



Nancy Medina ('01), Patricia (Herrera) Hatfield ('90) and Fine Arts Department chairperson Rita Fortner enter Kiefer Stadium to participate in the 2007 Commencement ceremonies. The dedicated presence of alumni teachers continues to be a strong tradition at Bishop Amat.

### What's Inside...

**Greetings!**  
Msgr. Aidan Carroll,  
President  
Dr. Merritt Hemenway,  
Principal...  
**Page 2**

**Golden Anniversary  
Celebration:**  
Continued Growth and  
Amat's Master Plan  
**Page 3**

**In Memorium:**  
Remembering Joseph  
"Sparky" O'Connor  
**Page 4**

**Reunion Updates and  
50th Anniversary Event  
Schedule**  
**Page 5**

## A Golden Opportunity 50th

*Anniversary events provide a forum for camaraderie and remembrance.*

The recent commencement of Bishop Amat's class of 2007 encourages celebration and renewed focus. These talented and dedicated students (now Lancer alums!) amassed approximately \$3.7 million in academic scholarships and will be attending some of the nation's most prestigious universities. 95% of the graduating seniors will proceed to either a four year or two year college. They reflect Amat's desire to cultivate rich minds, citizens dedicated to their local and faith communities.

As we welcome these new graduates into the extended alumni family, we look forward to the upcoming celebration of Bishop Amat's 50th Anniversary. On September 17th, 2007, a liturgy in the Student Activity Center will initiate the festivities. Cardinal Roger Mahoney will be the primary

celebrant. We eagerly anticipate this celebration and hope that many of you will attend. Please review the list of events so you can plan ahead to join us.

My role as a teacher at Bishop Amat affords me the opportunity to interact with talented and inspiring students on a daily basis. I'm blessed to be a part of their educational experience. I'm doubly thankful to those teachers and campus leaders who influenced me during my time here as a student. I am fully aware of Bishop Amat's formative role in my personal growth and educational journey. For me, the anniversary of Amat's first fifty years provides an opportunity to commemorate the achievements of its alumni, the living body that continues to excel. The Development Office has invited all to participate, and I look forward to meeting many of you over the next year!

**Gabriel Escovar '98**  
Editor

## 2007 Valedictorian Kathryn La Bouff



Valedictorian Kathryn La Bouff ('07) is a recent diploma candidate of Bishop Amat's first International Baccalaureate (IB) cohort. In addition to providing the valedictorian address, she also sang the class song at the commencement ceremony on June 1st. Kathryn notes that the rigors of IB helped her to, "hone important skills for college, like research, academic speaking, and critical thinking." Kathryn was also a participant in the Kairos retreat program. After her senior retreat, she elected to help lead the junior Emmaus retreat. She was excited to, "guide the juniors on their spiritual journey, and continue [her] own as well." Kathryn will continue her academic pursuits at the University of California, Los Angeles in the fall. She hopes to major in Political Science.

## The President

Dear Bishop Amat Alumni:

My best wishes to all of you as the old school year winds down and we prepare to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Bishop Amat High School. This edition of The Amat Tradition provides you with a comprehensive listing of the currently planned Jubilee events. The year long celebration will begin on Monday, September 17, 2007 with the offering of the Mass of the Holy Spirit by His Eminence Cardinal Roger Mahony for our students, faculty, staff and parents in the Student Activity Center. We welcome all of our alumni to this Mass and the reception that follows and to all of the other events of the Jubilee Year.



As you will also see elsewhere in this newsletter, we have identified MVE Institutional, Inc. of Irvine, California as the architectural firm we wish to hire to provide us with a long-term Master Plan for Bishop Amat. While final contractual approval is still pending from the Building Commission of the Archdiocese, we have been authorized to have this prestigious firm move ahead during the coming months to conduct a comprehensive Needs Analysis for the project. Representatives from MVE will interview many school related focus groups, including alumni, to obtain their input on the Master Plan. My thanks to Chris Trujillo, Class of '74 for the invaluable assistance he has rendered to us in this matter.

We are also pleased to inform you that we have now established the Endowment Fund for Bishop Amat. The initial investment in the Fund is \$500,000.00 which we have taken from surplus monies accumulated over the past several years. This amount is invested with the Archdiocese and interest earned will be used primarily to assist families who are struggling to meet their financial obligations to the school. We intend to grow the Fund to at least \$5,000,000.00 so that no student otherwise qualified to attend the school would be deterred from doing so because of financial constraints.

My renewed gratitude to all of our alumni who continue to use The Tradition envelopes to make donations to the school. Your support of the scholarship assistance category has been particularly encouraging enabling this fund to grow to over \$132,000.00. Thank you on behalf of the current students and their families who are the beneficiaries of your generosity.

Monsignor Aidan Carroll  
President

## The Principal

Dear Fellow Alums:

Just recently I had the pleasure of interviewing a graduate of Amat who had already completed her college degree and teaching credential and was seeking employment as a teacher at her alma mater. It was amazing to me as I reviewed all that is happening on today's campus that there is much we do today that was not part of her education as a Lancer, just four years ago. I thought it might be worthwhile to give all our alumni a snapshot about what is new at "Amat Today."



Academically, depending on when you attended Amat, things have grown. We continue to offer around twenty AP courses but we have added the International Baccalaureate Programme. The "IB" as it is called is a two year program that requires students to take six college-level and externally assessed courses along with performing 150 hours of creativity, action and service. Many schools consider this the best preparation for university work available.

Far too often students who struggled with learning at Amat were relegated to minimum programs or in many cases just gave up and left. Three years ago we started a full Inclusion Program, one with which we provide special accommodations for students with defined learning needs. For many students, once their specific learning problem is diagnosed and treated appropriately, a new light on learning takes place. Marginal students are now are taught the skills that help them to not only succeed in high school, but also to continue successfully at the next level.

We have fully integrated the "new" Student Activity Center in our daily life at Amat. It is hard to fathom that just four years ago we did not even have a gymnasium. We have fabulous athletic facilities and the SAC has given birth to a dominant dance program. One amazing change after so many years is that whenever we need a student body assembly we just gather the students together in the air-conditioned facility.

This is only a brief snapshot of the most recent four years, but it is a vivid reminder that although we tend to assume that things are just the way we left them when we graduated, Lancer Land, continues to grow and develop as one of America's outstanding high schools. Your continued support for all we do is greatly appreciated.

Merritt Hemenway, Ph.D. '64  
Principal

## Alumni News

### Congratulations!

**Eugene Chan** ('98) and **Lesley Sacayanan** were married at St. Denis Church on June 9th. They met as members of the Pastoral Team at the University Catholic Center at UCLA.

**Colleen Moak** ('98) and **Andrew Ringa** were married on June 16th. They are excited to begin their new lives together in Washington, D.C.

**Christine Coulombe Mueseler** ('70) has been confirmed by the Pennsylvania State Senate as a member of the PA Public Television Commission. She was renominated by Governor Ed Rendell. She has worked at Seton Hill since 1991 in several capacities, including University Vice-President.

### Not one but two!

**Angela (Thomas) Eilers** ('92) and her husband were recently blessed with twin boys, Cayden and Tanner, on May 10th. They live in Yorba Linda.

### Thank You

**Ms. Virginia Pranik** retired this June after twenty-three years of service to Bishop Amat as a member of the Social Studies Department. Ms. Pranik served most recently as a World History teacher, but also spent time as Department Chairperson. Bishop Amat thanks Virginia for her dedicated and inspired service to the school community, and wishes her God's abundant blessings in her retirement.

## Orbit Alumni Golf Tournament

The 21st annual Alumni Golf Tournament was held on Monday, June 8, 2007 at the California Country Club in the city of Whittier. Sponsored by Orbit Printing, this annual event hosted a full complement of golfers who played a scramble, best-ball tournament. This year, the tournament was able to raise over \$40,000 toward eliminating the debt on the Student Activity Center.



Many alumni and several new faces were present at the event. The class of 1964 (five members) and class of 1973 (six members) were well represented, including Bishop Amat's current Principal, Dr. Merritt Hemenway, '64. Jim Lujan, '73, Peggy Cleveland, and Al Trinidad, '73, posted the "All-Alumni" low gross score.

At the end of the tournament, golfers participated in a closing awards ceremony, complete with a cooked-to-order BBQ, and live auction. A Cleveland Browns football helmet signed by Ralph Brown ('96), Brian Russell ('96), and Daylon McCutcheon ('95) was the most popular item up for bid. Congratulations to Joseph Rubio for winning this item!



The 2008 Alumni Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, June 13, 2008. We encourage you to consider participating in this exciting event. Participants reconnect with fellow alumni and assist their Alma Mater to raise the much-needed funds necessary to continue the long-standing traditions of Bishop Amat.

## Steadfast, Loyal and True: In the Beginning

An excerpt from the upcoming history of Amat by Mr. Ronald Woolsey

The 1950s was also an era which emphasized the family, and several television shows of the day highlighted that point. Parents and children huddled around a black and white 19 inch tube to watch sitcoms like Bringing Up Father, Father Knows Best and Ozzie and Harriet. It is no wonder that the "Amat family" became a keynote theme to the success of the school. Parent involvement was crucial to success, particularly when the immediate goals were for plant expansion, curriculum development, and forming a school connection with the surrounding parishes. Father Kiefer had ambitious plans for construction, including a future science building, gymnasium and additional classroom wings.

## Continued Growth: Amat's Master Plan

After the careful and thorough examination of Prequalification Statements and Technical Proposals from several prestigious architectural firms, Msgr. Carroll is pleased to announce that MVE Institutional, Inc. will be serving as the firm leading Bishop Amat into the 21st century.

MVE Institutional will be working closely with the Consultative School Council and several focus groups on campus, including students, parents, teachers, and alumni to generate a Master Plan that will improve the 18 acre campus over the next three decades. While the Plan will ultimately take years to be realized, Msgr. Carroll sees it as an opportunity to insure that those who come after us will be able to celebrate Bishop Amat's seventy-fifth anniversary with pride in the school's cutting edge status as an educational institution.

The creation of the Master Plan is in its very early stages, however possibilities for improvement include the demolition of existing classrooms and their replacement with multi-story, air-conditioned buildings, and the construction of a 450-seat Performing Arts Center. The Plan might also envision a 50 meter competition swimming pool, tennis courts and the renovation of the existing football, baseball and softball facilities.

## CIF Champions: Wrestling and Baseball

The 2007 Varsity Wrestling and Baseball teams both won CIF Div. V Championships this spring. On February 10th, the wrestling team beat Morrow Bay 42-29. Wrestlers Daniel Escamilla, Stevie Espindola, Andrew Ortega, Josh Velasquez and Carlos Villegas all recorded pins in the effort.

The Varsity Baseball squad beat Monrovia in the finals, 7-5. Led by San Gabriel Valley Player of the Year Maverick Olivares, the Lancers held on despite several late inning Monrovia rallies. Olivares won his twelfth game without a loss in the victory, and Jordan Fox contributed with three hits, two of them doubles.





## West Point Grad Looks to Future

On May 26th, Erin Grace Begonia ('02) became Amat's first female graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Commissioned as second lieutenant, Erin majored in Systems Management and branched in Chemical Corps.

Erin left her mark on Amat both academically and athletically. A top student, Erin made the Varsity Basketball team her freshman year and was a part of a CIF winning championship team. Because she suffered a serious knee injury her senior year, Erin initially attended the USMA Preparatory School in Ft. Monmouth, NJ. She recounts that her year at the prep school was one of the best times of her life, one that encouraged her to live independently and meet influential friends.

Even though Erin experienced another injury playing Div. I basketball for Army (she had her PCL reconstructed), she proved doctors wrong by furiously rehabbing and continuing to play at a high level.

Erin plans to go back to the prep school in New Jersey to be an Athletic Intern for the women's basketball team. She will help coach students who will be promoted to West Point in the upcoming year. After, Erin will attend BOLC II and III for more military training before heading to her unit.

Erin credits her parents, Richen and Caridad Begonia, sister Annika, and all the basketball personnel at USMA for her successful tenure at West Point.

## Rep. Maria Lorts Sachs ('67)

Maria Lorts Sachs ('67), has been elected to the Florida House of Representatives in District 86, an area that encompasses Boca Raton, Delray Beach, and Boyton Beach, in southeast Florida. Rep. Sachs took office in November and currently serves on the Safety and Security Council, the Committee on Health Innovations, and the Committee for Constitutional and Civil Law.

A graduate of the University of Maryland and the University of Miami Law School, Rep. Sachs has been an active member of the Floridian community. She served as a state prosecutor for Janet Reno, and has since been a passionate advocate for children, women, seniors, and crime victims.

Maria and her husband Peter have three children. Natasha studies international politics at Johns Hopkins University and opera at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA. Marcello attends Brown University in Providence, RI. Taylor recently graduated from St. Andrews Preparatory School in Boca Raton.

## In Memoriam

### Joseph "Sparky" O'Connor



Joseph O'Connor's relationship to Bishop Amat is the stuff of legends. Beginning in 1959, he and his wife Ruth enrolled their eldest child Mary at the brand new Bishop Amat. Over the next twenty-one years, all eleven of the O'Connor children would attend and graduate from Bishop Amat.

Alumni might better remember O'Connor as Coach Sparky. During the eighties and nineties, "Sparky" worked closely with both the baseball and football programs at Amat, helping to continue the school's winning athletic tradition. While working under head baseball coach Mark Paredes, O'Connor was an outfield coach for eight consecutive league championship teams, and eventually three CIF Championships.

When Mark Paredes began coaching football in 1986, O'Connor followed suit and took over the kicking game for Amat's special teams. While a coach, Amat football won nine consecutive league championships. Sparky particularly treasured his ring from the historic 15-0 Reebok Bowl Championship season of 1992.

He is survived by all eleven children, twenty-seven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren (with three more on the way!). His faithful dog "Domer," named after the golden dome at his beloved alma mater, the University of Notre Dame, also survives him. The O'Connor Family has established the Joseph "Sparky" O'Connor Scholarship Fund. Donations to this scholarship may be made through the Bishop Amat Development Office.



## Dr. France Cordova – New Purdue President

Dr. France Cordova ('65) has been approved as the 11th president of Purdue University. She most recently served as the Chancellor at University of California, Riverside. Cordova becomes the first woman, and first Hispanic, to serve as President.

Before her tenure at UC-Riverside, Cordova worked as chief scientist at NASA from 1993-1996. Dr. Cordova earned a B.A. in English from Stanford University, and a Ph.D. in physics from California Institute of Technology.

## 2007 Lancer Classic Dinner and Awards

The 2007 Lancer Classic Dinner and Awards was held at the Marriott Downtown Hotel on Saturday, March 3, 2007. Christopher Perez '86 and Peter Perez '92 were honored as Co-Alumni of the Year. Chris and Peter are Vice Presidents of Valley Vista Services, a large privately owned waste management company located in the City of Industry. Mrs. Maria Contreras-Sweet, the recipient of the Monsignor Kiefer Humanitarian Award, serves as Chairwoman of Promerica Bank, the first Latino business bank in California in over 30 years. Mr. Ed Roski, Jr., Chairman and CEO of Majestic Realty Company was Master of Ceremonies.



# Reunion updates...

## Class of 1967 – 40th Reunion

The Class of 1967 will be having their 40th year reunion in December. Graduates of the Class of 1967 are invited to participate in a four day Carnival cruise. The cruise ship will be leaving from Long beach and will travel to Catalina and Ensenada, Mexico. The cruise will leave December 3 and return the morning of December 7, 2007. Prices for the four day cruise range from \$169 to \$339 per person. If you would like to attend, please book your reservation as soon as possible, as these prices are only fixed for the first 30 cabins reserved. Please contact **Joyce Paolicelli Marfull** by phone (800) 373-5261, fax (703) 362-2062, or email [marfull@uandatravel.com](mailto:marfull@uandatravel.com).

Committee members include: **Glennys (Anderson) Fuller** (626) 622-5945, **Linda (Balk) Fossum** (951) 301-1345, **Carolyn (Bubert) Wendt** (770) 252-3939, **Bill and Charlene (Lynch) Wynn** (909) 593-7896, **Caryn McSweeney** (562) 595-0150, and **Joyce (Paolicelli) Marfull** (see above)

## Class of 1977 – 30th Reunion

The Class of 1977's 30th reunion will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2007 (originally planned for October 6) at the Clarion Hotel Anaheim Resort. The Clarion Hotel is located at 616 Convention Way, Anaheim, CA 92802. Great Reunions has been selected by the Reunion Committee to assist with the planning and management of the reunion. Full information about the reunion is posted at [www.greatreunions.com](http://www.greatreunions.com). Please visit their website or contact Great Reunions by phone at (800) 655-7971 to update your address and to purchase tickets. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Mary Ann Clouser** (Reunion Committee Chairperson) [macattack592003@yahoo.com](mailto:macattack592003@yahoo.com)

## Class of 1987 – 20th Reunion

The Class of 1987 will be having their 20th reunion on Saturday, October 13, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Select in Diamond Bar from 7pm-12am. Great Reunions has been selected by the reunion committee to assist with the planning and management of the reunion. Full information about the reunion is posted at [www.greatreunions.com](http://www.greatreunions.com). Please visit their website or contact Great Reunions by phone at (800) 655-7971 to update your address and purchase tickets. We look forward to seeing you there!

Committee Members include: (Chairperson) **Melanie (Robinson) Southard** [bahs87@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bahs87@sbcglobal.net), **Lisa Luna** (626) 475-7614, **Alicia Gover** (626) 833-9004, **Frances Rodriguez** (909) 964-1957, **Michelle (Javinar) Renta** (909) 437-5392

## Class of 1997 – 10th Reunion

The Class of 1997 will be having their 10th reunion on Saturday, October 13, 2007 at the Pacific Palms in City of Industry. Please contact the reunion committee at [HYPERLINK "mailto:bahsreunioncommittee@gmail.com"](mailto:HYPERLINKmailto:bahsreunioncommittee@gmail.com) [bahsreunioncommittee@gmail.com](mailto:bahsreunioncommittee@gmail.com) to update your address and other information.

**Isabelle (Penaloza) Selak** Reunion Committee Member

## Class of 1968 – 40th Reunion

**Ron Corrigan** is interested in forming a committee for the 40th reunion of 1968's graduating class. If you are interested in assisting with this special event, please contact him directly at (626) 912-9126 or [pyneapl1@verizon.net](mailto:pyneapl1@verizon.net).

**Greetings Amat Alumni:** As part of the 50th Anniversary celebration of Bishop Amat High School, the Alumni-Anniversary Committee is planning a series of "Decade Socials," honoring the Classes of the 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's and 00's. Wine and cheese receptions have been planned throughout the year (see 50th Anniversary Events listing).

The Committee is looking for class representatives as well as reunion coordinators to assist in contacting fellow classmates about these and other Anniversary Events. The Committee will provide you class contact lists. We are counting on your enthusiastic participation.

Please consider helping by contacting either **Mary Grace Lima '69** at [mglima@juno.com](mailto:mglima@juno.com), **Joan Wiederholt '70** at [joantheconlady@aol.com](mailto:joantheconlady@aol.com), or by calling the **Alumni/Development Office** at 626-962-2495, Ext. 1-7503.

## Alumni Choir

Bishop Amat is in the process of assembling an Alumni Choir for the 50th Anniversary Mass on Monday, September 17. If you were involved with the choir at Amat, or if you love to sing and would like to participate, please call **Dave Caro** (626) 962-2495 x1-5811 or **Randy Dimmitt** (626) 962-2495 x1-7416 or email [dcaro@bishopamat.org](mailto:dcaro@bishopamat.org) or [rdimmitt@bishopamat.org](mailto:rdimmitt@bishopamat.org). Rehearsal dates have not yet been set, but will most likely take place at the end of August and beginning of September.

## 50th Anniversary Events

**Monday, September 17, 2007**  
Opening Mass with  
Cardinal Mahony – 10:30 a.m.  
(Student Activity Center)

**Friday, October 12, 2007-  
Sunday, October 14, 2007**  
Homecoming Weekend

**Saturday, November 3, 2007**  
Extravaganza  
(Student Activity Center)

**Sunday, December 2, 2007**  
Decade Social (recognizing  
the Classes of 1960-1969)  
(Chapel/Brutocao Library)  
3-6 p.m.

**Wednesday, November 21, 2007**  
Thanksgiving Liturgy

**December, 2007**  
"Alumni for Others"  
(Christian Service Project)

**January 12, 2008**  
"An Evening of Academic  
Excellence" (Brutocao Library)

**Sunday, January 27, 2008**  
Decade Social (recognizing  
the Classes of 1970-1979)  
(Chapel/Brutocao Library)  
3-6 p.m.

**Saturday, February 9, 2008**  
50th Anniversary  
"Salute to Athletic Excellence"  
(Student Activity Center)

**Sunday, February 24, 2008**  
Decade Social (recognizing  
the Classes of 1980-1989)  
(Chapel/Brutocao Library)  
3-6 p.m.

**Saturday, April 12, 2008**  
50th Anniversary Lancer  
Classic Gala (Biltmore  
Hotel)

**Sunday, April 27, 2008**  
Decade Social (recognizing  
the Classes of 1990-1999)  
(Chapel/Brutocao Library)  
3-6 p.m.

**Friday, May 9, 2008**  
**Saturday, May 10, 2008**  
Fine Arts Showcase  
(Band, Choir, Dance) -  
Alumni Art Exhibit

**Sunday, May 18, 2008**  
Decade Social (recognizing  
the Classes of 2000-2007)  
(Chapel/Brutocao Library)  
3-6 p.m.

**Friday, June 13, 2008**  
Golf Tournament  
(California Country Club)



Bishop Amat Memorial High School  
 14301 Fairgrove Ave.  
 La Puente, CA 91746

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 INDUSTRY, CA  
 Permit No. 4280

## HOMEcoming WEEKEND (October 12-14, 2007)

Please join the Amat Family celebrate it's first ever, Homecoming Weekend, scheduled for the weekend of October 12-14, 2007. The festivities will begin with a barbeque at 5 p.m. on Friday, October 12 followed by the Varsity Football game vs. archrival St. Paul High School in Kiefer Stadium at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday, October 13, the Classes of 1977, 1987, and 1997 will be holding their reunion dinner/dances at local hotels. On Sunday, October 14, we invite all alumni to return to the campus for Mass, a barbeque, and tours of the campus. Don't miss this chance to reconnect with your classmates! Anyone interested in helping to plan this event, please call Marie LaBouff, Alumni Relations Coordinator at 626-962-2495, Ext. 1-7403.



Pictured with Msgr. Carroll is Marie La Bouff, the newly appointed Alumni Relations Coordinator. Marie is a graduate of the Class of 1977, married to Jim '75 and mother of Katie '07 and Chris

### Ms. Deborah Oswald

Director of Development

(626) 962-2495 x1-7444  
 doswald@bishopamat.org



### Mr. Gabriel Escovar

English Dept. (Teacher)  
 Alumni Newsletter Editor

(626) 962-2495 x1-7408  
 gescovar@bishopamat.org



### ALUMNI PORTAL

Register today at [alumni.bishopamat.org](http://alumni.bishopamat.org). It is our goal to use this website to keep in touch with our graduates. We will be posting alumni news, school event information, and sending out e-newsletters and e-announcements from this portal. Help us better serve the Amat Family by signing up today!

## Alumnus Speaks at NHS Induction Ceremony



Alumnus Catherine Lima ('03) provided the keynote address at this spring's Induction Ceremony for Amat's National Honor Society. Catherine spoke to sophomore and junior students about the importance of their academic experience in high school. She used the four pillars of NHS (scholarship, leadership, service, and character) to provide real-world and modern day examples for students to follow. Lima also talked about how her time at Bishop Amat prepared her for the rigorous expectations at Loyola Marymount University. Catherine is a recent graduate of LMU, where she earned a B.S. in Mathematics and a teaching credential. She was also was a finalist for Valedictorian. Catherine is excited to be returning to Amat this fall as a member of the Math Department!

Other recent alumni speakers at NHS ceremonies include Catherine's sister Carly Lima ('95), Elizabeth Gascho ('95), Eugene Chan ('98) and Xochiquetzal Martinez ('00).