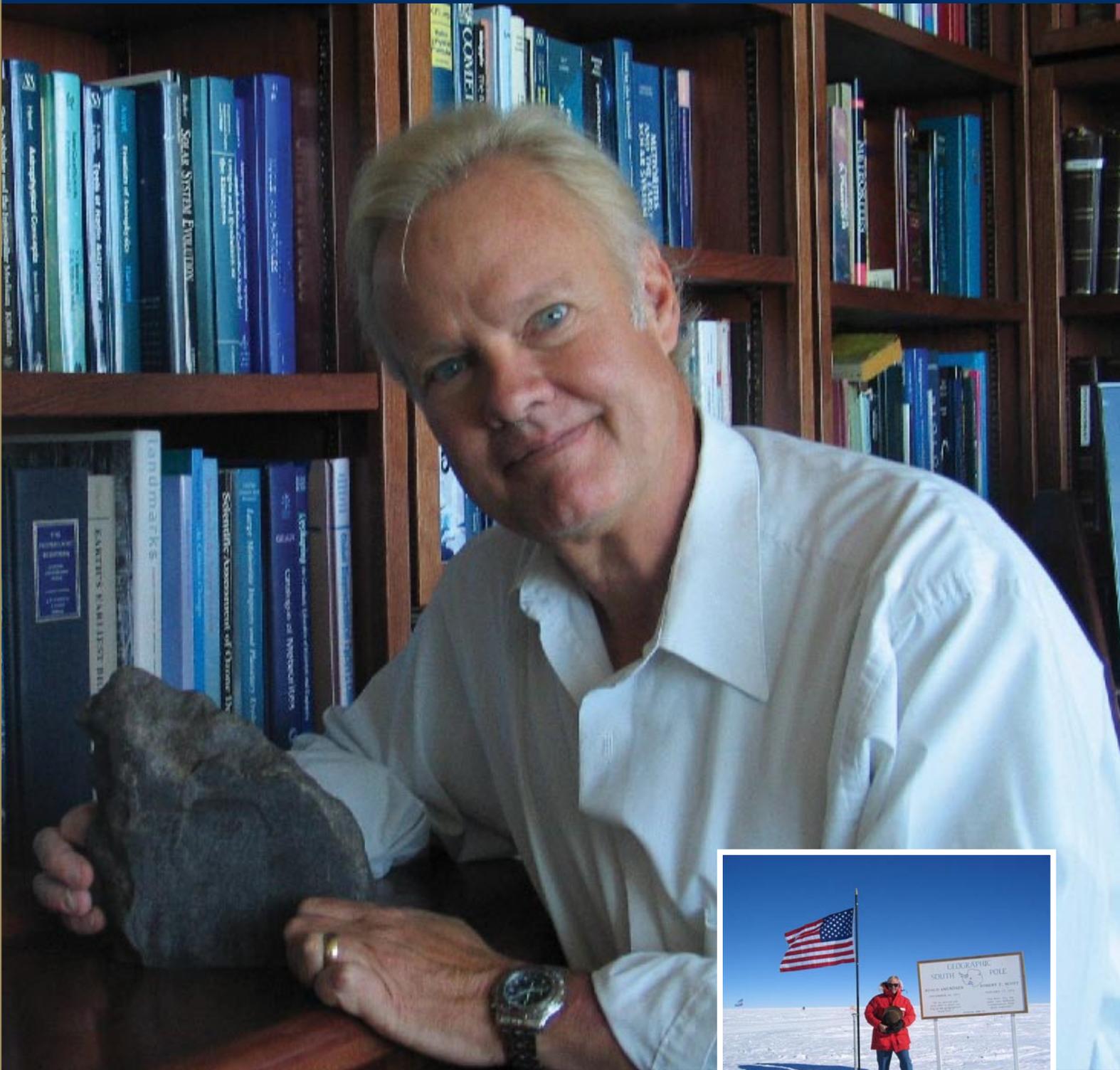


# CRUSADER CONNECTION



**Academy of Science  
Why Science Matters Today**

**Dr. Mark Thiemens**  
Dean, Department of Physical Sciences  
University of California, San Diego

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*Congratulations to the first graduating class of Mater Dei. Four members of the Class of 2008 share their memories of Marian/Mater Dei and their dreams for the future.*

*Graduates pictured and the universities they will be attending.*

*Nathan Baugh, The College of William & Mary  
Chelsea Largoza, The University of California at Berkeley  
Dierdre Long, University of San Francisco  
Roman Owens, United States Air Force Academy*





Dear Friends,

The end of the beginning! That's the best description I can offer regarding the events of the past few months that are documented in these pages. All of us, whether we are staff, students, parents or alumni are extremely proud and grateful that we have been a part of this first year at our new home, Mater Dei Catholic High School. It is a rare experience to open the doors at a new school. The "new car smell" was in every room and inhabited all our senses. But our pride also extended to what we have retained as Crusaders. The memories and traditions of our past are still embraced in our present. The connection between the two sites, Marian and Mater Dei, where Crusaders have lived their lives while striving for advancement will always be strong. All this is held together by the blessings of our patron Mary, the Mother of God.

As you spend time with this issue of the Crusader Connection I encourage you to remember your own experiences as a Crusader or a friend of our community. It may have been a teacher, a peer, or a favored administrator who in some small way helped you to see something in a different light or possibly to make it through a difficult day. It may have been a challenge that you were asked to meet or a friend that needed your help and support. In all these ways, and so many more, the spirit of Crusaders past and present is alive and well. It is this spirit that we honor in these pages of the Crusader Connection.

To the Class of 2008 who are chiefly featured in this issue, let me offer you our prayers as you begin your life away from our protective walls. You will always be the first graduates of Mater Dei Catholic High School. As such, you occupy a special place among Crusader graduates that only the Marian High School Class of 1964 can share with you. I want to thank you for your leadership and your enthusiasm which helped to make this year so successful. As you pursue your goals in life always remember how your faith is at the heart of all success.

Mary Mother of God, lead us to your Son Jesus.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "TCB".

Thomas C. Beecher  
President

# First Honors Second Semester

## Freshmen

Alvarez, Jeffrey M  
Baumgardner, Jessica M  
Baxley, Samantha N  
Beltran, Nallely G  
Blair, Teresa L  
Cabrera, Ariel R  
Cardenas, Valeria L  
Castaneda, Alison S  
Castro, Alejandra G  
Chenelle, Chelsea A  
Conlin, Mikayla P  
Day, Nicholas J  
Fierro, Daniella  
Gage, Claudio  
Galan, Diego-Emilio  
Garcia, Korina  
Genel, Valeria  
Gonzales, Kristin Nicole V  
Hillmann, Christine M  
Ignacio, Misha H  
Johnson, Lauralee F  
Lindstrom, Marissa E  
Martinez-Casillas, Andrea  
Martinez-Rebollar, Jose M  
Matula, Theodore Jr D  
Navarro, Lilliam  
Peterson, Jorge  
Quintero, Maryel  
Ruiz, Isela A  
Sanchez, Carla G  
Silva, Carolina  
Silva-Martinez, Raul T  
Slovinsky, Daniel I  
Stonehouse, Isabel  
Weller, Christopher K  
Acevedo, Dianne K  
Blanco, Rafael

## Juniors

Henry, Ebone N  
Jackson, Kamela S  
Johnson, Danae N  
Kim, Soo-Jin F  
Lopez, Luisa M  
Mendez, Ailin M  
Millan, Paulina M  
Padilla, Christina M  
Padres, Barbara M  
Pega, Kayla H  
Pitre, Marcel J  
Rayon, Mariano E  
Rodriguez, Michael  
Schramm-Flores, Andres  
Vasquez, Toni R  
Watts-Cesena, Laura F  
Wood, Vanessa L  
Zoura, Diane

## Sophomores

Burkle, Mariana  
Carrillo-Baylon, Rafael E  
Coria, Michelle  
Cota, Jasmine B  
Covarrubias, Lilia G  
Espinoza, Kacy R  
Flores, Danielle  
Gomez, Mariana  
Gonzalez, Lucia  
Guilas, Marie Elaine Y  
Haines, Andrew R  
Jaramillo, Vere I  
Jimenez, Marquise P  
Kuzukian, Alec M  
Leyva, Nora A  
Lopez, Alicia M  
Lucero-Canaan, Alfredo  
Mara, James D  
Mayor, Patrick R  
Navarro, Andrea A  
Odriozola, Paola  
Paredes, Diana L  
Perez-Madrugal, Alejandra Y  
Pimentel, Cassandra P  
Rhein, Johanna V  
Sanchez, Michel E  
Santana, Stephanie  
Silva-Martinez, Robert A  
Uribe, Estela E  
Valenzuela, Catherine T  
Winata, Marto  
Dacayo, Janine A  
Fernandez, Frances  
Leane Gonzalez, Axel  
Gonzalez, Lorena  
Gutierrez-Nunez, Jesus  
Harding, David

## Seniors

Alcock, Megan  
Batista, Javier Jr. E  
Baugh, Nathaniel R  
Burgess, Allyson C  
Cortes, Leopoldo A  
Cosio, David A  
Cruz-Chong, Isabella  
Gamez, Alyssa A  
Hernandez, Amber R  
Hernandez-Ruiz, Alejandro G  
Ibarra, Stephanie M  
Julve, Bernard  
Kuzukian, Alyssa  
Lacey, Brian T  
Largoza, Chelsea Anne H  
Le Duc, David M  
Leon, Lucero C  
Long, Deirdre A  
Muffley, Katrina J  
Owens, Roman C  
Paez, Karla J  
Rah, Kyu Paek  
Ramirez, Luis M  
Rhein, Jayne E  
Rosillo, Mariana  
Sanchez, Carolina



The Mater Dei Catholic High School  
Class of 2008 was accepted  
into the following Colleges & Universities:

United States Air Force Academy  
California State University, Fullerton  
California State University, Sacramento  
California State University, San Marcos  
California State University, East Bay  
California State University, Long Beach  
California State University, San Bernardino  
California State University, San Francisco  
College of William and Mary  
Cornell University  
Cuyamaca College  
Dartmouth College  
Grossmont College  
Hilbert College  
Holy Names University  
Humboldt State University  
Ibero-American University  
Loyola Marymount University  
Mesa College  
Northern Arizona University  
Saint Mary's University  
San Diego City College  
San Diego Culinary Institute  
San Diego State University (SDSU)  
San Francisco State University  
Sonoma State University  
Southwestern College  
Syracuse University  
Tecnologico de Monterey  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, Riverside  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
University of Nevada Las Vegas  
University of Oregon  
University of Portland  
University of San Diego  
University of San Francisco



### Mater Dei Catholic High School's Academy of Science

was founded to provide an exemplary science learning experience in two ways. First, the Academy engages students in practical and theoretical science through collaborations and partnerships with the scientific community. Second, the Academy challenges students with a rigorous academic program that encourages all students to achieve at the highest levels of excellence in preparation for college and careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

While the new Mater Dei Catholic High School campus was under construction, Mrs. Claudia Luttrell Skaggs, who is Chair of the ALSAM Foundation which oversees the philanthropic investments of their family, encouraged the diocese and the school to create a science focus on the new campus. In the following years the ALSAM Foundation generously provided a grant to study the proposal and to bring to our school staff some of the best local and national advisors in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). These advisers, along with the nationally recognized consultants from Mid Continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL), met with school staff over a period of an entire year to put in place the foundation for what would become the Academy of Science.

This past school year saw the first steps taken toward what we hope will become one of the premiere science programs in the country. Selected students from the class of 2011 were placed in an advanced math and science curriculum in their freshman year as an initial move toward creating the academy on campus. These freshmen were introduced to field scientists and their work through partnerships and visits to The University of California San Diego's Physical Sciences Department, The Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, The Kyoto Prize lectures and the Scripps Research Institute. These partnerships will be continued and expanded in the years ahead to include future visits to their laboratories, providing mentors for our students from among the doctoral and post-doctoral scientists, and summer internship opportunities in the laboratories and research facilities they represent. As the future unfolds, we hope to expand the list of field sponsors to include many more opportunities in a variety of corporate, government, and non-profit research facilities.

# ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

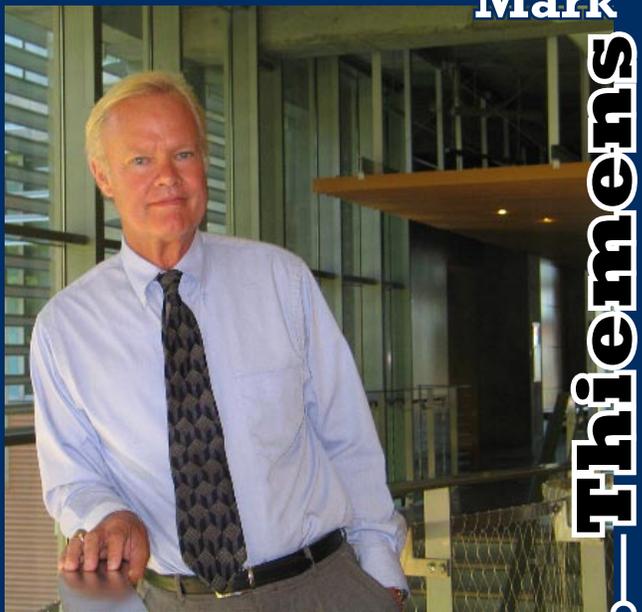
### Congratulations to the recent inductees of the Academy of Science:

Back Row: Carina Erb, Andrew Thei, Christopher Weller, Theodore Matula, Jr., Mariana Gomez  
Front Row: Kristin Gonzales, Samantha Baxley, Barbara Elenbaas, Diane-Leah Moore, Misha Ignacio, Paola Odriozola, Andrea Navarro, Michel Sanchez  
Not Pictured - Nicholas Day

In the spring of the 2007 – 2008 school year there was a competitive selection process for the first group of students chosen to be members of the Academy of Science. Ultimately, after a rigorous analysis of the nominees, fourteen students were chosen from the current freshmen and sophomore classes. These students will be required to meet a number of criteria standards and performance goals in order to maintain their membership in the Academy. First among them will be to enroll in the highest level honors and advanced placement math and science classes that our school offers. Second, students will be enrolled in an additional 7th period class where they will work on a number of projects including: a formal research assignment, participation in a science fair or competition, and completion of a scientific or ecology related service project. Beyond the pride of being a member of the Academy, the students will also receive special recognition on their diplomas upon graduation, they will have first hand experiences in the laboratories where some of the cutting edge research in the STEM fields is being conducted, and they will have opportunities for summer, and school year, paid internships in a variety of scientific fields. Most importantly, they will have exposure to science research that very few high school students have had. They will actually have an opportunity to meet, and be briefed in the research of, Nobel Prize winning scientists during their enrollment in the Academy.

In recognition of our approach to the Academy, the National Institute of Health (NIH) has named Mater Dei Catholic High School in a grant designed to study our program and to provide underwriting for transportation of our students to the field science locations that we visit as a requirement of the Academy. This grant is a small part of a multi-million dollar grant received by the Scripps Research Institute in recognition of our partnership with this groundbreaking and world renowned research facility.

As we take these baby steps in the creation of the Academy of Science, we are grateful for the trust and financial commitment of the ALSAM Foundation and of the time and energy of the many scientists and institutions who have helped us to walk on this path. The excitement that has been generated among our students is truly remarkable and we look forward in confidence to expanding our enrollment and sending our students to the top colleges and universities in the world who specialize in training the scientists of tomorrow. We acknowledge that we are but a step in a long process that will eventually produce scientists, doctors, mathematicians, inventors and who knows...maybe even a Nobel Prize winner is somewhere in our future!



**Mark Thiemens**  
Dr. Thiemens is Dean of UCSD's Department of Physical Sciences and a renowned atmospheric chemist. He has been instrumental in the development of the Academy of Science.

**MDCHS: How long have you been here at UCSD?**

Dr. T: I came here about 1980.

**MDCHS: Did you come in as the Dean?**

Dr. T: No, no. I was an Assistant Professor. It was my first real job that didn't involve digging dirt or hammering nails. So, I started at the beginning on faculty. I stayed on the faculty. I do this job too, but I'm still a research professor.

**MDCHS: When did you become the Dean?**

Dr. T: Seven or eight years ago. I was a chair to the Chemistry department for three years before that. I still did my research, I used to run a research lab.

**MDCHS: What other places around the world have you taught at or lectured in?**

Dr. T: A lot. Probably about three or four hundred lectures in the last ten years. I do twenty or thirty lectures a year. I gave a lecture to eight people at the North Pole, in the Arctic. I did the same in the South Pole and every continent.

**MDCHS: Is it true that you taught yourself Algebra at the age of ten?**

Dr.T: Hmm. Well I was interested in amateur radio and you had to have a license to do it. My father was a radar operator in World War II and he taught me the code and some other theory that requires you to do Algebra. It's equations and it wasn't going to be taught for a couple of years so I taught myself how to do it. It wasn't a great mental leap but I needed to know it. If you really want to do something you learn it better. Maybe not right but I learned how to do it.

**MDCHS: I know you mentioned that Math and Science used to be a cool thing, that more people were into it. Why do you think that's changed?**

Dr.T: Well, I could think of one thing that I wrote about Sputnik in the 1950's. You know I was a little kid then, but it really made an impression. I mean it's not a big deal now. You can go out any clear night and see satellites. But, that was the first. For a lot of kids it really made an impression on them. So I was thinking, I want to do something like that. At the same time, the people that are now my age and in Washington realized we were behind the Soviets. We really weren't that much behind, but that was the impression. So you have all these motivated kids, 'I wanna do this, it's cool.' And you had people realizing we had to get caught up, so money went into education. Those two things happened all at once. It was the right combination of things; science, engineering and mathematics really took off. And since that time people are still interested, but not as much as before. If you look at the number of kids, young adults, that are in, say, middle school and go into science to get degrees, it's about 4% of kids. Very few are going into it. If you interview kids that are seven years old and ask, 'What do you

**That's why what's going on with the Academy of Science at Mater Dei is important because you do have people and you have facilities to go with it. That's how you make a difference.**

want to do?' about half of them say Science. I really don't know what it is, but they're thinking nature. Nature is science. Or they are thinking technology. It's about evenly split between boys and girls, but when you get to tenth and eleventh grade about 9% are interested and 70% or 80% are boys and 10% or 20% are girls. Something's happening. It's obviously not just one thing. Part of it is just the discipline. It's that somehow they're not being excited or they're not teaching it in the right way and the excitement is not there. We have teachers that care. We want teachers that care and their background is in Science and Mathematics. So that's why what's going on at Mater Dei is important because you do have people and facilities to go with it. That's how you make a difference. It's not the only thing. We need more teachers and we need to pay them better and it's all those things. The boy/girl issue is also complicated. Part of it is image. The fact is that there is only one science major that's growing right now and it's Chemistry.

**MDCHS: Why is that?**

Dr.T: It's CSI. It's cool, it's a good thing. You're doing analysis, you're discovering, and it's cool. Part of it is marketed. That's why a lot of the best athletes now go to the NBA instead of trying to play baseball, even though you play longer in baseball and the average salary is higher. The NBA has the reputation of being cooler. So they go there instead of playing baseball. So, it's image. So, that's it. And part of it is just exposure.

**MDCHS: I've read that you've done extensive research on the ozone layer, global warming and the atmosphere. Can you tell us about some of the things you've done?**

Dr. T: I went to Greenland one summer and I spent the summer digging ice. No glory in it, it's just you live in a tent and dig ice. You go out in the morning and dig ice and go to bed at ten o'clock at night. That's your day. And then we come back with the samples and try to understand what's happening. I did the same thing at the South Pole. There's a number of reasons for doing it. But there's two big ones. One, is when I go, and many of us go and talk to people in the political arena or even skeptics on climate and say well, 'Climates always change. How do you know that this warming business is just not part of a normal warming cycle?' It's a reasonable question actually. By looking at ice at a high resolution month by month, year by year, century by century, we can see the ten year sunspot cycles, and the El Nino cycles. We can see the procession of the earth's cycle. We can see the astronomical cycles and you take all that away and then we can see us. So the answer to that is 'Look, here are all the natural cycles, now let me take them away. Now look, here's what we're left with.' It's us.

Well, if global warming was part of a natural cycle, then there's only one warming agent that's natural. It's the sun. If the earth was warming it should be correlated with the sun. So the warming should occur greatest in the summer. It's the other way, it's actually in the winter. It should be warmer more in daytime progressively then it at nighttime. It's not, it's the other way around. The only way you can explain that is if you have some blanketing effect that holds the heat in when it shouldn't be there. And guess what that is? The Greenhouse Effect. That's exactly what the Greenhouse Effect is. It's the opposite of what you would get for a natural cycle. So that's the kind of information you would get from going to the pole, because otherwise if you get a chance, people say it's really interesting to have been to the South Pole. It is. For about twelve minutes, and then it's just painful.

**MDCHS: What other remote places have you been to besides the North and South Pole?**

Dr.T: I've been to the jungles, you know the rainforests in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador. We've trekked around in there and we'll probably go back this fall to try to understand how is nature changing. I certainly have been there quite a few times. It's pretty remote there. But, once you've been to the South Pole, it's pretty much civilized wherever you go. It's not that remote anymore. We've done ships in the ocean; Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian and gone to Indonesia and parts of Southeast Asia.



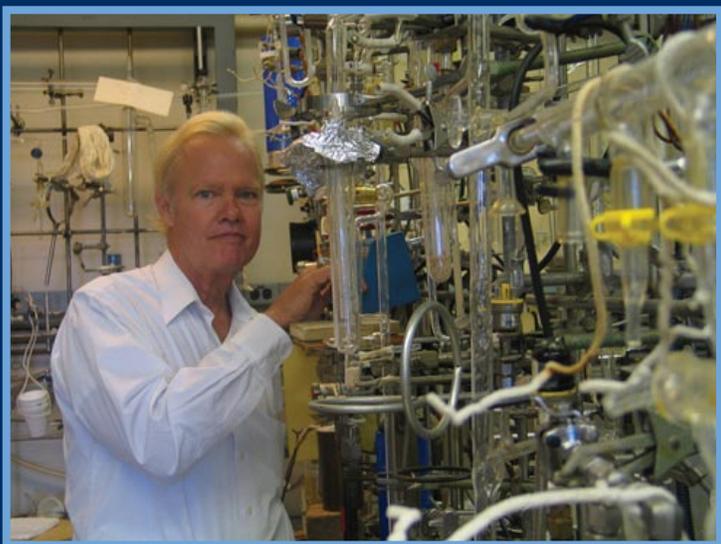
**MDCHS: How does it feel to have a mini planet named after you?**

Dr. T: It's nice. I don't know if you have kids yet but this is what you're going to learn. My son's an undergraduate here, he's a senior and my daughter is at UC Irvine, she's a sophomore. The various things you do, the various awards you get, you know I tell my son I'm elected to the National Academy of Science. You know Abraham Lincoln started this organization. In the boardroom there's a picture of Lincoln signing the document for it. It's a very, very small club and the average age is 77. He says, 'Ok, great. Nice going dad.' From there I say I'm elected to the American Academy. He says, 'Oh well who else is in this?' I say, 'Well the first member was this guy named George Washington and he signed this book that Einstein, Washington, Jefferson and all these people signed.' 'Oh ok.' 'Oh by the way, I just had a planet named after me.' He says, 'That's cool dad!' At the family level it all makes sense. It's sort of fun.

**MDCHS: What has been your involvement with the Academy of Science out at Mater Dei?**

Dr. T: Well I've had a lot of discussions with the school since they were getting started. It was before it was built, maybe a year and I remember a group came up here and wanted to know, 'What are you doing that might be interesting? Is there anything going on in UCSD and science that might be interesting for us?' It was just kind of a 'What's out there?' kind of thing. It was the right thing to do.

Claudia Luttrell came with the group. And I told them yes. So we walked in the door and sat down. We were just starting a program, it was called "The Science and Math Initiative" at the time and now it's called "CALTeach." It was started by the



governor and Bob Dynes, President of the University of California, and it addressed the issue of Science and Math teaching in high school. There are a lot of reasons but the basic one is teaching. And it's not that we don't have good teachers so let me say this really careful. It is not an issue of having good teachers or motivated teachers. Take that off the table, it's not the case. It's just a matter of background. Because when I went to high school just shortly after the discovery of fire, my physics teacher was the football coach. And that's not unusual. That's because most of the people that taught got degrees in teaching and learned the pedagogy of teaching, but science wasn't their real background. They were interesting in history, literature, art, or whatever and that's good. The problem is someone has to teach physics, mathematics and chemistry and often times there are people teaching it but it wasn't their background. And that was a problem so why did Schwarzenegger and Dynes all of a sudden come into this recognition of this problem? Dell and Microsoft were behind it because they can't get people to work for them. I went to the Gates Foundation in January or February and they said, 'Mark, we have three thousand open jobs that we can't fill.' Three thousand jobs and unemployment is supposed to be a big issue. And the problem is we have people teaching science and math when it's not their background. And they are hard subjects to teach, let's face it. Math's a hard subject. It just is. So the CalTeach program in short is different in that you're gonna get a degree in Mathematics, Chemistry or Physics with a minor in Education. So now the person who is going into teaching math loves it. I could teach literature, but I wouldn't necessarily be good at it as compared to someone who got a degree in literature who knew all the ins and outs. And that's the story I told the group when they came up here. That's why you can tell I'm really passionate about it. You know, because all the other things I do you know their fun and make a living but this actually makes a bigger difference quicker in a profound way that will last a long time.

**MDCHS: So what do you think the significance is that Mater Dei has an Academy of Science as opposed to some other schools that may not have that same sort of sub-section within its school?**

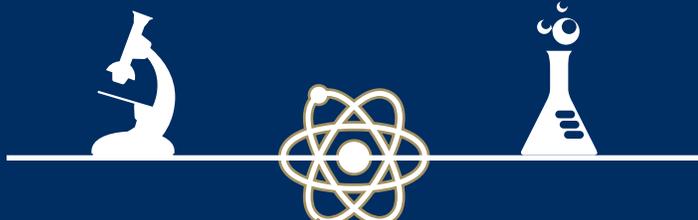
Dr. T: Oh I think it's great. I think it's terrific. But do I think every school should be that way? No, not necessarily. Not everyone wants to go into science and math. But you know, this is a technological society. There's a need for the IT approach because there's a focus on it. I think it's a great model. I wish we could do a lot more because it's the right thing to do. At least a piece of this should be in every school with a coterie of people who love science and mathematics and go out and instill this in students. And we should have high schools that do a focus like this.

MDCHS: That was amazing foresight.

Dr. T: It'll make a big difference. Some things you do and you know it's not gonna show up for thirty years but you just do it. Something like this. You know the first students in this program will come out in a couple of years and they'll show up and they'll like it. I get some large groups from Mater Dei and it's great. First of all, they take them into a lab and they don't know what's going on, they just see this stuff. And that's number one, this is cool stuff. It doesn't matter what it is, it looks cool. And that's ok. And then the second thing is, and I'm glad, it's what I like to do. I like to do it with a group when they say, 'I like this but it involves a lot of math. And I'm not good at math.' That's when I get the chance to say, 'Stop right there. Stop. My division had 60 mathematicians, some of them the best in the world, won every prize in math. But you know what the difference between me and them and you, there isn't one. It just matters when you get it and how you learn it.' It is difficult. It's one of those subjects that is frustrating. It's harder to learn because it's tricky to teach. It's just is a hard subject. And you have to be aware of it because it has a wall. It's the only subject I know that has a wall. I've said this to a lot of people. But it's like fishing. You start with one, one gives you two, two gives you four and four gives you sixteen. You start at that level and one shows up and quick enough that you can see it. So that's why I'm enthusiastic about it. You can make a difference. I like it.

MDCHS: How do you think this Academy of Science can make students more attracted to Science?

Dr.T: Well you've done it. First of all, it's really the teachers. You've got great teachers. Secondly, it's the facilities. Even if it's not those exquisite facilities it's those great teachers. That's really the big one. You go in and get them fired up. But then having great facilities on top of it...those are the two things. Those are the most important things by far. The people who teach and then the facilities. After that, if it doesn't work, man I'd be surprised. It's the right thing to do. It's just the right thing to do.



To read the entire interview with Dr. Thiemens and to learn more about the Academy of Science visit our website at [www.materdeicatholic.org](http://www.materdeicatholic.org)

This year the winter sports teams were very excited to get acclimated to their new facilities. The Bosco Center proved to be everything the basketball programs could have hoped for. First and foremost, multiple practices could be held concurrently. Boys and girls, JV and Varsity, whatever the combination, gym accessibility and practice times were nonissues this season. The boys program co-hosted two tournaments and more are on the calendar for next year. The nascent wrestling program will also be looking to fill the Bosco Center next season with various meets and tournaments. The basketball programs were not the only sports to reap the rewards of the new facilities. The soccer program also got a taste of playing on a surface that provided all weather traction. No storm was too big to delay soccer contests. Through the wind and the rain Mater Dei Catholic Stadium provided a top notch venue for soccer spectators. Throughout the winter sports season Crusader athletes competed hard. Many of the winter sports programs relied heavily on underclassmen. This can only mean one thing: The athletic program's future is bright at Mater Dei Catholic.

### Boys Basketball

Under the leadership of veteran coach Chris Moeller, the Crusaders had a fruitful season. On a roster loaded with juniors and sophomores, the Crusaders came to play every game. While they did not win every game, they were competitive in most until the final



minutes. The Crusaders finished with a .500 record. They placed third in the South Bay league and were granted a spot in the CIF playoffs. By exhibiting hard work, sportsmanship, team work and commitment the Crusaders proved victory is not always defined by wins and losses, but by what you learn in the process. Leading players for the Crusaders were senior Nathaniel Baugh, juniors DeAnthony Tobe, RJ Rowan, Aldo Loera and sophomores Franklin Ausler and Jake Marrison.



### Girls Basketball

The Girl's Basketball Program at Mater Dei Catholic is one of the strongest programs in the athletic department. Coach David Monroe has turned the Lady Crusaders into a perennial league champion and CIF title contender. The girls play a stifling full court press and a run and gun



fast break offense. They create many turnovers and can score points in a hurry. This seasons Lady Crusaders finished undefeated in league and were crowned South Bay League Champions. Their strong league play and difficult nonleague schedule allowed them to attain the three seed for the CIF playoffs. The girls won their way to the Division IV semifinals. Although they were unfortunate in that game the girls showed they have what it takes and are looking to take the next step in 2009. This year's team was led by a group of outstanding juniors. South Bay League player of the year Ebone Henry heads the bunch. Other leading juniors are Danae Johnson, Jhazmine Lynch and Kamela Jackson. The team will be saying goodbye to four year starter Anitra McCain.

### Boys Soccer

Coach Jorge Zavala has built a very strong boys program at Mater Dei Catholic. His teams are well organized, fit, tactically proficient and skilled. With this kind of leadership the Boy's Soccer Program will always be a force to reckon with. This season's team was no exception. The boys played hard and stretched every team to the limit. After getting used to the intricacies of playing on the new field surface, the team strung together a number of positive results. Although they finished in



the middle of the pack in league the team was able to attain a top four seeding in the CIF playoffs. They came up short to the eventual Division IV champion in the semifinals. With a wealth of underclassmen, the boys hope to improve upon that result for next year. The leaders for the Crusaders this year were seniors Luis De La Concha, Armando Martinez and Fernando Rodriguez.



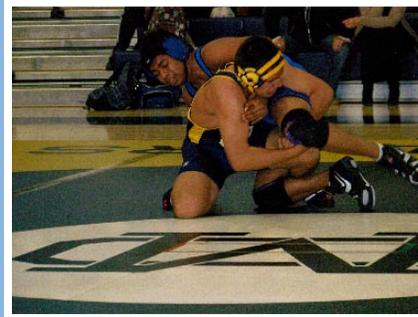
### Girls Soccer

The Girl's Soccer Team continued their tradition of strong competition in the South Bay League. Under first year coach Frank Ritz, the girls showed an unmatched level of fitness. This usually led to gaining the upper hand towards the end of their matches. After sustaining some tough injuries during the first half of the season, the girls had to find some new faces to step in and fill the vacuum. While not always victorious, they did attain a number of ties which are not always bad in soccer. The girls finished a very close second in league and went on to the CIF playoffs. Though they came up short in the playoffs, the foundation has been established for future success. The leaders this season came from the underclassmen. Juniors Lauren Elise Judal, Karinna Himan and sophomore Camile Alvarado will be strong for the Lady Crusaders next season.



### Wrestling

This program was the new program for the winter. It was new only in the sense that there has not been wrestling at Marian/Mater Dei Catholic for 20 years. Call it a Renaissance. Coach Scott Ullsperger was the man to take on the new challenge. With a very limited schedule, and no wrestlers to begin with,



he had his work cut out for him. To say this season was successful would be an understatement. With 35 consistent wrestlers and a tireless weekend schedule the Crusaders were able to patch together a strong season. Although they were inexperienced, they trained hard and improved daily. With a focus on conditioning, the wrestlers worked to extend matches to the late rounds. Hopefully, with the experience gained, the wrestlers will be able to be more competitive next season. A new/old hire will be looking to make a difference also. Jerry Matsumoto will be returning to assist the crusaders next season.

Like the winter sports teams, the spring sports teams could not wait to make use of their new fields and facilities. How would the wind affect fly balls on the baseball field? Could anyone muscle it over the fence at the new softball field? Would the new track be fast or slow? All of these questions were foremost in the minds of the coaches and players as the season approached. Teams were able to adapt and make the most out of their new homes. They figured out which field the ball carries to, where the bad hops on the infield were and which long jump pit worked the best. While some teams enjoyed the confines of the Mater Dei Catholic campus other teams were road warriors, practicing and playing at places spread out around south San Diego. These teams hope for the day when they will be able to stay home to practice and play. Someday their hope will become a reality.



### Boys Golf

With Coach Bill Gerken leading the team and the golfers shooting the low scores, the golf team won the South Bay league title this season. It is a little simple to say they just won it. They dominated. They took five out of the top six spots in league and qualified as a team to play in the CIF finals at Warner Springs.



# Annual Report

2008



Vincent de Paul  
Our Lady of  
Guadalupe  
Thomas Aquinas  
John Chrysostom  
Elizabeth Seton  
Ignatius Loyola

Jean Baptiste  
de LaSalle  
Catherine  
of Siena  
Kateri Takawitha  
Juan Diego  
John Bosco  
Rose of Lima

Mary, Mother of God

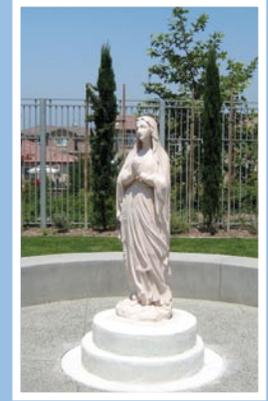
Lead us to your Son Jesus.

Michelle Aguinaldo  
 Robert & Meredith Alcock  
 Jerry & Merlinda Allen  
 Fidel & Imelda Almazan  
 Michael & Christine Alvarado  
 Juan Carlos & Olga Alvarez  
 Claudia Ampudia  
 Veronica '72 & Jeffrey Andreoli  
 Harold & Monica Andreoli  
 Mary Andrews '70  
 Cresencia & Alberto Angeles  
 Jim & Anamaria Anthony  
 Jody Balestrieri  
 David & JoEllen Baugh  
 Eduardo & Marisela Becerra  
 Thomas Beecher  
 Patricia Bengan  
 John Berry  
 Betty Beyster  
 John & Bertha Blas  
 Abril Briz '92  
 Rebecca & Kevin Brown  
 Monica '83 & Timothy Brown  
 Joseph & Gloria Brunner  
 Michael & Carmen Buffaloe  
 Linda Bugelli  
 Timothy Burke '85  
 Helen Callow  
 Pablo & Heriberta Carcano  
 Ramiro & Maria-Amelia Cardenas  
 Tomas & Ann Carlos  
 Antonio & Rosalva Carrillo  
 Paula Carroll  
 Hector & Esther Casillas  
 Gerarda '82 & Marbel Castaneda  
 Oscar & Dolores Ceballos  
 Luis & Sandra Chacon  
 Margaret & Salvatore Chiappe  
 Karen Chudy '68  
 Margo Clark '67  
 Edward & Laura Cormode  
 Jessica Cornejo '91  
 Alejandro '69 & Rebecca Cota  
 Jeanne Cox  
 Rodolfo & Maria Cruz  
 Domonic Cruz  
 Pedro & Idalia Dabdoub  
 Gordon '74 & Terri Day  
 Dalene DiTommaso  
 Very Rev. John Dolan  
 Elizabeth Dougherty  
 Robert & Maria Egger  
 Christina Fajardo-Guevara '93  
 Enrico & Gloria Fernandez  
 Michele Fernandez '92  
 Peter & Mary Ellen Ferrantelli  
 Mario & Martha Fierro  
 Thomas '82 & Andrea Finch  
 Lois Fleming  
 Edward & Lynne Floyd  
 Nick Franco  
 Keith & Gabriela '77 Fulton  
 Mike Gaeden  
 Carlos & Sandra Gage  
 Yvonne Gallegos  
 Amy Gallmann  
 Miguel & Maria Garcia  
 Allen '77 & Wendy '75 Gates  
 William & Elizabeth Gerken  
 Natalie Gerken '00  
 Guillermo Giandoni (RET) '68  
 Carlos & Marisol Gomez

Esther Gomez  
 Enrique & Estela Gonzalez  
 Jose & Rita Gonzalez  
 Dennis & Violeta Griffin  
 Idefonso & Ada Guerrero  
 Ernesto & Elena Guilas  
 Fidel & Alejandra Gutierrez  
 Albert & Lee Half  
 Thomas & Sally Hardin  
 Jerry & Patti Hayes  
 Stephen & Judie Heineman  
 Remy & Belinda Hernandez  
 Marco & Georgina Hernandez  
 Blanca Herrera  
 Zachary & Patricia Himan  
 John & Rocio '81 Hodges  
 Joyce Huddleston '79  
 Guillermo & Rosario Iglesias  
 Gabriel & Maria Ishino  
 Eddie & Suzette Jernigan  
 Cesar & Emily Jimenez  
 Delfino & Guadalupe Jimenez  
 Cristina Jimenez '03  
 Brett Joly  
 Ruth Judge  
 Wilfredo & Editha Julve  
 David Kassebaum  
 Michael & Sherolyn '69 Kelleher  
 Renee Kinninger  
 Stan & Janet Kozlowski  
 M. & Maria Krasovsky  
 Carsten & Denise Kroon  
 George Kuzukian  
 Mark & Laura La Riviere  
 Rigoberto & Perla Laborin  
 Gene & Mary LeDuc  
 Jesus & Monica Leon-Lopez  
 Jeffery '69 & Mary Lewis  
 Alejandro & Imelda Limon  
 Walter & Kelley Lindstrom  
 Victor & Theresa Lopez  
 Ray & Sylvia Lugo  
 James '78 & Bernadette '80 Martinez  
 Carlos & Glenda Martinez  
 Juan & Maria Martinez  
 Cisto & Portia Martinez  
 Ignacio & Sheila Martinez  
 Ted & Elizabeth Matranga  
 Terrence Mattis '77  
 Raul & Karen Mayor  
 Patricia McGregor  
 Jesus & Marissa Meda  
 Pedro & Olga Mendoza  
 Kathryn Meyer '73  
 George '72 & Jeanine '73 Milke II  
 Christopher & Ashley Moeller  
 Agustin & Alejandrina Navarro  
 Alicia Naya  
 Lynn Neal  
 Alejandro & Modesta Orozco  
 Walter & Maxine Otte  
 Michael & Gloria Padilla  
 Francisco & Irma Padres  
 Francisco Padres '07  
 Anthony & Christine Papapietro  
 Mary Pappas '72  
 Teresa Pappas '73  
 Francisco '79 & Diana '80 Paredes  
 Michael Parisi '70  
 Oscar & Silvia Perez  
 Mary Petito '87  
 Elena Plazola

John Poole '66  
 Diane & Franklin Porter  
 Harris Quesnell '64  
 Roberto & Claudia Guijano  
 Jorge & Elsa Ramirez  
 Victor & Sandra Razon  
 Susan Reilly '72  
 Paul Reim  
 Gary Reneau '73  
 John Rey  
 John & Mary Rhein  
 Ruben & Lisa Rodriguez  
 Jesus '69 & Teresa Rodriguez  
 Roselle Rose  
 Humberto & Yolanda Ruiz  
 Ileana Salazar  
 Gustavo & Martha Sanchez  
 Viola Sanchez '81  
 Elvia Sandoval '80  
 Judith Shanahan  
 Raul & Diane Silva-Martinez  
 Gustavo & Araceli Slovinsky  
 Kevin Smith  
 Milton Smith  
 Greg Smyth '89  
 Guy Souza  
 Frank Stingo  
 William & Ines Stonehouse  
 Oscar & Guadalupe Suarez  
 Susan Summers '70  
 Miguel & Matilde Tamayo  
 Scott & Barbara Thein  
 Ida Tirado  
 Sylvia Torrez  
 Robert Trierweiler '71  
 Gerardo & Leonor Trueba  
 Scott Ullsperger  
 Zurisaddi Valencia  
 Sergio & Marlene Valenzuela  
 Robert & Darlene Varela  
 Jose & Kathy Vargas  
 Roy Vasquez  
 Felix & Margaret Vazquez  
 German & Gabriela Verdusco  
 Rebekah Vigil  
 Blandino Villanueva '90  
 Christopher & Juanita Warner  
 Jeffrey & Lorraine Weller  
 Kristen Willich  
 Kathleen Wood '79  
 Peter Wraith '73  
 Terry & Maria Wright  
 Dulce Yarza  
 Dan & Toddy Yeats  
 Francisco & Margarita Zamudio  
 Carolina Zimmermann

Memorial Giving



In Memory Of:

Harold & Virginia Andreoli  
 Noli A. Bengan  
 Alfonso Casillas  
 Dulin & Virginia Covey  
 Marvin Finch  
 Jeanette & Bud Gallagher  
 Valentine & Annabel Gerken  
 Alicia Giandoni  
 Ana Luisa Herrera  
 Barbara J. Hodges  
 Jerry Judge  
 Thomas Lopez  
 Pat MacCarthy  
 Jose Luis Rivas Marentes  
 Joseph F. McGregor  
 G.G. Moran  
 Thomas Walter Otte '77  
 Cristina O. Paredes  
 Joe Raef, Class of '74  
 Agustin Rojas I  
 Luis Sanchez-Cortez  
 Pete Torrez  
 Mr & Mrs. Harvey Westrick, Sr.  
 Rommel Schoeder Yarza  
 Belen. D. Yap

On May 31, 2008 a Memorial Mass was held in Marian Chapel for all those who participated in our Memorial Giving Program. Engraved pavers were permanently installed behind Marian Chapel. For more information about the Memorial Giving Program please contact John Rey, Vice President of Institutional Advancement at (619) 423-2121 ext. 105.



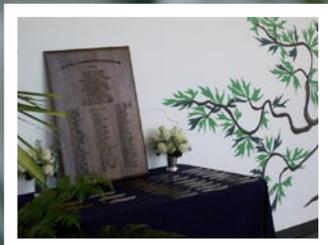
# Dr. Estelle L. Kassebaum Theater Dedication



On Saturday, April 12th nearly 200 friends and relatives gathered at Mater Dei Catholic High School for the dedication of the "Dr. Estelle L. Kassebaum Theater". The theater is located in the Lima Center for the Arts on the new South County Catholic school campus. The theater has a seating capacity for 496 and is equipped with a slopping floor of comfortable theater style seating as well as up to date lighting and sound with back stage amenities including production rooms and dressing rooms. The theater has already proved to be a wonderful addition to the greater community as many fundraising events, concerts and theater productions have already been scheduled.

Mr. David Kassebaum, Estelle's husband, along with their children and grandchildren were present as Bishop Salvatore Cordileone blessed the theater while the dedication sign was unveiled in the lobby. During the afternoon, testimonials were offered to Dr. Kassebaum's life and her incredible dedication to the ministry of Catholic education in the Diocese of San Diego. Mr. George Milke, the Mater Dei Catholic High School Principal, Mr. Steve Boudreau, a member of the Board of Trustees and a dear friend of Dr. Kassebaum's, and Miss Sarah Jimenez, the first student to receive the Dr. Kassebaum Memorial Scholarship, shared their testimonials with all present. There was also a beautiful video with pictures of Dr. Kassebaum both at home and around the Marian campus. At the end of the video were clips of a number of staff members sharing their own personal reflections of Dr. Kassebaum.

Besides family and staff, other friends who attended the event were asked to pledge \$1000 towards The Dr. Kassebaum Memorial Scholarship. All pledges are recognized on a giving tree in the lobby of the theater as members of The Founder's Circle. Anyone interested in joining them in helping to build the scholarship in memory of this wonderful, faith filled, Catholic woman are invited to call the school (619-423-2121) to make arrangements for their donation.



- |                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Eugene & Margarita Adam        | James '78 & Bernadette '80  |
| Sabel & Ruby Aguiar            | Martinez                    |
| Allergy Medical Group          | George & Sara McClenahan    |
| Alberto & Cres Angeles         | Jesus & Marissa Meda        |
| Joseph & Janet Bartel          | Robbie Menas                |
| John & Lupita '78 Baumgardner  | George & Virginia Milke     |
| Thomas Beecher                 | George '72 & Jeanine '73    |
| Dr. Chris & Calle Behr         | Milke II                    |
| Steve & Sue Boudreau           | Drs. Al & Carol Palmiotto   |
| Lucila Briz                    | Roy Pearson                 |
| Kevin & Rebecca Brown          | Jean Rubano                 |
| Mike & Wendy Carey             | Jack Rubidoux               |
| Karen Chudy '68                | Michael & Caroline Sexton   |
| Rev. Donald Coleman            | Caroll & Laura Toledo       |
| Drs. Thomas & Sally Hardin     | Maria Tollefson             |
| Lauretta Engh                  | Robert & Nancy Trometter    |
| Rev. Peter Escalante           | Larry & Frances Van Wey     |
| Peter & Mary Ellen Ferrantelli | Rosemary Watson             |
| Joseph Fulmian                 | St. Charles Catholic School |
| William & Elizabeth Gerken     | Sister Servants of the      |
| James & Katherine Gillcrist    | Blessed Sacrament           |
| Paul & Nancy Gillcrist         | The Immaculata Parish       |
| Mary Gillcrist Bones           |                             |
| Daiji Goto                     |                             |
| Carlos & Mary Jimenez          |                             |
| Ruth Judge                     |                             |
| Michael & Caroline Kelner      |                             |
| Charles & Maureen King         |                             |
| Robert and Gerriss Klant       |                             |
| Archie & Rose Krejci           |                             |
| Mark & Laura LaRiviere         |                             |
| Richard & Patricia Maier       |                             |

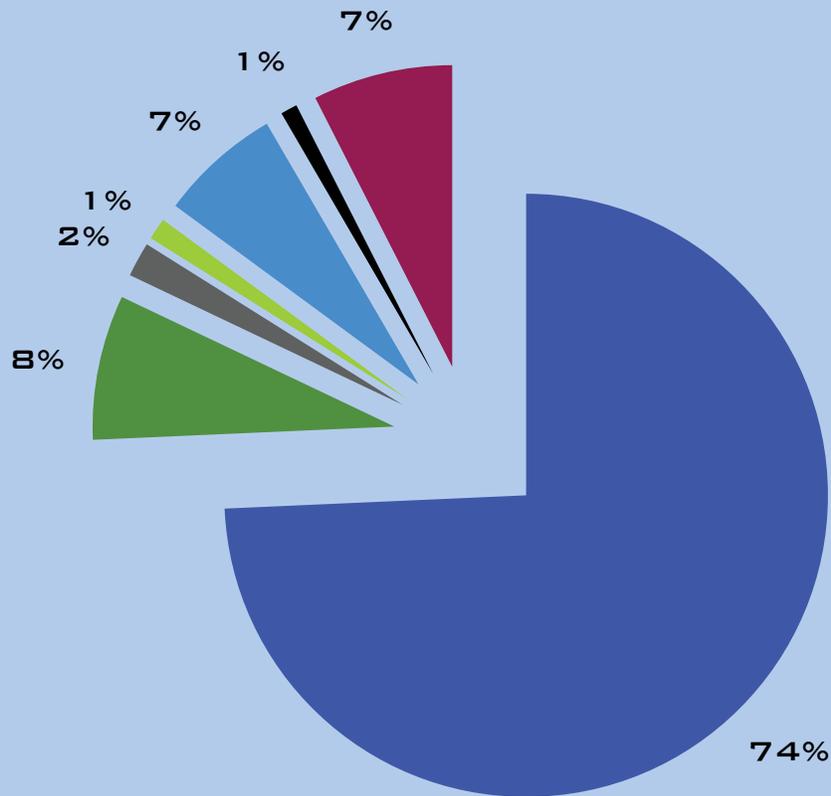
## Dr. Estelle L. Kassebaum Scholarship Fund

Contributions as of  
6/30/08  
\$78,875

Pledges Outstanding  
\$24,250

Scholarship Balance  
\$103,125

# Revenue

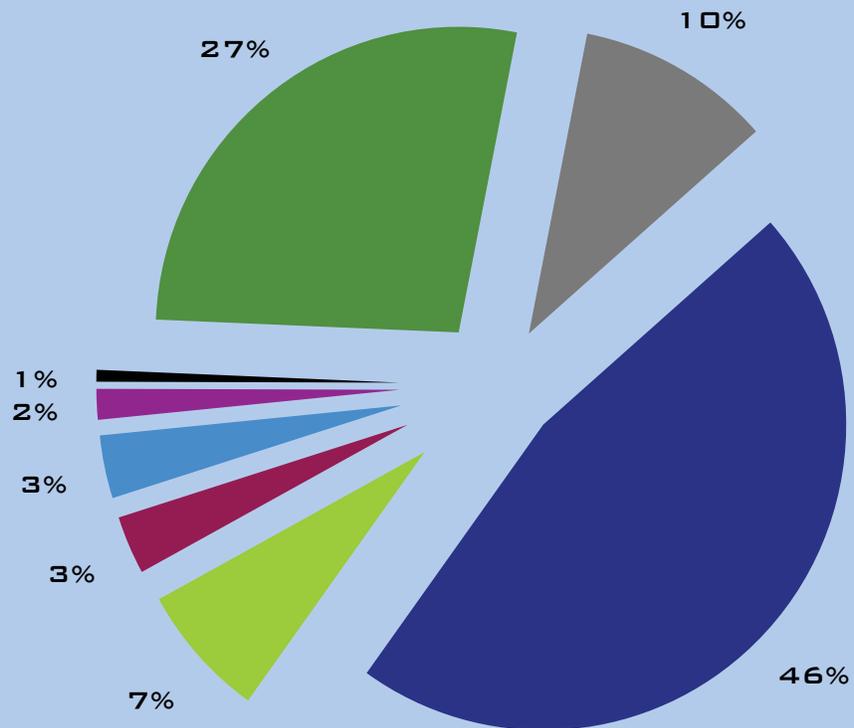


● TUITION	6,253,479.33
● OTHER FEES	653,808.00
● AUXILIARY SERVICES	156,241.73
● ATHLETICS	98,032.92
● DEVELOPMENT & FUNDRAISING	549,155.37
● INVESTMENTS	75,347.38
● FACILITIES LEASING	630,550.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 8,416,614.73</b>

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THE PER STUDENT GAP (@741 STUDENTS)	\$2,036.87
THE GAP BETWEEN TUITION FEES COLLECTED AND TOTAL EXPENSE	\$1,509,327.40
TUITION & FEES COVER ONLY 82% OF EXPENSES	

# Expense



● SALARIES & BENEFITS	3,905,925.27
● ADMIN/STUDENT/PTG/RECRUITING/MISC	598,192.58
● EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS & RESOURCES	259,977.04
● ATHLETICS	280,531.68
● AUXILIARY SERVICES	136,315.30
● DEVELOPMENT	52,312.62
● PLANT OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE/RESERVE	2,307,383.01
● DEBT SERVICE	\$ 875,977.23
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 8,416,614.73</b>

APPLICATIONS FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE 2007/2008	288
STUDENTS APPROVED FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE	194
TOTAL TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANTED	\$749,710.00
AVERAGE PER STUDENT GRANT	\$3,864.00



**SPORTS PROGRAM SPONSORS**

- 3 Com  
 Adams Books  
 Allied Waste Services  
 Aramark  
 Blackie's Trophies and Awards  
 Brown Family  
 California Candid's Graduation Photography  
 California Pizza Kitchen  
 Carvel Ice Cream  
 Chili's Restaurant  
 Colortyme Rent-to-Own  
 Corky McMillin-Lomas Verdes  
 Corky McMillin-Rolling Hills Ranch  
 Corpus Christi Catholic Parish  
 David Kassebaum  
 De La Rosa Family  
 Drew Auto Center  
 El Dorado Cleaners  
 Electronic Printing Solutions  
 FACTS Management  
 Flores Photo & Design  
 George & Jeanine Milke  
 George & Virginia Milke  
 Goldfield Stage  
 H.A. Casillas Landscape & Construction  
 Hair By Rebekah  
 Herff Jones Yearbooks  
 Imperial Beach Pre-School  
 Instant Mexico Auto Insurance  
 John Paul the Great Catholic University  
 Josten's  
 King's Printing  
 Konica Minolta Business Solutions  
 Lacey Family  
 Lifetouch  
 Marrokal Construction Company  
 Mayor Family  
 Miguel's Cocina  
 On-Site Mobile Chiropractic  
 Rhein Family  
 Ricoh  
 Scriber Award Designers  
 Shea Homes  
 Silpada - Katherine Gillcrist  
 South Bay Expressway  
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 St. John of the Cross  
 Studio Q's Hair Ballers Beauty Salon LLC  
 ValleyCrest Landscaping Maintenance  
 YMNET



**Golf Tournament  
 Auction Sponsors**

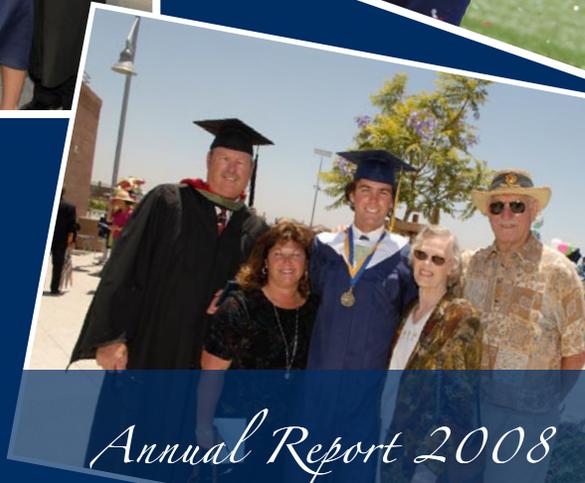
- Capt. & Mrs. William Gerken  
 Mrs. Patricia Batista  
 A & M Team Sales  
 Century Club  
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 L.A. Cetto Vineyards  
 Bonita Golf Club  
 Chula Vista Golf Course  
 Anthony's Fish Grottos  
 Carmel Mountain Ranch -  
 Country Club  
 The Farms Golf Club  
 Mainly Mozart Festival  
 King's Fish House  
 Sea World  
 Mrs. Rocio Hodges '81  
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 San Diego Padres  
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 Real Del Mar Golf Resort,  
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**Golf Tournament  
 Sponsors**

- A & M TEAM SALES**  
 Aramark  
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 Jostens, Inc.  
 Liberty Mutual  
 Propulsion Control Engineering  
 Steven & Sue Boudreau  
 The Casillas Family  
 The Gerken Family  
 The Princell Family  
 Tom Judge '78





Congratulations  
Class of  
2008!

*Annual Report 2008*

# Annual Report

2008

It is with gratitude that we make this year's Annual Fund Report public to our parents, alumni and friends. We realize that only through your generosity can we continue to provide an excellent Catholic education for tomorrow's leaders.

We hope that you will consider to support the students of  
*Mater Dei Catholic High School*  
in the upcoming year through one or more of the following ways:

Annual Crusade  
Alumni Golf Tournament  
Memorial Giving Program  
Sports Program Advertisements  
Planned Giving  
Scholarship Funds

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING YOUR ANNUAL CRUSADE GIFT WITH THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.

Mary, Mother of God

Lead us to your Son Jesus.

**Boys Golf Continued** – on the aerated greens, but one individual was able to move on. Senior Oscar Casillas advanced all the way to the Southern California Regional Championship where he finished in the top ten. That is truly a great achievement. The Golf Team was one of the busiest teams this spring. In any given week they might have four matches, sometimes more than one in a day. These matches enabled Coach Gerken to use his full complement of players. With so many golfers gaining valuable experience, the future looks bright on the golf course.



## Boys Volleyball

The Boys Volleyball Team is a relatively new program this season. This is their third year. Being a new program can be difficult at times. Under first year coach Karen Nerat, the young team had a lot to learn. Coach Nerat is the Girls Volleyball coach as well and she adapted

seamlessly to coaching the boys. With only one senior on the team, and only one player who saw any playing time last season, the boys had their struggles. But, through dedication, perseverance and hard work the boys qualified for the CIF playoffs and gained some very important experience that will pay off in the coming seasons. Junior Aldo Loera was the leader and inspiration for the team this season and will assume the same role next season.

## Boys Tennis

The Boys Tennis Team faced some difficult challenges this season and that is before they had any competitions. They held their practices in Coronado this spring. First year Coach Alex Reyes did a masterful job of coordinating practice times whenever he could get court space so our team could develop. And develop they did. They missed out on the league title by one point in a doubles match after all the other tie breakers were the same. This was truly a great accomplishment. The boys did not stop there. In the individuals the boys claimed three of the top four spots in the South Bay league. They also had one individual move into the second round of the CIF championships. Senior South Bay league champion Jorge Molina will be missed, but there are some good players left to fill his shoes. Underclassmen Fernando Sansores and Antonio Martinez will be strong players next season.



## Track and Field

Marian/Mater Dei Catholic has not hosted a Track and Field meet in over 20 years. This fact faced first year Head Track and Field coach Carla Martinez. Not only did she have to get all of the new track and field equipment ordered, but she had to get things organized in a way so that we could host track meets. It was not just one

track meet either. Virtually every team in the South Bay league wanted to have their meets at the new facility. Coach Martinez was able to get all of these things accomplished and then save some time to actually be able to coach the athletes. And coach the athletes she did. Mater Dei Catholic had one of their most successful track seasons in recent memory. On the boys side Mater Dei won league titles in the 100 and 200 meters. Senior Luis Ramirez in the 100 and junior Michael Buffaloe in the 200. The boys were competitive in many other events. For the girls, South Bay league titles were granted in the long jump and 400 meter. Junior Jackae Bridges won both events. Ms. Bridges was not finished there. She went on to win the San Diego CIF championship in the long jump. This qualified her for the State CIF track meet where she placed in the top ten. Many other female underclassmen had strong showings and will only get better next season.



## Baseball

Over the last ten years the Baseball Program has been one of the strongest in the county. Coach Ed Johnson has worked very hard to maintain the level that he was a part of establishing. The success of the team this year should come as no surprise to anyone who has followed the Crusader baseball team. Usually they contend for the league title and this year was no exception. The Crusaders missed a league title by only a handful of runs. They also made a significant run in the CIF playoffs lasting until the semifinals. With a mix of seniors, juniors and even some sophomores the Crusaders pulled together and nearly won the whole thing. Leading the pitching staff was senior Matt Milke. At the plate senior Paul Guardado was a very tough out. In the field the Crusaders were led by senior catcher Alex Medina. While the seniors will be missed, there are some very good players waiting to spread their wings. Watch and see next season.

## Softball

Like baseball, softball also enjoys the leadership of a veteran coach. Coach Mike Centrullo has been at it for nine seasons. His organizational skills have allowed the girls to flourish. This season proved to be the case again. Playing the majority of their games in the park which is the envy of south San Diego, the Lady Crusaders had a very strong second place finish in the South Bay league. They qualified for the CIF playoffs as well, but had a very difficult first round opponent in the desert. Needless to say, the Crusaders still had successes which should be mentioned. Sophomore Wendy Tamayo was the South Bay league player of the year and senior Aly Burges showed she could out pitch just about anyone. The girls hope for continued success in their new home.



## Swim

The Swim Team this year had the strongest season they have had in the past five years since Coach Kevin Smith took over. The swim team has the daunting task of having to hold practices off campus and in the early morning. Their meets also take place away from home. This requires extra dedication from the swimmers. This season that extra dedication paid off. The team qualified two swimmers to the CIF meet. Senior David LeDuc led the way by qualifying for the finals and finishing eighth in 50 meter freestyle. Hopefully we can get to work on a pool in the near future to give the swimmers a true home pool advantage.



## Weight Room

In February the Mater Dei Catholic weight room was completed. This facility is specially designed to improve the performance of the Crusader athletes. The lion's share of the work will focus on free weight Olympic movements. These full body lifts require coordination, balance, quickness and strength. These are the hallmarks of any great athlete. In addition to the new equipment, there will be a full time after school strength and conditioning coach. This coach will work closely with every coach on campus to design a sport specific workout for each athlete. Mater Dei Catholic will exhaust every avenue possible to improve the experiences of all Crusader athletes on campus. The athletic department is extremely excited to make use of this facility.

# Dierdre LONG



Deidre Long is a senior at Mater Dei Catholic High School. She has an overall GPA of 3.90 and will be attending the University of San Francisco in the Fall.

## MDCHS: What do you love most about Mater Dei?

DL: Probably just the environment, it's very close. I have friends who are freshmen who call me up and ask me to hang out with them. I have friends who are sophomores and juniors. When they say it doesn't matter what grade you are in, it really doesn't. When I was a freshman, I was really close to seniors and juniors as well.

## MDCHS: What leadership opportunities have you had here at Mater Dei?

DL: Well, I was part of the Ambassador for Christ Corps and a cheerleader. When I was on JV, I was the captain of the squad. I was also part of Music Ministry leading the school in the music aspect of Mass. As a senior, I was part of Freshman, Senior Buddy Day.

## MDCHS: Are there any other remaining activities that you participated in at Mater Dei?

DL: I did swim this year. I also took part in track as a freshman and the Asian Pacific Islander Club for my sophomore and junior years. In addition, I was part of the Campus Ministry group.

## MDCHS: How would you describe the faith community here at Mater Dei?

DL: Very strong. We have praise and worship, we have chapel. The Masses and music are more lively and everyone gets involved. With all the retreats and everything, we never had that at my old school and I'd never heard about it before as a school thing. And the different religion based programs like the Ambassadors, Campus Ministry, Music Ministry, Pro-Life, Pro-Chastity, everything like that.

## MDCHS: What will all this faith play in real life on a daily basis?

DL: Everything. Before I leave my house to drive I say, 'God protect me while I drive and if I screw up then that's my problem, but protect me from the other people on the road.' And every morning when I wake up I say, 'Thank you God for today.' Before I go to sleep, every decision that I have to make, every little thing that I do, before I take a test [big time], I say 'God help me.' It's really a big part of my life.

## MDCHS: How do you like being in the Ambassador for Christ Corps?

DL: I love it. Because Marian & Mater Dei have done so much for me it's kind of my way of giving something back. I got to go out to all the feeder schools and promote the school, talk about all the things it did for me. So by promoting it I'm doing something for the school by increasing its population, by just letting everyone know how good it is. Also, with helping out at all the functions, again, all those functions I went to as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader and now I get to help out at those.

## MDCHS: What is the most valuable thing you've learned here at Mater Dei?

DL: Probably just that everyone is different. Even if they're Catholic, they're gonna have their own views about being Catholic. If they're not Catholic, they could still be a good person. Going to the same school for nine years everyone believes pretty much the same thing because you've been raised the same way. Coming to Marian/Mater Dei you've got kids that went to public school, private school, religious based, everything and there really are different people out there.

## MDCHS: What would you want people to remember about you after you leave here?

DL: That I did something for the school. That it wasn't just all about my education and my extra curriculums and my getting somewhere. It was about just being part of the community and giving back to the school.

## MDCHS: Where are you planning on attending college next year?

DL: I will be attending the University of San Francisco.

## MDCHS: What other colleges were you accepted to?

DL: I was also accepted to the University of Portland and the University of Oregon.

## MDCHS: What made you choose USF?

DL: Because it was not only a religious University, it's Jesuit, Catholic, but also because of the area it was in. I wanted to go to an area where I could not only be a student, but after I graduate I could become a person that lives in that area. It wasn't a college town like the University of Oregon is. It was a city where I'd be close enough to my family to where if I really needed them I could go see them. If I still needed that independence I was far enough away.

## MDCHS: In what field do you plan to study?

DL: After college I want to become a lawyer so for my undergraduate degree I'm planning to major in sociology with an emphasis in criminology.

## MDCHS: Who is your favorite teacher here and why?

DL: I don't really have a favorite teacher, but Mr. U is probably on the top there because of the fact that he's been there. I don't really have a good relationship with my father so knowing Mr. U as a freshman when my relationship with my father was first breaking apart, he was there for me. He's been able to not only help me academically but with my family problems. Mrs. Anthony is one of my favorites because of the fact that she is just so intelligent, she's a woman, she knows what she's talking about, she's got an outgoing personality, she's confident. Probably, also Ms. Quinlan just because of the fact that when she was in high school she had a job, she did sports, she understands how busy my schedule is and we both have the same kind of sense of humor so we go back and forth and it's really fun.

## MDCHS: What are you going to miss most about Mater Dei?

DL: I said this in my portfolio presentation, and it's probably the faculty and administration because they were the ones that I feel shaped me the most. They were the ones that I could turn to easily. My friends, they're good for when I don't want to talk to an adult, but when it comes to the serious issues that I need an adult there, it was the faculty and administration. They were the ones giving me advice, pushing me, supporting me. Your friends are good for a good time, but they haven't lived through life yet. So you can't always turn to them.

## MDCHS: So how does it feel to be part of the first graduating class here at Mater Dei?

DL: It feels cool because I know that I'm kind of gonna be part of the school's history. I would have loved to have been the last graduating class of Marian because I grew up there, but to know that I'm the first class, the first people to start it off, the first class to graduate at Mater Dei Stadium, it's kind of like the first guy to land on the moon. It's new territory. We're the first ones and we'll forever be known as the first ones.

## MDCHS: How do you see your faith life expanding at the University of San Francisco?

DL: I truly believe it will only get stronger. They have a huge church on campus that's at my fingertips at all times. Again, it's religious based. There's priests and nuns there all the time. And I feel it will only get stronger despite the temptations that stereotypically come with college.

## MDCHS: So what are some of the thoughts going through your mind with less than three weeks until graduation?

DL: Probably the biggest one is like, 'Thank God.' Because I love going to new places and meeting new people. When I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade I was ready to meet new people, just like leaving senior year, I'm ready to meet those new people despite being at the bottom of the ladder again. I'm ready for this challenge.



# Roman

# OWENS



Roman Owens is a senior at Mater Dei Catholic High School. He has an overall GPA of 4.02 and will be attending the United States Air Force Academy in the Fall.

**MDCHS: What do you love most about Mater Dei?**

RO: What I love most are the teachers. I feel like the teachers really care and are really passionate about what they are teaching.

**MDCHS: What leadership opportunities have you had here at Mater Dei?**

RO: I've been a leader on the football field, on the track and in the classroom. I pride myself in being someone that people like to work with because they feel that they can depend on me to get my part of the job done with assignments and group projects.

**MDCHS: What other activities that you participated in at Mater Dei?**

RO: I've played football for four years, track for three years and I am part of the Ecology Club.

**MDCHS: How would you describe the Crusader culture if you had to explain what it meant to come here to one of your friends?**

RO: I would say that coming here is almost like being inducted into a family. Everybody is really close. Everyone knows each other. Even if you don't really hang out with a certain group, you still feel like you know everybody. Everybody is really close and that's something that I like about coming here.

**MDCHS: How would you describe the faith community here at Mater Dei?**

RO: The faith community here is extremely strong. I would say that I've really grown spiritually since I've been here. It's really accessible, I would say. If you need to talk to somebody about your spirituality or you have a problem or you have a question, it's really easy to go up to any of the teachers and ask them. Especially Mrs. Anthony or Ms. DiTommaso; they're really there for you. The religion teachers here are really good.

**MDCHS: What role does faith play in real life on a daily basis?**

RO: I pray every day. We pray when we come to school and that's something you can't get at public schools. It kind of starts becoming a habit once you start doing it more and more. The decisions I make are faith based.

**MDCHS: What is the most valuable thing you've learned here at Mater Dei?**

RO: The most valuable thing that I have learned here has been who I am. I've learned how to make decisions, I've learned how to rely on myself and others as well. I decide what's right and what's wrong. That's the biggest thing that I've learned here.

**MDCHS: What would you want people to know about you as a person?**

RO: As a person, I'm a hard worker. I'm extremely motivated; I don't need somebody to push me and say 'This is what you need to do.' I'm self motivated. I want to be successful in life and I have no problem working hard to get it.

**MDCHS: Where are you planning on attending college next year?**

RO: Next year I will be attending the United States Air Force Academy.

**MDCHS: What other colleges were you accepted to?**

RO: I was also accepted to San Diego State, Dartmouth and the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

**MDCHS: Why did you decide to choose the Air Force Academy?**

RO: I wanted to play football, I wanted a good education, and I wanted to go to a place where I feel that I can be in a great position for my future and do what I want to do, achieve my dreams. I've always wanted to get into space operations or be a pilot and going to the Air Force Academy is kind of like a combination of everything I wanted to do.

**MDCHS: What do you admire most about your parents?**

RO: What I admire most about my parents is that they've given me every opportunity to succeed. I really admire my dad's work ethic. He's a very hard worker and I think I get that from him. Just the support that I've gotten from them, they're just always there for me and I appreciate that.

**MDCHS: What piece of advice would you like to offer to underclassmen?**

RO: I would tell the underclassmen to stay out of trouble. Stay on top of your grades. A lot of people are under the assumption that the grades you get freshman and sophomore year really don't matter, but it averages out. You might not think about it as a freshman or sophomore, but come your senior year getting into college is really scary and if you start planning and get the grades, it's that much easier.

**MDCHS: So what are some of the thoughts going through your head with less than three weeks before graduation?**

RO: I would say I'm scared but I'm kind of anxious to get going to a military academy. Basic training and being away from my parents is going to be really tough. I have to be a man now. These four years I was able to have fun and be carefree, but now things are gonna get more serious. Three weeks before graduation, I'm really gonna miss this. I'm really gonna miss being a kid and I'm not taking it for granted.

**MDCHS: Could you tell me a little bit about your senior experience as running back and any accomplishments that you got out of it?**

RO: Coming into my senior year, I was ready to win a league title. That was our first goal and it's been a while since we were able to do that, four years. My class was able to win a league title. Football to me is like an escape, I love it. I love working out, lifting weights, I love going to practice. Football is like my escape from the world. I love it.

**MDCHS: What was the name of the award that you were received earlier in the year?**

RO: I was actually inducted into the National Football and College Hall of Fame. That was a pretty big award and I'm really glad that I won that award. Only 27 students are chosen out of the whole county and I was able to win that award for my accomplishments on the football field and in the classroom.

**MDCHS: What are your thoughts about going into the Air Force Academy at this time, with some of the things that are going on right now in the Middle East?**

RO: A lot of people say that I'm crazy for wanting to go into the Air Force Academy at a time like this. But I'm really not scared. If I'm chosen to go to war, which we are in right now, I'll serve my country. I feel like everybody in some way or some form should serve their country. If this is how I have to serve mine, then I have no problem with it. I'm excited for the challenge and I know they're going to throw a lot of stuff at me, but I'm ready.

**MDCHS: So after your four years of the Air Force Academy, how many years do you have to stay in the Air Force?**

RO: If I become a pilot, you have to stay in the Air Force for ten years mandatory just because flight training is so expensive. It's about a million dollars and they're not just going to trust anyone with their planes. If I do not become a pilot, it's four years of active duty and one year of reserves.

**MDCHS: Have you decided what you want to do yet?**

RO: I definitely want to be a pilot. Ten years really isn't a lot of time especially if you are doing something that you love. I've always wanted to fly, I've always been fascinated by flight so ten years...I'm not worried about that.



# Nathan Baugh



Nathan Baugh is a senior at Mater Dei Catholic High School. He has an overall GPA of 4.36 and will be attending The College of William and Mary in the Fall.

**MDCHS: What elementary school did you come from and why did you choose to come to Mater Dei?**

NB: I came from the School of the Madeleine. I used to live in Clairemont. My 8<sup>th</sup> grade year we moved to Otay Ranch.

**MDCHS: What do you love most about Mater Dei/Marian?**

NB: I would probably say the small class sizes. I think bigger schools, where you don't get to know your teachers, would be a lot harder. In this environment with smaller classrooms, you get to know your teachers a little better.

**MDCHS: What activities do you participate in at Mater Dei?**

NB: I play Varsity Football and Basketball and was an Ambassador for Christ. I was also in ASB as Commissioner of Sports.

**MDCHS: What leadership opportunities have you had here at Mater Dei?**

NB: I think sports is huge for leadership. As a senior on the basketball team, I had to be like the man of the team. I was kind of the guy that our coach would come to. Through sports here at Mater Dei I feel I have gained leadership qualities, like trying to rally a team.

**MDCHS: How would you explain the Crusader culture if you had to explain what it meant to come here to one of your friends?**

NB: It's a special thing. It's small enough so that you can get to know everyone. Another thing about the culture is that, there isn't as much pressure as say Cathedral would have. I think it's a more supportive environment than other schools would be.

**MDCHS: How would you describe the faith community here at Mater Dei?**

NB: There's definitely a lot of people who are really into it. There's a very strong campus ministry here. I know a lot of faithful people. I haven't been to a public school so I can't really compare it to that. My guess is that there are a lot of kids here who are really serious about their faith.

**MDCHS: What role does faith play in your life on a daily basis?**

NB: For me, faith is all about making moral decisions every moment of every day. It's like 'Should I cheat on this test?' Well no. Your faith is telling you not to. It's helping you make moral based decisions.

**MDCHS: What is the most valuable thing you've learned here at Mater Dei?**

NB: That's hard to pin down. I think, if I could pick one thing out of everything, I remember Mrs. Anthony told our class, "There are too many drains on society and not enough fountains." That lecture where she told us that you have to go out and be a fountain for society, you've got to do your best. I just really took that and will try to be a fountain for society. I think that's the most valuable thing I've gotten out of going to school here.

**MDCHS: What would you want people to remember about you after you leave here?**

NB: I guess just to remember me as the guy who did academics and sports.

**MDCHS: Where are you planning on attending college next year?**

NB: The College of William and Mary.

**MDCHS: What made you choose to go to William and Mary?**

NB: My mom went there and it's a really good school, especially for liberal arts.

**MDCHS: What field do you plan to study after that?**

NB: After college I want to get into Government, but also want to go to Law School and maybe become a lawyer. Something along the path of law though.

**MDCHS: Who is your favorite teacher here and why?**

NB: I would have to say Mr. Stingo. Before I had him for literature I didn't really like it. It's kind of hard to describe. You can have a lot of fun in his class, but you have to work really hard. He balances things out really well. We discuss, debate, and that's where I learned the most.

**MDCHS: What do you admire most about your parents?**

NB: I admire my mom. She always does the right thing. If there's glass broken down the street my mom will walk down and scoop it up, she's all into the environment. She takes the bus or trolley to work. I think she's just a really good role model. My dad, I admire him the most for always doing the right thing, but he also taught me a lot about politics and government. That's why I'm really into it. I admire how he really stands up for what he believes in. He doesn't just say it, he also goes out and follows what he says.

**MDCHS: What piece of advice would you like to offer to underclassmen?**

NB: I would definitely say do your best in school because that is what is going to take you to the next level. Give your full effort to sports, academics and extracurriculars.

**MDCHS: What are you going to miss most about Mater Dei?**

NB: Definitely my friends and my teachers. Like I said I like the small classroom environment.

**MDCHS: What would you say your proudest accomplishment is in the last four years?**

NB: That one's kind of tough. I would say either my SAT scores. That's the proudest thing I've done.

**MDCHS: What were your SAT scores?**

NB: I got a 2120.

**MDCHS: What did you get in Math?**

NB: I got an 800, thanks to Mr. Rey. Which is perfect.

**MDCHS: Can you tell me a little bit about the community service you've done to fulfill your service hours requirement?**

NB: I was a camp volunteer for three weeks over the summers. The camp was for disabled children. Two of the years it was a wheelchair sports camp. It was fun; you help the kids out, set up the sporting events. I just wanted to volunteer and help. The other two years it was for any kind of disability. They put me with one kid with Down Syndrome and Autism. He was unresponsive and needed constant attention. It was really hard, but that's what I had to do. I just watched him and tried to get him to do all the activities that all the other kids were doing.

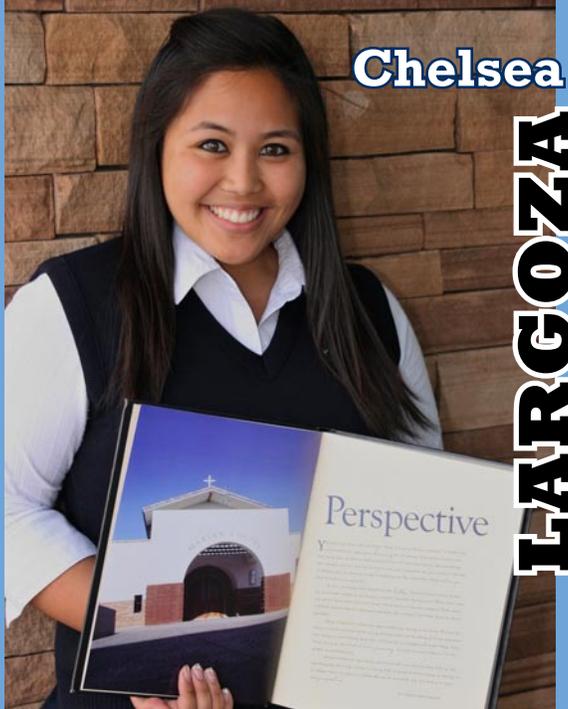


**MDCHS: Where do you see yourself ten years down the line?**

NB: In ten years...hopefully I'm out of law school and working maybe as a lawyer. Hopefully I'll settle down ten years from now.

**MDCHS: Do you have any other future plans?**

NB: After college, I want to go into something where I can serve my country, maybe the Peace Corps.



Chelsea

LARGOZA

Chelsea Largoza is a senior at Mater Dei Catholic High School. She has an overall GPA of 4.17 and will be attending The University of California at Berkeley in the Fall.

**MDCHS: What elementary school did you come from and why did you choose to come here?**

CL: I went to St. Rose of Lima in Chula Vista and I chose to go to Marian because I didn't want to go to a public school.

**MDCHS: What do you love most about Mater Dei?**

CL: The thing I love most about Mater Dei is the diversity. There's not really one single race. There are Mexicans, Whites, African Americans and Asians. That's what I really like.

**MDCHS: What leadership opportunities have you had here at Mater Dei?**

CL: I have been a part of ASB for three years and I am an Executive Task Force Leader for the Ambassador for Christ Corps. I am also the APIC (Asian Pacific Islander Club) President and I am the Editor in Chief for this year's yearbook. I am also a cheerleader.

**MDCHS: What was your position in the ASB?**

CL: This year I am the Executive Treasurer.

**MDCHS: How would you explain the Crusader culture if you had to explain what it meant to come here to one of your friends?**

CL: I guess when I hear Crusader culture I think of a lot of school spirit. It's all about school spirit and having love for Mater Dei and of course, having love for your faith because that is what being a Crusader is all about here at Mater Dei.

**MDCHS: How would you describe the faith community here at Mater Dei?**

CL: The faith community here at Mater Dei is really amazing. There are a lot of Catholic schools that don't get to really exercise their Catholic faith but, here with opportunities like Mass every other Wednesday, Campus Ministry and the Ambassadors, we have the opportunities to go to Reconciliation and pray the rosary every day. It's an amazing opportunity for students to grow in their faith and I think it really helps.

**MDCHS: What role does faith play in real life on a daily basis?**

CL: My faith is the most important thing to me. I pray every night before I go to bed, and everything I do is based on my faith.

**MDCHS: What is the most valuable thing you've learned here at Mater Dei?**

CL: The most valuable thing I've learned here is that you can't always get what you want.

**MDCHS: Is there anything in particular you're talking about?**

CL: Well, when I was a sophomore I lost the election for Sophomore Class President and then I couldn't be on the volleyball team because I was starting to cheer. I was

trying to do all the things that I loved and it just made me realize that you really can't get everything you want. You just have to go with it.

**MDCHS: What would you want people to remember about you after you leave here?**

CL: I would want them to remember that I always had a smile on my face. I would also like to be remembered for the yearbook.

**MDCHS: Where are you planning on attending college next year?**

CL: Next year I'm going to UC Berkeley.

**MDCHS: What other colleges were you accepted to?**

CL: I was accepted into UC Santa Barbara, Cal State Long Beach, Cal State East Bay, and San Diego State.

**MDCHS: What made you choose to go to Berkeley?**

CL: For a long time I didn't want to go to Berkeley, but then it was kind of weird. It was my visit to Santa Barbara that made me want to go to Berkeley. It was just something in me that said 'Go to Berkeley.' I plan to study communications.

**MDCHS: And what are your career aspirations?**

CL: When I grow up I want to work at a TV news program. Hopefully I will get as far as a national program.

**MDCHS: What piece of advice would you like to offer to underclassmen?**

CL: To keep growing in their faith here because the opportunity is given to them and to get involved in activities because it really helps with college admissions.

**MDCHS: So how does it feel to be part of that first graduating class?**

CL: It feels really cool. I never really knew how important it actually was, but when I was working as an Ambassador, people would come up to me and say 'Wow, you're the first graduating class. That must feel so cool right?' I never really realized that until now when we actually are three weeks from graduation. It feels really cool to know that this was our school. We were the first ones.

**MDCHS: So what are some of the thoughts going through your mind with less than three weeks until graduation?**

CL: I can't believe I'm graduating, that's the very first one. How am I gonna pass my finals, because I need to pass my finals to get in to Berkeley. I can't believe I'm gonna be leaving my friends in less than a month because they are the most important thing to me here. It's crazy, it's scary, but it's just how it goes.

**MDCHS: How many years have you been a part of the yearbook staff?**

CL: This has actually been my first year in yearbook. I started learning how to do everything within the last few months of last year but, this has been the first actual year.

**MDCHS: Could you tell me a little about the experience of putting out Mater Dei's first yearbook?**

CL: Gosh, being the Editor in Chief of the yearbook was crazy. It was so much pressure and I had to deal with the deadlines and making all the pages. It was crazy, it took so much of my time, but when I look at it now I realize everything that I did, all the hard work, all the hours I spent in that room was all worth it because the yearbook is great and I'm happy how it turned out.

**MDCHS: How do you feel about going away to college and not living with your parents?**

CL: I'm terrified. I'm terrified of going all the way up to San Francisco. I'm so used to being in San Diego and I realized that I've never been away from my parents and I don't know what I'm gonna do without all my cousins. All my cousins live in San Diego, five minutes away from my house. I don't know what I'm gonna do without them. I'm kinda scared about living by myself but, I know I'll be ok. My parents raised me very well so, I know I'll be ok.





Susan Compton Kherkher graduated from Marian High School in 1981. While at Marian she excelled both academically and athletically. She was named San Diego Tribune Athlete of the Year in 1980-81. Susan was also named to the All Metro League, All CIF and All State Volleyball teams. She currently lives in Houston, Texas with her husband Jim and her six children.

**MDCHS:** What do you remember most about your experience at Marian Catholic?

**SCK:** I remember the games, the fans, the coaches, the friends. They were four magical years for me.

**MDCHS:** Was there an event or situation that you enjoyed most at Marian?

**SCK:** Winning.

**MDCHS:** How did your experience at Marian prepare you for Stanford and life in general? **SCK:** When you leave an environment like Marian where you are so loved and supported, I think it makes college life far easier and life in general.

**MDCHS:** What are your feelings with regards to being one of the first Inductees into the Crusader Hall of Fame?

**SCK:** It was such an honor to be the first female inductee into the Crusader Hall of Fame. My oldest daughter and my mother were able to attend the ceremony in San Diego and it was so wonderful to share such a special event with the important women in my life.

**MDCHS:** While at Marian you were part of two CIF championship teams. What did you take away from that experience?

**SCK:** I learned to never give up and always play to win. Any team can win on any given day.

**MDCHS:** Did you continue your education after Stanford?

**SCK:** I went to law school in Houston and have been a licensed attorney in Texas since 1989. I also have a real estate license in Texas.

**MDCHS:** Did you ever practice as an attorney?

**SCK:** I practiced law as a trial attorney from 1989 to 1993 and then resigned to raise my children.

**MDCHS:** What is the name of your business and how did it get started?

**SCK:** My business is called Outdoor Polymer Systems [www.outdoorpolymers.com](http://www.outdoorpolymers.com). We manufacture outdoor kitchens which are sold throughout the country. I became a co-owner of the company in 2005.

**MDCHS:** How have you managed marriage, six children and a career?

**SCK:** Fortunately I am very organized. I make lots of lists and color code calendars. But even with my organizational ability, it's usually very hectic around the house.

**MDCHS:** What is your typical day like?

**SCK:** Up at 6:30am. Feed the masses. Walk. Work. Run kids to school, practices. Work. Grocery store. Feed the masses again. Baths. Laundry. Bedtime for kids at 8pm. Work. Bedtime for me at 11pm.

**MDCHS:** You combined a very successful education process along with sports; how has this made you the person you are today?

**SCK:** I was so fortunate to have had a great education at Marian and Stanford. I was also so very lucky to play on the best of teams with wonderful coaches at both schools. All of these experiences contribute to my life every day...my years at Marian and Stanford have made me the self-confident business woman, wife and mother that I am today.

**MDCHS:** Why are there so few student athletes and how we can increase the numbers of students who excel academically and athletically?

**SCK:** There are few student athletes because it is hard work to be a student athlete. School is difficult and when you add in a sport that requires the time commitment of a full-time job, it makes it hard to do both. You have to LOVE your sport. For me, I always felt so privileged to be able to play. That's when I learned how to be organized and it has served me well.

**MDCHS:** What is the importance of Catholic education for children, including your own?

**SCK:** Having been raised Catholic; it was an easy choice to send my children to Catholic school in Houston. As a parent, you realize the great value in Catholic schooling as it combines education, faith and morality.

**MDCHS:** What role does Faith play in your life?

**SCK:** My faith is constant and my belief is strong and I adopt the basic philosophy of peace.

**MDCHS:** What is one piece of advice that you would give to our current Crusader students? **SCK:** Enjoy your four years of high school. Get to know your teachers. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Love your parents. Life is short.

**MDCHS:** What is your proudest accomplishment in your career?

**SCK:** Having the guts to buy a company as a single mom with four little kids to raise.

**MDCHS:** As a mom?

**SCK:** Hearing them say that I'm the best mom in the world.

(at least on Mother's day)

**MDCHS:** In sports?

**SCK:** Seeing the pride in my dad's face after he watched me play a game. (He was my biggest fan)

## ALUMNI NEWS

The first year at Mater Dei Catholic has just concluded with 164 Crusaders joining the alumni ranks. This is a huge increase from the 95 who graduated from Marian in 2000. Next year we will have over 185 graduates join the ranks of Crusader Alums. We also had the induction of the first members to the Crusader Hall of Fame: J. J. Gracio '78 and Susan Compton Kherkher '81 were inducted as individuals for their feats at Marian, in college and their contributions to their community. Jerry Judge was inducted as a past faculty/coach and the Girl's 1980 Volleyball team was inducted as the first team in the Crusader Hall of Fame. Their plaques are on display in the foyer of the Bosco Center. You can make your nominations for the 2009 inductees by downloading a nomination form from the alumni portal of the school's web site and submitting it to the Alumni Services office.

With the end of the 2008 school year, Chuck Wright '74 finished his two year term as Alumni Association President and turned over the reigns of that job to Erika Briz '98 with Carlos Varela '89 assisting as the Vice President. Chuck Wright '74 will continue to help in his role as Past President and will be the alumni coordinator as the Alumni Association will help host the Diocese of San Diego Parochial League JV Football Championships on Saturday, December 13 in Mater Dei Stadium. The Alumni Association meets six times a year and the schedule for meetings is on the alumni portal of the MDCHS web site. You can always view current alumni related events by visiting the alumni portal. While on the web site, register online so that your email is available to your classmates and other alums.

If you have not had an opportunity to visit Mater Dei Catholic, you owe it to yourself to visit the campus and see this state of the art high school. Don't hesitate to contact, Bill Gerken, Director of Alumni Services, if you would like to set up a tour for yourself and other alums. You will be amazed.



## What it is an Ambassador for Christ?

Here at Mater Dei Catholic High School we have an organization known as the Ambassador for Christ Corps. The Ambassador for Christ Corps is a group of students who accept Jesus Christ as a role model and exemplify Christ in many different ways. They abide by and respect God's Commandments, the rules of the school and of the community. The ultimate goal of the Corps is to put others before themselves and assist in any way possible, not only in the local community, but throughout the world.

Initially, the Ambassador for Christ Corps was started in 1994 on the campus of University of San Diego High School by our late president, Dr. Estelle L. Kassebaum. Currently, there are 88 Ambassadors for Christ at Mater Dei Catholic.

## How do you become an Ambassador for Christ?

Ambassadors for Christ are nominated by their teachers throughout the year and are then interviewed by the moderator of the Corps. Students are evaluated academically, athletically, and socially. On average, about 60 students each year are nominated for an interview. Once the interviews are complete, roughly 30 students are selected to become part of the Ambassador for Christ Corps.

Ambassadors for Christ are involved in many school functions where student help is needed. They help in school Recruitment and Marketing throughout the entire year. Ambassadors also learn to perfect their public speaking abilities when they visit 7th and 8th Grade classes throughout San Diego County.

## What are some specific duties the Ambassadors have?

The responsibilities of the Ambassadors for Christ are Public Relations, Parish Duty, Marketing, Welcoming Committee, International Events, Phone-athons, 7th & 8th Grade Visitations, Touring and Shadowing of the Campus, and Community Service.

Aside from these specific duties, the Ambassadors assist Fr. Joe Carroll every year during the holiday season by lending a hand in his soup kitchen, gathering gifts for needy children, and conducting their own food and clothes drives for all of those in need. Internationally, the Ambassador for Christ Corps assisted the AMOR Foundation and helped construct a home in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico.

## Ambassadors for Christ



# SEPTEMBER

- 11 — Parents Back to School Night, Grades 9-12
- 20 — Parochial League Varsity Football Kick Off Classic
- 24 — Eighth Grade Visitation
- 27 — Incoming Student Open House

# NOVEMBER

- 2 — Annual Golf Tournament
- 7 — WALKATHON
- 14-15 — Fall Drama Production
- 15 — Cosmic Bowling
- 22 — Parochial League Girls Volleyball Tournament
- 22 — Westwind Brass in the Kassebaum Theater

# OCTOBER

- 4 — Mainly Mozart in the Kassebaum Theater
- 17 — HOMECOMING MDCHS vs. Chula Vista
- 18 — California Ballet in the Kassebaum Theater

# DECEMBER

- 5 — Fall Choral Concert
- 6 — Malashock Dance in the Kassebaum Theater
- 13 — San Diego Ballet in the Kassebaum Theater
- 13 — Parochial League JV Football Championship
- 19-23 — Christmas Basketball Tournament

The 32nd Annual Crusader Golf Tournament will be held at Bonita Golf Club on Sunday, November 2, 2008. Tournament registration forms and Hall of Fame Nomination forms are available on the alumni portal at [www.materdeicatholic.org](http://www.materdeicatholic.org)



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