

## Class of 1976 - 30 Year Reunion



George Luvisi and Marianne (Gomez) Shool



Mary (Piper) Lavelle, Pam (Stadelbacher) Ward, Mark Ward, Linda (Dieckmeyer) MacDougall, Joel Sears



Stephanie LaRue, Angie (Orlando) LaRue, Danielle LaRue



Therese (Valiquette) Burch, Pat Shannon (Anton's fiance), Anton Goetz



Dave McDonough, Bill Olin, Paul McDonald



Donna Hummer, Eileen (Stassi) Morris, Marie (Mc Laughlin) Camuccio, Sandy (Platamone) Shima

When members of the Class of 1976 found themselves walking down the 400 wing, taking pictures with their dates, and dancing to the grooves of the '70's in the quad, they may have felt like they had never left the halls of Amat. The 30 year reunion proved to be a wild and memorable night.

Guests were treated to a "Geezers" buffet thanks to Bob LaRue '76 and his staff. Guests also received CDs and bound memory books of the "Past & Present" slide shows, and had the chance to reconnect with many of their classmates. The reunion committee's ingenuity and attention to detail could be seen in the spectacular array of torch and candle light.

Thanks to all who participated and a special thanks to Reunion Committee members Mark Burns, Bob and Angie (Orlando) LaRue, Susie (McCaully) and Joe Pacheco, Eileen Pohl, Jeff and Brenda (Dougherty) Gilb, Bob and Denise Rendon, Cindy Montoya, Isabelle Huber and Maureen (Michael) Kaplowitz.

## Reunion Announcements

**Class of 1966: 40th**  
**October 28, 2006**  
 Doubletree Hotel  
 222 Vineyard Avenue  
 Ontario, CA  
 Contact: Creative Reunions  
 (800) 700-6607  
[www.CreativeReunions.com](http://www.CreativeReunions.com)

**Class of 1986: 20th**  
**October 14, 2006**  
 Pasadena Hilton  
 168 S. Los Robles Avenue  
 Pasadena, CA

Contact any of the reunion committee listed below:

Michele "Graziano" Vanillo at  
 (909) 920-5885

Lisa "Michelli" Giancanelli  
 at (626) 393-6532 or  
[l.giancanelli@verizon.net](mailto:l.giancanelli@verizon.net)

Wendy "Smith" Nugent at  
 (626) 962-2495 ext. 1-6025  
 or [wnugent@bishopamat.org](mailto:wnugent@bishopamat.org)

Adela Ortiz at (626) 345-0138  
 or [pitaor68@yahoo.com](mailto:pitaor68@yahoo.com)

**Class of 1996: 10th**  
**October 21, 2006**  
 Embassy Suites, Anaheim  
 (South)  
 11767 Harbor Blvd.  
 Garden Grove, CA 92840

Class BBQ - Sunday, Oct. 22nd  
 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
 Bishop Amat covered  
 lunch area

Contact: [bahs1996reunion@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bahs1996reunion@sbcglobal.net)

[www.geocities.com/bahs1996reunion@sbcglobal.net](http://www.geocities.com/bahs1996reunion@sbcglobal.net)



Rex Hayden, Tom Gurrrola, Jesse Ambriz, Jon Damole

Student Activity Center and the covered lunch area - what a change from the old gym and the times spent dodging pigeons at lunchtime back in 1995! The weekend culminated with the final attendees throwing the football around on the 50-yard line and then heading to BJ's for a final toast to the weekend.

- contributed by Carly Lima

A highlight of the weekend was returning to the campus to see the

## Reconnecting...

30th and 10th reunions spark past memories and present fun.

## Class of 1995 - 10 Year Reunion



Garrick Gregory, Jason Lopez, Kate Varner, Brandon Love, Dominic Sanchez



Bernadette Leyva, April Cadiente



Carly Lima, Jennifer (Thomas) Drudge

The Class of 1995 held its 10-year reunion last summer at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, followed by a family barbeque at Bishop Amat the next day. The class was thrilled to have many of their former teachers join them in the celebration, including Mr. Scott, Mrs. Raus, Mr. Dimmitt, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Woolsey, Mrs. Eddy, Mrs. Moak, Ms. Graff, and of course, Msgr. Carroll.



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# Bishop Amat Memorial High School The Amat Tradition

October 2006 Alumni Newsletter Vol. 21, Issue 1



Freshman Janeen Judson '10 arrives ready to celebrate her first few moments as a Lancer. Parents Kathryn (Rozler) Judson '80 and Bryan Judson '81 also send their daughter Cynthia '08 to Bishop Amat. Cynthia participates in the new International Baccalaureate program.

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## Building... Bishop Amat continues to shape families, the greater community, and opportunities for its students.

Graduates of Bishop Amat Memorial High School are familiar with building. Regardless of locale or profession, alumni continue to embrace the school's tradition of Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge. Lancers create, innovate and perform. They build families, strengthen communities and provide opportunity.

The four-year Amat experience encourages its members to serve others with love and compassion. The Lancer faith community helps to instill a strong individual character in its students. It is a steadfast belief in "Family" that ultimately binds the collective Lancer alumni.

Bishop Amat's alumni newsletter embodies this spirit of building family. True families radiate a sense of togetherness! Families dance, laugh, and love! The renewal of this newsletter will provide a forum for Amat's alumni network to communicate, celebrate and share.

Bishop Amat will soon celebrate its fiftieth year of serving families in the greater San Gabriel Valley for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. As the school community prepares to embrace its bright and exciting future, it also yearns to reconnect with the past. We invite you to help us to communicate your news, celebrate your victories, and share in your losses.

As editor of The Amat Tradition, I intend to provide an inclusive environment of sharing and well wishing. However, the rejuvenation of this project requires participation. We look forward to reconnecting with all members of this large and successful family. Whether you decide to register on the alumni portal or come out for this year's Homecoming, the Amat Family welcomes your future involvement.

Gabriel Escovar '98  
 Editor



Patrick Flores '02 and his parents celebrate his recent commencement from the Naval Service Academy at Annapolis.

## Homecoming 2006

All Bishop Amat Alumni are invited to a pre-game barbeque to be held in the covered lunch area from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 27, 2006. Don't miss this opportunity to visit your classmates and enjoy Bishop Amat football at its best against Crespi High School. Tickets are \$10 (includes barbeque and admission to the game).

Call the Office of Alumni Relations at 626-962-2495, ext. 1-7433 or email [alumni@bishopamat.org](mailto:alumni@bishopamat.org) to make reservations.

## Attention Alumni:

Have you visited the new Alumni Portal? If you haven't, check it out at [www.alumni.bishopamat.org](http://www.alumni.bishopamat.org). Over 500 Bishop Amat alumni have already registered! A post card with a temporary ID and password was mailed to alums that were in our database. If you did not get your postcard, or have misplaced it and need to get your ID/password, please go to the site and "contact us". You can also call the Alumni Relations Office at 626-962-2495, ext. 1-7433 to get details on registering. It is our goal to use this website to keep in touch with our graduates. We will be posting alumni news, school events and will soon be sending out e-newsletters from this portal. Help us better serve the Amat Family by signing up today.

Ms. Deborah Oswald  
 Director of Development

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[doswald@bishopamat.org](mailto:doswald@bishopamat.org)



Mr. Gabriel Escovar  
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 Alumni Newsletter Editor

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## FREE ADMISSION!

This coupon is good for an admission ticket to one of the following Bishop Amat Fall events:

Football vs. St. Francis - October 13, 2006 7:30pm  
 Football vs. Crepi - October 27, 2006 7:30pm  
 Fall Drama Production - November 4, 2006 2:00pm

\*Coupon only good once \*No cash value

## Greetings! A Message From...

### The President

Dear Bishop Amat Alumni:

My very best wishes go out to all of you with this edition of your very own newsletter, the Amat Tradition. During the years of the capital campaign it was superseded by the special campaign newsletter but now rises like the phoenix to live again in the capable hands of its new editor, Mr. Gabriel Escovar, Class of 1998 and UCLA grad who teaches in our English Department.

The "campaign years" were very demanding and at times exhausting. In the Lord's providence, however, they were also very rewarding. We were able to provide our students with a spacious new covered lunch building that shields them from the assaults of the neighborhood seagulls. We were also able to construct an air-conditioned interim Performing Arts Building on the west side of the campus. Most importantly we were able to complete the magnificent new Student Activity Center which enables us to meet the social, athletic, curricular and religious needs of our students at an incredibly high level.

All of these projects were predominantly funded by our parents of the past ten years and those who currently have students in the school. Many alumni also made generous contributions to the campaign and participated vigorously in the campaign activities. I gratefully acknowledge that support and thank you most sincerely for it.

Much, much more, however, needs to be accomplished. I am determined to construct a new state-of-the-art performing arts center on the campus. We need to establish a multi-million dollar endowment for the school, the earnings from which would provide scholarship assistance to families, many of whom are struggling to meet the ever-increasing costs of our tuition and fees. And of course we want to provide a world-class celebration of our 50th anniversary during the 2007-2008 school year. So much to be done! So many great things to be achieved! My hope and my fervent prayer is that our 14,000 alumni though scattered near and far will be assisting us along the way.

Monsignor Aidan M. Carroll  
President



### The Principal

Dear Friends:

How wonderful it is to witness the return of a regular Bishop Amat Alumni Newsletter. One was started some years ago following our Silver Jubilee; it is hard to realize that we are now approaching our Golden Anniversary. It is most appropriate to renew the publication at this time.

Regardless of when you attended Amat, in the Hall of Fame era of "black and white photos" or in the later years when we grew into color photos, we are all bound together by the spirit of the "Amat Family." The many experiences of those precious high school years remind us of the unique human ability to grow as a person capable of love. So often we began to understand that concept during the high school years.

We hope that this opportunity can both keep old friends together and heighten your spirit and pride in all that your Alma Mater continues to do in the lives of our present students. While we take great delight in the rising accomplishments of our alumni in the leadership halls of our country, our Universities, in modern Sciences, sports, in the arts, in education and throughout our society, we want to continue preparing the new generation of students in the quest for excellence. We look forward to sharing some of the many new ways and opportunities to learn that your Alma Mater now offers.

It has always been my pride to hear graduates tell me, "Wow, we never had that when I was at Amat." That reminds me that we continue to make progress in fulfilling our Mission.

Thank you for your continued support, and your commitment that will insure Amat continues serving the Lord with this generation and long past the next.

God bless,

Merritt Hemenway, Ph.D., '64  
Principal



### Alumni News

#### Lancer in Baghdad

**Robert C. J. Parry '90 recently returned from a one year tour in Baghdad, Iraq, with the California National Guard. While in Iraq, he served as an infantry platoon leader and also trained Iraqi police. Upon his return, Robert authored an article on his war experiences titled, "The War You Didn't See" which ran on the front page of the LA Times Sunday Opinion section.**

#### New Varsity Football Coach

**Mark Verti '96 was named the new head coach for the Lancer Varsity Football team this summer. Mark, a graduate of U.C.L.A., now teaches History in Amat's Social Studies Department.**

#### New Arrivals

**Christine Howard, Class of '92, had a beautiful baby girl! Ashley Rose Soderstrom was born on May 19, 2006 and weighed 7lbs.**

**Jamie (Venegas) Lee would like to announce the birth of her second child, Alyssa Lee, born May 24, 2006. Her son Dominic (born October 11, 2004) is a happy big brother.**

#### Thanksgiving Liturgy

**All alumni are cordially invited to join the Bishop Amat Family celebrate Thanksgiving by attending the annual Thanksgiving Liturgy to be held Wed. Nov. 22 at 11:00 a.m. in the student Activity Center.**

## Changing... Advancements in technology, facilities and academic instruction keep Amat on the cutting edge.

Tradition is an important part of Bishop Amat's Catholic learning community. While Amat holds fast to its core values and goals, the school is also intent on moving forward. New advancements provide the student body with the tools and opportunities needed for success in higher education and the world at large.

The new Student Activity Center has replaced the Tate Duff Memorial Gymnasium. This gathering space serves as a home for religious services, sporting events, and instruction. The building has been instrumental in bringing the student body together. Also, the structure provides opportunity for new classes and programs like the Dance program, led by Monica (Gonzalez) Armas '91, which is now a physical education course available to all students.

Bishop Amat also continues to grow academically. Last year's inception of the Academic Inclusion program, headed by learning specialist Mrs. Gabrielle Benson, helps students with special needs and teachers to work together toward academic achievement. Mrs. Benson educates teachers on different learning



The Student Activity Center allows the entire Amat community to gather as one for mass, spirit rallies and other special events. The building also houses weight rooms, locker rooms, a dance studio, athletic offices, and the faculty dining room.

modalities and works individually with students to help them utilize their strengths.

Another change in Amat's academic curriculum includes the International Baccalaureate program. Students may now participate in a two year honors program in which their work is internationally assessed. Some teachers describe the program as being equivalent to taking six Advanced Placement courses a year.

Principal Merritt Hemenway, Ph.D., is intent on improving teachers ability to use and incorporate technology in the classroom. High quality projectors have been installed in each classroom to help teachers with presentations, slide shows and other interactive teaching practices.

Change around campus allows Bishop Amat to maintain its position as a leading academic institution.



Senior Matthew Ruvalcaba works in one of two full service computer labs. Amat now offers advanced classes in web design, digital video, graphic design, and broadcast journalism. In addition, computer projectors were mounted in classrooms this summer, allowing teachers to more fully incorporate technology during instruction.



The graduating class of 2007 will include the first students to earn the IB Diploma. The International Baccalaureate program requires students to take a rigorous course load, complete a 5,000 word essay, and do many hours of service.

## New Development Director Named

We would like to welcome Ms. Deborah Oswald as Bishop Amat's new Development Director. Deborah comes to us with 32 years experience in Catholic Education. She has served as a teacher, an Administrative Assistant, an Activities Director, a Director of Admissions, and an Assistant Principal. For the past three years she has been assisting in the Development Office with the capital campaign, special events, and alumni relations. Deborah says, "I am very

excited to be named Development Director. Bishop Amat High School has a history of being the premier Catholic School in the San Gabriel Valley and I want to be a part of the Amat tradition. My immediate goals are the Annual Appeal and the establishment of an endowment fund. We will be celebrating Bishop Amat's 50th anniversary in 2007-2008. We need to insure that the school has the financial resources to continue for the next 50 years."

## New Athletic Trainer

The school welcomes Amat's new athletic trainer, Kira Au. Kira holds a Bachelors Degree in Athletic Training from the University of LaVerne and a Masters in Athletic Training from Indiana State University. Kira works with student-athletes from all sports teams to encourage health, healing, and injury prevention. She also leads a team of students who participate in an athletic training education program. Under her guidance and instruction, students care for injured athletes and respond to emergency situations.

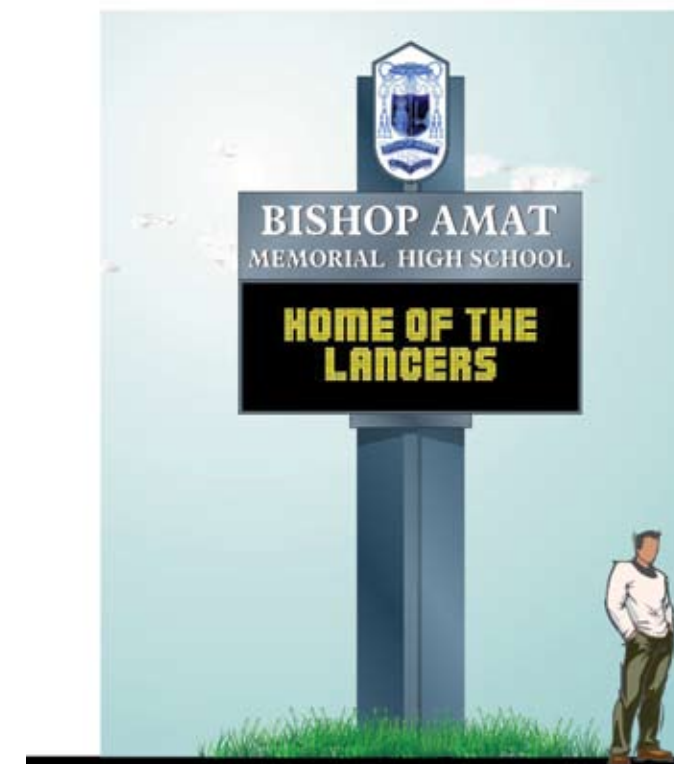
## A sign of the Future... The new marquee will welcome future Lancers and greet old friends.

Amat's marquee, standing watch over the corner of Orange and Fairgrove avenues, will soon be replaced by an eighteen foot electric signboard. The current marquee was donated by the Class of 1964 and has served the Bishop Amat community brightly for forty plus years.

The new marquee, designed by Loren Electric Sign Corporation, will feature a double-sided LED message board and an illuminated school seal. The update will allow for greater visibility and more frequent postings. The school is excited at the possibility of announcing sports scores, student achievements, and other news.

Bishop Amat's Architect, JP. Darling, is currently working with Los Angeles County to procure the needed permits to begin installation of the marquee. Construction and installation should begin sometime during the 2006-2007 school year.

The total cost of the new structure will be approximately \$50,000. The school would welcome contributions, large or small, from individuals, groups or classes to help offset this cost. A gift of \$25,000 or more will secure a naming opportunity for the donor(s). For further information please contact Ms. Deborah Oswald, Director of Development at (626) 962-2495, Ext. 1-7456.



The new marquee will feature the school seal and an electronic signboard. The update will allow for greater visibility and more frequent updates.

## In Memoriam

#### Douglas La Bouff

Army Maj. Douglas La Bouff '87 was killed January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in a Black Hawk helicopter crash outside Tall Afar, Iraq. La Bouff volunteered for deployment and was a respected intelligence officer and leader.

Douglas La Bouff grew up in La Puente, CA, attending both St. Joseph School and Bishop Amat. While at Amat, Doug played football and also developed an anti-drug program, earning him a medal from Congress.

He is survived by his wife, Karen, and their two children, Cassidy and Doug Jr.

#### Scott Sullivan

Scott Sullivan '98 died this June, with services held at Our Lady of Assumption Parish in Claremont.

The Charles A. Sullivan Charitable Foundation donated \$30,000 to Bishop Amat, establishing the Scott Sullivan Textbook Scholarship Fund. Bishop Amat contributed an additional \$10,000 to bring the fund to \$40,000. Scholarships will be awarded to students who work part time to pay for their education.

He is survived by his wife, Karen, and their two children, Cassidy and Doug Jr.

#### Judith (O'Brien) Bonkalski

Judith Ann (O'Brien) Bonkalski '63 passed away March 6th, 2006. She worked as a Catholic educator for close to forty years, serving as a teacher and administrator. Judy and her husband Bernard have lived in Bolingbrook Ill. for most of their adult lives.

Judith is survived by her husband Bernard, two children, and soon to be four grandchildren. She was a wonderful wife and mother, but most of all she was an inspiring educator.

#### Cristi Lantz

Cristi Lantz '94 passed away in March of 2005. She was able to attend the 2004 Reunion with her husband, Duran Villegas. She fought an inspiring and heartbreaking battle with Osteosarcom, a bone cancer, for two years.

#### Don Gangcuangco

Don Gangcuangco '05 died in a car accident August 15, 2005. While at Amat, he led the Boys' Volleyball team to its first league championship. He is survived by his parents Peter and Connie, and brother Peter John '03.

## Extravaganza 2006 - Disco Odyssey - "Saturday Night Fever"

Join us for a sensational evening of fun and food on Saturday, November 4, 2006. This year's event includes dinner (choice of beef, chicken or pasta), silent and live auctions, grand raffle drawing for \$10,000, a new car raffle and dancing to the sounds of the popular band "SOTO". Pre-sale tickets are \$40.00 per person; \$50 at the door. Call 626-962-2495, Ext. 1-7401 or email specialevents@bishopamat.org to make reservations.