbeck '01 graduated with honors in Marine Science from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2005.

Anthony Passarelli, his wife, Angela and daughter Sophia, 5, welcomed the birth of Joseph Anthony on January 9, 2006.


Adam Kingl and his wife, Beth, recently moved to Richmond, Surrey in the UK. Adam works in London for a consulting company called Just Add Water that specializes in using academic research combined with theatrical techniques to shift organizational behavior and create culture change in businesses.

1991 Paul Brust and his wife, Bonnie, recently welcomed the birth of Molly Ruth.

Harry Kim and his wife, Christina, welcomed the birth of Lincoln Elia on July 4, 2006.

James Roosevelt, MBA, CFRE was appointed director of development for the San Jose Repertory Theatre in April 2006.

Tomas Duran and his wife, Lorena, welcomed the birth of Tomasito.

Roger F. Liu and his wife, Alexandra, welcomed the birth of Aliana Ya-Li on February 13, 2006. Roger is an attorney at Miller, Morton, Caillat, & Nevis, in San Jose.

Jason Mair celebrated his five-year anniversary with wife, Amy, in 2006. They live in Colorado, where Jason teaches English and coaches wrestling at Powell Middle School in Littleton, CO.

Aristomenis Capogeannis married Lesley Kana at the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church on June 17, 2006. They live in San Jose.

1992 Chris Pietsch and his wife, Melaina, recently welcomed the birth of Max Cameron. They live in Portland, Oregon and Chris recently finished his Master's in Teaching from the University of Portland.

Juston Whittall and his wife, Stephanie Schaefer, welcomed the birth of Riley Bryant on May 1, 2005. He joins older sister Emma Rose. Justen is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California-Davis and Stephanie is a corporate attorney.

Joseph Sarti works as a personal trainer and strength coach in the Bay Area.

1993 Mark S. Pedretti was awarded the doctorate in rhetoric from the University of California-Berkeley at graduation in May. He worked as a teaching assistant and as a graduate student instructor and was named outstanding graduate student instructor in 2004. He plans to pursue an academic career.

Adam Zotovich earned a degree in theatre and dance from Santa Clara University. He studied at the Alley School and performed with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. He was featured in Susan Stroman’s Tony Award-winning production of “Contact” at Lincoln Center and also appeared in the PBS television special. He performed in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular with his wife, Tina, a Rockette. Adam performed in the Broadway revival of “Fiddler on the Roof” and can be seen in the film version of the musical “The Producers.” He made his debut as a producer on Broadway with the musical adaptation of “The Color Purple” and was nominated for a Tony award. He is about to produce a musical version of the film “Legally Blonde.”


Dr. Philip Dieter recently graduated from Life Chiropractic College West, earning his Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.) degree. Phil graduated magna cum laude, and earned an award for clinical excellence. He works at the Almaden Chiropractic Center in San Jose.

Sean Howley is attending the University of Central Florida, double majoring in film and marketing with an emphasis in the entertainment field.
Nathaniel Trola and his wife, Michelle, welcomed the birth of their second child, August Joseph-McGraw, on October 11, 2006, in Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

1995
Evelien Verpeet and Matthew Certa ’95 were married on August 19, 2006 at Corpus Christi Church in Piedmont, California.

Bryan Vanderhoof and his wife, Laurie, welcomed the birth of Camden on March 4, 2006.

Derrick Lung and Audrey Chan were married on September 16, 2006 in Palo Alto. They are currently in their second year of residency training in Washington, D.C.

Matthew Hutaff married Megan Hanley on September 28, 2002 in San Jose. They both graduated from the University of Southern California. Matt has a degree in print journalism and cinema and television and is Webmaster at Scripps College in Southern California. They live in Pasadena, California.

1996
Blake Elliott married Heather North on July 8, 2006. Bellarmine alumni in attendance were Chris Cummins, Paul Garcia, Blake Elliott, Randy Webber, and Richard Haun.

1997
Edward Munoz and his wife, Anna, welcomed the birth of Edward Antonio on May 28, 2006. They live in Cheyenne, WY.

William Neeley received a Ph.D. in biological chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in February 2006.

Rev. Jonathan Scanlon was ordained on July 9, 2006 and installed as a pastoral resident at Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

1998
Mark DeGuzman has been performing with Singles For Christ Ministry, to raise money to build houses for the poor and homeless in the Philippines.

Michael DeLong graduated in 2004 from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a major in landscape architecture and a minor in construction management. He works for Beals Alliance, Inc.

Alex Orquiza is beginning his doctoral studies in history at Johns Hopkins University in the fall. Since finishing his master’s degree at the University of Edinburgh in 2005 he has been working in the non-profit community in living in San Francisco.

Mark Pogson is pursuing a Ph.D. in molecular/cell biology at the University of Texas at Austin.

Jay Ryu studied architecture and played water polo at UC-Berkeley and is currently an architect working in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on the Burj Dubai Tower, which will be the world’s tallest building when completed in 2008.

Michael Hutaff married Stephanie Page on June 25, 2005 in Monarch Beach, California. Mike and Stephanie both graduated from the University of Southern California in May 2003. Mike graduated cum laude with a degree in architecture. He works at RNM Design. Attending the wedding were Mitch Herschbach ’98, Joe Tersini, and John Malloy ’98 (pictured above). They live in Ladera Ranch, California.

1999
Robert Gay married Elysia Jennett in May 2004. He works as a field biologist with the California Condor Reintroduction Project in Northern Arizona.

Justin Katz graduated from the Krannert School of Business at Purdue University in May 2006. He is now working at Lockheed Martin-Space Systems in the Bay Area.

Michael Sisois is working in sales at Atmel Corp. and living in San Jose.

Aaron Thompson was invited back for the Tournament of Champions and his second appearance on Jeopardy! He was a semifinalist, and won $10,000.

nyone who went on the very first of Bellarmine’s immersion trips to Tijuana will no doubt remember many things about that trip in the spring of 1993. When it began, we all saw Mr. Wolf’s (known as Sr. Lobo in Tijuana) look of abject horror when he learned we had not made provisions for coffee. We all were duly impressed when Lobo and Howard Major came up with a method of filtering the coffee through toilet paper in order to feed Mr. Wolf’s caffeine fix.

But perhaps the most memorable part of this trip was the mis-adventures with our very well-intentioned but generally misguided intern, Chris. She worked for Amor Ministries, the host organization for our service trip. First, Chris had us cut every 12-foot 2 x 4 to a length 6 inches too short. She repeatedly chastised us all to be wary of a pit, which had been dug (about eight feet deep) for a future latrine; it had not yet been used — it was only filled with trash — but the depth did present a hazard. As luck would have it, the Bellarmine crew all managed to steer clear of the pit, but Chris herself fell into it on the last day. Moments later, Sr. Lobo leapt in to save our intern. Fortunately, no one was hurt, but it certainly did give us all a good laugh.

The crowning misadventure with Chris came on the final day. We had gotten up before dawn and anticipating a long drive from Tijuana to San Jose, we packed our possessions into a pickup truck and bus. Two hours later, everything was packed tightly and the students were loaded on the bus. Just as we were about to drive off, Chris came running up, telling us that her plane ticket was packed with our stuff. The groan from the bus could have been heard miles away as I told the students what had happened. Some were of a mind just to let her figure it out on her own — but in our effort to be “men for others,” we searched the bus — and fortunately, quickly found her ticket, and told Amor Ministries that we could get by just fine without an intern next year!

As remembered by Chris Meyercord ’88.

Rodger O’Brien ’86 (left) and Chris Meyercord ’88 celebrate their third trip to Tijuana with Bellarmine students, faculty and staff in 1995.
Melvin Alegria earned a bachelor’s degree from Cal Poly Pomona in apparel merchandising management with an emphasis in apparel production. He works as a production planner at American Apparel in Los Angeles. He’s been a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve since 2002, and is ranked corporal and specializes in logistics. Melvin is attached to a special operations unit known as 3D ANGLICO (Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company).

2000
Dan Riley finished his first year of work in Teach America. He teaches 7th grade social studies students in Warren County, North Carolina.

2001
Jeffrey Benford joined Alain Pinel Realtors in Los Gatos.

Jamal Ratchford received his M.A. from Purdue University in May. He is now pursuing a Ph.D. in history at Purdue and plans to become a college professor.

The Quarter-life Crisis

It has been called the quarter-life crisis — that point in the life of the early 20-something when college graduation has come and gone, the initial excitement about the first paycheck has worn off, and the anxiety about the future sets in. Mine happened two or so years ago while working in Boston, after being out of college for a year, and following the fading glow of the Red Sox season to remember.

I worked at a very interesting investment job, was learning a lot about accounting, energy, food, and finance, but lacked an outlet outside of work to put the work week into a larger perspective. Thus the crisis.

I started a personal reading campaign. I thought about joining a softball league. Rowing before work. I sang in church. But none of it really worked until I found Dorchester. I signed up to teach a weekly music class to 7-12-year-olds in a foster care program outside of Boston. On my first visit, I met a group of boys that were very confused about my work clothes, and why I wanted to clap to the beats of songs and talk about instruments with them. But we dove in together. Over the course of the next two years, we became friends, shared some fantastic performances of Disney songs, learned some new hip-hop tunes, clapped beats, and attempted some tragically hip dance moves. Initially, the 7-mile drive to class was marked with stressful looks down at a Blackberry and rapt attention listening to “Marketplace” on NPR, but as the months went by, and I became confident that I was unimportant enough at work to allow a two-hour break from e-mail once a week, those hours became a welcome and appreciated period of release, including a vastly different set of responsibilities and concerns to punctuate the experience.

For the first couple of years after college, I considered the “man for others” motto as an ideal that was set up in spite of, or in opposition to, personal and career development. “Being” for others was something that I would do once I had figured out who I was as a man — once I had firmly established a career and family life, or had built up the maximum amount of “potential energy”... and that process was going to take a while. The experience of the quarter-life crisis has revised this hypothesis, as I realized that personal development and living the motto are by no means exclusive.

That time spent in Dorchester added a dimension that would have remained lacking if I had continued to look inward, and gave me a renewed and tremendous appreciation for the wisdom of the old high school motto. While the message was broadcast loud and clear during my time on campus, it took a few years of flailing through the beginning of a career to remember that the “man for others” is not fully developed and mature before beginning to serve, rather the “man” is developed through that service to others.

Dave Mount ’99 graduated from Yale in 2003, and after some experience in investment banking, he is pursuing an MBA from Stanford.

2002
Matthew Lombaerde graduated from Santa Clara University in June 2006 with a bachelor of science degree and is working at BAE Systems in San Jose.

Devin Custodio graduated from UC-Davis with bachelor’s degree in managerial economics. He works in the corporate treasury for Agilent Technologies in Santa Clara.

David Fisher is a police officer in Mountain View, California.

James Tripiano and Tyler Kendall graduated from the United States Naval Academy on May 26, 2006. Jim is currently the strike officer aboard the USS San Jacinto in Norfolk, Virginia. And, Tyler is waiting to begin flight school in Pensacola, Florida.

Paul Baker recently graduated cum laude and major distinction from Sonoma State University. He is pursuing a career in education and is studying for his credential at San Diego State University. He plans on teaching second or third graders.

Paul Buxton graduated from Gonzaga University in 2006 with a B.S. in computer science, and moved to Richland, Washington (Tri-Cities) to work for a software company.
Ken Finn graduated magna cum laude with distinction in biology from UCSD in spring 2006. He will pursue his Ph.D. in fall 2006 at UCSF.

Leland Ivy graduated summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, and as the ranking senior scholar in the Economics and Spanish departments from Morehouse College last May. He works in the Structured Products Group at Goldman, Sach & Company in New York City.

Brian McCullough graduated early from Ithaca College and worked on AIDSWalk in San Francisco as a team coordinator. He is now in graduate school at Texas A&M.

James Rozzi graduated from Bentley College in Boston, Massachusetts and is working at AIG - Lexington Insurance as an underwriter.

2003 Nicholas Adams was inducted in to the Silicon Valley Rotaract Club. The club is composed of a group of young professionals who are dedicated to making an impact in the community through service, and social and networking events.

Justin Yu completed his junior year in the School of Hospitality Administration at Boston University. He interned at The Peninsula Hotel in Chicago last summer.

Danny Coble was named NSCAA All-American for Johns Hopkins men’s soccer team.

Patrick Armstrong earned a spot on UC-Berkeley’s basketball team during his fourth try as a walk-on. He is a pre-law double major in political science and African-American studies. Last year, he received the UC Berkeley Student Life Achievement and Winged Helmet Student Activity awards, as well as the Cal Alumni Association Leadership award and the National 100 Black Men Community Involvement award.

Nearly 50 young alumni from the classes of 2003-2006 returned to campus on December 21 to enjoy a poker tournament, pizza and a visit from Santa. Leonid Rozkin ’06 won the tournament, outlasting Kyle Wulff ’06 for the title. This first annual event was hosted by Bellarmine’s Alumni Office, with a lot of help from volunteer moms. Graduates from 2003 are listed from left to right: Back: Chris Vieria, Patrick Heil, Cody Guerrero, and Matt Rechenmacher. Front: Nicholas Adams.

2006 Bellarmine’s most recent graduates from the class of 2006 (photo below) joined fellow alumni from the classes of 1976 through 2006 on campus for a reunion on the soccer field on December 26. More than 45 alumni played and nearly 60 alumni attended the game. Attendees also shared a BBQ co-sponsored by the Alumni Office and the current parents.

Lifelong Lessons Learned

I am currently in my third year of law school at UC-Davis and after graduation I will work at an environmental and land use firm in Sacramento. When people at my school ask me what I studied in college, I generally get a blank stare when I tell them, “Paleontology. You know, dinosaurs.” They then invariably comment, with varying degrees of sarcasm, on how useful that degree will prove in legal practice. Their sarcasm is misplaced, however, because lessons learned in one area provide invaluable insight into others.

I find myself often turning to lessons learned while at Bellarmine. Every paper I write, I draw on knowledge gleaned from the exceptional English department. My decision to not pursue a degree in evolutionary biology was influenced, at least in some part, by the Dune Trial in Mr. Alessandri’s Science Fiction Lit class. (If he knew that exercise inadvertently bred more lawyers he might reconsider it.) I am currently tutoring a Constitutional Law class, and Fr. Clemo’s AP U.S. History class keeps jumping to the top of my mind. And Mr. Wong’s Biology AP class laid the foundation necessary to understand the science that drives many environmental policy decisions.

Outside of the Bellarmine classrooms, the oral argument skills that I acquired in forensics have had obvious value in law school. Additionally, the discipline that I learned from Mr. Ward during cross country carries over into both the classroom and other aspects of my life.

Most of all, my time at Bellarmine taught me that all of those lessons must be applied with an equal commitment to service and social justice. I have tried to honor that call with my work at the law school’s outreach program. I know that I speak for the other Bells at my school when I say that we all still try to live as men for others.

Jack McKenna ’97 is studying law at UC-Davis.
Benjamin Sumner

Benjamin Sumner, a class of 2004 Bellarmine alumnus, was well-known and well-loved for his tireless commitment to his role as editor-in-chief of the Carillon yearbook and his service work on campus.

Ben was double-majoring in computer science and philosophy as a sophomore at UC-San Diego at the time of his death on March 28, 2006. While skiing with friends in Tahoe, Ben died following an accidental fall. News of his passing spread quickly throughout the Bellarmine community, where his younger brother, Eric, is a junior. Faculty and staff shared their favorite stories and photos of this beloved alumnus, known to many by his nickname, “Benhameen.”

A memorial honoring his life was held in the Leontyne Chapel, where hundreds of friends, family members, and teachers shared stories of his love for his family, his friends, and his schools — Almaden Country School, Bellarmine and UC-San Diego — and his love of skiing, music, movies, Star Trek and gaming. He was affectionately referred to as an “old soul” and was considered to be a true Renaissance man.

Yearbook moderator Dmitri Conom ’98 concluded his remarks at the memorial with a quote from one of Ben’s favorite television and movie characters, Admiral James T. Kirk from “Star Trek II, The Wrath of Khan.” “Of my friend, I can only say this: Of all the souls I have encountered in my travels, his was the most... human.”

Shortly after, a memorial fund was established in Ben’s name, as the community continued to look for ways to honor his life and the impact he left on the school. The inaugural Ben Sumner Memorial Award was given to Andy Miller ’06 at graduation in recognition of a yearbook editor who “went above and beyond” what was expected to get the job done.

Under Ben’s leadership, the yearbook earned Gold Medal awards and First Class Rankings from various organizations. He even returned to campus as an alumnus to help the new yearbook staff get a jump start on their next issue. Ben was also a member of Bellarmine’s Service club. Much of his leadership on campus was recognized upon graduation when he received the school’s General Excellence award.

Ben is survived by his mother, Shelley, and his younger brother Eric ’08.
1945
William Francis Joesten

1946
Duane Damon
Unknown
Frank Fabbro
Unknown. Father of John ’77, Frank ’78, and Michael ’85.

1947
Larry Florio
June 6, 2006

1948
Michael Scalercio
April 21, 2005

1949
Michael Scalercio
April 21, 2005

1950
Michael Scalercio
April 21, 2005

1951
Michael Scalercio
April 21, 2005

1952
Gary Ariente
April 22, 2006

1953
William Serrano
May 8, 2006
Richard F. Venezia
June 9, 2006

1954
John L. Ahearn, Jr.
March 4, 2006. Brother of Dennis A. Ahearn ’56 and former Bellarmine staff member.

1955
Tristam B. Brown
February 28, 2005
Cletus D. Laundrie
July 18, 2006
Tom Spehar
May 2006

1956
Tristam B. Brown
February 28, 2005

1957
Cletus D. Laundrie
July 18, 2006
Tom Spehar
May 2006

1958
Edward James Crandall
July 6, 2006
Edward J. Boyle, Jr.
1999

1959
Lawrence T. Paradiso
April 22, 2006

1960
Michael Andrew Domic
October 9, 2005

1961
Pat Gallagher
June 2005

1962
Brian Guilbert
July 2, 2003
David Michael Monahan

1963
Taylor Bell
July 2006

1964
Daniel C. Albanese
July 27, 2006. Son of William ’61 and former member of Bellarmine’s Board of Regents.

Manuel R. Arcelona
September 22, 2005. Father of Jacob ’02 and Nicholas ’03.

Peter Bakich
April 6, 2006. Father of Steve ’70, and grandfather of Eric ’96.

Ruth McDonald Bielefeld

Col. Michael Buckley Jr.

Ida W. Cirone
April 9, 2006. Mother of Richard ’56, Anthony ’67 and Joseph ’68.

Fr. Eugene Colosimo S.J.
April 26, 2006
Gaspere A. De Fazio

Helen Del Mutolo

Rosemary C. (DeLao) Diefenbach
August 24, 2006. Mother of Michael ’81 and Matthew ’82.

Margaret (Peggy) Abel Donovan
April 11, 2006. Mother of John III ’61 and George ’73.

John J. Douglas Sr.

Peter Anthony Giorgianni
May 1, 2006. Father of Peter ’65, John ’67 and Joe ’71; the grandfather of Andrew ’95 and Anthony ’91.

Robert W. Gorini
June 3, 2006. Father of Robert ’67 and Richard ’73 and grandfather of Robbie ’06 and Andrew ’09.

Peggy Green
February 9, 2006
Bob Hebeler
August 11, 2006. Father of Matt ’09.

Neale Herrlich
February 12, 2006. Former faculty member.

Lucrezia Mareno
February 20, 2006. Mother of Carlo ’52.

Cornelius J. Monacell
May 2006. Former faculty member.

Marie Brugnone Pestarino
August 20, 2006. Wife of the late Larry ’36.

Elizabeth “Lee” Pezzola
April 2006. Mother of the late Dee ’85.

John Pfahnl
June 18, 2006. Father of Joe, grandfather of Bob ’02.

Eleanor Pfeiffer

Fred Pine

Joseph Frank Salberg
May 1, 2006. Father of Martin ’71, John ’83, and the late James ’76.

Rollie Seidler
June 9, 2006
Nancy V. Sins
June 18, 2006. Mother of Charles ’86.

Ottilea “Tillie” Helfter Steadman
April 7, 2006. Mother of Monty ’60.

Karen Tatro
May 16, 2006. Mother of David ’86.

Raymond Francis Triplett

John A. Maring

Helen McCracken

Fr. Cornelius Monacell, S.J.
2006. Former Bellarmine faculty member.

Lisa Diane Moriconi

Rosemary Naegele
Mother of Charles ’70, Joseph ’73, and Robert ’77.

William Ondrasek

Records as of August 2006.
Many people choose to teach because it allows them to remain students, in a sense. And one of the most significant parts of any lifelong learner’s regimen is reading. The following are books that Bellarmine teachers have recently added to the always evolving curriculum.

Chris Meyercord, assistant principal and English teacher: In the 2005-06 school year, I started team teaching a senior elective entitled “The Short Story” with Bellarmine Principal Mark Pierotti. Jhumpa Lahiri’s Interpreter of Maladies is a terrific collection of short stories. We also read postmodern writers John Barth and Margaret Atwood. Our students wrestle not only with the subject matter of these stories, but also with the way in which they are put together. While team teaching, we sometimes disagree on the “meaning” of a story, but I think that interchange benefits our students, and underscores to them the significance of bringing their own interpretation to a story.

Kristina Luscher, dean of faculty and English teacher: In 2001 I began teaching Literature of War, a course designed around the major wars involving the United States. Students read Dalton Trumbo’s Johnny Got His Gun, Kurt Vonnegut’s Slaughterhouse Five, Tim O’Brien’s The Things They Carried, and the Pulitzer-Prize-winning novel, The Killer Angels, by Michael Shaara. The novel examines the Battle at Gettysburg in order to illustrate the very different leadership styles of Lee, Longstreet, and Chamberlain. We discuss what it means to be a leader in today’s world and students reflect on the leadership qualities that they bring to the classroom, the stage or the field. As we follow Lee’s decisions on the battlefield, we discuss how hubris can cloud one’s judgment or distractions can lead to poor choices. It has been fascinating to discuss these novels while our country is at war.

Bill Colucci, director of admissions: The American Law class I teach to seniors focuses on the civil rights and civil liberties provided by the Constitution. Students explore First Amendment freedoms as well as the guarantees of the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments. In addition to reading some cases, our textbook is David M. O’Brien’s Storm Center: The Supreme Court in American Politics. This book provides students with a well-written narrative about the history, structure, and politics of the U.S. Supreme Court addressing issues ranging from the selection of justices, to the choice of cases on the Supreme Court’s docket, to the opinion writing process. The text strikes a balance between the court as a legal institution and the court as a political institution.

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To learn more about the books on this page, visit Connections online at www.bcp.org/go/connections.

The Literary Bookshelf

By Alexander Atkins ’79

For many of us, our education at Bellarmine introduced us to great works of English literature and cultivated an appreciation and understanding of their profound insight into the human condition. To continue this intellectual odyssey, The Literary Bookshelf features recently published books that shed light on authors and their work as well as special anniversary editions.

American Bloomsbury, Susan Cheever, Simon & Schuster
The Annotated Uncle Tom’s Cabin, Henry Gates (ed), Norton
The Book That Changed My Life, Roxanne Coady, Gotham Books
Double Lives, Richard Lingeman, Random House
The Name of the Rose (Everyman Library), Umberto Eco, Knopf
The English Reader, Michael RAVitch, Oxford
501 Must-Read Books, Emma Beare, (ed), Bounty Books
The 101 Most Influential People Who Never Lived, Allan Lazar, Harper
The Politically Incorrect Guide to English and American Literature, Elizabeth Kantor, Regnery
Recovering Your Story, Arnold Weinstein, Random House
Rediscovering Homer, Andrew Dalby, Norton
Shakespeare’s Friends, Kate Pague, Praeger
Shakespeare’s Philosophy, Colin McGinn, Harper Collins
The Shakespeare Wars, Ron Rosenbaum, Random House
The Three Musketeers, Alexandre Dumas, Richard Pevear (translator), Viking
Dear Bellarmine Family and Friends

This year, I have a unique bond with the class of 2010, as this is my freshmen year at Bellarmine as well. I officially joined the community as president in January 2006, but this is my first full academic year as a Bell and I am happy to be learning the ropes with a good group of young men.

The past few months have been busy and productive. In addition to the daily responsibilities that come with the job, my calendar has been filled with countless other experiences — celebrating Mass with our school community at the annual Mass of the Holy Spirit, attending reunions with multi-generations of alumni at the Grand Reunion Weekend, and even playing Bocce Ball at our annual Fr. Costa tournament. These events are great fun, but they have also given me great insight to the Bellarmine experience.

I am so often hearing from parents, students and alumni about what it was that made their time here so special. I enjoy hearing these stories. They confirm for me what I have already sensed. And that is that the Bellarmine experience is one of personal growth and transformation.

Students and their families grow together during their four years at Bellarmine and many of our alumni continue to foster meaningful relationships with their peers, former teachers and spiritual advisors well past their time on campus. I am proud to be a part of this fine tradition and I look forward to hearing about your Bellarmine experience the next time we meet.

Sincerely,

Fr. Paul G. Sheridan, S.J.
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<td>5.24, Thursday</td>
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<td>Golden Bell Auction</td>
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