

Scarlet & Gray

A quarterly magazine for students, parents, alumni, and friends of Mater Dei



The New Home of the Monarchs

SPORTS: Ian Connolly Earns Silver with the US Volleyball Team

STUDENT NEWS: Four students named National Merit Semifinalists

MD 2000 NEWS: Athletics & Aquatics Complex Opening

ALUMNI: Homecoming and Class Reunion wrap-up

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• www.materdei.org •

Mater Dei High School

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Administration 2006-07

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Fall 2006
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Mater Dei High School in the Diocese of Orange, mindful of its mission to be witness to the love of Christ for all, believes every person, as a child of God, regardless of race, condition, or age, has equal dignity and an inalienable right to an education. Therefore, no qualified student will be denied admission to this school on the basis of sex, race, color, or national origin.



Frances Clare

Dear Mater Dei
Parents, Students,
Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to the 2006 - 2007 school year. Our school theme is "Equipped for Excellence" and students continue to become equipped for success in all areas of life at MDHS. To facilitate students' success, we are blessed to have an excellent, dedicated, caring faculty and staff who continue the tradition of outstanding instruction in the classrooms, in the offices, in our athletic programs and in the many areas of the fine arts and ASB activities.

During the summer, our choir took a trip to Europe where they sang in many of the great cathedrals and churches of Italy and where they also had the opportunity to sing aboard the USS Iwo Jima prior to the ship sailing to Iraq. One of the highlights of the trip was singing in St. Peter's Square in Rome for a Papal audience.

This September we welcomed over 600 freshmen into the ranks of the MD community. We began the school year with an enrollment of over 2,200 students and 200 on the waiting list. Our student body is led by our ASB President, **MR. NICK NORMANDIN**, and his outstanding team, Vice-President, **MR. KYLE WOODS**, Secretary, **MS. ALLY WIGMORE**, and Treasurer, **MS. ABBIE ARMSTRONG**. Under their leadership, the Homecoming Activities were excellent. The festivities began with the school hallway decorating contest, then the students enjoyed the Homecoming Carnival and the Showcase on Friday in our new air-conditioned gym, and the "Big Game" against Orange Lutheran that evening.

The school year began with great rejoicing as we opened our new gymnasium and swimming pool. The excitement of the students was quite overwhelming when the entire student body was able attend an all-school rally for the first time in the new gym. Our water polo teams are now able to enjoy true "home games" and on-campus practices in the new pool and our swim teams will soon be ready to avail of the facility also.

As the year continued, we hosted our 22nd Annual College Night with over 150 colleges and universities in attendance. On a daily basis throughout this semester, we have representatives from a number of col-

Principal's Letter

leges and universities available on campus to meet with students and discuss the college/university admission process. Throughout the semester, our senior level students are busy and a "little stressed" as they complete college applications and essays.

Our sports teams continue to excel on the playing fields, courts and in the swimming pool. As I write this letter, the Trinity League games are under way and the cross country, football, golf, volleyball, tennis, and water polo teams are representing our school with outstanding enthusiasm, spirit, sportsmanship and success. The red wave is evident in the outstanding support which current students give to the teams at all sporting events.

In Campus Ministry our students continue to reach out to the less fortunate in the local community and other areas of our country and world. During this year's Family Mass, alumnus **MR. JEFF ALLEN** spoke movingly of his mission experiences in Kenya and Uganda and the plight of the children in many areas of these countries. On the local level, students are involved in reaching out to the less fortunate through their work in the weekly Lions Share outreach program. In addition to the work which students complete through this program, many also spread the gospel message of service to others in a myriad of ways such as summer work with Camp Re-Creation in the Diocese of Orange, volunteerism in different hospitals and tutoring in our local Junior Monarch feeder schools, to name just a few of the many programs in which our outstanding young men and women are engaged.

"Equipping Students for Excellence" in all areas of school life is the number one focus and tradition of this great high school, and no effort or resource is spared in achieving that goal. It is thanks to the commitment and dedication of our bishop, **MOST REVEREND TOD D. BROWN**, parents, alumni and generous benefactors that we are able to provide all students attending Mater Dei with the finest Catholic education available.

As we continue through the school year, we are constantly reminded of and thankful for the goodness of our God and the many blessings bestowed upon all members of the MDHS community.

Sincerely in Mater Dei,

Frances Clare, MDHS Principal

Around Campus

Four Monarchs Named National Merit Semifinalists

Each fall nearly 1.4 million high school juniors across the country take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). In addition to preparing students for the SAT, this test is used by the National Merit® Scholarship Program to screen these juniors for future recognition and scholarship distribution.

Of the 1.4 million entrants, some 50,000 with the highest PSAT/NMSQT® Selection Index scores (critical reading + mathematics + writing skills scores) qualify for recognition in the National Merit® Scholarship Program. In April, following the fall test administration, high-scoring participants from every state are invited to name two colleges or universities to which they would like to be referred by NMSC. In September, these high scorers are notified through their schools that they have qualified as either a Commended Student or Semifinalist. Finally, a third group of students are recognized by the College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program based on their PSAT scores.

A number of Mater Dei students were recently recognized in all three of the above categories. Nine students were honored by the National Hispanic Recognition Program as scoring in roughly the top 3,300 of the 124,000 hispanic students who took the PSAT.

2006 - 2007 National Hispanic Recognition Recipients

Marysa Antillon
Ramiro Castro, Jr.
Albert Garcia, Jr.
Adam Hyink
Carina Morris
Kaitlin O'Donnell
Janelle Patterson
Jennessa Payne
Lauren Valdespino

Eleven Monarchs were named Commended Students by the National Merit Scholarship Program. Although these students do not continue in the competition for Merit Scholarship® awards, some of them do become candidates for special scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses. These 11 Monarchs are some of only 34,000 students from across the country to earn this honor.

2006 - 2007 National Merit Commended Students

Harmony Barker
Natalie Beisner
Ian Connolly
Steven Haugen
Christina Manh
Eric McCown
Carina Morris
Anh Nguyen
Jesse Rau
Johnathan Tran
Janelle Vu

Finally, four Mater Dei seniors were named National Merit Semifinalists. To ensure that academically able young people from all parts of the United States are included in this talent pool, semifinalists are designated on a state representational basis. They are the highest scoring entrants in each state. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, semifinalists must advance to finalist standing in the competition. Approximately 15,000 finalists will be chosen based on high academic achievement throughout their senior year as well as their SAT score. These students will then be eligible for a number of scholarships through the National Merit® Scholarship Program, corporations and individual colleges and universities.

2006 - 2007 National Merit Semi-Finalists

Lawrence Chang
Mary Flynn
Stephen Lamb
Amanda Lim

Guadarrama Preparing Himself for a Future in the Business World



Juan Guadarrama

Mater Dei junior Juan Guadarrama was one of only 30 middle and high school students from across Orange County selected to take part in a summer business program.

The program, Academy of Business Leadership Summer Business Institute (ABL-SBI), took place over the course of seven weeks.

Juan applied for the program last spring and not only was he accepted, but he also received a full scholarship to participate. The ABL-SBI began with an orientation at USC before classes began at Cal State Fullerton.

The participants in the program took part in workshops, projects and skill training related to the stock market, finance and entrepreneurship. In addition, participants took part in college preparation programs, received mentoring from volunteer trainers and were able to go on weekly fieldtrips to visit area businesses and meet executives from companies such as Nestle and Merrill Lynch.

Juan was involved in creating his own stock portfolio and managing it throughout the seven-week course. The largest group project of the course was creating a business plan. Small groups were formed and each had to come up with a product or company and take it from the inception stage to having a finished product. The business plans were then presented to a panel of judges and one group from each site went on to compete against all of the Southern California sites.

Juan had a tremendous experience in the ABL-SBI Program in every aspect from the orientation to the final graduation ceremony. Juan will continue to meet with his mentor throughout the school year and is hoping to participate in the more advanced BOLT program next year.

Each fall the Mater Dei Community kicks off the school year with a huge celebration of Communion and community. The twenty-second annual Family Mass and Pancake Breakfast was held on Sunday, October 1st and attended by over 2,400 Mater Dei students, parents, alumni and friends.



Fr. Patrick Moses was the celebrant of the 22nd Annual Family Mass

Mass was celebrated in the Grotto by Fr. Patrick Moses of St. Irenaeus. In keeping with the theme of family, 25 current students and their families took part in the liturgy celebration. From the opening procession and the prayers of the faithful, to the reading of the word and being ministers of the Eucharist, the Mater Dei family was represented throughout the Mass.

Each year there is special collection at the Mass to benefit a charitable organization. Last year as you may recall, the Family Mass contributions were given to St. Paul's School and St. Scholastica Academy of Covington, LA following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. The contributions the Mater Dei family was able to make to those schools was tremendous. Both schools are up and fully running although a large number of under-funded communities are still struggling to rebuild in the gulf coast area.



Jeff Allen '02 spoke to the congregation about his mission work in Africa

Family Mass & Breakfast

This year's contributions were sent to Holy Family Orphanage in the Diocese of Nakuru, Kenya. Following Fr. Patrick's homily, **JEFF ALLEN '02** addressed the congregation about his experiences visiting orphanages throughout various parts of Africa. Allen, a 2006 graduate of Point Loma Nazarene University has traveled to Africa twice and doing all he can to bring awareness about the terrible conditions back to the U.S. Whether he was in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia or Jimma, the conditions were the same; small shacks located in and around trash dumps with corrugated metal roofs and dirt floors.

Following Allen's comments, a collection was taken that garnered nearly \$17,000 that will go directly to help the orphans. Ms. Helen Steves, Director of Campus Ministry, said, "Each year we reach out to a very worthy cause during the Family Mass and the members of the Mater Dei Community never disappoint. The generosity shown by this community year after year is outstanding." A very special thank you to all who took part in



Jeff Allen '02 on a mission trip to an African Orphanage. This year's Family Mass collection will be distributed to orphanages in Africa through Catholic Charities

the Family Mass collection. The monies will be distributed to orphanages throughout Africa by the local chapters of Catholic Charities. If you were unable to attend the Mass and would still like to contribute to this cause, please contact Campus Ministry at (714) 850-9556.

Following Mass, over 1,500 people enjoyed breakfast in the LeVecke Center and Shamrock Plaza. The breakfast would not have been possible without the work of current parent **MERRILL STRACHAN** who has been a volunteer at this event since its inception in 1984. Under the direction of **KELLIE**

PENDERGEST of the MDHS Office of Advancement and with the help of countless parent and student volunteers, Strachan and his team put together a gourmet breakfast complete with pancakes, fruit, sausage and juice.



Volunteers prepared over 2,000 pancakes at this year's breakfast following the Family Mass

In addition to the liturgical celebration and the fantastic breakfast, the brand-new Athletics & Aquatics Complex also hosted an open house at this event. The facility which houses a three-court gymnasium, 25 yard x 32-meter pool, weightroom, Monarch Hall of Fame and locker rooms and coaches offices was open for all members of the Mater Dei Family to see. Members of all of the Mater Dei varsity teams were on hand to show off the top-of-the-line facilities that they began using in September.

2006 Family Mass & Breakfast Donors

Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Antoci
AA Produce
Tony Zendejas
Zendejas Mexican Restaurant
Weir Canyon Chevrolet
Galindo Family
Villa Roma Sausage Co
Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf
Siddiq Family
Meresz Family
Ms. Yolanda Alvarez
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas V. Croal
Dr. and Mrs. Manuel Porto
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ryan
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Brewer
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gomez
Mr. and Mrs. James Martin
Dr. and Mrs. Russell Kelly
Ms. Karen Muller

Choir Sings for the Pope

Following months of practice and fund-raising, the Mater Dei High School Choir joined forces with the Cornelia Connelly School Choir for a 12-day choral performance tour of Italy. Under the guidance of Choir Director **SCOTT MELVIN**, 79 students and many of their parents made the trek across the pond for this monumental choir trip.

Leading up to this wonderful experience the choir students put in countless hours raising money to help fund the trip. Most students sold pizza kits from Little Ceasars Pizza and Entertainment Books full of coupons for everything from restaurants to mini-golf. The largest portion of the fundraising came from students selling concessions at Angels Stadium and the Honda Arena, formerly the Anaheim Pond.



The MD Choir in Italy during their 12-day summer trip with the Cornelia Connelly Choir

After a great deal of preparation the choir arrived in Italy and performed nine times in just six days. The trip began in Milan where they sang at the altar "San Giovanni Buono" at Duomo Cathedral. That same night they performed a concert at Chiesa Santa Maria in Valvendra. From Milan they moved onto Venice for an evening Mass concert at San Marco Basilica followed by a concert at SS Giovanni e Paolo the next day.

The group left Venice and headed to Florence where they sang at High Mass at Duomo. The remainder of the trip was spent in Rome where they had a total of four performances in just two days. They sang at an evening Mass at SS

Trinita die Monti and then spend the next day in Vatican City. The final day of performances began with High Mass at St. Peter's Basilica followed by a private concert at the Sistine Chapel. The t o u r



The Mater Dei choir performs the Schubert Mass in G with the Orchestra Citta di Grosseto at San Stefano al Ponte in Florence.

wrapped up with a performance at Basilica dei SS Bonifacioe Alessio all' Aventino.

In addition to the many performances in various churches, the choir made a impromptu trip to the USS Iwo Jima to perform for the troops. They had the opportunity to sing "God Bless America" in addition to a number of hymns. Following the performance on the US assault ship the students were given tours and had the opportunity to board helicopters. The ship was docked in Naples and headed to Iraq shortly after the performance.

Students Speak Out

We asked these members of the choir what their favorite part was about their 12-day performance trip to Italy over the summer.



"The entire trip was so memorable, but my favorite part of the trip has to be singing at the Duomo in Florence. We got to sing at a few High Masses, but the Duomo was our best High Mass performance of the trip."

Janelle Patterson ~ Senior



"When we were in Rome, a small group of us climbed the over 700 stairs to the top of the Coppola at St. Peter's Basilica and were able to look down over all of Vatican Square, which is actually circular. It was an amazing view of the whole city."

Paul Cooper ~ Junior



"The most memorable event on the trip was in Venice. There were not a lot of people around and a few of us were in a gondola and we just started singing. We sang as the gondolier rushed us back to our hotel so we could make it back in time."

Stephen Lamb ~ Senior



"We spent some time at the Trevi Fountain and it was awesome. When our group left the fountain it was a bit of an adventure getting back to the hotel. Between walking for blocks, we were going from bus to bus and finally found our way to the hotel."

Marlys Woods ~ Senior

MDHS Volleyball Team Races for a Cure



MD student Andi Collins lost her battle with breast cancer in 2003

For the third consecutive year, members of the MDHS girls' volleyball program took part in the Susan B. Koman Race for the Cure at Fashion Island, in a tribute to former MD volleyball standout **ANDI COLLINS**.

Collins was diagnosed with breast cancer as an MDHS junior in 2002. After a long and courageous battle, Andi passed away on September 4, 2003.

The 49 girls' volleyball players from each of the three teams made an impressive red and gray presence at the event, even drawing media attention. Fellow event participants asked questions about Andi or mentioned remem-

bering Andi's story after seeing her photo on the backs of every player and volleyball parents' t-shirts.

The group did a tremendous job representing Mater Dei High School as well as the legacy of Andi Collins. In addition to their representation, the girls raised over \$1,500 for breast cancer research in September alone.

It was a great day of remembrance, unity, fun and team bonding. Andi remains a tremendous inspiration to not only the volleyball players, but the entire student body.

Andi's positive spirit, competitiveness, her love for the game, her sense of determination, and the level of excellence she brought to the Mater Dei volleyball program continues to drive each MD player to this day.

For more information about breast cancer, visit www.komen.org.

Visit the MDHS website at

www.materdei.org

The site features news and event information for parents, students and alumni.

You can also find a great selection of Mater Dei sportswear and merchandise at the online store.

It is a great place to shop for gifts or to find the perfect thing to wear to the next Mater Dei game.

Go Monarchs!

12th Annual Nike Extravaganza

Now in its twelfth year, the Mater Dei Nike Extravaganza will finally be held on campus. This annual showcase event brings together some of the best high school basketball teams in the country for two days of exceptional basketball.

This year's event features four nationally ranked teams including your very own Monarch boys' basketball team that is currently ranked fourth by *USA Today*. The event has been expanded to two days and features four

games on Friday night with the Lady Monarchs taking on county rival Brea Olinda at 7 p.m. The Saturday Session includes eight games, with the first tip off at 10 a.m. and the final tip off at 8:30 when Mater Dei takes on Lake Oswego of Oregon.

Tickets must be purchased individually for each day of the event and will be available at the Mater Dei ticket window beginning Friday, December 1.

Nike Extravaganza Schedule ~ Friday, February 2

4:00 p.m. - Servite vs. Daniel Murphy

5:30 p.m. - Santa Margarita vs. Durango (NV)

7:00 p.m. - Mater Dei (Girls) vs. Brea (Girls)

8:30 p.m. - Oak Hill Academy (VA) vs. Orange Lutheran

Nike Extravaganza Schedule ~ Saturday, February 3

10:00 a.m. - Dos Pueblos (Santa Barbara) vs. Fountain Valley

11:30 a.m. - JSerra vs. Ocean View

1:00 p.m. - Colony vs. Hoover (San Diego)

2:30 p.m. - Bishop Gorman (NV) vs. Dominguez

4:00 p.m. - Campbell Hall vs. Villa Park

5:30 p.m. - Westchester vs. Carlsbad

7:00 p.m. - Fairfax vs. Oak Hill Academy (VA)

8:30 p.m. - Mater Dei vs. Lake Oswego (OR)

Connolly Competes for USA Volleyball

Mater Dei Senior Ian Connolly did something this past summer that most athletes only dream about; he represented the USA in international competition. The selection process started with a local try-out which earned Ian a spot on the USA Boys' Youth National Training Team. This team is comprised of the top 18 players born in 1989 or 1990. Those 18 players then took part in three grueling weeks of tryouts in Lake Placid, NY after which the team was cut from 18 to 12.



Senior Ian Connolly with his mother at the NORCECA Championships in the Dominican Republic where he helped the USA National Boys Youth Team earn a silver medal.

Ian and his team spent one week in the small town of Bayaguana, Dominican

Republic where they competed in the NORCECA (North, Central America and Caribbean Volleyball Confederation) Championships. The tournament had teams representing Mexico, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Canada and the USA.

The USA team dropped its first match 3-0 (26-24, 25-21, 25-20) to Puerto Rico. They followed that game with a straight-set victory (25-14, 25-8, 25-19) over Guatemala and a victory over Dominican Republic (25-17, 25-23, 25-14) to finish second in Pool A.

The USA defeated Mexico (25-16, 25-9, 25-13) in their quarter-final match and went on to face Cuba in the semi-final. According to Connolly, "Cuba had the most athletic team out there, they were really good. That win was definitely the highlight of the tournament." The US had to fight its way back into the match after getting down 2 games to none. They defeated Cuba, 3-2 (18-25, 23-25, 25-21, 25-21, 15-13) and advanced to play Puerto Rico in the final.

The US dropped their final match 3-0 (25-20, 25-22, 25-21) to Puerto Rico but earned an automatic bid in the 2007 World Championships. Ian is guaranteed a spot on the 18-man training roster for next summer's World Championships and hopes to continue to represent the USA in international volleyball competition well into the future.

Coach Rollinson Helps Turn the Tide



Bruce Rollinson '67

DON YAEGER, a writer for *Sports Illustrated* recently released a book called *Turning of the Tide, How One Game Changed the South*. The book is about the legendary 1970 college football game

between University of Alabama and University of Southern California. From the front flap, "Bear Bryant's Tide was an all-white national powerhouse in the SEC, and the USC Trojans, a diverse team featuring a nearly all-black starting backfield, reflected the social changes that were sweeping the nation...Alabama's 42-21 loss broke down the last stronghold of segregation in college football."

One member of the USC Trojan football team was Mater Dei alum **COACH BRUCE ROLLINSON '67**. A junior flanker on the squad at the time of that historic football game, Rollinson is quoted twice throughout the pages of the book and has been sharing the lessons he learned as a USC football player with the Monarchs since he came to Mater Dei in 1976. Bruce then took over as head football coach in 1988.

MD Senior Competes for National Title



Torie Immel

Mater Dei senior **TORIE IMMEL** took her first horse back riding lesson at age six and has not stopped riding since. She began competing in equestrian events at age seven and is now one of the best jumpers in the country. She recently competed in the West Coast Championships regional qualifier, held in San Juan Capistrano, where she took first place. She competed against riders from California,



MDHS Senior Torie Immel along with her horse Ambassador competing at the West Coast Championships

Nevada and Hawaii. The win earned Immel a spot in the national championships in New York. In addition to her recent success, Immel won a gold medal at the Junior Olympics in 2004 and was recognized as the number one rider in the country for her age division throughout 2005.

Like most seniors, Immel is busy deciding where she will attend college in the fall. Many of the top equestrian schools in the

nation are all recruiting her heavily. She will take recruiting trips to Auburn University, the University of Georgia, Texas A&M and the University of South Carolina in the coming months before deciding where she will attend school next fall.

MD Track & Field News

It was incorrectly reported in the Summer Issue of the Scarlet & Gray Magazine that **JAMIE ROTH** holds the school record in both the shotput and the discus. Jamie is the MDHS discus record holder however, the shot put record is held by **ROBIN REGAN '04** with a throw of 40 feet 3/4 inches. Regan is now a member of the track & field team at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, MN. We apologize for the mistake.

MD 2000



Bishop Tod D. Brown, D.D., blessed the various portions of the Athletics & Aquatics Center including the weightroom above.

The Athletics & Aquatics Complex

New Home of the Monarchs Opens for the 2006-07 School Year



Former Rector, Fr. Steve Sallot '72 addresses the crowd at the Fall 2006 Athletics & Aquatics Complex Blessing & Dedication



Swimming Pool

Athletic Training Room



Main entrance of the gym

Gym interior



Heisman Trophy Case



MDHS President Patrick Murphy was presented with a plaque acknowledging his hard work over that made the MD2000 dream a reality. The presentation was made at an all-school assembly. ASB President Nick Normandin spoke on behalf of the students. The following is an excerpt from his speech. "Mr. Patrick Murphy, president and visionary of Mater Dei High School, is the man who took the plans for these awesome buildings and made them the reality which we stand in today...You made this happen Mr. Murphy. And we, the current student body, are grateful to be present for the inauguration of this chapter in Mater Dei history...We hope that his plaque hangs where future generations of students will see that you were the President who made the future happen."

He is pictured here with (l to r) his daughters Svetta and Liana and his wife Marty

Charlie Christiansen ~ Giving Back to His Alma Mater



Charlie Christiansen '69 and his wife Judi

JONATHAN TUFO '91, VP of **A d v a n c e m e n t** recently had a chance to catch up with **CHARLIE CHRISTIANSEN '69**. He has recently become very active with his alma mater and the greater MD

community. many years now, to create a financial services company that goes well beyond just making money...that's the easy part. What's different about Champions Group is that we teach others how to get their financial house in order. We empower ordinary people to become financially independent. I know it's easy to say, but it works. It really does.

One of the tools that we use at Champions Group is to show people that by repositioning home equity assets into an income earning, safe investment, they will gain safety, liquidity, and a return on their equity. Equity that is locked up, earns no interest and is not easily accessible if one needs to get at their own money. By the way, we are putting our money where our mouth is. For any Mater Dei family that uses Champions Group for a qualifying new mortgage loan or to refinance, Champions Group will donate \$1000 to Mater Dei...No strings attached! This donation will be made in the family's name and it does not affect the loan costs in any way. It is from our end exclusively. It's a win-win for the Mater Dei family and for our school.

What should people know about Champions Group?

Champions Group is a triad of companies that were formed to change the way American families manage their everyday financial affairs. Unfortunately, even though our schools do a good job of equipping our children for a variety of professions, I believe we are desperately lacking in preparing our young people for one of the most important aspects of life after graduation- how to make good financial choices that will provide for each stage of their life. Immediately following high school, young people are bombarded with offers to go into to debt via credit cards, student loans, auto loans, and so on. In far too many cases, by the time they graduate from college, major financial burdens have been already created. Often, this continues to a point where the only choice becomes desperation. We at Champions Group educate people of all ages to make sound financial decisions that will allow the creation of wealth rather than debt. Wealth should not be a pipe dream for anyone if you are equipped with the proper knowledge. Our

strategies are the same principles that thousands upon thousands of successful people have been using for generations. It's the lack of this knowledge that causes the problems.

Why did you make such a generous sponsorship of the school?

This is really a two part answer. First, as a Mater Dei alumnus, I realize now what a valuable impact on my life that attending Mater Dei had. My success in business would not have been possible if I hadn't had the foundation that attending this school gave me. Our contribution to the school is in part, a way of giving back, but also a way for Champions Group to connect with a message that I believe everyone should hear.

Unfortunately, many families are in financial crisis. It doesn't have to be that way. With the money that people are already spending, they can go from piling on more debt to building wealth with a few simple changes. Our strategies really work and, as much as I'd like to take credit for inventing the concepts, they have been around for generations. All we did was to organize them in a fashion that anyone can utilize. We teach people how to put these methods to work immediately for all financial situations and start on the road to building wealth. We always hear that knowledge is power and in this case, Champions Group knowledge is financial power. Everyone can benefit if they're open to hearing about our strategies.

How do you spend your free time?

My wife, Judi, and I have six children, so our family is our hobby. We regularly take the boat to the river or go to Hawaii on family vacations. We try to have at least one family get together each quarter. See I believe my biggest asset is my family and that is where I try to spend most of my time.

I would say that coaching was also a hobby of mine, helping out with my children then moved up to coaching youth football, to coaching high school football and softball. Then I was asked to be the head coach at the cCollege level for softball. All the children have been involved in sports. My youngest, Davis, plays on the Mater Dei Sophomore football team.

Can you give us a little background on yourself?

I was raised in a family of 11 children, but I was awarded the opportunity to go to Mater Dei. I have to say that Mater Dei changed my life, after spending most of my life in public schools and running around with the wrong crowd, it helped me realize that whatever I want in life I have to go and get it. After high school, I played a couple years of college football, but my thoughts were always on having my own business. Looking back at all the businesses I was involved in, each was a stepping stone to the next. Some businesses were profitable and some not, but I learned something from each venture that has helped me get to where I am today.

What has changed at the MD you attended and the MD of today?

I graduated from Mater Dei in 1969 and the only changes I see are physical. The traditions, discipline and high standards are still present. The facilities, however, are second to none. The students now are attending a school that is similar to a major college or university. Now we have the same traditions, discipline and high standards with great facilities.

How did you end up in financial services?

Champions Group is really a compilation of most of my career endeavors. Early on, I got involved on a ground floor level with an insurance services company. This company went on to become a huge success that was eventually sold for more money than most people can imagine. Over the last decade or so, I have worked with some of the largest organizations in the mortgage banking industry at one level or another. It has been my dream for

Advancement Information

Champions Group Join the Mater Dei Team



Mater Dei High School is proud to welcome Champions Group as its newest Partner in Education. Champions Group is a diversified financial company providing lending, investment and real estate services. The Champions

Group is a well-versed group of financial professionals dedicated to satisfying their clients in all types of financial transactions. When you team with Champions Group for your financial needs, you are assured the best rates available.

Mater Dei would like to thank the ownership and staff at Champions Group, especially 1969 alumnus **CHARLIE CHRISTIANSEN**, for beginning a new school-wide blanket sponsorship with

Mater Dei this year. With this sponsorship, Champions Group has committed to donating to the school \$1,000 for every qualifying loan.

To contact Champions Group or to learn more about their special services for Mater Dei families please visit their website at www.championsgroup.com and click on the Mater Dei tap or call them at (800) 787-5070 for more information.

MDHS Boys' Basketball Season Tickets

Your defending CIF Champion Mater Dei Monarchs return for another championship year in the new, high-powered Trinity League. In addition to the new league, the Monarchs will be playing their home games in the brand-new gymnasium on the campus of Mater Dei.

Season Tickets are just \$75.00 each.

There are only a minimum number of seats remaining, act quickly.

The Monarchs will host the following home games:

January 10 ~ St. John Bosco
January 12 ~ Orange Lutheran
January 19 ~ JSerra
January 24 ~ Santa Margarita
February 6 ~ Servite

Contact the Athletics Office to purchase your tickets today ~ (714) 850-9573

Ring of Honor 2007

Nominations are now being accepted for Mater Dei's next class of Ring of Honor Inductees

The Mater Dei High School Ring of Honor debuted in May 2001 at the 50th Anniversary Golden Gala. The Ring of Honor aims to bring the entire Mater Dei community together to celebrate our school, give thanks, and recognize people who have made Mater Dei such a great place to learn and develop. It is the dedication and commitment of each and every member of our extended Monarch family that creates the traditional appeal of Mater Dei High School.

Criteria

The Ring of Honor seeks to recognize individuals who have achieved local, state, national, or international recognition through their church, school, community, or professional life. The honoree must display commendable character and dedication to the values and mission of Mater Dei High School. Inductees are not required to be Mater Dei alumni. All members of the Mater Dei community will have nomination privileges. Final selections will be made by the Mater Dei administrative board.

For a copy of the nomination form, contact Kathleen Kelly in the Office of Advancement at (714) 850-9527 or kkelly@materdei.org. You are also welcome to visit our website www.materdei.org to print the nomination form.

Please return nominations to Mater Dei High School Attn: Jonathan Tufo, 1202 West Edinger Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92707

Looking out for the Students of the Future



Cassandra Aguilar '02
Concordia,

CASSANDRA AGUILAR '02 recently finished her degree in liberal studies with a minor in cross-cultural studies and Spanish from Concordia University, Irvine. While attending Concordia, Cassandra founded

“Avanzamos Juntas,” which means “Building and Achieving Together.” Cassandra, along with 20 other students, helped Latina girls in the community set academic goals and prepare for college. Her involvement in “Avanzamos Juntas” taught her the importance of mentoring and showed her the dramatic impact it can have on a young person’s life.

Aguilar stated, “No one should ever feel shut out from earning a degree. I want to

devote my career to making education possible to all citizens.” Last summer, she set out to make that goal a reality. Cassandra moved to Atlanta where she was an intern with the Mexican American Legal Defense Education Fund. Following her internship, she moved to Philadelphia where she is pursuing a masters degree in urban education with a concentration in community-school partnerships at Temple University.

Nurse Puts AED Training to Good Use



Jennifer Woolley '90

In September of this year, a Mater Dei grad became a life-saving hero to one very lucky Irvine man. JENNIFER WOOLLEY '90 was working out at a local 24 Hour Fitness when she noticed a commotion across the room

and assessed the situation. A nurse anesthetist at USC Medical Center, Jennifer determined that the man had gone into cardiac arrest. Others were administering CPR, but she realized that no amount of CPR could save him. 24 Hour Fitness, like Mater Dei High School, has a number of automatic electronic defibrillators (AED) at their locations. Jennifer had been trained in the use of the machine and executed it

flawlessly and was able to get the man’s heart pumping again. Once the paramedics arrived they took over and transported the man, who is now doing fine, to the hospital. One of the firefighters at the scene said this was the first time he had seen the AED “properly used and that the patient survived.”

Jennifer was in the right place at the right time in order to give the Irvine man the continued gift of life.

2006 Mini-Class Reunions

Under the guidance of JOSEPH MEDLIN '98, Director of Alumni Advancement, Mater Dei High School encourages classes to have reunions every 5 years. Often times, alumni like to get together more frequently than that and organize their own mini-reunions on off years. This is true for two groups of graduates who got together this past summer to catch up with classmates and remember the great times they had as students at Mater Dei.

A small group of friends from the Class of 1960 got together at the Plano, TX home of ANITA LOVEJOY O'DONOGHUE for a 46-year mini-reunion. The weekend event was attended by TANYA KNAPP GUY of Beaumont, CA, DIANA WHITNEY GENTLEMAN of Germantown, TN, SUZANNE CAMPBELL GORCE and JOAN DUNN MCMAHAN of Costa Mesa, CA, BARBARA LEGARI REED of Alexandria, VA and JANE FINAN ATENCIO of Newport Beach, CA.

Most of the group had not seen one another for almost 10 years and they don't want that to happen again. The girls had a fantastic weekend and are

looking forward to the 40-year reunion with the entire class in 2010.



A group of friends from the Class of 1960 celebrate a 46-year mini-reunion in Plano, TX.

A group also got together from the Class of 1990. The nine alumni, along with their husbands and children, met for an afternoon of family, food and fun at a local mini-reunion held at Megan Grimes Hayden's home in Irvine. Present from the Class of 1990 were JENNIFER KEARNS WORSHAM, NATALIE SANDINO MORAN, GABBY LIBERAL BELINSKY, MEGAN GRIMES HAYDEN, THERESA CONWAY LEHR, MEGAN HARKINS URE, LIZA PUGEDA ANGIER, ANGIE GREGORY DEVLIN and JENNIFER WOOLLEY.



A group of friends from the Class of 1990 celebrate a 16-year mini-reunion.

If you and your classmates recently held a mini-reunion let us know. Send event information as well as photos to kkelly@materdei.org.

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www.wamoolafor schools.com

Alumni Shadow Day



18 MDHS Alumni kicked off Homecoming 2006 by spending the day on campus. The alums were paired with a current student and attended all of their classes, ate lunch in the cafeteria and maybe even picked up a detention along the way.



Homecoming Football Game



The 2006 Homecoming Football game was the most well attended game in recently memory. Over 420 tickets were sold through the Alumni Office alone.

Including Alumni and their family and friends, over 500 people attended the Alumni Pre-Game Reception held prior to kick-off at the Santa Ana Bowl.

Following a heart-breaking loss to Orange Lutheran, over 200 Alumni returned to Mater Dei for the Alumni Post-Game Reception. Those in attendance had the chance to catch up with old friends, see the campus improvements, including the Athletics & Aquatics Complex, and enjoy the Mater Dei tradition of "The Grotto."



Pre-Game

Post-Game



Coming Events

Alumni Golf Classic



Over 130 golfers gathered for an early morning tee-off at Monarch Beach Golf Links for the 2006 Alumni Golf Classic. The golfers helped raise over \$22,000 to help fund financial aid for current MD students who are children and grandchildren of Mater Dei Alumni.



2006 Class Reunions



Class of 1981



Class of 1986

Hundreds of alumni got together at a number of on and off-campus reunions during the 2006 summer and fall months. Classes celebrating reunions this year were those ending in 1 and 6. Thank you to all of you who attended and those of you who volunteered to organize your reunions. Please contact the MDHS Office of Alumni, kkelly@materdei.org with your photos so we can share them with your classmates via the internet and future issues of the Scarlet & Gray.

If you are interested in planning your reunion for next year please contact Joseph Medlin '98 at (714) 850-9536 or jmedlin@materdei.org

Search the web and earn money for Mater Dei ~ www.goodsearch.com

Goodsearch.com is a Yahoo powered search engine that donates a penny per search to your favorite cause. Simply log on and designate Mater Dei High School as your cause of choice and the money adds up quickly, the more supporters we have, the faster the money adds up.

The more searches performed each day, the more money raised for MDHS.
Thank you for your support, visit www.goodsearch.com today.

Class Notes

In Our Prayers...

- Mary Helen Amezcua** - Sodexo Food Services
Employee at MD
- Christian Barker** - Son of Sandy Gordon Barker '83
who was recently diagnosed with leukemia
- Kathryn Bonhote '66**
- Orfelina Castro** - Mother of Myra, MD Faculty
Member
- Christine Cote '00 & Family**
- Bridget Fisher '97**
- Bill Gibbs** - MD Faculty Member
- Christine Mendoza Isham '84**
- Courtney Jenkinson** - Sister of Ashley '08
and Jeffrey '07
- The Jolly Family**
- Jenna Kjos '06**
- Chelsea Lane** - Sister of Brianna Lane '08
- Helen Laslavich** - Mother of Fr. Luke, MD Faculty
Member
- Richard Porter** - Father of Ricky '01
- Jeff Sanford** - Husband of Angela Harrell '87

We Remember ...

- Brian Aguirre '95**
- Marque Abbott** - Brother of Andrew '08
- Judy Prioletti Costa '67**
- Fr. John Glynn, OSN** - Former MDHS Faculty Member
- Ruth E. Gross** - Great-grandmother of Cody '08
and Ryan '10
- Cynthia Guerra-Payan '76** - Sister of Cathy '92
and mother of Bernadette '05
- Maureen Crowley Layton '62**
- Mrs. Jackie Macek** - Former MD Employee
- Lucia Martino** - Former MD student
- Ray Masciel '68** - Husband of Helen Reyes '70,
father of Jon-Paul '01 and Garrett '05
- Josh Matthews** - Son of Daniel '79
- Taylor Patten '83**
- Ted Spyra** - Grandfather of Shannon '00 and Daniel '03
- Candace Logan Tift '93**

In our Catholic life, we have always asked others to pray with us for our loved ones. We appeal together to the Lord for healing as well as the gift of eternal life. This is often done with Eucharist prayer of the church. If you would like us to pray for someone, or if you would like to send a memorial Mass card, please call the Campus Ministry Office at (714) 850-9556.

1950s

BONNIE E. RICKERS FRUITS '58 does sales for the landscape maintenance and pest control company she and her husband John own in Redding. The two have 5 children and 11 grandchildren.

1960s

JEANETTE GARCIA STEWART '67 worked as a senior flight attendant with United Air before retiring shortly after 9/11. She is now an office manager for an Orange landscape company. She and her husband of 24 years, Mike, have 5 children and 2 grandchildren. Their youngest son Tim graduated from MDHS in '03 and is now playing baseball at UCLA.

RICHARD WEHMUELLER '68 and his wife Sue live in Vasalia. Richard works for Bank of the Sierra where he was recently promoted to senior vice president and area manager for central California.



GREGORY KELLY '69 paid tribute to the victims of 9/11 on the fifth anniversary of the national tragedy by building a model entitled "Stairway to Hope." The 54" structure has 220 steps which represent the floors of the twin towers, replica FDNY figurines, a silhouette of the Statue of Liberty and three small children representing the hope of the future.

1970s

PETER ANTHONY REASIN '72 and his wife Susan have three sons and one daughter. Their eldest son Brenton just started school at Mater Dei as a member of the Class of 2010. The Reasins live in Costa Mesa where Peter owns and operates his own contracting business.

DENNIS SHELL '74 retired in March 2006 after 31 years of service with the Orange County Fire Authority. For 26 of those 31 years, Dennis served as a Department Spokesperson working with news media during major emergencies. He plans to relocate to Whidbey Island in Washington State in the near future.



PAM MORA '79 AND STEVE AGUIRRE were married in July 2005 and now live in Corona.

1980s



KATHLEEN MARTINEAU AULT '85 AND JERRY AULT '80 are happy to announce the April 2006 birth of their son Nicholas Ian.

Class Notes

JOHNNA GONZALES HOYNAK '81 and her husband Bryan have two children and reside in Coto De Caza.

PATRICK QUINN '81 and his wife Christie Lynn have each launched new careers in La Jolla, CA. Christie Lynn retired after 15 years in the criminal defense industry to open ZenDen, a unique pet boutique. After 19 years in the commercial real estate business, Patrick is the co founding principal and CFO of Lee & Associates, San Diego.

ALICE CASTANEDA MORRIS '81 AND **PAUL MORRIS '82** recently celebrated their twentieth wedding anniversary with a trip to Cancun. The Morris' reside in Orange with their three children, five-year-old Danielle, seven-year-old Carina and nine-year-old Paul.

DEBRA KEYZERS SCOTTO '82 is a stay at home mom to her two children. During the school year she volunteers at their school, St. Edward the Confessor, where she works alongside fellow Monarchs **MARY DRAZBA PAYNE '83**, **MONICA GODDARD AVILA '83** and **PETE SCALERA '82**.

SUE PIASECKI ARMSTRONG '83 is a graduate of USD and worked for many years in the financial services industry. Sue and her husband Greg have been married for 15 years and she is now enjoying life as a stay at home mom to their children Brooks and Samantha. In addition to her duties at home, Sue is involved at her church and also serves as a trustee on their local Texas school board.

JULIE INMAN '84 is the president and founder of Supportability, a local non-profit that recognizes people for their courage in overcoming obstacles to succeed in school and life. So far, Supportability has given over \$100,000 in scholarships local to high school grad-

uates. Awards are given each spring at 18 schools, Mater Dei was the first high school involved in the program.

DIANA SAPORITO ROGERS '84 and her husband Mark have two daughters, four-year-old Katie and two-year-old Amy. The Rogers live in Fountain Valley where Diana is happily home raising her daughters and helping Mark with his business.

LINDA HORNUNG ROY '86 and her husband are living in Germany where he plays hockey. They are loving their quaint little town and driving as fast as they want on the autobon.



ANDY SCHIAVO '88 and Anna Shepherd were married in July 2006 at St. Norbert Church in Orange. The newlyweds now live in Riverside.



MAIRXS MCHUGH '89, an elementary school teacher in Garden Grove, was married to Brandon Giadano on August 12 at San Roque Catholic Church, Santa Barbara. The Giadanos now reside in Foothill Ranch.

1990s



DANNY FEDUFF '90 and Angela Bizzari were married in June in Los Cabos, Mexico. The wedding and reception took place at a seaside villa where the couple was surrounded by friends and family. Fellow Monarch **CHRISTOPHER WARD '90** and his wife Nicole were also on hand for the celebration.



SHANNON O'LEA '90 and Michael Brosnan exchanged vows in an intimate ceremony on July 12 at Sacred Hearts Catholic Church in Kapalua, Maui. Shannon is an elementary school teacher in Garden Grove, the Brosnan's reside in Long Beach.

JAMES SCOTT '90 was married to Ai-Vy in August 2006, they now reside in Anaheim. James is a security supervisor with IPC International as well as a CPR/First Aid/AED

Instructor through his company and the American Heart Association.

RACHEL BAER MAY '91 earned her degree from Duke University in 1995 and is now the proud mother of 6. She and her husband Bill live in Virginia where Rachel home schools her 3 eldest children.

ROBERT ANDRADE '93 and his wife Angela welcomed a son, Ryland Jax, in May 2006. Robert is a graduate of USC and the Andrades now reside in New York.

DEBBIE HOFFMAN '93 AND **MARCO GONZALEZ '93** are engaged to be married in April 2007. The wedding will take place in New York City. The two live in Pasadena where Debbie is an art director for Disney and Marco is a news anchor for NBC.



KELLY CESARE PFEIFFER '95 and her husband Tom welcomed their first child, Katelyn Ashley in July 2006. Kelly is an attorney practicing in Orange County. She works in business litigation with an emphasis on intellectual property.

WENDY WINCKLER ADAMOVICH '96 finished her PhD in genetics from Harvard in June 2006 and was married to a grad school classmate, Dave, in July. The two now live in Boston where she is working as a project manager at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

MICHAEL VINCENT ANANIA '96 earned both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from USD. He is now living in Huntington Beach where he works for Brandes Investment Partners.

STEPHANIE KUSIAK LOWENSTEIN '98 resides in Chicago where she works for the school district for physically and mentally disabled children. Stephanie also writes for an underground urban magazine and is wrapping up her second novel.

KATHRYN NASMAN '99 earned her degree in business administration from USD in 2003 and is now back in Orange County where she works as an account executive for Enterprise Rent A Car. She and Christopher Reidel were married in September 2006.



LIZZIE CARTY '98 married Darren Boyle in July at La Purisima Church in Orange. Fr. Steve Sallot '72 officiated with Msgr. Michael Collins. Lizzie was escorted down the aisle by her grandfather, Gordy Lee, the naming benefactor of the Gordon & Gail Lee Family Chapel at Mater Dei High School. Lizzie graduated from St. Mary's College, Moraga and is a teacher at La Purisima. Darren works for the Orange County Superior Court as a Systems/Program Analyst. The newly weds reside in Orange.

2000s

CLAIRE WIKSELL '00 is a graduate of the University of Arizona with a journalism degree. She is back in Orange County working as an advertising account executive for Atomic Curve. She and Patrick Markovsky were engaged in September 2006 and are planning a fall 2007 wedding.



GAREIT LENDZION '00 and Brett Becker were married in July 2006 at St. Mary's by the Sea Catholic Church in Huntington Beach. The Beckers reside in Huntington Beach where Brett is in sales and Gareit is in her final year of law school.

ANDREW CASTILLO '01 graduated from the University of Hawaii where he played baseball for two years. He has since returned to Orange County where he is a personal banker for Wells Fargo.

AMY SANDERS '02 completed her collegiate basketball career at the University of Hawaii last spring and is now pursuing a professional career in Europe. She is competing this season in Sweden and hopes to earn a WNBA try out in the spring of 2007.

PHILLIP HUFFMAN '06 has already gone onto great things with his golf career having just graduated from Mater Dei a few months ago. A member of Alta Vista Country Club, Phillip shot an impressive 63 to tie golf pro, Ted Oh for the course record.

GARRINGTON SPENCE '06 is a freshman at Colgate University where he plays football. Garrington has earned a spot on special teams and is one of only a handful of freshmen to make the travel team.



Scarlet & Gray Magazine

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