

Education In Goodness, Discipline & Knowledge...

THE Amat Tradition

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 2
BISHOP AMAT MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL



FIGHTING
FOR
PRIDE &
COUNTRY

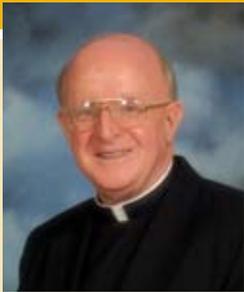
PAGE 4

+

ALUMNI NEWS
HIGHLIGHT

PAGE 5

a message from leadership



Dear Bishop Amat Alumni:

I send my greetings and best wishes to all of you with this Summer edition of the Amat Tradition.

It was wonderful to meet so many alums at the very successful Lancer Classic Dinner which was held in the Los Angeles Marriott in March. I congratulate our Alumnus of the Year, Alan Ludwig, Class of 1964, and thank him not only for the very kind and appreciative words he spoke on behalf of his Alma Mater as he accepted the award but also for the invaluable support he has rendered to us as a member of the Consultative Council. Alan was introduced by the very popular young faculty member of the sixties, Fr. Martin O'Loughlen, S.S.C.C. The Kiefer Humanitarian awardee, Mr. Robert W. Huston, Esq., Chairman of the Board of the Watson Land Company was introduced by the distinguished quarterback of the Class of 1972, John Sciarra, who is now the President of National Retirement Systems. In a starring role as Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Ms. Carly Lima Alevato, Class of 1995.

Monday, May 3, 2010 witnessed yet another enjoyable gathering of Lancer alums as we hosted our Annual Orbit Printing Open Golf Tournament at the local California Country Club. I extend my sincere thanks to the Zavala brothers, Mauricio, Class of 1988 and Roger, Class of 1990 for providing the \$10,000.00 naming donation for the tournament. I also acknowledge the generous support we received from Chris Spohn, Class of 1978 (Bridgepoint Education), Susan Byrne, Class of 1973 (Bryne and Clayton Consulting, LLC), and Michael Munguia, Class of 1970 (RJ's Soda Service) as Gold Sponsors and April Gallegos, Class of 1987 (Makers' Mark). Proceeds from the Lancer Classic Dinner and the Golf Tournament will be used to assist some of the many families struggling to meet their financial obligations to the school.

You will read elsewhere in this newsletter about our beautiful new military memorial here on campus. It is a very fitting physical testament to the bravery and patriotism of the eight Lancer alumni who sacrificed their lives in defense of our freedoms. I wish to express my deepest gratitude to Colonel Kevin Rue, Class of 1971, who conceived of this project and saw it through to its completion. I hope that many of you will be present for the impressive formal dedication ceremony he and the Bishop Amat Military Memorial (BAMM) Committee has planned for October 9.

A separate facet of the vision Kevin has for this program is the accumulation of sufficient invested monies to provide scholarships for Bishop Amat students in memory of all eight fallen heroes. As of April 30 the Fund contained just under \$45,000.00, \$35,000.00 of which was contributed by the school, in seeding and matching gifts. The remainder is made up of alumni gifts (\$6,700.00) and interest earned (\$3,300.00). I earnestly solicit alumni support for this very worthy cause.



Monsignor Aidan M. Carroll
President



Dear Friends:

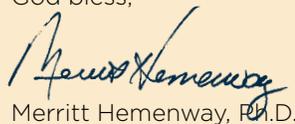
With my many years of service to Bishop Amat High School it is always a joy to hear the stories and have interactions with alumni from our school. It always delights me to tell of the many advances in all aspects of student life we have made since graduates left. Often I hear the "complaint" "You didn't have that when I was there." To me at least it means we continue to progress and with your continued support we will always be able to share a better story.

This edition of the Lancer Tradition reminds us all that there is a price for the freedom that we enjoy thanks to the sacrifices of the men and women in our military. The latest campus renovation has been a physical memorial to the fallen Lancers and with it we honor those who have served. The concept of this memorial came from a graduate, Col. Kevin Rue, Class of 1971. Developing this tribute has been a time filled with joyous memories and heartfelt gratitude. I look forward to the formal dedication on October 9th of this year.

We have just come through our registration process for members of the Class of 2014. We are delighted to note the outstanding academic characteristics that they will bring to the school. We have more plans on the horizon for these students. Among the noteworthy goals are an increased in the use of technology and on-line courses preparing them to be true lifelong learners as well as improved facilities as we move toward a new Performing Arts Center. Your prayerful and financial support is critical if this is going to happen in a reasonable time.

As always, we relish the time we spent together and offer that not a day goes by that you are not remembered in our prayers. May the gifts of the Spirit always be with you.

God bless,



Merritt Hemenway, Ph.D.

Principal

Class of '64

on campus in brief



Damian Balla, winner of the Mathapalooza contest

Amat Holds Second Annual Math Competition

On Saturday, January 16, more than 400 students from local elementary and middle schools competed at Bishop Amat's second annual math competition, the Mathapalooza.

Holy Name of Mary School in San Dimas won the overall prize and Damian Balla, an eighth grader from Holy Name of Mary, won the overall individual prize for the second straight year. Damian has enrolled at Amat for the 2010-2011 school year.

Gaging on the success of this year's competition and the positive remarks we have received, we expect to have over 500 participants at next year's Mathapalooza, scheduled for Saturday, December 11, 2011.

Bishop Amat Holds Relays

Twenty-two schools participated in the Bishop Amat Relays on Saturday, March 13 at Citrus College.

The Relays are planned and prepared primarily by the Bishop Amat Track and Field coaching staff and are executed by the track team athletes and parent volunteers.

Lancers Raise Money for Haiti

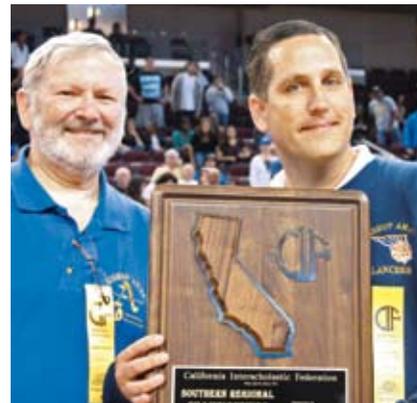
Bishop Amat students and faculty members raised \$3,000 for Haiti as part of an archdiocesan-wide relief effort for the earthquake-stricken nation.

Amat participated in "Hats for Haiti," which was initiated at Sacred Heart Parish School in Covina and helped raise \$232,000.

Lancer Choir Performs at Prestigious Event

The Lancer Chamber Singers, under the direction of director Ms. Jennifer Srisamai, traveled to San Francisco from March 26 to March 29 to join 11 other choirs to train and perform at Chanticleer's First National Youth Choral Festival.

Members from Chanticleer, Musical America's 2008 Ensemble of the Year, worked with students from all 12 high schools culminating in a performance March 29 at Davies Symphony Hall. Visit www.chanticleer.org for more information. Visit Bishopamatchoir.wordpress.com to see photos and a video from the event.



Girls Basketball Head Coach Richard Wiard (1982) and Principal Merritt Hemenway (1964) pose with plaque

Lady Lancers Basketball in State Finals

The Lady Lancers Basketball team defeated Inglewood High School in the Socal Regional Championships, 56-54, on March 20, but lost in the Division III State Finals the following Saturday.

At the State Championships in Bakersfield, the Lancers faced the nation's No. 1-ranked girls high school basketball team, St. Mary's High School of Stockton, and lost 89-41.

The Lady Lancers finished the season 27-8.

Cheer and Dance Team Compete in Nationals

The Lancer Song, Lancer Cheer and Lancer Crowd Leading teams competed in the 2010 United Spirit Association National Championships, March 25-28 at the Anaheim Convention Center.

The girls earned the bids after each team placed high at their regional competitions, which took place in mid-January. The Song Team placed first in their regional competitions.



bishop amat's new military memorial nearly completed

For a few decades, the Bishop Amat Vietnam Memorial has been one of the most recognizable places on campus. The area, which is shaded with trees and covered in grass, has always been a campus favorite for yearbook photos and end-of-the-year picnics. Under the leadership of alumnus Mr. Kevin Rue, who heads an Amat alumni veterans group, the memorial has involved into the Bishop Amat Military Memorial (BAMM) Garden. The aim of the new area, which was almost entirely completed over last summer and will be dedicated on Saturday, October 9, 2010 is to honor fallen veterans who graduated from Bishop Amat High School.

The only part of the almost \$60,000 Military Memorial upgrade that is not completed is the flagpole that towers above the adjacent 200 Wing. Plaques with the names of eight Lancers who died while serving in the military will line the flagpole base. Five of the eight have their names on the original Vietnam Memorial, which will remain in place as a feature of the Memorial.

In addition, the BAMB steering committee has said that any flag that adorns the memorial must have been flown at the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., the State Capitol Building in Sacramento, or at the combat headquarters of the units in which the fallen soldier served. Currently, BAMB has seven flags that meet these criteria and will take turns flying over the memorial. Mr. Rue said he expects a flag to start flying everyday beginning in October during Homecoming Weekend when the dedication of the memorial takes place. However, the physical Military Memorial is just one aspect of BAMB's mission. The group also hopes to identify all Amat graduates who go on to perform military service. (See the article "Fighting for Pride and Country" to see alums who are currently serving.) So far, the group's steering committee has identified 29 Amat graduates who went on to serve in the military in the post-Vietnam era and 155 who volunteered for duty during the Vietnam War.

Another aspect of BAMB is the initiation of 54-day Rosary Novenas for the eight Amat graduates who died in combat. Mr. Anthony Garcias, a teacher in the Amat religion department,

began the first novena on Sept. 11, 2008 for Corporal Joel M. Sabel (Class of 1964), who was killed in action in 1967. In the middle of January 2010, Mr. Garcias began the novena for John Thielen (Class of 1965), who died after being drafted to serve as a medic in 1969. In an e-mail sent to faculty, Mr. Garcias wrote that Thielen was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for bravery.

A final goal of BAMB is to create endowed scholarships for each of the "Fallen Heroes." As of BAMB's last update, the group has raised \$6,550 to go with \$25,000 in seed money provided by Monsignor Aidan M. Carroll. Monsignor Carroll has also pledged to match the first \$25,000 raised by BAMB. Each of the scholarships will be for students who currently attend Bishop Amat.

Amat's Fallen Heroes

Corporal Joel M. Sabel

Class of 1961

Sergeant Stanley W. Tunall

Class of 1963

Corporal David H. Lalich

Class of 1964

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph L. Lujan

Class of 1964

Corporal Joseph A. Albertini

Class of 1965

Sergeant John R. Thielen

Class of 1965

2nd Lieutenant Terrence P. Carrigan

Class of 1974

Major Douglas A. La Bouff

Class of 1987

fighting for pride & country

With the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, several Lancers have been called upon to serve in the war zones by either fighting, helping to rebuild communities, or both. The following Lancers are those who have contacted The Amat Traditon with news of their military service:

First Lieutenant Robert C. J. Parry (1990) is currently deployed in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, with the California National Guard's 40th Infantry Division Agribusiness Development Team. Their mission is to help local farmers improve their yield and strengthen the local economy. He serves as both the head of the Task Force Security Platoon and a marketing advisor using his civilian business skills.

Technical Sgt. Ulysses A. Chavez (1995) has served in the U.S. Air Force for more than 12 years now and works at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida and provides intelligence support for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program. In 2006, he was deployed to Afghanistan. Chavez was deployed in Iraq from Feb. 2008 to Oct. 2008 when he worked in the Document and Media Exploitation Cell at Camp Slayer, Iraq.

Victor Ojeda (1992) recently returned from a deployment as an activated U.S. Marine Corps reservist to Afghanistan. He was assigned from May 2009 until Dec 2009 to the Special Marine Air Guard Task Force and to the Regional Combat Team 3 as a targeting officer. He has served as both an active duty and reserve Marine for almost 18 years. Ojeda works as a police officer with the city of Huntington Beach.

William R. Castilla (1995) is an active duty Army Officer currently serving in Iraq as a Gun Truck Platoon Leader with the 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, out of Fort Bliss, Texas. He is currently scheduled to re-deploy back to the states in September of this year.

Steven Kobayashi (1996) works as an Army Military Intelligence Major assigned to an Air Force unit in Georgia. He deployed to the Middle East earlier this year.

Diane Triay (2006) has been in the Army since 2008. She is a private first class stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington. She works as an Automotive Logistics Specialist. Her unit might be deployed to Afganistan next year.

Peter "PJ" Gangcuangco (2003) works as a Supply Corps Officer with the Navy in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii aboard the USS Crommelin. The ship has supported operations and training exercises with the navies and special operations units from Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, and Japan. They also supported a joint effort with the US Coast Guard off the coast of Guam in curtailing illegal fishing operations and protecting weather information gathering assets.

Chasmine Jones (2005) graduated from the US Air Force Academy in May and is at her officer initial training school at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

Lindsay Hastert (2002) is a first lieutenant in the US Air Force and will soon change assignments from Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina to Creech Air Force Base outside of Nevada.

Jack Guevara (2003) completed Naval Aviator School in September and flies helicopters as a Marine Officer at Camp Pendleton, California.

George Fletcher (2007) is a Yearling (sophomore) at West Point. He is on the Army Football Team.

Jacqueline Salas (2009) is a cadet candidate at the U.S. Air Force Academy Prep School at Colorado Springs.

Since graduating from Bishop Amat, I have been deployed to Iraq twice. My experiences at Amat were a contributing factor in allowing me to be successful during those deployments and enabling me to lead my soldiers effectively.

At Amat, my faith and relationship with the Lord grew, providing a solid foundation that I depended on during stressful and hard times during the deployments. This foundation allowed me to overcome the separation from my wife and family as well as the overwhelming stress of grim situations. The education at Amat provided me with the ability to think through ambiguous situations and determine the best course of action despite, at times, the unpopularity of the decision. Finally, the camaraderie from other activities, especially baseball, provided an inherent ability to work with my unit to accomplish our mission.

Stephen Fuller,
Captain,
United States Army



Technical Sgt. Ulysses A. Chavez (Class of 1995)



Captain Stephen Fuller



Victor Ojeda (Class of 1992)

alumni news highlight

Wilhans Ili (Class of 1993) filled a vacant seat on the South El Monte City Council in late January.

Councilman Ili (pictured at the right), the 1992 CIF Player of the Year in football, currently coaches defense for the Lancers football team. In 1992, Ili helped lead the Lancers to an undefeated season, including the CIF-Southern Section Championship and Reebok Bowl Championship.



Councilman Wilhans Ili
(Class of 1993)

60's

Alan Ludwig (Class of 1964) was named Alumnus of the Year at the annual Lancer Classic Dinner. Ludwig is President of Pascal & Ludwig Contractors.

70's

Louis P. Hamilton (Class of 1974) has lived in St. Louis since graduation from college in 1977, and is principal/partner with Centrex Strategies, which is a public affairs consulting firm based in St. Louis. Mr. Hamilton was recently appointed to his second term as chairman of the Metropolitan St. Louis Taxicab Commission, the licensing and regulatory authority for taxis and limousines in the city. He is on Facebook at Louis P. Hamilton.

Michelle Keller (Class of 1975) retired from the Las Vegas Metro Police Department on December 28 after more than 25 years of service. She plans on camping in her RV and spending time with her grandchildren.

Sandy Espinoza Franco (Class of 1979) just celebrated her 25-year wedding anniversary in September. She also served as the chairperson for her 30-year reunion.

80's

Martin Vazquez (Class of 1981) retired from the United States Air Force in September 2001 after 20 years of service. He is celebrating his 20th year of marriage to Stefania and they have two children, Federica, 12, and Matteo, 4. They live just outside of Venice, Italy.

Denise (Tamooka) Mantei (Class of 1985) announces the engagement of her oldest daughter Theresa to Bryce Kaiser.

Lisa (Muhlethaler) Donahey (Class of 1987) has released her self-titled debut album "Lisa Donahey: She's Got It Covered." It is a compilation of well-known songs that span all genres of musical styles from rock to jazz, musical theatre to country. She continues work at The Walt Disney Company in marketing, while she

performs throughout Southern California. The album can be purchased on iTunes, CDBaby.com, Amazon and her website.

Kenneth Lim (Class of 1989) and wife Valerie announce the birth of daughter McKinley Faith, who was born on January 1, 2010. She joins sisters Kennedy Flor and Reagan Belle.

90's

Laura (Quevedo) (Class of 1991) and husband Caesar Lara announce the birth of their first child Abbey Victoria, who was born on Nov. 3, 2009.

Jenna Bouza (Class of 1991) and Thomas Salinas were married on Sept. 9, 2009 at the Radisson Suites in Covina.

Monica (Gonzalez) Armas (Class of 1991) earned her Master's degree in Elementary Education and a CLAD credential from the University of Phoenix. She is in her second year of full-time teaching at St. Francis of Rome in Azusa. When Monica, who started the dance program at Bishop Amat and taught here from 2004-2007, is not working, she spends time at home with her sons Joseph and Jonathan.

Angela (Thomas) Eilers (Class of 1992) and husband Todd announce the birth of Myka Lia. She joins brothers Tanner and Cayden in Yorba Linda.

Karla Garcia (Class of 1992) is working on her Master's degree in School Counseling at the University of Arizona expecting to graduate in December 2010.

Mindy Bell (Class of 1992) was ordained as a pastor by the British Methodist Church and serves three small congregations. Mindy and husband Ted Denney would also like to announce the birth of Morgan Therese in September 2009.

Ruben Gomez (Class of 1992) married Monica Gonzalez of Los Angeles in November 2008 and just started his third year with the Vons Grocery Company supervising the Santa

Fe Springs Grocery Distribution Center Receiving Department.

Edwin Medina (Class of 1992) married Thuy Nguyen on Nov. 21.

Wendy (Shay) Lewis (Class of 1993) recently relocated to Los Angeles after living in San Francisco for the past 17 years. She is opening up the Los Angeles office as the senior vice president for the Loomis Group, an advertising and marketing firm. She moved back to be closer to her family and she looks forward to catching up with fellow Amat alumni.

Dawn Baez De Nava (Class of 1995) became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in April 2009. She works as a part-time Clinical Consultant for West End Family Counseling Services in Rancho Cucamonga. In July 2009, Dawn and her husband celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary. On August 21, 2009, she gave birth to her third child, a healthy baby boy. They live in Fontana.

Jesse Ambriz (Class of 1995) just moved to the East Coast to work at the first public, all-boy charter school in Delaware. He teaches fifth-grade math and sixth-grade grammar at Prestige Academy.

Danielle Tack (Class of 1995) was recently engaged to Paul Hollier and also recently accepted a fellowship with the Centers for Disease Control, which will start in July.

Janelle Gonzalez (Class of 1996) announces the birth of her baby girl, Zoey Rita, on June 29.

Jessica (Sanchez) Heritage (Class of 1996) and husband James celebrate the birth of son Palmer. He was born on Nov. 16, 2009.

Monica Leiva (Class of 1997) and husband James Domkus announce the birth of Adrian Leandro.

Eric Calderon (Class of 1997) was honored by the West Covina City Council after he performed life-saving CPR during a softball game at West

Covina's Field of Dreams ballpark.

Calderon, a member of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, was honored along with his partner Santos Luna.

Gabriela Guzman (Class of 1998) passed the California Bar Exam in November and is practicing employment law in Los Angeles. She completed her bachelor's degree from Pepperdine University and then graduated from Valparaiso School of Law in Valparaiso, Indiana.

Akilah (Nyerere) Serna (Class of 1998) was married on June 21, 2008 to Falone Serna. On July 1, 2009, they welcomed their first child, Lailah Rose Serna.

Sean Koelle (Class of 1998) and **Stephanie Cruz** (Class of 2001) were married on Dec. 31, 2009. Sean currently teaches religion at Bishop Amat and Stephanie coached volleyball at Amat for four years.

OO's

Gabriela Jauregui (Class of 2000) and **Nicholas Duran** (Class of 2001) announce the birth of son David Jay Duran, who was born on Nov. 30, 2009.

Candace Acosta (Class of 2001) married Salvador Villagomez on July 14 and are now expecting their first son.

Kara Montgomery (Class of 2002) and **John Roa** (Class of 2002) were married Oct. 23 at Padua Hills Theatre in Claremont. Kara graduated with a Master's degree in Education: Digital Teaching and Learning from Azusa Pacific University in January.

Nicole Burgos (Class of 2003) and **Michael Lange** (Class of 2002) were married Nov. 19, 2009 in Los Cabos, Mexico.

Melissa Salter (Class of 2004) graduated from Loyola Marymount University in 2008 and is four classes away from earning her Master's degree in English from Cal State Fullerton. Melissa, a second year teacher, teaches at San Antonio High School in Claremont.

Aaron Zamora (Class of 2005) recently returned from the 2010 World Universities Debating Championships hosted by Koc University in Turkey.

Nicholas Macias (Class of 2008) marched the 2010 Rose Parade as drum major for the Pasadena City College Tournament of Roses Honor Band. Macias was drum major for the Bishop Amat Golden Lancer Band his senior year.

Desiree Harvey (Class of 2008) and **John Jolicoeur** (Class of 2009) were engaged on Dec. 23.



Firefighter Eric Calderon (Class of 1997), right, receives honor

In Memoriam

Pray for the repose of the soul of Patrick Sanchez (Class of 1983). He passed away suddenly in late November 2009. He worked in the computer technology field as a manager and eventually as a consultant for many years. He was an intelligent and passionate person who will be greatly missed. He is survived by brother Mario Sanchez (Class of 1983) and sister Renee Sanchez Kelly (Class of 1977).

If you would like to submit information to be included in the next *Amat Tradition* please e-mail Mrs. Darleen Adamek, Development Office Secretary at dadamek@bishopamat.org. If your submitted news did not appear in this issue, it will be published in the next newsletter.

2010 reunions

Class of 1970

Date and Location: To be determined
Contact: joantheCornlady@aol.com, or find Joan Wiederholt on Facebook

Class of 1980

Date: August 7, 2010
Location: Bishop Amat High School
Contact: Bishop.Amat80@gmail.com

Class of 1985

Date: August 7, 2010
Location: Bishop Amat High School
Contact: Delora Sandoval at dsandoval14@cox.net

Class of 1990

Date: October 9, 2010
Location: Hotel Menage Anaheim
Contact: Marie (Garcia) Godinez at mummym6@yahoo.com

Class of 2000

Date: October 9, 2010
Location: To be determined
Contact: Anita Rix at arix@bishopamat.org

annual appeal update

The 2010 Annual Appeal is well underway and currently has generated approximately \$22,000 since it was launched in November. These monies have been earmarked specifically for tuition assistance to needy and deserving students.

We would like to remind all alumni that we are challenging each class to donate enough to underwrite the cost of tuition for one student, which is approximately \$6,500. Please take the time to send in your donation to help a current student have an experience similar to yours while attending Bishop Amat, and to help your class meet its goal.

SPECIAL NOTE: Please note that two anonymous donors in the Classes of 1972 and 1996 have offered to match class donations up to \$6,500.
- Steve Hagerty



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

Upcoming Events

August 7 - 1980 and 1985 Reunions

October 8 - Homecoming Football Game and BBQ

October 9 - Military Memorial Garden Dedication

October 9 - 1990 Class Reunion

October 9 - 2000 Class Reunion

November 20 - Extravaganza Auction and Dinner

