Mission Statement

Bishop Amat Memorial High School is a four-year co-educational Archdiocesan Catholic high school. The mission of the school is to form a faith-filled community and to provide a quality education that addresses the needs of a culturally and academically diverse student body. The comprehensive instructional program flows from a college preparatory curriculum that empowers students to recognize their potential and to meet educational and life challenges in the future. The school, working in partnership with parents and the community, promotes education in Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge by preparing students to embrace Gospel values, to respect themselves and others, to become life-long learners, and to contribute positively to the community.

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Pictured on the Front Cover
2012 Christian Service Awards Mass
Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels
President Monsignor Carroll, Crystal Parga, Daniel Gilmartin, Lauren Mejia, and Principal Dr. Hemenway '64

The Amat Tradition is published three times a year by the Alumni / Development Office at Bishop Amat Memorial High School for alumni, friends, and parents.

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Publication and Production:
Orbit Printing
Dear Alumni and Friends:

As I write these lines it is Sunday, March 25 – the Fifth Sunday of the Lenten Season. During the past several weeks our school community has been attempting to remain faithful to the pledge we made at our Ash Wednesday Mass – a pledge to walk in the footsteps of Our Lord Jesus by setting aside our ingrained tendencies to selfishness, greed and self indulgence and replace them with an openness to reach out to others, especially those afflicted by pain, suffering, poverty and need. Three recent events touching our school family give me great hope that our Lenten pledge is being fulfilled.

On March 19, Dr. Hemenway and I accompanied three of our senior students, Crystal Parga, Daniel Gilmartin and Lauren Mejia and their parents to the Christian Service Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, following the Mass, His Excellency, Archbishop Jose Gomez presented them with special medallions thanking them for the extraordinary manner in which they had dedicated themselves to serving the needs of their brothers and sisters over the four years of their high school careers. It was an added source of pride to all of us when the Archbishop presented Mrs. Gabrielle Benson, a member of our Campus Ministry team, with a special leadership award for her outstanding contribution to our Christian Service program.

Earlier in the year, the Father McGuire Council of the Knights of Columbus (St. Christopher and Sacred Heart parishes) invited our students to participate in their Wheelchair and Baby Bottle campaigns. The goal of the latter campaign was to provide funds for archdiocesan approved pro life organizations. With an extraordinary demonstration of generosity the students raised some $10,000.00 for these worthwhile causes and with additional gifts from the faculty the school was able to present the Knights with a check for $12,000.00 in support of their works of Christian service.

And what more hopeful example of the fulfillment of our Lenten pledge could we have than the response of our students, faculty and alums to the Raise a Ride for Smoot campaign. Tragically deprived of his physical mobility by a freak accident in July 2010, Jason (Class of 1998) was in dire need of a van specially equipped to help him meet the enormous challenges he must face in the future. Through a multitude of personal donations and fundraising activities (see article) the extended Lancer Family generated more than $45,000.00 for this purpose. Supporters of this great activity did not ask themselves the inane question “what will I give up for Lent?” They asked instead, “What can I do for Lent?” and answered it in truly Christ-like fashion by reaching out to help their brother in need.

I will conclude by wishing all of you a very happy Easter Season. May the joy which exhilarated the hearts of the apostles and disciples when they realized “that He is risen” be experienced by you and your families on Easter Sunday and throughout the year. Please be assured that I will remember all of you in my Masses and prayers on that “day which the Lord has made”.

Sincerely yours,

Monsignor Aidan M. Carroll
President

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Dear Fellow Alumni:

There has been much discussion in Catholic schools in recent years that, as the number of religious retire and are replaced by lay people, what happens to the Catholic Identity of the institution? There is an article in this newsletter that speaks to that concern. However, relevant to the conversation is also an article in the middle of this publication. Did you know that 34 Bishop Amat current faculty are alums of the school?

When I was hired to teach at Amat, forty-four years ago, I was told that I was a premium for a faculty member by our then-principal, Fr. Kiefer because I was a graduate of the school. At the time there were few lay teachers on the staff, less than thirty, and a much smaller number who were graduates, only two. The identity of the institution was carried by the religious men (Sacred Heart Fathers) and women from multiple religious orders of women.

As of the opening of school in mid-August 2011 we no longer have any women religious on our faculty. We have two Diocesan priests, our President Monsignor Carroll and our Chaplain, Fr. Mike Sezzi. However, we are fortunate to have probably the largest percent of alumni faculty in the country, 38%! As you read through the comments of many of them, realize that each, in his/her own way contributes significantly to carrying on the Catholic identity of Bishop Amat High School.

One of the remarkable elements of that is to also realize just how much leadership is vested in Amat graduates. Of course many schools have a principal who is an alum, such as I am but at Amat we also have an Assistant Principal, Maria Gover, ’66 who is the teacher mentor and supervisor. In counseling our Head counselor is Carol Moak, ’72, and two counselors Gabe Escovar, ’98, and Terri George, ’80, are alums. The head of the math department, Catherine Lima is a graduate of 2003. One of the new Directors of our Christian Service Program, Cindy Medina graduated in 2006. We are blessed with great leadership from our own graduates, each of whom in his/her own way contributes to carrying on the identity which is Bishop Amat Lancers: Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge.

To all of you, thank you for the many other ways you help contribute to the Lancer Legacy.

In Christ,

Merritt V. Hemenway, Ph.D.
Principal
Amat ’64
Ensuring Educational Excellence... in Matters of Faith

By Dr. Merritt V. Hemenway, ‘64 and current Bishop Amat Principal

In a world challenged from all sides with conflicting values, it has become increasingly important for Catholic High Schools to articulate and practice well the faith values that each holds as a reason for existing. In support of this need, the Catholic High School Accreditation agency, the Western Catholic Education Association has partnered with the Public School accreditation agency, Western Association of Schools and Colleges to introduce a new accreditation protocol called “Ensuring Education Excellence.” The essential difference in this document has been to add an element of how the school lives out its “Catholic Identity.”

Thus in recent years all Catholic High Schools, and especially Bishop Amat, has given increased focus to the elements found in Catholic High Schools to which we are accountable to the local Bishop: A Mission Statement and a Philosophy Statement which includes regular opportunities for the school community to experience prayer and the Sacraments. A Religion curriculum and instruction that is meets the requirements set forth by the USCCB. Formation training and approval of teachers of Religion. Involving parents with an active partnership in the spiritual and academic education of their children. A service-oriented outreach to Church and the civic community. The Good News of Jesus is part of the total educational experience.

In support of the Mission of Catholic Schools at Amat we continue to support the significant element of preparing graduates to continue to live a faith-life after high school though the entire Campus Ministry Program and especially in the retreat work. Freshmen grow in the experience of fellowship early in their first year. Sophomores experience hands on service to the homeless in a day trip to Los Angeles. Juniors experience the companionship of Jesus on their life’s Emmaus journey. Most importantly, however, is the Kairos retreat.

Over four days away in the mountains on their Kairos retreat groups of seniors are led through a spiritual journey based on the teachings of St. Ignatius Loyola. In the questions each retreatant is asked to consider, they are better prepared for the secular life that they will most likely face after high school. One of the key phrases of the retreat is to “Live the Fourth” as each is challenged to continue their relationships experienced in the four days throughout their life.

At the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year Bishop Amat will have completed 55 such Kairos retreats. In effect, nearly 2500 Amat alums have received a similar Kairos experience as thousands of others they will encounter in college who “made a Kairos retreat” at their own high school.

One other element of Catholic identity has been the increase in student body Masses. Bishop Amat has the blessings of having two priests on campus, our President Msgr. Carroll and our Chaplain Fr. Mike Sezzi. In order to strengthen the community element of the Catholic Identity we have been able to schedule a student body Mass each month of the school year. We are blessed with an outstanding choir and these special musicians have been excellent support in these Masses. Each Mass has an appropriate theme of the liturgical year and Fr. Mike and Monsignor share the Celebrant responsibilities.

One other element that has grown this year is the revamped Service Program. There are several elements in the design of the program intended to give each student a sampling of service opportunities throughout the community. For some of the projects, students are given directions in religion class. These might be assignments to perform service in a parish, such as with the Church Class. Other academic disciplines have also contributes, such as in science assigning students projects related to ecology.

One new aspect of the service program this year is in asking each student to participate in one service project of their choice with a parent. For many this is obvious because parents provide the rides to off-campus venues; however the opportunity is to reflect on this common experience in their report. As an element of their retreat all sophomores are taken to downtown Los Angeles where they learn firsthand about the homeless population in the southland and how society is organized to help. It is truly a service-learning experience.

With all the new attention to assimilating Catholic traditions and values throughout the high school experience you can see that Bishop Amat is being attentive to the goals of the Catholic Bishops for the appropriate Catholic Identity that has moved to the forefront of our message.
In July 2010, Jason Smoot (class of ‘98), was injured in a tragic accident and sustained a severe spinal cord injury, which resulted in over 10 months of hospitalization and inpatient rehabilitation. He has made incredible strides since returning home in May 2011, including gaining the ability to breathe on his own and regain some voluntary mobility in his upper body. Wheelchair-bound and dependent on friends and family for most of his daily needs, Jason has worked extremely hard on his rehabilitation, physical therapy, and staying focused on his goals. His primary motivator is always his adorable five-year-old son, Jayden.

One of Jason’s primary barriers to making further progress in his recovery has been his limited transportation options. By having a mobility van, Jason would be able to come and go to his daily medical and therapy appointments and to Jayden’s school and extracurricular activities.

Upon receiving the news of Jason’s situation, Head Football Coach Steve Hagerty ‘80 and two of Jason’s former classmates, Mr. Gabriel Escovar ‘98 and Mr. Sean Koelle ‘98 teamed up to spread the word throughout the campus at Bishop Amat. The faculty and staff were able to collect $2,795 and the students were able to collect $2,062.91. President Monsignor Carroll donated an additional $2,500 of the school’s money and both boys basketball and National Honor Society each donated an additional $200. The grand total was $7,822.91 and a check was presented to Jason from his “Amat Family.”

On March 10, nearly 400 family and friends came out for the “Raise a Ride for Smoot” fund-raiser, which was held at Nick’s Taste of Texas in Covina. There, over $40,000 was collected toward purchasing a mobility van for Jason. Today, the donations continue to come in and the family is very grateful for the support of their family and friends, and most especially their “Amat Family.”

If you would like to make a donation, please visit http://facebook.com/smootsride
My speech on Capitol Hill on Care-giving  By Donald Bentley ’73

On Monday, July 11, 2011, I was invited by Ms. Netsy Firestein of the Labor Project to speak during the evening portion of the National Summit on Paid Sick Days and Paid Family Leave Congressional Reception, which took place in the Kennedy Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building.

I spoke from hand-written bullets on a single sheet of paper, practicing on my own during the occasional free moments I had throughout the day. I introduced myself and gave a brief description of my background as a civil engineer working for the Water District in Los Angeles. After my introduction, I noted that I am a family caregiver and that I cared for my mother for two years as she battled lung cancer from secondhand smoke until her death and have cared for my brother, George, who has muscular dystrophy and is a quadriplegic and uses a wheelchair, for nine years.

I was extremely fortunate as my negotiated American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees contract has paid sick leave and paid family medical leave. During the times when I needed to work I shared that we employed a wonderful caregiver named Josefina, who we had met while she assisted my mom during hospice. I also provided an example of one terrible day of care-giving.

It began with me assisting both Mom and George to get up in the morning. Then, I saw that my mom was short of breath because she was essentially suffocating from the fluid buildup in her lungs. Leaving George behind at our home, I raced my mom to the hospital emergency room for a thoracentesis, where they stick a 6-inch long needle into her back to reach the fluid in her lungs to drain it out. I held her hand during the procedure to provide her comfort. While she was recovering after the procedure, I had to leave her alone in the emergency room to race back home to assist George. Once I had attended to his needs, I raced back to the hospital emergency room to see how my mom was doing. Thankfully, she was recovering well, and then I brought her back home that evening.

That terrible day is one that I will never forget. At the time I never believed there would ever be anything “fruitful” coming from such a terrible day for my mom, my brother, and me. Nevertheless, perhaps some years later, relaying this story, in a place such as Capitol Hill, can help others understand what being a full-time caregiver is really like and it will help others understand the needs of those being cared for.

My comments were well received by all who were in attendance, and although they could not be present, I know my mom, Vivian; my brother, George; and our caregiver, Josefina; were there with me in spirit.
Lancers Sign National Letters of Intent

Bishop Amat has a proud tradition of recognizing outstanding athletes in a wide-range of sports. Currently, the school offers approximately twenty-two sports, including a Boys’ Ice Hockey team. Throughout each season, our Lancers have continuously demonstrated the dedication and self-discipline needed to compete at a high-level of excellence. Each year, Bishop Amat holds three signings, one in the fall, one in the winter, and one in the spring where coaches, parents, family members and friends gather together in the Carroll Center to witness the athletes’ commitments to institutions of higher education. For the 2011-2012 school year, we have been able to recognize a total of nine student-athletes and are looking forward to adding to this list at the spring signing.

During the fall signings, we were pleased to recognize Casandra Padilla, Rio Ruiz, and Daniel Zamora. The second signing took place this past February, where Alyssa Cabral, Rachel Seals, Megan Bowcock, Jeovanna Rios, Jalen Moore, and Ajee Montes also committed to their selected schools.

Students who are interested in pursuing higher education and participating in athletics at the collegiate level are assisted by faculty member Mr. Chris Beck ’94. Chris serves as the Athletic Academic Counselor and provides students and their parents with information regarding the NCAA Clearinghouse.

The National Letter of Intent is a letter that an athlete and his/her parents sign to commit to an institution for an academic year in return for an athletic scholarship or other financial aid.

2011 Bishop Amat Graduates Who Received Athletic Scholarships

Jay Anderson - University of Nevada, Reno - Baseball
Vianai Austin - Academy of Art University - Basketball
Jacqueline Carlin - University of Charleston - Softball
Alma Cortez - Yavapai College - Softball
Katherine Cunningham - Humboldt State University - Softball
Jeffrey Davis - Holy Names University - Basketball
Wallace Gonzalez - University of New Mexico - Baseball
David Higuera - Georgetown College - Baseball
Kylie Price - UCLA - Track & Field
Natalie Sanchez - Yavapai College - Softball
Ryan Serrato - Lynn University - Baseball
Bernardo Zavala - San Diego State University - Baseball

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The Bishop Amat Faculty has 34 full and part-time teachers who graduated from Bishop Amat! We asked them three questions and here's what a few of them had to say...

Question #1: What prompted you to return to Bishop Amat as a faculty member?

Answer #1: When I was a student here (1965-67), Monsignor (then Father) Kiefer took a personal interest in me. He became a mentor/a role model for me. In 1986, I decided it was time to give something back to the man and the school that had influenced my life.

Answer #2: Since I graduated before we were co-educational, the students seem to enjoy hearing about boys and girls being on opposite sides of the campus and why there are only single gender bathrooms in most wings. They are also impressed that my office has its own bathroom because it used to be a dorm room for a priest or religious order teacher. Hearing that I had primarily nuns as teachers is hard for them to comprehend.

Answer #3: One that comes to mind is that it is wonderful to see our younger alums, some of whom went here with my daughters, still coming back. The article in the Los Angeles couple of years ago highlighted that phenomenon and is affirming to those of us who love our Amat family!

Question #2: What is your response to students when asked about what Bishop Amat was like when you were a student here?

Answer #1: The demographics of the school have completely changed since the mid-1960s. The majority of students then were Mexican. There were only four black students in the school: one in each grade level.

Question #3: Whenever a graduate contacts me to tell me I had a positive influence in their life, I know I made the right decision to teach here.

Question #3: What one experience have you had as a faculty member that has reinforced your decision to teach at your Alma Mater?

Answer #1: I applied for a football coaching position. This led to a teaching opportunity.

Answer #2: I teach here because I believe in the Bishop Amat Family. I am here because I want to be. I want to give the students what I received from Amat and more. I received a quality education, was given an opportunity to be a part of a nurturing Amat family and form life-long relationships, and was provided with athletic opportunities that allowed me to compete with the best.

Answer #3: In 1984, I broke my neck and was in need of moral and financial support. I received an abundance of both. The Amat Family raised thousands of dollars to help get a means of transportation (an adapted van), home augmentations, and a quality wheelchair. The financial support was great; however, the moral support I received has helped me in numerous and profound ways. Today, twenty-six years post injury, I continue to receive love, friendship, assistance, colleague support, and an opportunity to influence extraordinary students.

Answer #1: I had been working as the pitching coach at Loyola Marymount and was unsure of whether I wanted to continue coaching college baseball. I received a call from Andy Nieto who had just been hired as the new baseball coach asking me to come back to work at Bishop Amat. The thought of returning to work with kids at Amat had different meaning to it.

Answer #2: The biggest difference is the new Gym and weightroom facilities. When I was a student we use to use workout beneath the bleachers.

Answer #3: I think our championship game last year at Dodger stadium reinforced my decision. We had 19 seniors on our team and we asked each one of them to sacrifice going to Grad Night with their fellow classmates because it fell the night before the
game. All of them willingly gave up that experience. In its place, they all got to sit in the dugout of Dodger Stadium and experience a championship with guys they had sacrificed a lot of time and effort with. Watching seniors who will probably never play baseball again have their last baseball memory be an at-bat at Dodger Stadium was really special for me. It meant a lot to me to think that I could help create one of those unforgettable moments in the life of an Amat student.

Mark Verti ‘96, Social Studies

Answer #1: When I was in high school I wanted to come back to Bishop Amat to teach and coach. Both my time at the school and how I appreciated and respected my coaches attracted me to come back. The summer I was getting married I saw an opportunity to make the move back.

Answer #2: Those were some of the best years of my life. My senior year was fantastic. Being a part of a CIF championship football team is something I will never forget. Going to the basketball games and baseball games (CIF div one championship baseball team) were great times and memories. Besides the Carroll Center and lunch area, the campus is pretty much the same.

Answer #3: Having students come up to me and thank me is the best reinforcement I can get.

Sean Koelle ‘98, Religion

Answer #1: I was teaching at Mater Dei as a substitute when a former teacher and coach called me to come back and be a full time teacher and football coach.

Answer #2: I had a positive experience here. I tell them about the lunch trucks, the separate lunches for grades, and the seven period full schedule we had. They enjoy hearing about how the school used to be and how the school is now.

Answer #3: Whenever a student who has had my class wants me to be there teacher again. Example: I teach them as a freshman and as a senior they really want to get back into my class and try to adjust their schedule.

Catherine Lima ‘03, Math

Answer #1: As a student, I enjoyed getting to choose from a broad range of extracurricular activities in which to participate. Even while still in high school, I imagined myself coming back to teach mathematics and to be involved in some of the extracurricular activities. Over my five years teaching here, I have been able to lend a hand with the swim team, cross country team, ASB, and JSA. I love sharing my passion for these activities with the current students.

Answer #2: Even though I graduated from Amat less than 10 years ago, certain things have changed quite a bit. The news things include the student activities center (construction was ongoing throughout my senior year), the IB program, and the Inclusion program. I also had a different school schedule from the one currently in place.

Answer #3: During my first year teaching, I was cleaning out some old personal files and found a stack of letters addressed to me from the Kairos retreat in my senior year. One of the letters was from Dr. Hemenway, who had then just returned to Amat as principal. I was touched when I re-read the letter and realized that it was actually personalized, and not just a form letter. The personal touch goes a long way and it reinforced my decision to return to an institution where people show their concern for one another.
Homecoming 2011
welcome home, Lancers!

Bishop Amat’s first graduating class, the Class of 1961, celebrated their 50 Year Reunion during the weekend of Homecoming. The festivities were kicked off with an invitation to attend the Homecoming Pep Rally during the school day. Members of the class were treated to a wine and cheese reception and lead on a tour of the campus. The tour concluded with the rosary in the Military Memorial Garden. Before the kick-off, the Alumni Office hosted a barbeque in the covered lunch area where more than 300 alums joined the members of the Class of 1961 and enjoyed a delicious pre-game meal catered by Don Hiti ’82, the owner of Canyon City Barbeque. Our alums were entertained by members of the Lancer Band, Pep Squad, and Dance Team and the Class of 1961 presented their check for $15,000 to Bishop Amat President Monsignor Carroll for their Class of 1961 Scholarship Fund. The evening concluded with the traditional football game where the Amat Lancers battled against the Loyola Cubs. A great time was had by all!

CLASS OF 1961 – 1st Graduating Class – 50 Year Reunion
The Class of 1961 held their 50 Year Reunion on Saturday, October 29, 2011 at the Kellogg Conference Center on the campus of Cal Poly Pomona. A special thank you goes to the members of the class committee for their superb job in putting together a reunion to remember. Members included Corinne Maschio Hartmann, Larry Hartmann, Larry Hurst, Marilyn Heglin McGloin, Pattianne Nangle Parker, Alice Powers, Chuck Sorcabal, JoAnn Balkus Tanner, Hal Tilbury, and Len Troncale.

CLASS OF 2001 – 10 Year Reunion
The Class of 2001 held their 10 Year Reunion on Saturday, October 29, 2012 at the Embassy Suites in Brea. A special thank you goes to Stephen Fuller and Andrea Wagner for the efforts they made to coordinate their reunion.

CLASS OF 1971 – 40 Year Reunion
The Class of 1971 held their 40 Year Reunion on Saturday, July 30, 2011 at the Westin Hotel in Pasadena. A special thank you goes to Denise Payne for serving as the class representative for The Reunion Committee, Inc. who organized their event.

CLASS OF 1981 – 30 Year Reunion
The Class of 1981 held their 30 Year Reunion on Saturday, September 17, 2011 at The Villa del Sol in Fullerton. A special thank you goes to Mardona Maury for her outstanding work in organizing a fun-filled evening for everyone in attendance.
1. Class of 1961 at the Homecoming Rally

2. Alums Larry Hartmann ’61 and Harold Tilbury ’61 present President Monsignor Carroll with a class check for the Class of 1961 Scholarship Fund

3. Richard Cavanaugh ’61 and Francis Cavezza ’61 with Monsignor Carroll at the After Rally Reception

4. Class of 1961 at the Homecoming Rally

5. Don Hiti ’82 and his company Canyon City BBQ provided the food at the Alumni Homecoming BBQ

6. Gregory Lima ’12, Cary Lima Allevato ’95, Mary Grace Lima ’69, Jeri Cavezza, and Francis Cavezza ’61 at the Homecoming Football Game

7. Antonio (Eldridge) Byrnes ’61 with husband, Jim, and Marianne (Echevarria) Harp ’61

8. Michael Demarest ’86 with Coach Hagerty

9. Lawrence Santillo ’61 with his wife, Milli, at the Class of 1961 After Rally Reception

10. Larry ’61 and Corinne Hartmann ’61 pictured with daughter, Cassandra Hartmann Curry ’81, and granddaughters, Caylyn Curry ’15 and Carrina Curry ’15 at the Alumni Homecoming BBQ

11. Corinne (Maschio) Hartmann ’61, Larry Hartmann ’61, Jaime Hirnshall and Phil Hirnshall ’61 at the After Rally Reception

12. Chuck Norcutt ’61 with his wife, Peg, and President Monsignor Carroll at the Class of 1961 After Rally Reception
We sent out a request via Constant Contact asking our alumni to tell us what has been happening in their lives. Here’s what they wrote. . . .

60’s

Larry Collins ’62 - is happily retired, enjoying the grandchildren and just relaxing. Maria, his wife, just retired this January and she is very happy and excited about it. Now, they will be able to travel together. (see picture)

David Lannom ’63 - was a horticulture professor at Mt. Sac for 27 years and served as the Agriculture Department Chairperson for 16 years. He previously taught at Cal Poly Pomona for 7 years. David was awarded the Mt. Sac Faculty of the Year Award in both 1996 and 2005. He also received the Excellence in Education Award from the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers.

Peter Geissler ’68 - took an early retirement 6 years ago and now is spending his time cycling (did his first century last April), 6 years ago and now is spending his time cycling (did his first century last April),


Gary Schons ’69 - retired from the Attorney General’s Office on November 15, 2011. On November 18, he began service in the San Diego District Attorney’s Office as a Deputy District Attorney and Senior Advisor for Law and Policy.

70’s

Mark O’Neill, ’70 - is now retired after a career in the public school education, at the middle school level. After relocating up to a ridge-top in Northern Mendocino County, and spending the next thirty years here, he is trying to re-establish some sort of communication process with his fellow graduates of 1970. Please contact him at markyboy1231@hotmail.com.

Darryl Nyznyk, ’70 - wrote a book called Mary’s Son A Tale of Christmas, which was published in October of 2010. Recently, the book was featured in the December 9, 2011 issue of The Tidings on page 7 and was recommended to be included on everyone’s family Christmas story list of books to read during the holiday season.

William James, ’71 - and his wife of 35 years, Syrie, just celebrated the wedding of their youngest son, Jeff. Also, Bill’s wife, Syrie, and oldest son, Ryan, co-wrote a novel called Forbidden and it was published by Penguin Books in January 2012. This year, Bill celebrates 33 years working at Boeing.

Chris Trujillo ’74 - Chris’ nephew, Michael Dowling, the son of Lorraine Trujillo Dowling ’68, published a book entitled, Sergeant Rex: The Unbreakable Bond Between a Marine and His Military Working Dog, in December 2011. In the About the Author section, there is a picture of Michael’s parents and Lorraine is wearing a Bishop Amat sweatshirt.

Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber, M.D. ’78 - has been named executive director of the Indiana University National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health. She began her duties August 1, 2011. Dr. Rohr-Kirchgraber is an associate professor of clinical medicine and pediatrics and a faculty member in the Indiana University School of Medicine Division of Adolescent Medicine. She provides primary care for adolescents and adult women, particularly those with chronic diseases, including cancer, eating disorders and obesity.

80’s

Lisa (Osuna) Strnad ’85 - works as a writer for www.whatsinthebible.com. What’s in the Bible, a children’s DVD series by the creator of VeggieTales. This series walks whole families through each book of the Bible in a fun, creative way. Using lovable puppets, catchy songs, and like VeggieTales, seamlessly combines entertainment with education. Kids of all ages are learning about God’s Holy Word and His rescue plan of salvation through Jesus! Lisa lives with her husband of 20 years and their two sons in Nashville, TN. She home schools her youngest son, active in regional autism awareness programs, and works on a freelance basis in Christian media in the areas of promotions, marketing and writing. Lisa contributes regularly to the following blogs: www.whatsinthebible.com; www.jellytelly.com; www.talkinglikeagirl.com

Peter Beck ’88 - has been married to Lori for 18 years (as of last Aug) and together they have three children, Dillon, Daniel and Lauren. Dillon is in his first year of college attending Auburn University (Auburn, AL) on a National Scholars Presidential Academic Scholarship studying Computer Science. Daniel will be graduating from Oak Grove High School next May and is planning on studying business at either: The University of Southern Mississippi (Hattiesburg, MS), the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, AL) or the University of Mississippi (Oxford, MS) on an academic scholarship. Lauren is currently in the 7th grade in accelerated academic classes and also a member of the Oak Grove Junior Varsity Soccer team.
Kimberlee White ’89 - started her own internet advertising agency in 2007 (www. akmg.com) and recently sold it to a Canadian advertising agency in March 2011. She is still the President of AKMG and runs the day to day operations of the company, based in El Segundo, California. Kim has been living in Manhattan Beach, California for the past 12 years. Prior to that she lived in San Francisco after graduating from UC Berkeley in 1995, where she had an athletic scholarship to play in their Division I women’s soccer team. (see picture)

90’s

Tim Hatfield ’90 and Patricia Herrera Hatfield ’90 – live in San Dimas with their two children who attend Sacred Heart School in Covina. Patricia has been teaching English at Bishop Amat High School for 16 years and still loves it. Tim is the warehouse manager for a cold storage facility in Vernon and also serves as a member of the business development committee for the city. As a family, they have enjoyed trips to the Grand Canyon and camping up north. Tim and Patricia have attended both the 10 and 20 year reunions and are looking forward to the next one.

Monica (Gonzalez) Armas ’91 - is currently working at St. Frances of Rome School in Azusa as a middle school teacher. She and her husband, Michael Armas, have been married for eight years and together they have two sons: Joseph who is seven and Jonathan who is five. (see picture)

Ray Rodriguez ’92 - and his wife, Evangelina, welcomed the birth of their second born, this time a baby girl named Luna Valentina. (see picture)

Nina (Ellis) Thomas ’92 - and her husband, Evan Thomas, of 5+ years along with their fifteen year old son, Dorian, are moving to Abu Dhabi UAE in February for the next 2.5 years. Nina will be teaching English, Math, and Science in the public school system (the Abu Dhabi Education Council). Nina would like to request that her Amat Family please pray for them to find a supportive, Christian community to get plugged into. (see picture)

Jason Harris ’94 - currently works in the IT Department at Bishop Amat High School and is a Varsity Football coach overseeing the tight ends/fullbacks. He and his wife, Jane, welcomed the birth of their second daughter, Jasmine Margaret Harris, on November 29, 2011. (see picture)

Jesse Ambriz ’95 - married Lindsay Jolley on August 6, 2011 on Long Beach Island in New Jersey. For their honeymoon, they went to South Africa and Zimbabwe where they shark dived, went on a safari, and visited The Victoria Falls, one of the seven wonders of the world. They recently bought a house in Avondale, Pennsylvania.

Isabelle (Penaloza) Selak ’97 - and her husband, Bill Selak, welcomed the birth of their firstborn, Abigail Christine Selak, on December 14, 2011. (see picture)

Sara (Leal) Carter ’98 - and her husband, Dr. John Carter (current Bishop Amat faculty member) welcomed the birth of their second child, a daughter named Mercy Carter, on January 28, 2012. Sara and John also have a son named Henry. (see picture)

Jason Fish ’98 and Cristina (Ramirez) Fish ’00 – welcomed the birth of their daughter, Kathryn Grace Fish on September 26, 2011. (see picture)

Sarina Weeraprajuk ’98 – will be on the Food Network’s Worst Cooks in America (Season 3) beginning February 12, 2012. She will be competing for $25,000. (see picture)

Lynn Ashley Barba, ’99 - graduated in June of 2011 from the California State University of Los Angeles with a degree in Communications and an emphasis in Public Relations and Organizational Studies. (see picture)

00’s

Sydni (Myrick) Causey ’00 – got married on Saturday, August 20, 2011 to James Causey. Sydni is currently in her 6th year coaching the JV Girls Basketball team.

Anita (Encinas) Rix ’00 - currently teaches at Bishop Amat and is serving as the Pep Squad Advisor. She and her husband, Chris Rix, recently welcomed the birth of a second son named Robert Christopher on August 4, 2011. Bobby is named after Robert Cleckler – got married to Isabelle Penaloza Selak – and her husband, Bill Selak.

Sara Weeraprajuk ’98 on Food Network’s Worst Cooks in America

Candice Brown ’04 and fiance, Matthew Lopez

Nancy Medina Velasquez ’01 - got married on February 17, 2012 to Eddie Velasquez ’02 at St. Denis in Diamond Bar. (see picture)

Cristina (Ramirez) Fish ’00 and husband, Jason Fish ’98 with daughter, Kathryn Grace Fish
Loreena Garcia '03 - has been working in the nonprofit field for several years since graduating from the University of Dallas in Irving, TX in 2007 with a Bachelors Degree in History and Liberal Arts. While attending college, Loreena was very involved in the Campus Ministry program and attended several mission trips, both domestically and internationally.

She has worked for several nonprofits in the Los Angeles area, including Special Olympics Southern California, Fair Housing Foundation and Parent’s Place Family Resource and Empowerment Center. Loreena is currently the Special Events Manager for Child S.H.A.R.E., a nonprofit that finds homes for children placed in foster care. She is a nonprofit consultant educator, as well as a member of several prestigious professional associations.

In October 2011, Loreena will be honored at the 2011 Blackbaud Conference for Nonprofits as a Scholarship winner, as one of only ten individuals chosen due to their service to the community and their nonprofit career experience.

Loreena credits her strong Catholic family upbringing as well as her education in Catholic social teaching while at Bishop Amat as the impetus behind her career and success as a nonprofit professional. (see picture)

Renee Tello Spencer ’03 - was married in 2009 and welcomed a daughter, Amara Grace, in January 2011. (see picture)

Candice Brown ’04 - is a kindergarten teacher at Orangewood Elementary School and became engaged to Matthew Rodriguez on July 27, 2011. She and Matthew have set their special date to be married for April 14, 2012. (see picture).

Agnes Antonette (Castillo) Martinez ’04 - graduated from the University of San Diego with a Dual Major (B.A. / B.S.) in Industrial and Systems Engineering in 2008. She is currently employed at General Atomics Aeronautical Systems as an industrial engineer in its Mechanical Assembly.
Department. In July of 2011, she got married and they are expecting their first child, a girl, in May of 2012. (see picture).

Kristian (Maisano) Nass ’04 - got married on March 24, 2012 to Thomas Nass, Jr. at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Covina.

Adrian Nolasco ’04 - got married on June 25 to Chelsey Merrill, in her home town of Salina, Kansas. Chelsey, who recently graduated from Optometry School, is a Captain in the United States Air Force. Together, they are currently stationed at the LA Air Force Base in El Segundo. Adrian recently sold off his part ownership of Mobil Medic Trauma Gear, www.mobil-medic.com, a Covina based trauma gear company that specializes in supplying trauma gear/supplies to various government, fire, ems, and law enforcement agencies. (see picture)

Elise Rodriguez, ’04 - Elise Rodriguez graduated from Azusa Pacific University with a Bachelors degree in 2008 and then went on to finish a Masters degree at Pepperdine University. In September of 2011, she started a post-masters doctoral program and plans to graduate with a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in 2014. Since high school, she has maintained strong friendships with a few of her fellow Bishop Amat alumni and together the girls enjoy getting together for Girls Night Out and catching up on the day-to-day happenings of their lives. (see picture)

Janine Esparza ’07 - and her husband welcomed their first son, Adiel, on April 13, 2010. Later, on December 17, 2010, Janine and her husband both graduated with their Bachelor’s of Science in Criminal Justice from Westwood College.

Julian Gener ’11 - played football for the Mt. San Antonio Mounties during the 2011 season and was recognized as the “Most Outstanding Defense Player” at the 2011 California Community College Football State Championship Game. (see picture)

We love to hear from our alumni and can’t wait to hear from you! Please send updates on the happenings in your life to alumni@bishopamat.org.

The 2nd Annual Alumni Flag Football Game

Have you ever wished you could put on your old jersey and run around Kiefer Stadium as a Lancer just one more time? Well, for those of you that have, your time is near! The Second Annual Alumni Flag Football Game is fast approaching, and will take place on Saturday, May 5, 2012 at 2:00 pm. Once again, the even years will face the odd years, with the odd years looking to avenge last year’s defeat. So, tell your fellow teammates to come out and play, or just come to watch and visit with old friends at your Alma Mater! Proceeds from the game will be used for tuition assistance for current qualifying students. Save the date, as there will be more information forthcoming. Call the Alumni Office now to reserve your spot on the roster! Contact Coach Steve Hagerty at extension 6001 with any questions you might have regarding the game.

Julian Gener ’11 pictured with mom, Leticia Gener ’81, and dad, Javier Gener
CLASS OF 1962 (50 Year Reunion)
Date: Friday, October 19, 2012
Location: Bishop Amat
1 p.m. Amat Rally
3 p.m. Class of 1962 Campus Tour
5 p.m. Pre-Game BBQ Dinner
7 p.m. Homecoming Game vs. Loyola
Cost: $15 for Homecoming (dinner & game)
Contact: alumni@bishopamat.org

Saturday, October 20, 2012
Details to be announced

CLASS OF 1972 (40 Year Reunion)
Date: Saturday, August 11, 2012
Location: Geezers Restaurant, Santa Fe Springs
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Contact: Becky Ferranti at (909) 993-3434
Email: rbautista54@yahoo.com
We're on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=113023354025022&v=wall

CLASS OF 1982 (30 Year Reunion)
Date: Saturday, August 4, 2012
Location: Hyatt Regency Orange County
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Great Reunions - (Rep: Jemma Manuel David)
Phone: (800) 655-7971
Email: imanueldavid@hotmail.com

CLASS OF 1992 (20 Year Reunion)
Date, Location, Time, Cost: TBA

CLASS OF 2002 (10 Year Reunion)
Date, Location, Time, Cost: TBA

SAVE THE DATE:
HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2012
OCTOBER 19-20

The Bishop Amat Tusitala yearbook staff was designated as a 2012 Crown Finalist this past December by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association for high school publications. On March 22, 2012, President Monsignor Carroll and Yearbook Adviser Gabriel Escovar ’98 accompanied current seniors Jasmine Tutol (Editor-in-Chief) and Hannah West (Asst. Editor) and current juniors Jennifer Cerda (Design Editor), Delaney Gurol (Design Editor), and Adriana Perez (Design Editor) to the 87th annual Scholastic Convention held at Columbia University in New York.

Over twenty yearbooks received Gold Crown Awards while 103 publications received the second highest CSPA award, known as the Silver Crown. At this convention, the 2011 publication of Tusitala, “Exclamation!,” earned a Silver Crown. “The experience allowed us to compare yearbooks and see what is required to earn a Gold Crown. The yearbook staff and I were excited to accept this award on behalf of last year’s staff and work towards earning the Gold with the next edition,” stated current Editor-in-Chief Jasmine Tutol.

“Exclamation!” was designed, edited and executed by alumni Larraine Locke (Editor-in-Chief), Francesca Casillas (Design Editor), Amedea Tassinari (Design Editor), Christie Magana (Design Editor), and Charmagne Solomon (Design Editor) of the Class of 2011.
In Memoriam


Sister Maureen Cochrane ’62 – a Carmelite Sister of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles who served as principal of Archbishop Carroll High School — and years earlier, St. Theresa School in Coral Gables — died March 7, 2012 after a brief illness. Sister Cochrane was flown to Calvary Cemetery in Los Angeles for burial.


Robert Siegfried ’64 – passed away on February 5, 2012. He was laid to rest at All Souls in Long Beach.

John Nelson, ’72 – passed away on July 1, 2011 in Prescott, AZ where he lived with his wife and son.

Christopher Johnson, ’73 – tragically died on January 1, 2012. He was a CPA for 30 years, an avid boater and fisherman, motorcycle enthusiast, and a loving husband, father, brother, and uncle. He is survived by his wife, Robin; daughter, Justyne; siblings, Phyllis, Mick, Scooter, and Mark; and niece, Marilyn.

Catherine Shoeman ’75 – passed away on February 7, 2012. She had been battling stage four breast cancer since 2009 after surviving it in 1994. She fought valiantly against the disease, living life to the fullest and devoting her time to volunteering and riding horses at All About Equine Animal Rescue.

Eva Sanchez – grandmother of April Gallegos ’87 passed away at 100 years of age. She was laid to rest at Calvary Mortuary in Los Angeles.
Proceeds to benefit Endowment Fund Scholarships

Registration Starts 11:00 am
Shot Gun Start 1:00 pm
Dinner & Awards 6:00 pm
Scramble - Best Ball Format

TOURNAMENT AWARDS
1st Team Low Gross Score
2nd Team Low Gross Score
3rd Team Low Gross Score
Msgr. John Cremins
“All Alumni Team” Low Gross Score

ENTRY FEE INCLUDES
Free Range Balls
Green Fees & Cart
Our Famous On-Course Barbecue Lunch
Tournament Awards
Dinner & Prizes

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

GOLD SPONSOR - $2,500
- 1 Full Foursome (4 Players)
- 4 Additional Dinner Seats
- 2 Tee Sponsorship Signs
- Full Page Ad in Program
- Logo/Name Displayed on All Tournament Signage

LANCER SPONSOR - $1,500
- 1 Full Foursome (4 Players)
- 1 Tee Sponsorship Sign
- Half Page Ad in Program
- Logo Displayed on Tournament Sign

EVENT SPONSOR - $500
- 2 Entries
- 1 Tee Sponsorship Sign
- Quarter Page Ad in Program
- Name Displayed on Tournament Sign

TEE SPONSOR - $150
- Logo Displayed on Tee Sign

INDIVIDUAL ENTRY - $175
FOURSOME ENTRY - $700
DINNER ONLY - $30

Tournament Entry / Sponsorship Form

Company Name __________________________________________ Name _________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________ City _____________________ Zip ___________________
Phone ______________________________________________ E-mail _______________________________________

Others in my foursome: 2 ____________________ 3 __________________________ 4 _______________________

Please make all checks payable to Bishop Amat High School

Enclosed is my check for: $ ______________________________

Please charge my... □ Visa □ Mastercard Card #

Expiration Date _____________ Security Code ____________
2012 SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT DINNER

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2012

The Benefit Dinner will be held in the Avalon Room at the Industry Hills Expo Center. Reception at 4:00 p.m. with wine and cheese tasting and a silent auction. Dinner served at 6:00 p.m.

For more information please contact Lucy Rios at (626) 962-2495 Ext. 7401 or e-mail Lrios@bishopamat.org