

Winter 2005

# EXPLORER

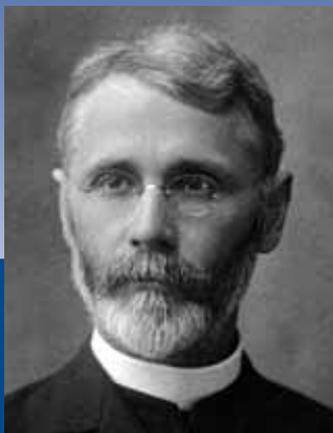
The Official Magazine of La Salle College High School

**Bridging The Digital  
Divide** Page 5



# Honoring our past, embracing the future.

## Communion Breakfast and Hall of Fame Induction



Bishop Philip McDevitt  
Class of 1877  
Bishop and Superintendent  
of Schools



Honorable Gus Cifelli  
Class of 1943  
Football Player and  
Judge



Robert P. Moran  
Class of 1969  
Businessman and  
Alumni Leader

**Sunday, March 5, 2006**

**10:00 AM**

**La Salle College High School  
Gymnasium and Auditorium**

**\$20 per person**



**LaSalle**  
College High School

La Salle College High School  
8605 Cheltenham Avenue  
Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania 19038

[www.lschs.org](http://www.lschs.org)

# EXPLORER

The Official Magazine of La Salle College High School

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**ON THE FRONT COVER:** Members of Community TechServe Team  
Top Row (left to right): Connor Tatlow '06, Michael Wojcik '06,  
Nick Pedersen '08, Reese Rogers '06, and Peter Anninos '06  
Middle Row (left to right): Vince Rizzuto '06, Steve Dean '07,  
and Evan Regan-Levine '07  
Bottom Row (left to right): Matt Stone '07 and John Sperger '08

# From The Hip!

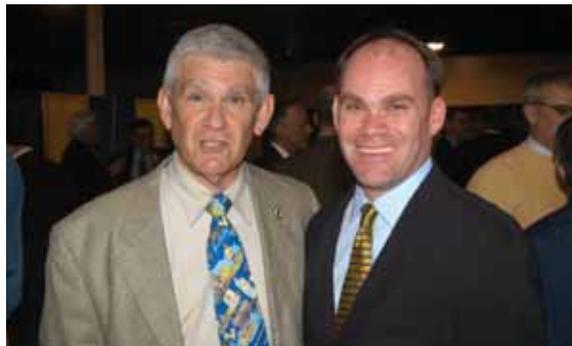
On a recent flight from Los Angeles, I sat next to an elderly woman from Bucks County. She was fascinated that I could view a movie on my computer. I unplugged my headphones and together we watched *National Treasure*. When the movie was finished, I put my laptop away. The woman saw the La Salle tag on my bag and was quick to inform me that her older brother, who has since passed away, had gone to both the high school and college. I told her that I had done the same, but that now the college was a university. She proceeded to tell me that the high school and the college used to be together. She was "on a roll" with tidbits of La Salle history and I didn't have the heart to tell her that I was the Director of Communications and Public Relations. She did manage to say something that made me stop and give thought. The woman said that La Salle had changed her brother's life and that his success was due largely to his experience at La Salle.

I have never stopped to wonder where I would be if I hadn't attended La Salle College High School. Clearly, I wouldn't be working for the school, but how might my life be different? It's difficult to speculate because I can't imagine having attended anywhere other than La Salle. I know that my Dad had no intention of sending me anywhere else, but what did La Salle do to make a life-altering difference? I can't call to mind everything that I learned at La Salle. I don't remember all of the books that I read and can't recall all of the formulas and equations. I did retain enough French to order pizza while skiing in Quebec with three fellow alums and I do know that "A quick movement of the enemy will jeopardize six gunboats." Looking back at those four years, I can summarize my La Salle education in terms of fundamentals: La Salle taught me to learn and inspired me to think. Perhaps more importantly, it instilled a sense of pride and taught me to be, above all things, a "Christian Gentleman." I can assure you that I value those lessons and use each of them on a daily basis.

We live in a society that focuses on statistics and evaluates schools by PSAT's, SAT's, GPAs, AP's, and a plethora of other acronyms. The fact of that matter is that La Salle College High School excels in all of those areas. We are unique because we focus on the whole person and prepare and educate him to face the complex challenges that lie ahead. La Salle boys are not only well-educated, but are the beneficiaries of life-long lessons not found in textbooks. Our message reaches beyond the realm of the classroom. We grow to be a group of exceptional men who are making a difference in the world today, and continue to make a difference at La Salle. By doing so, we proudly represent our Alma Mater and embody the spirit of our Founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle.

As we walked off the airplane and up the jet way, the woman said, "You are a very nice young man. Somehow I knew you went to La Salle." I smiled, but the funny thing is that I treated her no differently than any other person. My actions were in response to those lessons learned some twenty-five years ago. La Salle's message today is no different than my experience in the late 70's and early 80's, or for that matter, the experience of that woman's brother at 20th and Olney some forty years earlier. The question that I should be asking myself is not where would I be had I not attended La Salle College High School; rather, who would I be? There is a big difference between a school that focuses on WHAT a boy becomes and one that concentrates on WHO a boy becomes. La Salle can pride itself in both. After all, boys will be boys, but La Salle Boys will be Gentlemen!

**Christopher M. Carabello '82**  
Editor



Chris Carabello '82 at the recent Father/Son Banquet with his father and Past President of the Men of La Salle, Dr. John Carabello.



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The Editor of the *Explorer* reserves the right to make all decisions regarding the content and information published in the magazine.



## Letter from the President

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**Dear Fellow Alums and Friends of La Salle,**

With one quarter of the academic year already completed, it would be difficult to visit our campus and not catch the unique spirit that is La Salle. Our freshmen are off to a great start and are already making significant contributions to life at La Salle. Our returning upperclassmen are getting involved in SAT testing and the college selection/acceptance processes. As is the tradition, they are also taking their places as leaders in the various teams and clubs, which set a wonderful example for our new students.

Not surprising, the fall season has been very rewarding for our athletes and coaches. From Water Polo to Football – all have done exceedingly well. A round of applause for our Water Polo Team, who in just their second season, captured the Eastern Prep Championship. Our Football Team, boasting one of the top defenses in the area, got off to a 5–0 start, went deep into the playoffs, and defeated St. Josephs Prep on Thanksgiving Day. Congratulations are particularly in order for our Cross Country and Soccer teams, both of who claimed Catholic League Championships, and to Joe Colistra '64, on his 150th win as the Head Football Coach.

Our annual fund program is in full swing. Many of our classes are supporting La Salle generously through their annual gifts, which are used to help La Salle provide financial assistance to families who would not otherwise be able to provide their son(s) a La Salle education. As we continue our efforts to provide an exceptional but affordable educational opportunity for our students, annual fund gifts become more and more important to help us maintain a positive bottom line. If you have not yet made your contribution to the annual fund, I ask you to join your fellow alums to help make this our most successful year ever!

Another exciting project is beginning to unfold at La Salle. For the past several months, we have been reviewing plans to make significant improvements to our campus. After forty-five years in our existing facility (now known as McLean Hall in honor of Brother E. Francis McLean, FSC), it is time to address numerous physical needs of the facilities and add new classroom space to accommodate our growing needs – all to better serve our young men. In the not-to-distant future, you will be hearing more about our vision for this project and the campaign that will help us to fund these improvements, as well as build La Salle's endowment.

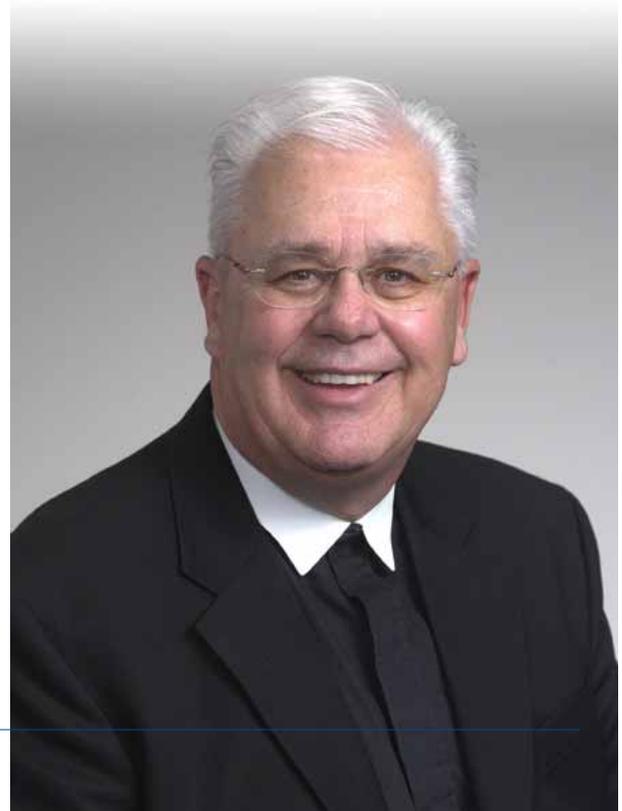
This fall has also marked the advent of the restructuring of our Fundraising and Development Department. Working under a new institutional advancement model, I am pleased to announce Gail A. Evans as our new Vice President of Institutional Advancement. She brings a wealth of experience to this newly created position, and Gail and her staff have already begun to take significant steps toward La Salle's ambitious advancement goals.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,



**Brother Richard Kestler, FSC '60**  
President



# News/Photos



## College Fair

On Tuesday, October 4, 2005 the College Counseling Office sponsored the annual College Interview Day at La Salle College High School. Over fifty College Admissions Representatives spent the day for a unique opportunity to speak one-on-one with interested students.



## Freshman Branchout Day

On Tuesday October 11, 2005, all 290 members of the Freshman Class along with over 100 of their fathers and 20 faculty members, participated in a day of service at sixteen different sites in the Philadelphia Area. The theme of the day was connecting the faith and Lasallian heritage of the school with concrete actions in the world. The service projects performed included: packing food boxes for those in need, painting a nursing home, refurbishing the attic of a Catholic grade school, and cleaning a Church. In all, over 1400 hours of service was contributed by the La Salle Community.



## African-American Alumni Association Luncheon

The African-American Alumni Association sponsored a luncheon on Friday, October 14, 2005, at the Dunleavy Center. The event gave alumni an opportunity to network with each other and interact with current African-American members of the student body as well as some members of the faculty and administration. The event was part of ongoing effort to increase diversity at La Salle College High School.



## A Man For All Seasons

La Salle College High School presented three performances of A Man For All Seasons by Robert Bolt. The drama was presented through special arrangements with Samuel French, Inc. and ran from October 21 through 23, 2005. The play takes place during the Sixteenth Century and dramatizes the conflict between King Henry VIII (played by Jim Sinnott '06) and Sir Thomas More (portrayed by Chris DiLella '06) as well as depicts the confrontation between church and state, theology and politics, absolute power and individual freedom. The production was directed by Joe D'Angelo '63, Mark Norman, and Dennis Bloh and produced by Joe Ciccimaro '57. The play was first staged in 1960 at the Globe Theatre in London and, in 1966, was made into an Academy Award-winning film starring Paul Scofield.



## The Rookie

The 56th Annual Father/Son Banquet was held on Thursday evening, November 10, 2005, at the Fort Washington Expo Center. The event drew over 800 fathers and sons and the speaker was Jim "The Rookie" Morris, the inspiration for the award-winning movie, "The Rookie" starring Dennis Quaid. At the age of thirty-five and some eleven years after retiring from minor league baseball, Jim Morris was giving a speech to his high school team about the importance of dreams and hard work when his players challenged him to pursue his own dream of pitching in the major leagues. Jim made a bet with his team. If they won the District Championship, he would try out for the first major league team that held local tryouts Jim chronicled the tales of his days as a high school athlete, his time playing at the collegiate level, and his years in the minor leagues. He went on to tell the incredible story of his emergence as a high school teacher and baseball coach to a relief pitcher for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and several other major league baseball teams. Following his speech, John Lees, President of the Men of La Salle, presented Jim with an official La Salle Baseball team jersey. Earlier in the day, Jim spoke to La Salle's Baseball Team and at the conclusion of the banquet, Jim answered questions and posed for pictures.



### Three-Peat

Sunday, November 6, 2005, was a big day for La Salle sports as the Cross Country Team won its third consecutive Catholic League Championship. Bob McCullough '06 finished second overall and was followed by a tight group of La Salle harriers that included Pat Jeffers '06, Dan Lowry '08, Sean Casey '06, and Steve Dorsey '07 who combined for a 35-56 victory over Cardinal O'Hara. Freshman Phil Wood, and Juniors Tim Heck and Ed Bonnevie rounded out a team that also won their sixth consecutive Independent School State Championship. Congratulations are in order for Coaches Pat Devine, Greg Bielecki '99, Doug Demeter '03, and Tom Devlin '00.



### Making A Splash

On Sunday, November 6, 2005, the Water Polo Team, in just their second year, defeated St. Benedict (NJ) by a score of 9-8 to win the Eastern Prep Championships held at the Haverford School. Earlier in the day, La Salle defeated the Hun School and Mt. St. Josephs (MD) to advance to the championship game of the B Division. The team was lead by Seniors Chris Driscoll, Eric Prendergast, Paul Bonnevie, and Ben Dearden. Steve Duncheskie '94 and Jim Tate '94 coached the squad.



### Soccer Team Wins Catholic League Championship

On Saturday, November 19, 2005, La Salle defeated Archbishop Wood by a score of 2-1 to win the Catholic League Championship. The game featured the two top teams in the league as well as the two top scorers. Junior Colin Baker, who led the league with 28 goals, scored twice including the winning goal with 1 minute, 16 seconds left to play. Baker finished the season with 30 goals, which tied the single season scoring record set two years ago by Mike Glaccum '04. La Salle finished the season with a record of 18-2-4. The championship marked the fourth for La Salle Soccer and Coach Bob Peffle, and the first Catholic League Championship since 2000, when they defeated Archbishop Ryan.



### Hawk for Thanksgiving

In one of the greatest finishes in the history of La Salle Football, the Explorers upset archrival St. Josephs Prep in overtime to win the annual Turkey Bowl. The Prep was ranked first in Southeast Pennsylvania and was one of the top teams in the nation. Although La Salle leads the Thanksgiving Day series 19-10, the win was La Salle's first since 1998. La Salle had lost thirteen straight games to the Prep, including six Thanksgiving Day matchups.

Scott Waters '07 blocked a 36-yard field goal attempt by the Prep with six seconds left in regulation to send the game into overtime. On the first play in overtime, La Salle scored on a pass from Sophomore Quarterback John Harrison to Jack Forster '07. The Prep scored on the ensuing possession, but the extra point was blocked and the students converged onto the field at La Salle University.

The 2005 season saw Brett Gordon '98 return as a coach and use his offensive skills in a different capacity to help turnaround a struggling program. La Salle started the season 5-0, boasting one of the top defenses in the area and outscoring their opponents 183-34. The team went deep into the playoffs before loosing to the defending Catholic League Champions, Cardinal O'Hara, and finished with a record of 9-4.



### Coach Colistra Wins 150th Game – Retires From Coaching

La Salle's 15-0 shut out of Monsignor Bonner on Sunday, October 16, 2005, gave Joe Colistra '64 his 150th win as Head Football Coach at La Salle College High School. In doing so, Joe became the winningest football coach in school history. Two weeks earlier, La Salle shut out Father Judge by a score of 24-0, giving Joe his 149th win and tying him with the legendary John "Tex" Flannery '40.

Shortly after their victory over St. Josephs Prep, Joe met with his team and informed them that he had coached his last game at La Salle College High School.

Joe Colistra began his coaching career in 1968 as an assistant to his mentor Tex Flannery. He succeeded Tex as the Head Football Coach in 1985 and had a career record of 153-86-2. Joe is one of nine coaches in the history of Philadelphia High School Football to win 150 games. His 1996 team was a perfect 14-0 and was one of the three teams from 1995-97 that helped to compile a 32-game winning streak and establish a new City record for consecutive victories.

# Bridging the Digital

Service-based, experiential learning has become an important facet of pre-collegiate education in the 21st Century. One of Philadelphia's most distinctive and well-regarded programs is Community TechServe, a collaborative effort between La Salle College High School and the Robert A. Fox Leadership Program at the University of Pennsylvania.



# Digital Divide

By Margaret A. Kane

Created in 2001, Community TechServe is a year-round program for skilled student volunteers from La Salle College High School, which provides technology services at various educational institutions in the Philadelphia area. The most intensive technology work is conducted during the summer months. During the summer of 2005, Community TechServe addressed the technological needs of La Salle Academy, De La Salle In Towne, Young Scholars Charter School, and Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School in Brooklyn, New York.

Typically, participating students install SmartBoards, set-up computer labs, and configure networks. In the past year, however, Community TechServe has evolved to include a rare opportunity for students to enroll in a class at the University of Pennsylvania. In spring 2005, nine students from La Salle College High School enrolled in "Urban Politics and Community Development" with Dr. John Dilulio, the Director of the Fox Leadership Program at Penn. Although the students earned college credit, Dr. Dilulio believes that the great achievement of this class is in encouraging these high school students to be "practical idealists," - individuals who have both the desire for community service and the knowledge to properly sustain such programs.

Further, Gerri Light, Director of Community TechServe, believes that this program, especially with its added classroom component, is valuable for the students because, "by doing this type of unique community service in tandem with academia, these young men are learning to consider the efficacy of their decisions. This consideration will make them more compassionate and skilled leaders in the future."

The students also echo these sentiments. Matt Stone, a junior at La Salle College High School, says that Community TechServe has helped him to "not only possess a better sense of the inner-city problems of poverty and lacking educational opportunities, but more importantly, possess a better ability to help."

Evan Regan-Levine, also a junior, has learned the need to bridge both the socioeconomic and digital divide in our society. He sees those that are served as "similar to us but without the same opportunities." For Regan-Levine, the goal of Community TechServe is to "provide the necessary opportunities" to those who will most benefit.



**Members of the Community TechServe Team**

Top Row (left to right): **Matt Stone '07, Michael Wojcik '06, Steve Dean '07, Vince Rizzuto '06, Reese Rogers '06, Evan Regan-Levine '07, and Connor Tatlow '06**

Bottom Row (left to right): **Nick Pedersen '08, Peter Anninos '06, and John Sperger '08**

Community TechServe has been well supported, both financially and with equipment, by several private and corporate contributors, notably 3Com, Comcast, The Connelly Foundation, GMAC Commercial Mortgage, IBM, Staples, McCallion Stellar, and the Leo Niessen, Jr. Charitable Foundation. This support would seem to be well-deserved as Community TechServe has been recognized nationally by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) as the 2005 recipient of the Leading Edge Award in Community Relations.

The essence of Community TechServe is, of course, service. Even as this program allows its participants to grow both academically and personally, Community TechServe is making a genuine difference in the lives of others. Sister Jeanne McGowan, SSJ, President of La Salle Academy, one of the inner-city schools served by Community TechServe, believes that this program has impacted the lives of her young students dramatically. As Sister Jeanne said, "There is no way we would be where we are without the Community TechServe program. Although we received the generous donation of funds for our new computer lab, it was the generous donation of the participants' time, energy, and knowledge, that allows our students to enjoy the technological capabilities that so enhance their academic lives. These young men gave us their passion and we are a better school for that."

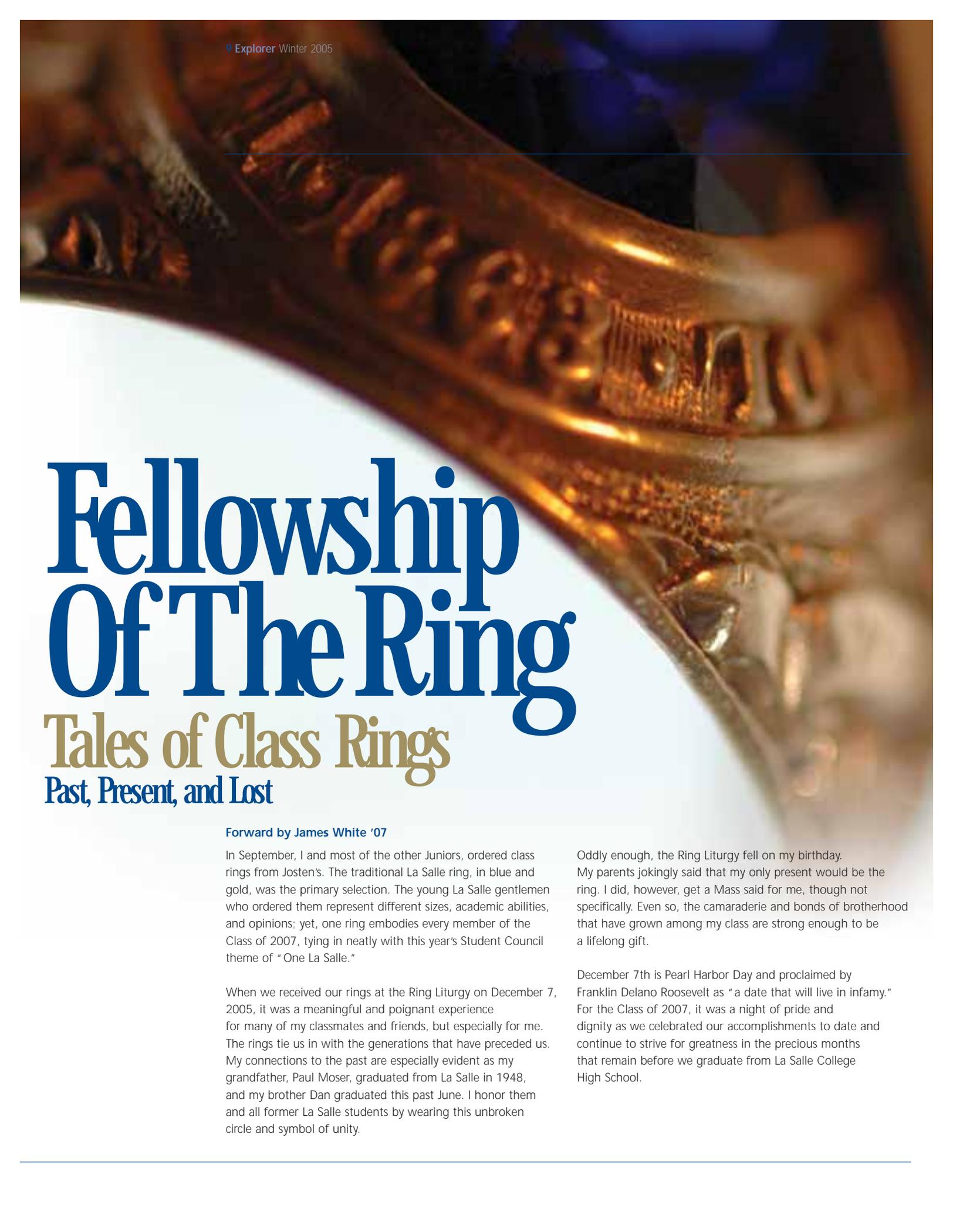


**Sean Smith '08 performs hardware maintenance.**

Raymond Shay, Director of Web Communication and an assistant for Community TechServe sees the interaction between the program participants and those they serve as the most beneficial aspect of the program. He believes that "La Salle students tend to find commonalities with those they serve and they are, at first, surprised. Yet, in the end, our young men come to understand that their differences are not as great as they once seemed and that what brings them together are simple things – a love of the same sports team, a favorite subject in school, a passion for technology. This 'coming together' is truly what a Lasallian education is meant to be."

The educational potential of Community TechServe is, as senior Vince Rizzuto says, "to expand students' worldview." As a service-learning project, participating students are taught, through a college-level class and personal experience, that there is a world beyond their own high school lives. It is in developing this new perspective that students are empowered to continue a life filled with service and experiential learning, well beyond their high school graduation.

Meg Kane is a 2003 graduate of La Salle University and a 2005 graduate of the University of Maryland at College Park. Currently, she is the Director of Public Relations at Mount Saint Joseph Academy in Flourtown, PA.



# Fellowship Of The Ring

## Tales of Class Rings

### Past, Present, and Lost

Forward by James White '07

In September, I and most of the other Juniors, ordered class rings from Josten's. The traditional La Salle ring, in blue and gold, was the primary selection. The young La Salle gentlemen who ordered them represent different sizes, academic abilities, and opinions; yet, one ring embodies every member of the Class of 2007, tying in neatly with this year's Student Council theme of "One La Salle."

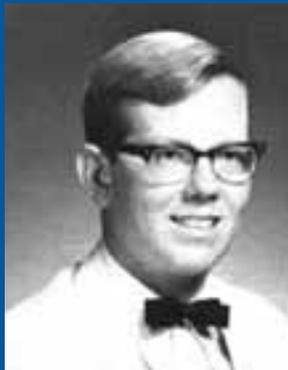
When we received our rings at the Ring Liturgy on December 7, 2005, it was a meaningful and poignant experience for many of my classmates and friends, but especially for me. The rings tie us in with the generations that have preceded us. My connections to the past are especially evident as my grandfather, Paul Moser, graduated from La Salle in 1948, and my brother Dan graduated this past June. I honor them and all former La Salle students by wearing this unbroken circle and symbol of unity.

Oddly enough, the Ring Liturgy fell on my birthday. My parents jokingly said that my only present would be the ring. I did, however, get a Mass said for me, though not specifically. Even so, the camaraderie and bonds of brotherhood that have grown among my class are strong enough to be a lifelong gift.

December 7th is Pearl Harbor Day and proclaimed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt as "a date that will live in infamy." For the Class of 2007, it was a night of pride and dignity as we celebrated our accomplishments to date and continue to strive for greatness in the precious months that remain before we graduate from La Salle College High School.

# Tales of Class Rings

Continued...



## A Snowball's Chance

By John Janda

Throwing snowballs is as treasured in Philadelphia as eating cheese steaks and watching the Mummers. Just ask Santa Claus and Jimmy Johnson. Throwing snowballs as an adult, however, can get one into some trouble. Just ask Ed Rendell. Or Bob Moran '69, who learned that lesson the hard way.

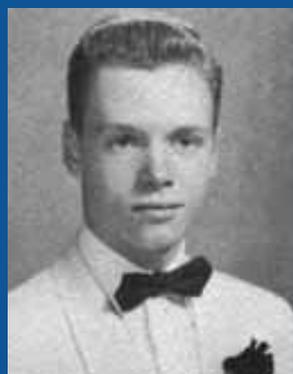
A few years after graduating from La Salle, the newly married Moran engaged in a snowball fight with some neighborhood kids in Ambler. Although he upheld a cherished Philadelphia tradition in the skirmish, Moran discovered later that he had paid a steep price: he had lost his La Salle ring.

Fast forward more than twenty years to November 22, 1996, a date Moran remembers vividly. A caller left a message on Moran's answering machine: "If you lost a class ring, call Dave at..." Moran called Dave, a SEPTA manager, and quickly realized that Dave did indeed have his ring. During his inspection of a railroad crossing in Ambler, Dave had spotted the ring, engraved with "R. P. MORAN." Fortunately, Moran was listed in the phone book, and Dave was able to contact Moran and reunite him with his lost treasure.

Today, Bob Moran, a Past President of the La Salle Alumni Association and former member of the Board of Trustees, calls the ring "a very visible sign of four happy years at La Salle that have now gone on to last a lifetime." Moran emphasizes how La Salle has become a lifelong source of happiness by pointing out that thirteen classmates attended his daughter's wedding. Moran, who generally does not wear jewelry, makes a point of wearing the ring to La Salle events because, as he says, the "ring is precious to me."

Bob Moran, who maintains a strong connection to La Salle, says that he treasures his experiences at La Salle, and, fittingly, he calls the ring a "found treasure twenty years later."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bob Moran '69 will become the 53rd inductee into the Hall of Fame on Sunday, March 5, 2006 (see inside front cover for details).



## Once More To The Lake

By Joseph F. Lynch '61

In Gerry Tremblay's life, rings matter. If you mention The Ring to him, he might talk of his passion for opera and the last performance of Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* at the Met in New York City. Gerry Tremblay '53 might recall, as an afterthought, *The Fellowship of the Ring*, by Tolkien, which he introduced, as English Department Head, to the La Salle College High School curriculum in the 1960s. Or Gerry might wistfully recall his lost La Salle ring from the summer of 1953, lost in dark waters of Lake George, NY.

Gerry and Tony Frayne '53 went swimming in the lake three weeks after graduation. They had just been to Middlebury College where good friend and fellow member of the Alumni Association Hall of Fame, Joe Moran '45 would take his degree. Gerry's ring slipped off his hand into the cold lake waters and disappeared, he thought, forever. (At this point, you might remember that in Wagner's opera, the magical Ring falls into the Rhine River and is retrieved, and, in *The Hobbit*, by Tolkien, the magical ring too spends time in the waters of Middle Earth.)

A few years ago in The Garden Restaurant in Philadelphia, former students gathered to honor Gerry's 20-year teaching career at LaSalle. Domenic DiPiero '63, a former student, and Jory Tremblay, Gerry's oldest son, established scholarships that evening in Gerry's name at La Salle. But, the surprise of the evening had to be the Return of the Ring, Gerry's high school ring, from Lake George's frigid waters. A scuba diver had found the ring and the amethyst stone separately one afternoon. With some CSI detective work, he called the school and graciously returned the ring, just in time for The Garden celebration some forty-five years later! Mike O'Toole '68 made the presentation.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Gerry and his wife of eighteen years, Eleanor, can often be seen walking in the evenings along the Wissahickon and can be contacted at [eleanorandgerry@comcast.net](mailto:eleanorandgerry@comcast.net).





### Ring Again

By Joseph F. D'Angelo, EdD '63

One summer way before he was to become famous as a writer and television commentator, Chris Matthews '63 was doing what most young people find themselves doing: work that bears absolutely no relation to what they will find themselves doing in later life. In his case he was renting beach chairs on the Outer Banks of North Carolina when he discovered he had lost his La Salle class ring. Finding a class ring on a beach is, of course, nearly impossible, so he did what most people would do. He moved on.

Nearly forty years later, John Meko '86, then La Salle's Development Director, received an e-mail concerning a ring that had been in a house in Yaupon Beach, North Carolina for many years. It seems the owner of the house, Maida Maples, had reached an age at which she was no longer able to live on her own. While some family members, including her daughter Ann Hilburn, were cleaning out the house, they came across a La Salle College High School class ring inscribed with the year 1963 and the initials CJM. When she was asked about it, Mrs. Maples mentioned to her daughter that she had wanted to try to find the owner to return the ring but had just never gotten around to it.

One day over lunch, Mrs. Hilburn told the story to her son, Michael who, being more computer-savvy found the La Salle web site and contacted John Meko who arranged to have the ring sent to the school. A little yearbook research and matching of initials and the ring was identified as belonging to Chris Matthews. As surprised as Chris Matthews was to get his ring back, imagine how surprised Mrs. Maples and Mrs. Hilburn were to find out who its owner was.



### Ring Of Hope

By John F. Doherty '01

Adapted from an article by Cynthia Marone

Every year the juniors at La Salle are unofficially declared to be "upperclassmen" during the generations-old ring ceremony where they receive their class ring, the tiny little object that will link them physically with their classmates until death. Many students treasure their rings with much ardor for their Alma Mater. However, few can boast to have guarded their class rings as jealously as Frank Wesner '39. Cynthia Marone reported in a local newspaper that the story of Wesner's class ring is intimately connected with his experiences as young soldier during World War II, detained as a prisoner of war in Hitler's Third Reich.

During Wesner's time at La Salle, the specter of totalitarianism grew ever larger in the consciousness of America and the world, threatening to undo Western civilization much as foreign terrorists threaten to do today. Not long after he left La Salle, Wesner was called to fight in the

war against fascism on the European front. In 1943, the twenty-three-year-old Wesner was captured by the Germans when the plane in which he was traveling over the North Sea was shot down. All of his personal belongings were confiscated, including his St. Christopher medal, but his La Salle ring he hid in his mouth. Wesner was interred at Stalag 17, the infamous camp for prisoners of war. Despite frequent surprise inspections of the camp, Wesner held on to his ring. The memories he associated with that tiny hunk of metal probably did much to ease the drudgery of his eighteen months of life in a place where spies, poor food, and unsanitary living conditions were unavoidable. Many American prisoners eased their time by irritating their German overseers. Others like Wesner made the ultimate decision to escape in the hope of getting home.

On a forced march outside of the camp one day, Wesner and a compatriot escaped from the Germans. Having reached the Danube, they befriended two Italians who gave them a boat that got them across the river. There they were sheltered by a German farmer until they were found and returned to Stalag 17. Fortunately, the Germans had little time to punish the escapees as the war ended only a few days after their recapture.

Ironically, despite having survived the war, Wesner's ring was lost once he returned to peaceful, post-war America. However, another unexpected course of events put him in possession of another La Salle ring, one that had washed up in the Bahamas and whose original owner was never found. One hopes that future bearers of the La Salle class rings will not have to go through what Wesner experienced in war, though doubtlessly they will experience similarly extraordinary adventures.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Frank J. Wesner '39 was a true gentleman and friend of La Salle. He was the 2003 recipient of the William J. Whelan Alumni Service Award in recognition of his consistent and dedicated service to La Salle College High School and its Alumni. He passed away on July 25, 2004.



# FOOTBALL—CITY CHAMPIONS

City champions! Who would have thought it possible? After long years of what was often agonizing expectation and bitter disappointment, the indomitable forces of head coach Jim Gallagher, coach Flannery, and freshman coach Dick Bedes...

...of Chuck Murray's second period interception of a Pirate p...  
 ...ing twenty-seven yards into the end zone unmolested.  
 ...le 31  
 ...St. Josep  
 ...LaSalle crushed St. Josep  
 ... on fo

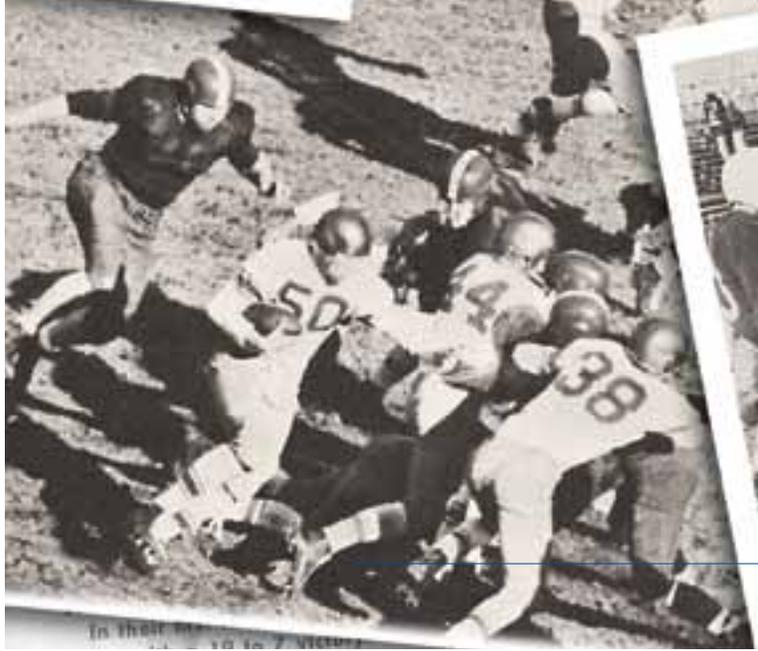


St. James O  
 Olneyites' masterful defense,  
 into the Bulldogs' secondary.  
 Dick's long runs, climaxed two  
 several strong bids, but were  
 thrown up by line coach Tex

Bishop Neumann O  
 played, climbed into the driver's  
 a hard fought victory over a  
 LaSalle's 32 points

## FOOTBALL—CITY CHAMPIONS

... Chuck Murray's second period interception of a  
 ... an yards into the



North  
 raved North Catholic team had its eyes on a v  
 line presented a barricade which the Falcons v  
 the winning score was tallied

## 1955 Championship Football Team

# Undefeated and Unforgotten

By Andrew C. Monaghan '01

The junior varsity football page of the 1953 Blue and Gold (Yearbook) says, "La Salle has long awaited the honor of a football championship. The performance turned in by the Explorer jayvees suggest that the fulfillment of this hope is near at hand."

These were not empty words from the pen of Brother Joseph Reagan, FSC '33. This was a bold prediction, and one that would prove to be true. A prediction that Brother Joe could not have made was the complete domination this team had on its opponents once they reached their senior year. The 1955 La Salle football team laid the blueprint for years of success with a legendary season-long defensive stand that left their opponents befuddled and bemused.



Ray Frankson '56



All-Catholic Bill Dick '56



Tom Hopkins '56



Hugh Brolly '56, the MVP of the City Championship Game, behind the Iron Curtain.

The Explorers, under the direction of Jim Gallagher '43, went undefeated (10-0). The miserly defense allowed only 20 points in ten games. According to the Daily News, La Salle's eight consecutive shutouts is second only to the nine consecutive shutouts posted by Simon Gratz in 1933. One could argue that because Gratz had a 0-0 tie and actually lost the Public League Championship to Frankford, La Salle is the greatest defensive team of the 20th century in Philadelphia high school football.

Before 1955, the Explorers had never accomplished this level of success. In the three previous years, the team went 12-15.

"We had to learn that we could win," explained Jim Osborne '56, one of the team's two-way tackles, "When we were juniors, the varsity went 6-4, and we got it in our heads that we could improve on that."

Coach Jim Gallagher's assistant, John "Tex" Flannery '40, studied the playbook of Army coach Red Blake, and brought the concepts into training camp that year. Dick Bedesem '49 and Vince McAnneny '47 were Backfield Coaches. John McAnneny '51 helped as a Quarterback Coach.

Like most teams of their age, the Explorers ran an option offense, but their defense made the biggest impact.

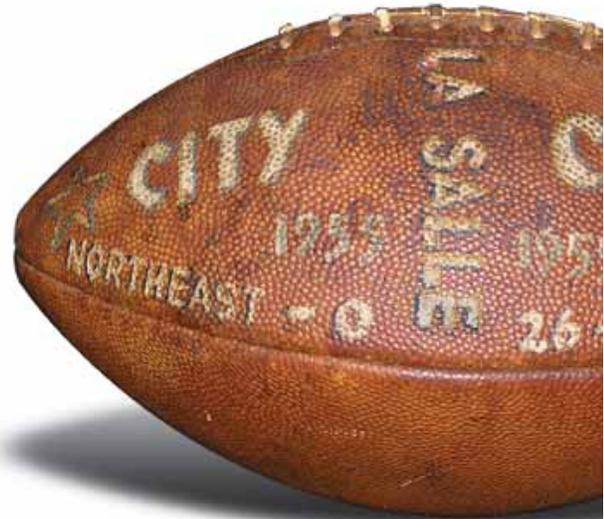
"We went on that field with a mentality that nobody was going to score on us," said Chuck Murray '56, a two-way end. "We were a tough team. I mean, really tough."

After two practices a day in camp, players would strap on boxing gloves and fight each other. "It was easy to beat other teams up after spending weeks of beating on each other," added Murray.

This team was also very experienced. There were 17 seniors, 11 of which were starters. They played together for four years and had gone through three brutal summer camps.

Dave Diehl '55, a member of the 1954 Football Team, saw the potential of the juniors during his senior year. "Many of those juniors made major contributions to any success that we had.

It was easy to see the talent in Tom Heron, Jim Goodyear, Bill Dick, Ray Frankson, Bill Brooks, and Jim Osborne," said Diehl, "Just as important was getting a big strong athletic quarterback in Hugh Brolly who never played football until his senior year. He made the difference in that team."





Bill Brooks '56, MVP of the Catholic League, blocks a punt against Germantown that results in an Explorer touchdown.



Assistant Coach John "Tex" Flannery '40 and Head Coach Jim Gallagher '43 enjoy a ride to the locker room.

The team really was loaded with talent. Hugh Brolly was the MVP of the City Championship game. Bill Brooks was the MVP of the Catholic League, and Tom Heron, Chuck Murray, Jim Osborne, Jim Goodyear, and Bill Dick received All-Catholic honors. In the era of the "Sixty Minute Man," Clark Hodgson was the lone Junior in the starting lineup. Seven members of the Senior Class went on to play at the Division One Level: Jim Goodyear (Wake Forest), Bill Brooks and Jack Lavelle (Navy), Jim Osborne, Tom Herron, and Tom Hopkins (Villanova), and Hugh Brolly (standout basketball player at La Salle College).

La Salle's 1955 Football Championship team started what has become a history of Explorer success in the Philadelphia Catholic League. There was the first championship, the first of eight for the school. Brother Joe could not have made a clearer prediction.

### Game Summaries

#### La Salle 38, St. Matthew 13

In a pre-season victory, La Salle unveiled an almost new starting lineup. Halfbacks Bill Dick and Ray Frankson ran wild on the defense of St. Matthew. An interception by Mike Boland assured a late summer victory for the Explorers.

#### La Salle 19, West Catholic 7

West Catholic struck first with an early touchdown reception, but La Salle relied on the combination of Hugh Brolly and Chuck Murray to fend off the Burrs. Chuck Murray snagged an interception, and Bill Dick broke off a 60-yard run that helped ice the Burrs.

#### La Salle 12, St. James 0

La Salle's defense was stifling, and their offense continually made its way into the Bulldog's secondary. Bill Dick continued his habit of long runs, and helped to prolong two touchdown drives.

#### La Salle 6, Bishop Neumann 0

The Explorers bested an undefeated (and much bigger) Neumann team in a hard fought victory. Chuck Murray took a second quarter interception 27 yards for an unmolested touchdown, and the lone score.

#### La Salle 31, St. Josephs Prep 0

La Salle pulverized their archrival and maintained their unbeaten streak. The Explorers went up 25-0 on touchdowns by Ray Frankson and Bill Dick. Coach Jim Gallagher was able to give the reserves some playing time, and they ended up scoring on a touchdown pass.

#### La Salle 13, Roman Catholic 0

The La Salle win over Roman and a scoreless tie by St. James and Bishop Neumann provided La Salle with its first Catholic League Championship. Bill Dick scored two second half touchdowns, and the La Salle's defense did not allow Roman to cross their 20 yard line.

#### La Salle 22, St. Thomas More 0

Tom Hopkins ran all over the field, scoring twice. Bill Dick added a touchdown and the defense recorded a safety.

#### La Salle 33, Germantown 0

La Salle capitalized on every opportunity presented to them, and ended the first period with 27 points. Touchdowns by Bill Dick, Lou Greco, Ray Frankson, and two by Tom Hopkins helped to destroy Germantown.

#### La Salle 6, North Catholic 0

La Salle faced their most formidable foe, but the Explorer's line still held strong. Hugh Brolly, Ray Frankson, and Bill Dick notched the winning score on a 50-yard double reverse.

#### La Salle 26, Northeast 0

In a game billed as "the battle of the immovable object and the unstoppable force," La Salle recorded an enormous upset. Northeast featured the legendary Herb Aderly, a future Green Bay Packer and NFL Hall of Famer. The Explorers spread their four touchdowns among all four backs. The defense continued their dominance with exceptional performances from Tom Hopkins, Jack Lavelle and Bill Brooks.

The original football from the 1955 City Championship Game at Franklin Field where La Salle shut out Northeast High School 26-0.



# Profile on the Office of Institutional Advancement

## **Brother Richard Kestler, FSC '60**

### **President**

On July 1, 2005, Brother Richard Kestler returned to his Alma Mater as the third President of La Salle College High School. Brother had served at La Salle on three other occasions as an administrator and member of the faculty.

## **Gail A. Evans, CFRE**

### **Vice President of Institutional Advancement**

Gail joins La Salle after twenty years in healthcare development. She is the mother of two grown children, Andrew and Elizabeth, and has four grandchildren. Gail and her husband, Don, reside in Sellersville.

## **Robert F. McAnespey '66**

### **Director of Development and Major Gifts**

A former Alumni Association President, Bob returns to La Salle after seven years at Holy Redeemer Health Systems. Bob previously served as Director of Development at La Salle from 1990–97. He is the father of Alison, and he and his wife, Linda, reside in Oreland.

## **Christopher M. Carabello '82**

### **Director of Communications and Public Relations**

Another former President of the Alumni Association, Chris served as La Salle's Director of Alumni Relations from 2001–05 and Director of Annual Giving from 2001–02. He and his wife, Mary Jean, along with their son, AJ, reside in Oreland.

## **Edward J. Bongard III '98**

### **Director of Annual Giving**

Ed has been La Salle's Director of Annual Giving since 2003. He is also a Coach for the Basketball and Baseball Teams. Ed resides in Northeast Philadelphia.

## **Raymond T. Shay '00**

### **Director of Web Communications**

Ray is in his second year as La Salle's Director of Web Communications. He is also the Moderator of the Speech and Debate Team (Forensics/Forum). Ray resides in East Falls.

## **Cathleen P. Winning**

### **Executive Assistant**

Cathy has worked in La Salle's Alumni and Development Office since 2000. She is the wife of Joe Winning '69 and mother of Joe Winning '05. She and the Joes reside in Roslyn.

## **Kathleen Smith**

### **Executive Assistant to the President**

Kathleen joined the staff in 2004 and came to La Salle from Jenkintown High School. She is a mother Brian, Christine, and Sean '08. She and her husband, Brian, reside in Jenkintown.

## **Kathleen Brunner**

### **Data Base Administrator**

Kathy is new to Alumni House. She comes to La Salle with extensive experience as a Parent Volunteer. Kathy is the mother of Vince '05, Michael, and Brian. She and her husband, George, reside in North Wales.

## **Gina Crawford**

### **Auction Coordinator**

Gina has just completed her first year as Auction Coordinator. She is an active La Salle Parent, lending support to the Mothers' Club and Band Parents. Gina is the mother of Robert '04 and Nick '06. She and her husband, Howard, reside in Willow Grove.

## **Mary Frances Kelly**

### **Alumni Events Coordinator and Development Assistant**

Mary Frances is new to Alumni House, but no stranger to La Salle. Her mother, Celeste Schaefer, served as Assistant to the Principal for almost fifteen years and all five of her brothers attended La Salle. Mary Frances is the mother of four: Robert, Austin, Aidan, and Grace. She and her husband, Patrick, reside in Maple Glen.

## **Florence Ward**

### **Administrative Assistant**

The "Matriarch of La Salle Alumni," Florence has served the La Salle Alumni and Development Office since 1971. Her knowledge of La Salle alumni and school history is second to none. She is the mother of Mimi Craig, Ginner Farrell, and Jimmy '72, grandmother of nine, and great-grandmother of five. Florence resides in Lafayette Hill.

## **Andrew C. Monaghan '01**

### **Communications and Alumni Associate**

Andrew is a 2005 graduate of Temple University's Department of Communications. He is currently serving as a Lasallian Volunteer, a unique program whereby recent college graduates volunteer a year of service to their Alma Mater. Andrew resides in the Christian Brothers' residence during his year of service along with three other Lasallian Volunteers.





Top Row (left to right): Kathleen Smith, Christopher Carabello '82, Bob McAnespey '66, Ed Bongard '98, Ray Shay '00, Andrew Monaghan '01, and Kathy Brunner  
Sitting (left to right): Mary Frances Kelly, Gina Crawford, Brother Richard Kestler, FSC '60, Gail Evans, Florence Ward, and Cathy Winning



# Madame Vice President

By Christopher M. Carabello '82

Last year the Board of Trustees adopted an institutional advancement model for the fundraising, development, alumni, and communications efforts of La Salle College High School. On November 1, 2005, Gail A. Evans, CFRE, became the school's first Vice President of Institutional Advancement. Recently, Gail sat down with Chris Carabello '82 to discuss her plans for the new office.

## What are the responsibilities of the Office of Institutional Advancement?

The new model of Institutional Advancement at La Salle College High School could not come at a better time. With plans to conduct a major campaign to fund facility improvements and the building of La Salle's endowment, a collaborative effort within the areas of development, communications, marketing, and alumni, parent and volunteer activities will be necessary to engage the La Salle family and win their support. Our goal is to raise enough money to make much-needed improvements to our 45 year-old facility, which includes the addition of new classroom space and enhancements within our athletic program. Increasing La Salle's endowment is also an important consideration for our school. A strong endowment will allow La Salle to continue to provide a challenging and nurturing environment in which young men of varied backgrounds and abilities can achieve their fullest potential. What is exciting about this campaign and why I believe that it will be a success is that it is driven by our Administrations, the Board's and the Christian Brothers' continued commitment to La Salle's mission.



Gail A. Evans, CFRE

## What experience do you bring to the office and how do you intend to utilize that experience?

With over 20 years of fundraising experience, I bring a wide range of skills to La Salle's Office of Institutional Advancement. Because fund raising is both an art and a science, but primarily an art, a well-seasoned development professional like myself can bring an enhanced level of sophistication to the development and communication processes already in place. I have managed two very successful capital campaigns over the past seven years and am ready to bring the know-how and skill-sets garnered through my varied fundraising experiences to La Salle to enhance its communication and development programs. One of the major strengths I bring to the table is the ability to forge meaningful relationships with volunteers and donors, which, at the end of the day, is what the Office of Institutional Advancement is all about.

## What are your goals and the goals for the Office of Institutional Advancement?

My long term goal for the Office of Institutional Advancement is to build strong and effective development and communications programs that will result in increased financial support for La Salle College High School. This will be accomplished in two phases. First, the Office of Institutional Advancement will evaluate existing fundraising programs and activities to determine their effectiveness and make adjustments as needed. Secondly, an internal culture within the Office of Institutional Advancement that encourages and promotes meaningful relationships with all La Salle constituencies will be nurtured. Institutional staff will be the conduit for bringing our constituencies closer to and encouraging them to become more connected with La Salle College High School. Once that connection is solidified, their commitment and support will undoubtedly follow. The primary goal of the Office of Institutional Development for this year will be to develop a campaign plan and to begin to implement that plan in support of the capital improvement projects mentioned above. Specific initiatives on the horizon include the enhancement of La Salle's planned giving program, the design and production of marketing materials that will support our campaign, and the kick-off of La Salle's first Founders Gala in April. It will definitely be an exciting first year, and I am very much looking forward to being an integral part of La Salle's future growth.

## What challenges do you foresee?

One of the challenges for our Office of Institutional Advancement moving forward will be to reconnect with alumni in other parts of the country. We have a very strong alumni association locally and have reconnected with alumni living in areas such as New York City and Washington, D.C. It will be important to bridge the gap between La Salle and other key areas where our alumni reside by re-establishing relationships, not only through our publications and web-site, but through visits from our staff as well. Those personal relationships will be key to managing a successful Campaign for La Salle.



# Photo Gallery

## Golden Explorers Luncheon

Wednesday, October 5, 2005



Rev. Francis Kelly '47, Rev. Anthony Janton '69, and Rev. James Flood '50



Ken Shaw '60, Dan Knecht, and Legendary Coach George Hines '46 are joined by Members of the La Salle and Philadelphia Area Rowing Communities



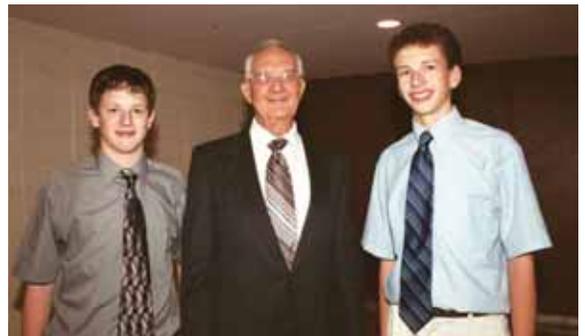
Ken Shaw '60, Gerry Lowery '78, Dan Knecht, and Brother Richard Kestler, FSC '60



New Principal Joe Marchese Meets Some Golden Explorers



Class of 1955 – Larry Wentz, Jack Langan, and Dick Bissell



Paul Moser '48 with Grandsons Matthew White '09 and James White '07



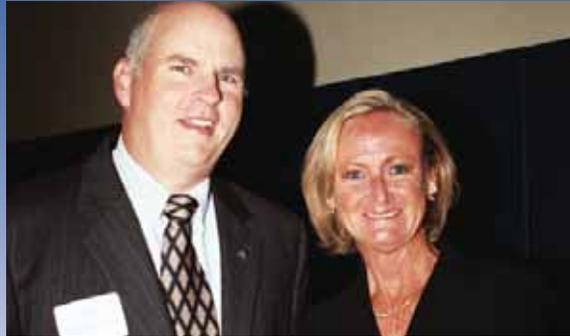
Florence Ward and Nick Sipa '45



Bill Foster '38, Tom Flannery '41, and Bob Foster '43

# President's Dinner

Wednesday, October 12, 2005



Bob McCreight '71 and Mary Moran



Eileen Whiteside and Chip Behr '73



Jack Metzger '44, Irma Minnar, Pete Muessig '45, Dorothy Muessig, Jack Callan '46, and Marie Callan



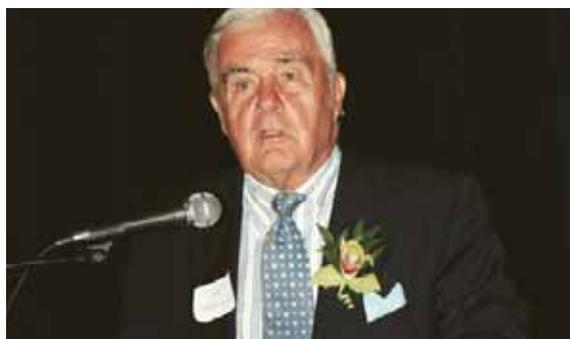
Jim Driscoll '79, Diana Driscoll, and Joe Slabinski '67



John Valentino, Gerry Grahm, Pat Grahm, Brother Richard Kestler, FSC '60, and Mary Clare Valentino



Jack Jeffers, Barbara Houldin, and Joe Houldin



Keynote Speaker - Bill Whiteside '46



Harry Himes, Mike Driscoll '76, and Mothers' Club President Kim Driscoll

# Family Liturgy and Induction Ceremony

Sunday, October 16, 2005



The DiLella Family



The Breen Family



Al Gabriele and Gail Evans



Brother James Steck, FSC, Mary Kay Mullen, Kathleen O'Connell, Brother James Butler, FSC, and Brother Bill DiPasquale, FSC



The Coggins Family



Brother Richard Kestler, FSC '60 and Joe Marchese greet Bernie Fitzgerald '77 and Bernie Fitzgerald '08



The Haas Family



The Gillespie Family with Brother Richard Kestler, FSC '60, Joe Marchese, and Gail Evans

# LaSale

Saturday, November 5, 2005



The Fury of the Silent Auction



Judy Ahern, Meg Kane, Ray Shay '00, and Jim Ahern



Jim McLaughlin '57, Jeanne McLaughlin, Mary Bender, and Rob Bender



Jennifer Collins, Mark Collins, Joe Lynch '61, Joe Dempsey, and Liz Dempsey



Ben Ventresca '70, Susan Ventresca, Pat Vizza, and Pete Vizza



Clark Hodgson '57, Denise Hodgson, Tim Clarke, and Kathi Clarke



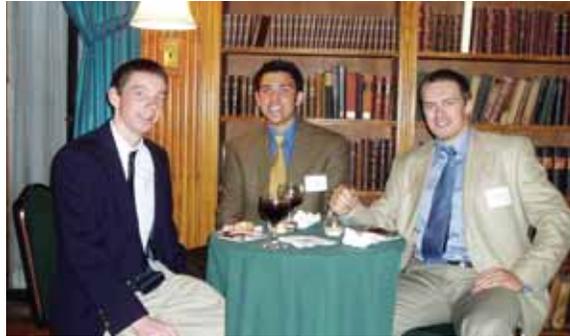
Bob Moran '69, Lloyd Beck, Jr. '98, Mary Moran, and Florence Ward



Super Moms – Members of the Mothers' Club and LaSale Organizers

# New York Area Alumni Reception

Monday, November 14, 2005



The Columbia Crowd – Rory Staub '04, Brad Caracausa '03, and Colin Kirts '04



Gregory Schill '99, Greg Ventresca '96, Ben Ventresca '70, and Marty Silvestri '67



Matt Shevlin '93, Michael Tuscano '93, Tim Maxwell '93, and Jim Gorman '94



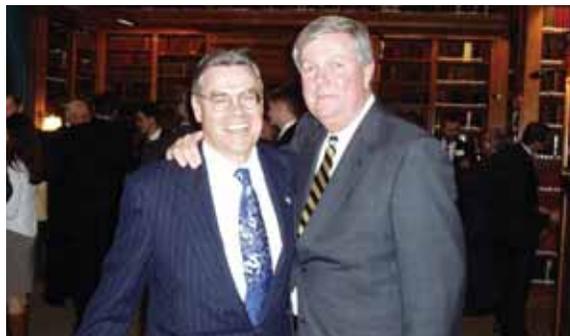
John Reagan '89, Brother Richard Kestler, FSC '60, and Paul Wynn '88



Gail Evans and Domenic DiPiero '63



James Brett '41 and Andrew Ragusa '85



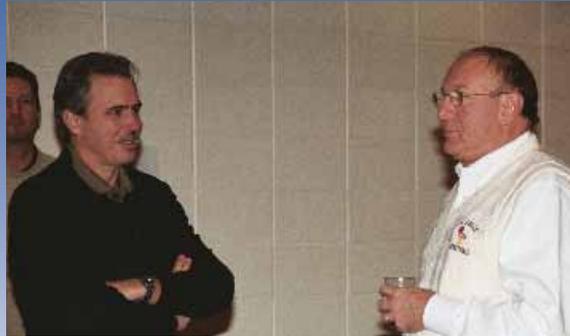
Class of 1966 – Pat Smith and Bob McAnespey



Jerry Hathaway '72 and Al Gabriele

# Homecoming

Wednesday, November 23, 2005



Bill Benz '72 and Joe Turk '63



Ben Ventresca '70, Jerry Ventresca '77, and John Meko '86



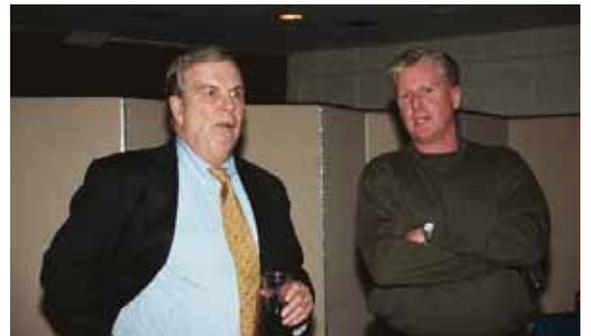
Brother Bill DiPasquale, FSC and Andrew Filipczak '00



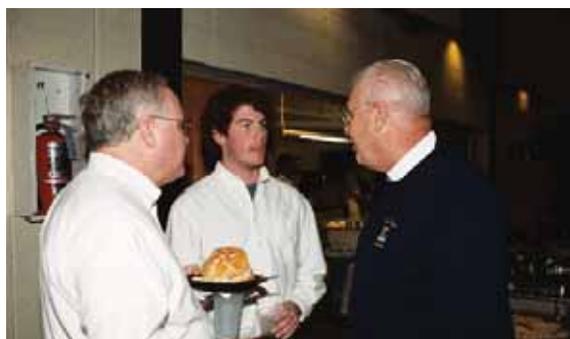
Ed Feeny '62 and Pete Muessig '45



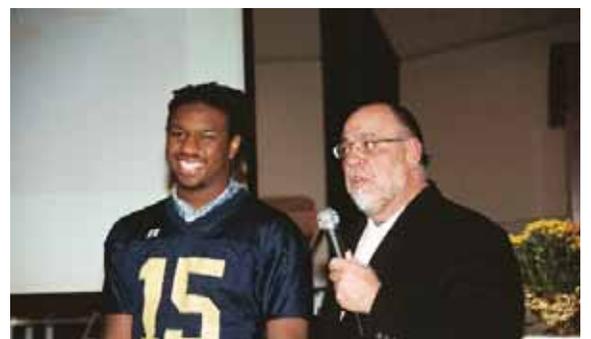
Rev. Anthony Janton '69 and Ray Shay '00



Football Fathers - Clark Hodgson '57 and Kevin Agnew



Bill Bryers '73, Mark Mongeau '02, and Brother Richard Ketler, FSC '60



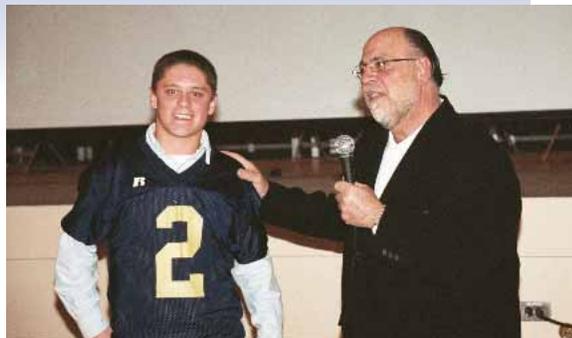
George Hudson '06 and Coach Joe Colistra '64



Paul Sharkey '98 and Lloyd Beck, Jr. '98



Bob McCreight '71



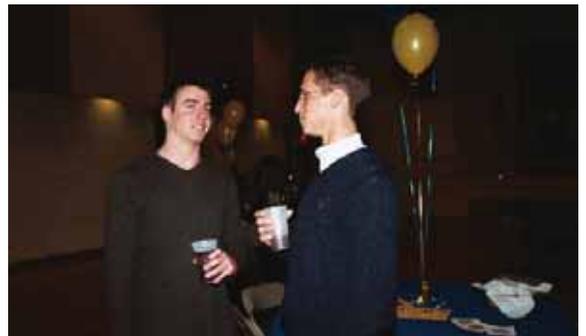
Chris Agnew '06 and Coach Joe Colistra '64



Jim Gehringer '06 and Coach Joe Colistra '64



Members of the Class of 2002



Brad Green '00 and Jeremy Turk '00



Brien Kivlen '00 and Joe Dwyer '00



Ed Keenan '01, Pat Luschini '01, and Brett Kochanowicz '01

# Class Notes

## 1940's

**Martin Pendergast '45** reports that his grandson Kyle Finlay is now a freshman at La Salle College High School.

**John Gillin '46** enjoyed a vacation to Vancouver, Victoria and Jasper National Park in Canada with his wife Lee.

**Charles Wynn '46** serves on the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity, San Francisco and Marin Counties. He is a member of the land acquisition and publications committees.

**Bill Crosson '47** is still maintaining the La Salle outpost in Los Angeles. He will be making another trip to Ireland soon.

**William Sharpe '48** celebrated his 50th Wedding Anniversary with his wife Nancy on November 17, 2005.

**Constantino Cerini '49** is still consulting for Wyeth Vaccines. He and his wife Lydia do a lot of traveling, a highlight of which was a trip to Dick Ryan's Rhododendron garden.



Class of 1940 – 65-Year Reunion

Top Row (left to right): **John "Tex" Flannery, Charles Howard, and John Devlin**

Bottom Row (left to right): **John Felice, Jim Fahy, John Masciantonio, and Jim McMenamin**



Class of 1945 – 60-Year Reunion

Top Row (left to right): **David McGrath, Robert McMackin, Thomas Hoban, Jim Jones, Bill Lougherty, Jack Gibbons, Marty Pendergast, and Pete Muessig**

Bottom Row (left to right): **Rev. Robert Breen, Nick Sipa, Francis Burns, Gene DiRe, and Bill Gaynor**

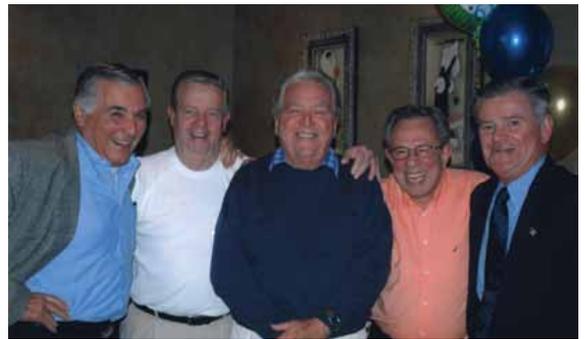
## 1950's



Class of 1950 – 55-Year Reunion

Top Row (left to right): **Connie Miller, Frank Pfluger, Tom Whelan, and Marty McCann**

Bottom Row (left to right): **Dennis Gallagher, Rev. Jim Flood, Jim Fleming, and Joseph Hricinak**



Celebrating Vince Barker's 70th Birthday Party

Left to right: **Members of the Class of 1953 – Tom Derago, Vince Barker, Bob Donohue, Ray Tancredi, and Jack Greenleaf**

**William dePasquale '51** retired from his position as Co-Concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra in August 2005. Bill continues teaching violin at Temple University's Boyer College of Music.

**Robert Wilson '54** has been meeting with classmates at the Blue Bell Inn. The last luncheon was attended by sixteen Explorers. Classmates that are interested should call (610) 265-0989.

**Jim Durkin '55** ran in the Run Against Arthritis 5K on November 13, 2005 in Malvern, PA. Jim finished first in his age group. Finishing second in the same age group was Jack Langan '55.

**Robert Federspiel '57** survived three hurricanes in thirteen months. He lives in Vero Beach, FL.

**John Convey, PhD '58** was appointed as a Consultant to the Committee on Education of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. He was elected as a Commissioner of the Middle States Association Commission on Higher Education.

**Matthew J. Ledwith '58** will be this year's recipient of the Jack Franklin Service Award at the U.S. Rowing Annual Banquet. Ledwith, who passed away in May at the age of 64, was a driving force in the Philadelphia rowing community for more than forty years. He served on the Dad Vail Organizing Committee and as president of the Philadelphia Scholastic Rowing Association. Ledwith began rowing in the early 1960's at La Salle College High School and continued at La Salle College. A fully-licensed referee, Ledwith became an official in 1978 and continued to officiate throughout the rest of his life. He had served as the chief referee for the Philadelphia Frostbite Regatta for the past twenty-seven years. In addition to the Frostbite Regatta, Ledwith helped to organize and run several regattas each year including the Manny Flick Races, Philadelphia Catholic League Championship, Philadelphia City League Championship, Dr. Robert White Regatta, Stotesbury Cup Regatta, Scholastic National Championship Regatta, Head of the Schuylkill, and the Dad Vail Regatta.



The 1955 City Championship Baseball Team held a reunion at the Blue Bell Inn on September 14, 2005. Eleven members of the team attended including: Ed O'Mara '56, George Schmidt '56, Larry Wentz '55, Jim Richard '56, Jack Reardon '55, Ray Mullen '56, John Milburn '56, Joe Malizia '56, John Herrera '58, Joe Heyer '56, and Don Mignona '56

Left to right: Don Mignona '56, Ed O'Mara '56, and John Milburn '56



The Senior members of the 1955 Championship Football Team reunited in Cxambridge, MD at the farm of Jim Goodyear '56 on Saturday, October 15, 2005. The reunion marked the 50th Anniversary of their shutout of Northeast High School in the City Championship game. The Class of 1956 will celebrate their 50-Year Reunion on June 2-3, 2006. Members of the Class of 1956 who wish to help plan and organize this special occasion should contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (215) 233-2350 or alumni@lschs.org

Top Row (left to right): Hugh Brolly, Ray Frankson, Bill Dick, Jim Goodyear, and Chuck Murray Bottom Row (left to right): Carmen Rodia, Bill Henry, Rich De Luca, and Joe Malizia

## 1960's

**Tom Crow '61** recently retired from the Drug Enforcement Agency after 38 years of service to the Federal Government.

**Chuck Ratcliffe '63**, was ordained a Deacon on April 9, 2005 for the Diocese of St. Petersburg, FL and hopes to be ordained to the Priesthood on May 20, 2006. Chuck is the first cousin of Robert Cwik '57 and the Godfather of Erik Cwik '09.

**John Daly, MD '65** joined the La Salle University Board of Trustees in October 2005.

**Tom O'Donnell '65** was promoted to the position of Regional Special Programs Manager of the Defense Contract Agency.

**John Schulte, Jr. '65** retired from teaching and is living in Myrtle Beach, SC. He has four grandchildren.

**Capt. John McGill, USN (Ret.) '67** is the Director of Navy and Marine Corps programs for Sikorsky Support Services. He has recently been assigned as the Regional Director of Business Development for DERC Aerospace, Inc.

## 1970's

**Frank Lindh, Esq. '70** is a lawyer in San Francisco. He has been lecturing at law schools about the case of his son, John Walker Lindh.

**Edward Sague, DDS '70** recently completed duties with the United States Public Health Service 2005 Assignment Panel. He would like to congratulate all health care professionals who continue to restore the health care infrastructure that was damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

**Tom Keating '73** is currently the Principal of Xavier High School in Cedar Rapids, IA. He spent the last 24 years as a teacher, athletic director, and volleyball coach at Wahlert Catholic High School in Dubuque, IA. He was named the National Volleyball Coach of the Year in 2004. His teams won 11 state titles. His wife Jodi, sons Kevin, Tim, and Ryan all live in Cedar Rapids.

**George Magnatta, Esq. '73** was named as one of the "Best Lawyers in America." He was designated as a "Pennsylvania Super Lawyer" by Philadelphia Magazine and Law and Politics magazine.

**Joseph Dwyer, Sr., CPA '74** has his third son, Mathew '08, enrolled at La Salle.

**Peter Mooney, Esq. '75** was honored with the Distinguished Advocate Award at the 2005 Champions for Children Reception for his extraordinary professionalism and generous commitment to improving the lives of children. Presenting Peter with the award was his classmate, Frank Cervone '75, Executive Director for the Supprt Center for Child Advocates. Peter is generous with his expertise as a skillful litigator for legally complicated cases and contested hearings on behalf of abused children. Volunteering in cases for twenty years, he also represented the Philadelphia Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division. Peter is extraordinarily generous of time and talent, joining social workers for home visits and delivering outstanding courtroom advocacy. He is presently involved in a dependency case involving two siblings under the age of four, whose births were premature and who have complex medical needs.



Members of the Class of 1975 at Champions for Children 2005

Left to right: Mike Field, Frank Cervone, Peter Mooney, and Mark Gaeto

# Class Notes Continued

## 1980's

**Sean Corr, Esq. '80** started Corr Law Offices, LLP in Warminster, PA. He is a board certified trial attorney specializing in civil litigation with an emphasis on personal injury issues.

**Colin Costello '80** has signed with Literary Management Agency IPG in Beverly Hills, CA. He is currently at work on a teen girl comedy titled Queen B for the Montecito Picture Company.

**Ray McCaffrey '81** is proud to announce the opening of McCaffrey Value Management, a registered investment advisor focusing on high net worth individuals.

**Bob Costello '82** helped establish Hibernian Charity, a tax-exempt public charity of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the oldest Irish Catholic organization in America.

**Steven Hladczuk '84** lives with his wife and three sons in Jenkintown, PA.

**William Regli III, PhD '85** recently started a new company Drakontas LLP, to commercialize technologies to support communications for first responders and police.

**James McColigan '87** is living happily in Chestertown, MD with his wife Jennifer, sons Patrick and Brendan, and daughter Keira. He is working as Assistant Treasurer for OVCC, Inc.

**Stephen Brown '89** released his second CD with his band The Rigbees ([www.rigbees.com](http://www.rigbees.com)) in October. He has three daughters Maggie, Molly, and Mary Rose.

**Andrew Savysky '89** and Tanya Stefanyshyn were married at the Breakers Hotel in West Palm Beach Florida on November 5, 2005.

## The Class of 1981

will celebrate their  
**25-Year Reunion**  
on Saturday, April 22, 2006

**Members of the Class of 1981**  
who wish to help plan and organize this  
special occasion should contact  
the Office of Institutional Advancement at  
**(215) 233-2350 or [alumni@lschs.org](mailto:alumni@lschs.org)**

## 1990's

**Michael Smith '93** is living in Baltimore with his wife Kelly, daughter Ella, and dog Sophie. His wife is teaching at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. Michael started working at Ironwood Sales and Marketing in 2004. The company represents manufacturers in the electrical construction market, and has tripled in size in one year.

**John Burton '98** was recently named the Account Executive for Yellow Moon Imports Inc. Yellow Moon Imports has sole rights for importing wine from China's Changyu winery. He asks that anyone involved in wine distribution contact him.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2006  
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EXCLUSIVE VIDEO PREMIERE 7:30 PM  
(IN THE PLANETARIUM)  
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FOR THE PLANETARIUM.  
DISCOUNTED ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE EMBASSY SUITES  
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SPACE IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST  
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FOR RESERVATIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE  
CALL THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT  
AT 215.233.2350





Class of 2000 – 5-Year Reunion at Homecoming

## 2000's

**Chris Glavin '00** and his company Huddleson, LLC and K12 Academics ([www.k12academics.com](http://www.k12academics.com)) has become one of the top million websites on the internet. The website is an educational resource center for teachers, parents, students, and educational professionals.

**George Lozowski '01** received a B.A. in English and French from Washington and Lee University in June 2005. He is currently enrolled in the French PhD program at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Stephen Dwyer '03** studied in Rome, Italy during the Summer of 2005 through Villanova University.

**Timing makes all  
the difference!**

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN  
JUL AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

**As the calendar year comes to a close, many of us take time to reflect on the past year and look forward to the one ahead.**

Perhaps this is the year you can truly make a difference in the future of La Salle College High School through a charitable gift. Not only will you feel good about supporting La Salle, you may be rewarded with significant tax benefits.

Please call La Salle's Office of Institutional Advancement at 215-233-2305 for more information on ways you can support La Salle now or in the future. Keep in mind that gift must be made before December 31, 2005, if you want to receive your charitable income tax deduction in time for this year's taxes.

# Ring

by Joseph F. O'Dea, Jr., Esq. '78

# In The Future



It is always inspirational when the good guy finishes first. This is particularly true when the good guy is one of our own. On August 4, 2005, Jeff O'Donnell, the Chief Executive Officer and President of PhotoMedex, Inc. and a proud member of the Class of 1978, rang the closing bell at the NASDAQ exchange. The NASDAQ conferred this resonating honor upon Jeff because of PhotoMedex's remarkable five year trek toward transforming a promising medical technology from an ivy tower idea to a procedure that may help millions.

PhotoMedex develops excimer laser and fiber-optic systems for the treatment of vascular disease and dermatological disorders. The Company has multiple medical device initiatives under way, several of which were once unimaginable solutions to common medical problems. PhotoMedex's bellwether product is XTRAC, an FDA market approved laser system for the treatment of psoriasis. For those who don't know, psoriasis is the second most common skin disorder in the United States. Its symptoms range from uncomfortable and unsightly at best to disfiguring and debilitating at worst. More than 7 million Americans suffer from psoriasis. Around the world, the condition afflicts more that 80 million people.

It is truly exciting when a technology as sophisticated as a laser can be used to improve the quality of a person's life. In this instance, physicians typically treated psoriasis with steroid creams or medications, with limited effectiveness and frequent recurrences. Jeff is understandably proud that PhotoMedex has made it possible for lasers to cure this disorder.

The success enjoyed by PhotoMedex has not come overnight, or without a considerable effort. Upon becoming CEO and President, Jeff charted a new course for PhotoMedex. He installed a new management team and moved the corporate headquarters from California to Montgomeryville, PA. Jeff recruited a prominent physician from Massachusetts General Hospital to serve as the Chair of the Company's Scientific Advisory Committee. He also spearheaded two strategic acquisitions that positioned the Company to fulfill its mission.

The uninitiated might think that if you have a wide-spread medical condition and a cutting edge solution, success is inevitable. As with so many things in life, however, success is not quite as easy to achieve as it might seem. The business professionals who work in the medical device industry know all too well that if an insurer does not reimburse for a procedure, there is little chance of success. As Jeff explains this huge business challenge,

"You can have excellent technology and all the clinical trials you want, if you don't have reimbursement for your new treatment modality, it is tough to build a business." Fortunately for PhotoMedex, its shareholders and psoriasis sufferers nationwide, more than 70% of health care insurers now reimburse for PhotoMedex's XTRAC procedures.

Jeff's accomplishments come as no surprise to anyone, except perhaps Jeff. His classmates recall the guy who befriended everyone, laughed frequently and exhibited a positive attitude always. Jeff has a more modest perception of his high school years, thanking Father Dave Givey, Brother Kevin Strong, Brother Fred Stelmach and Dave Diehl, among others, for "keeping me focused at a time when I was easily distracted." Jeff credits these fine men with "teaching" him things that went far beyond grades or the classroom, such as "values, confidence, motivation and the meaning of friendship." Jeff also recalls that "whether you were a doctor's son or a roofer's son, everyone was treated equally at La Salle." He realizes now how much he learned from spending that important time of his life with boys from so many different backgrounds, in an environment where the role models "treated young men equally and focused on the whole person."

After graduating from La Salle, Jeff continued his education with the Christian Brothers at La Salle University, "with what must have been fifty of our classmates." Four years later, Jeff received his B.S. in Business Administration and, with help from a La Salle High mentor, landed a job selling knee and hip implants for Johnson & Johnson. This led to a series of progressively attractive entrepreneurial opportunities in the medical device industry that ultimately culminated in his assuming the Chief Executive Officer role at PhotoMedex. Along the way, Jeff had his best fortune of all, marrying his sweetheart Kathleen. Jeff and Kathy are proud parents of Jeffrey Jr. (16) and Kaileen (10).

Whether as a fellow alumnus or Chief Executive Officer, husband or father, Jeff has never forgotten the lessons he learned at LaSalle. As he presses forward in his efforts to make cutting edge technologies available to the people who need them, accolades from the business community keep chiming in. The Eastern Technology Council recently selected Jeff as the LifeSciences CEO of the Year for 2005. In the years to come, bells undoubtedly will be ringing for future successes of this Explorer.



# Announcements

## Births

**Brad Bizzle '93** and his wife Nicole, welcomed their first child, Joshua Anderson on September 17, 2005

**Vincent Lorusso '94** and his wife Kathryn, welcomed a girl, Clara Amé, in October, 2005

## Deaths

**John M. Byrnes '33**  
**John S. Penny, PhD '33**  
**Herbert F. Peters '34**  
**Canzio E. Giuliucci, MD '38**  
**Francis M. Convery '39**  
**Martin C. Matthews '39**  
**Joseph G. McKenna '45**  
**Edward J. McGinley '46**  
**Norbert A. Busch '47**  
**James J. Curley '51**  
**Raymond J. Cannon '55**  
**Gregory F.X. Teufel '04**

**Edith Amodie**, mother of Thomas Amodie '78

**Mary Joan Beaty**, wife of John Beaty '44,  
 mother of John, Jr. '67 and Patrick '69

**Connie Bohardt**, mother of Doug Bohardt '00

**Rose Marie Costello**, mother of John Costello (Freshman Baseball Coach), grandmother of Patrick Costello '97 and Matthew Costello '01

**Tammi Costello**, wife of Patrick Costello '87

**Susan Small Hirst**, daughter of Walter Small '38

**Theresa Jones**, wife of James Jones '45

**Mary Ann Lowery**, mother of Tom Lowery '72 and Gerry Lowery '78

**Mary Terese McShea Sweeney**, mother of John McShea '73 and Brian McShea '77, sister of Ed Whelan '47, Tom Whelan '50, and William Whelan (Dec'd) '55

**John Miller**, father of Kevin '86, Keith '89 and Kyle '94

**Mary Osborne**, former Mothers' Club President, mother of Jim '56, John '58, Joe '61, and Michael '65, grandmother of Jim III '82, and Jim '08

**Marge Ventresca**, wife of Angelo Ventresca, Jr. '55

## Remembering

by *J. Michael Whitaker, MD '68*

**John S. Penny, PhD '33**, husband, father, mentor, member of the Hall of Fame, and Professor of Biology at La Salle College from 1950 through 1979, died on November 7, 2005.

We would all be so fortunate to have been influenced in our formative years by such a person. For over three decades, Dr. Penny molded and prepared college students for professional school, and during the time that he chaired the Pre-Med program at La Salle, over six hundred students were admitted to medical or dental school. In the words of Dr. John Daly '65, Dean of Temple Medical School, "When he finished with you, you were virtually assured a place in medical school."

Dr. Penny graduated from La Salle College in 1937 and earned a doctorate in Palaeobotany from the University of Pennsylvania. After serving in World

## Honorees

by *Thomas R. Barna*



**Gerry Miller**, of the Social Studies Department, along with **Bill Geiger '72**, of the English and Foreign Language Departments, were recognized for their twenty-five years of service to La Salle College High School at the Honors Convocation. They were both presented with a token of school's appreciation by Brother Richard Kestler, FSC '60 and Principal Joseph Marchese.

### Gerry Miller

It was the fall of 1980 when Gerald Miller, Jr. began his tenure at La Salle College High School. Gerry has taught thousands of students to 'learn from the past' while having them appreciate how humanity has been shaped over the years. A veteran of the Vietnam War, he is widely known for creating La Salle's nationally-recognized and ever popular Vietnam course. He has also developed La Salle's current AP U.S. Government class and is very proud of his relationship with the College Board where he serves as an annual reader. Through the years he has taught courses in American History, Western Civilization, and Political Science. Outside of the traditional classroom he has been influential in bridging the digital divide by instructing La Salle's first online course. Leading by example, Gerry has and continues to encourage all his students to think often and aloud.

### Bill Geiger '72

William A. Geiger '72 has spent the better half of his life as a Brother's Boy. Having graduated from the Belcroft campus in 1972, he formalized his education at La Salle University and returned to his Alma Mater in the fall of 1980 teaching English and Latin. Known unmistakably as La Salle's "Renaissance Man," his teaching tenure includes instructing students in all levels in classes such as English, Creative Writing, Latin, Greek, Classical Elements, Media, Film, and Environmental Science. Single-handedly Bill created the Latin program and *The Gazebo*, *The Wisterian*, and the Photography Club have all been influenced by his intellect. In his downtime, when not coaching the Tennis Team, Bill often teaches nights, weekends, and summers at local colleges and universities. La Salle College High School students continue to be inspired by the actions of a truly inspirational man.

War II, he took a position with the Standard Oil Company in Venezuela and then accepted a faculty position at the University of Michigan. Three years later, Roland Holroyd, the legendary Chairman of the Biology Department at La Salle College, needed help with the influx of students seeking a post-war education. He asked Dr. Penny to return to Philadelphia and "help out for a year or two." Dr. Penny would never leave and developed a pre-med program that was as competitive and respected as any in the country.

Dr. Penny's love of the plant kingdom was apparent to his students and on the south side of Holroyd Hall, on the campus of La Salle University, grows a beautiful grove of specially grafted weeping Japanese cherry trees that he planted and cultivated. His sense for beauty was larger than mere aesthetics. He did not tolerate sloppy work and encouraged his students to be precise and seek the truth in their academic pursuits. The philosopher Josef Pieper said, "It is not easy to read in a man's face whether he is just or unjust. Temperance or intemperance, however, loudly proclaim themselves in everything that manifests a personality in attitude, laugh, handwriting, speech and dress." By all accounts, Dr. Penny was a temperate man.



**John S. Penny, PhD '33**  
 1915 - 2005

## Alumni Association President's Corner

Immortality. What makes one immortal? Over the years, my thoughts on the subject have varied. As a high school student, the finality of human existence seemed trivial and a subject for others to ponder. I was intent on leaving my mark and making a difference in the world. Recently, I have been invigorated by our current student body because I feel that same energy in them. Seeing students unencumbered by the worries of day-to-day life helps me to pause and focus on how to regain that fresh spirit.

I've come to realize that the sense of what is within us is how we make others immortal. I often catch myself saying things that rolled from my father's lips and I'm in disbelief that they are coming from my mouth. I tell some of the same horrible jokes that embarrassed me during my adolescence. Through my experiences as a parent, I have learned to appreciate the structure my mother built for me. I treasure the deep faith and unbending values that my parents instilled. I've also learned that it is the way I can keep their spirit alive long after they are gone. I can't help but wonder what part of their parents (and grandparents) lived within them. Through our family tree, we've unknowingly succeeded in making them immortal. The influence doesn't end with blood lines, as there have been a number of special people who have impacted my life over the years. Although I no longer have them to consult and share, I cherish the piece of them that lives within me.

At a recent dinner, we were asked to act as "Ambassadors of La Salle." This made me think about how difficult it is to get alumni to stop once they begin talking about our Alma Mater. My neighbors find it hard to understand why a person would hold such loyalties to a high school. I usually attribute it to our experience with the Christian Brothers. Their commitment to education and the communal atmosphere of the school provides a unique experience that lives within us. The experience gives us a unique tie to the Lasallian community. Whether we realize it or not, we are responsible for making St John Baptist de La Salle immortal. Although he died in 1719, his influence remains alive through all of us. Not only from the benefits of his dedication to education, but from his spirit and our becoming "Brother's Boys." Why else would people treasure stories of how rings have been lost and recovered? The spirit that emerged during our four years at La Salle College High School becomes apparent in such tales. The Christian Brothers have been the true "Ambassadors of La Salle" and each Brother, with his own memorable and unique approach, instills the Lasallian spirit in all of us.

The Alumni Association constantly strives to further our Founder's cause. As we seek to help provide the finest education available to those who otherwise could not afford it, we embrace what the Christian Brothers have instilled in each of us. The result is an expanded group of Ambassadors who take this spirit into the community.

**It is just another way that Jesus lives in our hearts, forever.**



**Gerard M. Lowery, CPA '78**

President

Alumni Association



**Alumni Association Board of Directors 2005-2006**

Standing (left to right): Jason Santini '94, Moderator Brother Charles Lackes, FSC, Jim McCloskey '64, Pete Muessig '45, Conrad Heckmann '84, Ryan Tyrrell '91, Mike Morsell '97, Lloyd Beck, Jr. '98, Phil Cassidy '70, John Malone '73, Mike Donohoe '79, Tony Gillespie '68, Michael Adams '81, and Ed Feeny '62  
Sitting (left to right): Brian McGeehan '95, Bob Szostak '72, Gerry Lowery '78, Bob McCreight '71, and Jim Donahue '86



# Young Alumni Night



Friday, December 30, 2005  
5:00 to 9:00 PM  
La Salle College High School  
Gymnasium and Auditorium

**No Admission Will Be Charged**

Classes of 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, and 2002

Prayer Service for Miles Miller '04, Greg Teufel '04,  
and Terrence McCann '03

Watch Sports on the Big Screen in the Auditorium

Play Basketball in the Gym

Pizza, Hoagies, and Beverages will be Served



La Salle College High School  
8605 Cheltenham Avenue  
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# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

