



The Magazine of Bishop Montgomery High School

VERITAS

FALL/WINTER 2009-2010



BMHS' Admissions Office Welcomes our Newest Class





Dear Friends of Bishop Montgomery,

“To believe in God is to know that all the rules are fair and that there will be wonderful surprises.”

In the Gospels there are many, many individuals who said yes to God’s call and opened themselves to wonderful surprises. Certainly Mary’s yes to God’s call led her down a road which she couldn’t have imagined when she made that act of faith. And in Luke’s Gospel, Jesus tells Simon Peter to lower the nets to catch fish, even though Simon Peter points out that they had fished all night and had not caught anything. Peter says, “but at your command, I will lower the nets.” When they do this, they catch so many fish that the nets start to tear and the boats are in danger of sinking. Surprises—Jesus is always full of surprises—miracles—water becomes wine, a few loaves and fish become enough to feed thousands. Jesus is always surprising the disciples—and surprising us.

“To believe in God is to know that all the rules are fair and that there will be wonderful surprises.” When we say yes to God’s call, we open ourselves to possibility, to the unexpected, to wonderful surprises, to journeys not of our own choosing. That act of faith takes us to a new place, a place where we can become new, transform ourselves, and in turn, transform those communities to which we belong. When we are open to the surprises of faith, we recognize new possibilities, we find the courage to risk, we become more than we are.

My life at Bishop Montgomery is filled daily with many surprises, with many gifts, many miracles. Our students make it easy for me to remember that, through God’s generous grace, wonderful surprises are not just possible, but certain. You, the friends of Bishop Montgomery, also make it easy for me to remember that God is always full of surprises—miracles. “To believe in God is to know that all the rules are fair and that there will be wonderful surprises.”

Thank you for all you do for Bishop Montgomery.

Rosemary Libbon
Principal

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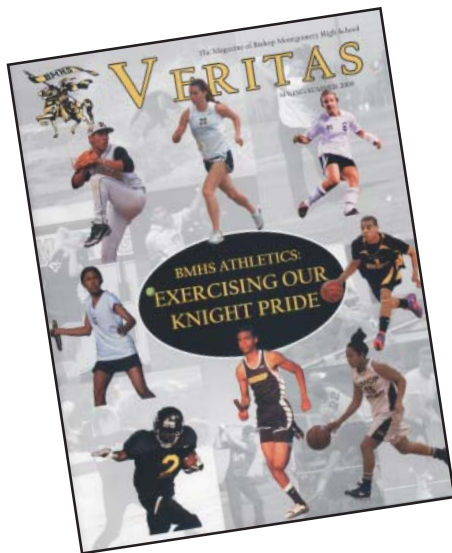
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Letters to the Editor

We welcome your comments and questions and we encourage all of our readers to submit story ideas for upcoming issues of *Veritas*. If you have a story or news about a member of our community that you would like to see in the magazine, please contact the Development Office. We also encourage those who would like to submit news items and stories they have written themselves for inclusion in *Veritas*. Because space in the magazine is limited, we will do our best to include all news items and articles.

You may send news and story ideas by direct mail to the school to the attention of the Development Office. If you prefer e-mail, send your news, stories, ideas, comments and questions to amarafino@bmhs-la.org.

Dates to Remember

March 11:	2nd Annual John Scanlin Scholarship Fundraiser Hennessey's Tavern (RB) 6:30 pm
March 17:	Re-registration BMHS Gymnasium Grades 9-11
April 2-13:	Easter Vacation
May 7:	Senior Prom
May 11:	Senior Mother's Mass BMHS Gymnasium 8:00 am
May 28:	Class of 2010 Graduation Knight Stadium 1:00 pm (by ticket only)
September 24:	Homecoming vs. Laguna Beach 6:00 pm

For more information, go to www.bmhs-la.org
or check the school calendar located
in the student agenda book.



VERITAS

The Magazine of Bishop Montgomery High School

The Latin word *Veritas* is defined "truth." In Roman mythology, *Veritas* was the goddess of truth, a daughter of Saturn and the mother of Virtue. *Veritas* is also the name given to the Roman virtue of truthfulness, which was considered one of the many virtues any good Roman should have possessed. "*Veritas*" is included in many university mottos as well, including Yale University's *Lux et Veritas* (Light and Truth). *Veritas* is also the motto of Harvard University, and the Dominican Order of the Roman Catholic Church. The BMHS motto is "justice, truth, honor" and the case can be made that all pursuits, if they are valid, must first be rooted in truth. We, as a school community, certainly strive to achieve that goal.

VERITAS magazine is published two times a year by the Development Office of Bishop Montgomery High School. For more information or to send comments or suggestions, please contact:

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FAMILY TIES

In the Class of 2013, BMHS' Admissions Office
Discovers Knights Both New and Old

The butterflies in the stomach. The worry of finding the right classroom. The stress of opening a new locker smoothly and calmly. The angst of the first day of high school...

For most of the 256 freshmen in the Class of 2013, the morning of August 19, 2009 was a day they had been looking forward to—some with excitement and anticipation, some with fear and trepidation—but all with a curiosity and eagerness about the next four years at BMHS. Freshman Danielle Shanahan remembers, “I felt a little bit overwhelmed, but also excited. It felt good to be here because I always wanted to go to Bishop.”

For some, the official journey to BMHS began in sixth or seventh grade when they attended a high school information night at their local elementary school. For others, it was not until later that admission to Bishop Montgomery became a priority, perhaps after attending BMHS' Open House in December of their eighth grade year.

For a small group of others, 27 in all, the trip was one that had begun years before when their parents, themselves having

graduated from BMHS, already began thinking about providing their children the positive high school experience they enjoyed. “Both my husband [Abad '90] and I had wonderful times in high school; we both still have a lot of friendships that started at Bishop,” says Eveline Aguiniga-Cabrera '93. “And, we wanted our daughter, Natalie, to go to Bishop because we both received great educations. It seems to be the right fit for Natalie and... it is very, very exciting to have her [at BMHS].”

The story of the Class of 2013—where they come from, and how they got here—is not only a story of 119 young men and 137 young women, it is also a story of over 525 entrance exam scores, at least 1,200 letters of recommendation, over 300 acceptance letters, and hundreds of hours to ensure a happy ending. It is a glimpse of the Bishop Montgomery admissions process as a whole. And, as the freshmen adapt to a new school environment, their experiences help illustrate this story and what it takes to invite, accept and, ultimately, enroll 300 new Knights.



ABOVE:
Members of the Class of 2013 show their enthusiasm at the Homecoming Spirit Games.

The Trip of a Lifetime

For many students, the road to Bishop Montgomery is a relatively smooth one. Having had a sibling or two navigate the high school path before them, they join the campus a little more confidently, already knowing some teachers by name, knowing where the gym is, and knowing never to buy an infamous pool pass from a sly senior. “I felt pretty prepared and not too scared,” says freshman Monica Sweeney. “Since my sister [Allison ’05] and brother [Doug ’08] went to Bishop, I kind of knew what to expect for the next four years. I knew what I was going into.”

Monica, in this respect, is a lot like many of her classmates. In the Class of 2013, 57 students (22%) have at least one sibling who attends (or went) to BMHS. Freshman Joseph Bruccoleri knew his enrollment at Bishop was only a matter of time. With his mother, Joan Bongard-Bruccoleri ’69, and father, Mike Bruccoleri ’68, Joseph was a fixture at his sister Jamie’s ’02 cheer practices and brother Michael’s ’05 football games. He knew that one day it would be his turn: “I had always a strong feeling that I would go to Bishop Montgomery,” he says.

Joan and Mike could not be more proud themselves that the BMHS legacy continues to thrive in their family: “We are thrilled,” giggles Joan. “Mike and I had such a wonderful education from Bishop and it prepared us so well for college and for our careers. And now, to have our children continuing that tradition is so exciting. Bishop is such a family to us.”

Others say that it was the school’s reputation and accolades from friends and family that motivated them to take a closer look. More valuable than any statistics or brochure the school could generate, the positive experiences and impressions of so many current

students and alumni are the school’s best recruiting tools. “Choosing Bishop for our son had a lot to do with continuing his Catholic education,” says Pam Martis, mother of Tyler ’13. After eight years at St. James School, “we had heard nothing but good things about Bishop from families who had children there. We have many friends whose children have graduated [from BMHS] and gone on to really great colleges and had a lot of opportunities. So, our choice was definitely influenced by word of mouth—a lot of people saying great things about the school.”

Leon Rodriguez ’72, a father of three Bishop students (Nathalie ’00, Kaitlyn, a sophomore and, Michael, a freshman) and an alumnus of BMHS himself, found Bishop to be a “nice transition from elementary school, especially when compared to some of the larger schools” in the area. Reflecting on the differences at BMHS since he was a student, Rodriguez notes that “Bishop has gone through many changes,” but with the current administration guiding the school, it has reclaimed the sense of community and camaraderie that he once enjoyed. “Ms. Libbon had just come to the school when my daughter Nathalie started and she has done many great things for Bishop,” he explains. “In recent years, we have been most impressed when we have spoken with her in person. During the testing day for incoming freshmen, for example, she walked around and met everyone. She treated the students like equals, looking them right in the eye when she spoke to them. This reflects well on Bishop and shows how well she works with the students. We see it, and the other parents we talk to see it too.”

After researching and visiting other high schools a few years ago, Nicole Belandres, parent of two current students, Denise ’13 and Corinne ’10, knew that BMHS would be a good fit for her family: “Since my daughter [Corinne] has been at the school, I feel so right about making this decision... the faculty is dedicated to promoting education in a disciplined environment. Teachers like Mrs. Walle, Mr. Flores, Mrs. Fabbri, Ms. O’Connor and Mr. Barker have made such a positive impression on me.” For Belandres, Bishop is “everything that a child and parent would look for in a Catholic high school.”

Now Showing

While the Admissions Office fields phone calls and e-mails from prospective students and families year-round, the formal recruitment season begins about a year before a freshman class enrolls—in the fall of their eighth grade year. After spending much of the summer creating brochures, posters and flyers; assembling information packets; and, updating media presentations, the Admissions Office uses the fall months to visit eighth graders in their classrooms and answer questions about Bishop and high school life. “I liked how the classroom presentation explained things to us. I also liked finding out about all of the different clubs and activities I could get involved in at Bishop,” says freshman Lucas Gutierrez.

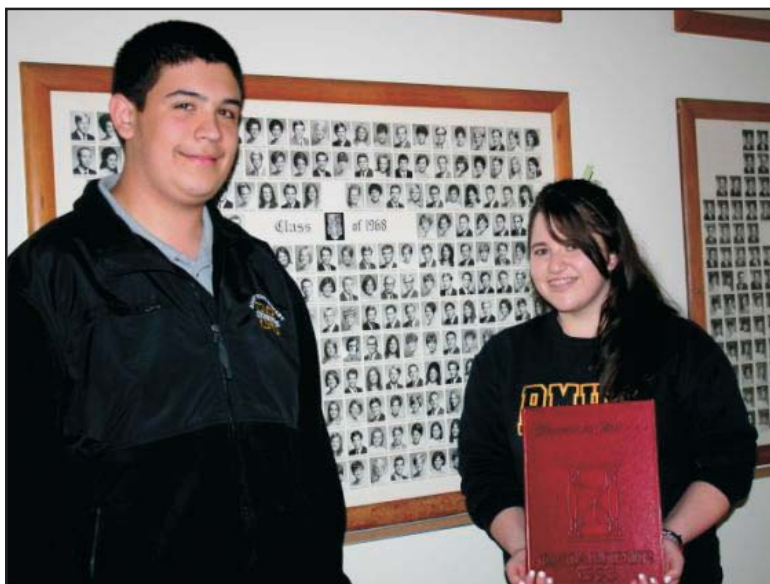
The Class of 2013

By the Numbers

Total	257
Boys	118
Girls	139
Catholic	183
Caucasian	81
Hispanic/Latino	70
African-American	44
Asian/Pacific Islander	30
Filipino	28
Other	3
Children of Alumni	27
Siblings of Current/Former BMHS Students	57
Sets of Twins	2



ABOVE:
Joseph Bruccoleri '13 points to his father's picture in the 1st building hallway.



ABOVE:
Joseph Bruccoleri '13 (left) and Natalie Cabrera '13 (right) each carry on a strong family tradition. Both sets of parents are Bishop Montgomery graduates



ABOVE:
Natalie Cabrera '13 points to her mother's picture in the 1993 yearbook.

Also on the fall calendar are about 15 high school information nights at elementary and middle schools throughout the South Bay. On those evenings, BMHS Director of Admissions Casey Dunn or Assistant Directors Dione Dierks and Patti Loehr give 15-20 minute presentations to students and parents and answer questions about all things high school—from advanced placement classes to carpooling, and everything in between.

Unique to Bishop's presentations is the presence of current or former parents who, in addition to Dunn, Dierks and Loehr, talk about the BMHS experience from an adult perspective. They are able to share the strengths of the school, while empathizing with the prospective parents and the anxiety they may have sending their child off to the next chapter of their lives. Fred Washington, Sr., parent of Bishop alumnus Fred Washington '03, who went on to play basketball for Stanford and pursue a career in law, has volunteered to speak at many information nights over the years. Though the school venues and audiences change from year to year, his message to the parents is always the same: "Bishop is an extended family. The faculty and staff there take our kids with their God-given gifts and magnify those gifts... You can give kids all the knowledge in the world, but these kids at Bishop also have good hearts and they care about one another. That's what really matters."

Although it is the parents who ultimately have the final say where their children go to high school, Dunn is quick to point out the powerful role that the teenagers can have in the decision. "Normally these kids have a pretty good idea of where they want to be. Whether they have gotten information from brothers, sisters, cousins, or neighbors, they already seem to know well in advance that Bishop is their first choice. And," she continues, "as long as their parents are on board with that decision, the application process is usually a very smooth one."

Bishop may count her mother Mary Hansen-Simone '81 as an alumna, but it was freshman Mia Simone who knew BMHS was the school for her. "It was really Mia's decision," says Mary. "Since the first grade, when Andy Marafino came to her classroom and talked about his job [as Director of Development at Bishop Montgomery]... she wanted go to Bishop. She knew that all of my sisters and I went there and, while I think that helped her feel more comfortable with the school, it was really her wanting it. She set her sights on Bishop and made it happen."

For those eighth graders still uncertain about where they will attend high school, Bishop's Open House in December offers them the opportunity to visit the campus and see what the school has to offer. This year's Open House, held on Friday, December 4, followed the two-part format the administration resurrected seven years ago.

During the day-time event, eighth graders from schools throughout the South Bay and beyond were invited on campus for a few hours. While visiting, they toured classrooms and met faculty, explored the campus grounds, and participated in a huge spirit rally in the school gymnasium that included performances by the cheer and drama programs and presentations from ASB and the Athletic and Activities Departments. Freshman Nikolas Linayao found the science class demonstrations particularly intriguing: "I liked seeing the biology labs, the tools the students used and the kinds of experiments they got to do. It was cool because it got me excited about what I could do when I came to Bishop."

Amusing contests and games also gave the eighth graders the opportunity to test their knowledge of BMHS and take home Knight-inspired prizes. Traditionally known as “500 Day” (because over 500 students attend the daytime festivities), this first half of Open House got the students charged and excited about life on the BMHS campus.

In the evening, many of the students, still buzzing about the day’s activities, returned to the campus for the Family Open House, eager to show their parents what BMHS had to offer. During this night-time event, parents and students assembled in the school gymnasium for presentations from Dunn and ASB President and senior Melissa Jaquez and then broke off into small groups to tour the campus. These tours, led by ASB officers and BMHS student ambassadors, allowed visitors to see classrooms, enjoy drama’s mini-performances, observe science demonstrations and hear about campus life first-hand from current students. Representatives from parent organizations including the Mothers’ Club and Boosters, faculty members from each academic department, and moderators and coaches from the school’s clubs and athletic teams, were also on-hand to answer questions and provide information about various campus activities.



ABOVE:
Class of 2013 twins Zachary and Candace Hart.

Gaining Momentum

In January, the Admissions Office kicks into high gear as prospective students submit their applications and take the first official step in the application process. As the applications come in, they are checked for completeness, processed, and readied for review by the Admissions team. This is no small task, however, as the school often receives 500-600 applications in a typical year for the 300 places in the freshman class. “It is very, very exciting and especially wild as we get close to the application deadline,” explains Ingino. “But, everyone in our front office pitches in and helps out, so it works. We are exhausted and usually crawl out of here at the end of the day. We are tired, but happy.”

Along with transcripts, personal essays and letters of recommendation, prospective students also submit an application fee of \$75 which covers the processing of the application and serves as the student’s reservation for the entrance exam. This year, Bishop, an official testing site for the standardized high school entrance exam, had over 400 students for the four-hour test on Saturday, January 30. The remaining applicants may have chosen to test at other high schools in the area and have those test scores forwarded to Bishop to complete their application. After the exam concluded, the scantrons were Fed-Ex’ed to the testing company for scoring with the results back to BMHS within two weeks.

Fingers Crossed

If January was busy, the pace in the Admissions Office in February and early March becomes downright feverish. Once the test scores arrive, each application is evaluated in a three-step process to ensure that every student is given full consideration by the Admissions Committee that includes Dunn, her assistants, BMHS faculty, administrators and Principal Libbon. Libbon finds this part of the process to be very critical in adhering to the school’s philosophy: “Our mission is to support a diverse body of students who come to us from very different backgrounds, and we want to help them develop their Christian values while using their intellectual talents to be the best they can be.”

It is up to the committee to decide if the student has the academic strength, personal integrity and desire to thrive in Bishop’s unique, college-prep environment. “What sets us apart,” explains Libbon, “is that even though we are a college-prep school, we do not market ourselves only in that way. Rather, we pride ourselves on being a community school—one that strives to educate and develop each student to their potential.” And, though academics play a huge part in that education and in the students’ college goals, Libbon and the rest of the BMHS staff help the students realize that there is more to high school than transcripts and SAT scores. “All of our students strive for academic excellence— we know that— but we also want to help them understand that they should strive for excellence in all things they do because they are made in the image of God. Being the best they can be is how they can honor that gift of Creation,” says Libbon.

Most students and their families recognize and appreciate this emphasis that the school puts on the education it provides, and they willingly choose Bishop for an educational experience that extends far beyond the classroom walls. "We are always looking for young people who will bring their best selves and share their gifts and talents with our school community, while growing academically, spiritually and socially in their own right," says Dierks. "Quite often, when we open an application file, we can tell almost immediately that it's going to be a great fit."

At the end of February, the Admissions Committee completes its review and acceptance letters are mailed in early March. "I thought I had a pretty good chance of being accepted, but having to wait and wait to get the official letter was hard," remembers sophomore Melissa Smet. "It was only about six weeks, but it seemed like forever!" Often, the efforts to get the letters in envelopes and posted on time can be Herculean. "There is definitely a crunch," admits Dunn, "but we don't want the students waiting any longer than they have to. We want to let them know our decision as soon as possible."

Then, once those decisions are known, and within just a few weeks afterwards, the new students are back on the BMHS campus to register for the upcoming year. Convening in the Student Activity Center, the new freshmen and their parents decide on classes, buy uniforms, take yearbook and i.d. photos, and sign up for optional summer classes and athletic conditioning. It is always on this special day that the long journey finally reaches its end and high school becomes a reality!



ABOVE:
Class of 2013 twins Christian and Carlos Contreras

So far, for the freshmen in the Class of 2013, it appears to have been a trip worth taking. These 256 new students are well-settled, having become well-educated on the life of a high school student. For the Admissions Office, however, the adventure never ends... on to the Class of 2014!

A Reflection

The following is an excerpt of a letter written by Carolyn Bickel-Kinahan '72. The excerpt is taken from her letter written during her son's application process for Bishop Montgomery. Her son, Matthew, is a member of the Class of 2013.

I am a 1972 graduate of Bishop Montgomery. I have known since the birth of my son that Bishop Montgomery was the high school that I wanted him to attend. I hoped that when the time came for Matthew to go to high school he would feel the same.

First, I must explain about my time at BMHS. My mother died in January of my freshman year. My father died in November of my sophomore year. I was one lost soul during those first two years, but BMHS was my saving grace. The school embraced me. Everyone from the school administration, teachers and students took me to their heart. Maybe it would have been the same way at any school, but I don't think so. My survival during that time was so difficult and I don't think I would have made it in a school where God was not an always-present force. My years at BMHS saved me. I got an excellent education, both in mind and spirit. I went to college and became an RN. I am now the Clinical Director at Torrance Surgery Center and have a wonderful and fulfilling career. I don't think I would be in this place in my life now without God and the nurturing love and education I received at BMHS.

Now that it is time for my child to attend high school, I want those same things for him. I want him in a school where God is ever present, that is nurturing and caring and provides an excellent education. I was really excited and happy when Matthew said he wanted to go to Bishop Montgomery. It almost seems as if things have come full circle. I still live in the house I lived in when I attended BMHS. We are just about a mile from the school. I sleep in the room that was my parent's and Matthew sleeps in the room I did as a child. I know that Matthew would benefit greatly from attending BMHS.

When we came to open house and toured the school, it really brought back so many feelings and memories. I am so grateful for what I received from Bishop Montgomery. Not just the education, but also the other things - spiritual growth, a sense of responsibility to myself and to my community which extends to the larger picture of life. I want my son to have the same opportunity that I did. I want to give back to Bishop Montgomery because of what it gave me -- my life.



ABOVE:

Victoria Smittick-Pulido '06, far left, spends some time relaxing with the children of Agape Christian Church International.

An Epic Journey

2006 graduate embarks on mission to Uganda

For the last five years, 2006 BMHS graduate Victoria Smittick-Pulido has worked with *Invisible Children*, a non-profit group with goals of bringing peace to Uganda and rebuilding the lives of those affected by the country's civil war. But something happened in the early part of 2009 that changed the way Smittick-Pulido wanted her involvement to extend. "I've been involved in *Invisible Children* for some time, but I actually wanted to see the kids in person and work with them directly," explained Smittick-Pulido. That meant she was on her way to Uganda and the trip of a lifetime.

The spring and summer of 2009 were a hectic time for Smittick-Pulido as she made her preparations for her six-week long trip to Uganda - errands, doctor's appointments (shots!), work, school, Bible study, and learning a new language. All the planning was worth it when October 5, her day of departure, finally arrived. "At times I was so busy I felt as though I could lose it at any moment," she explained. "Then I was reading Romans, my favorite book of the Bible, and Paul writes: 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' (Romans 15:13). After I read this verse I got excited because I realized that I just needed to put all of my trust in Him. God is a God who will handle everything more efficiently than I can." With the blessing of her family and the strength of her faith, Smittick-Pulido's mission was just beginning.

While in Uganda, Smittick-Pulido, who majors in education and youth and family ministry at Biola University, worked with Agape Global Missions, an organization whose mission is "to take God's demonstration of love through Christ into a lost world." One of her main goals during her six-weeks in Uganda was to help set up a children's ministry at Agape Christian Church International. "I worked quite a bit with Dr. Linda Marcell, a full-time missionary in Uganda," explained Smittick-Pulido. "We bought Bibles for the kids and helped wherever we were needed." The children Smittick-Pulido worked with were ages 7-11 and there were even a few as young as three years old. "The first Sunday I was there we had eight kids show up," she stated. "By the time I left we had 30 kids, some of whom would walk over an hour each way to come to church."

In addition to working with younger kids by helping with Bible studies and putting on Vacation Bible School-style events, Smittick-Pulido also assisted Dr. Marcell and the missionaries with

trauma counseling. "Uganda is a war-torn country, like so many countries in east Africa," she explained. "Kids and teens who have been abducted by soldiers in the armies need counseling to help heal the emotional effects of what they have been through." Agape Global Missions, based in Kampala, Uganda, extends its arms of ministry to the bordering countries of Kenya, Sudan and Rwanda, countries that are, like Uganda, dealing with civil wars and rebel armies. "Many of these kids and teens need counseling after escaping raids on their villages...it is just a different world there," she added.

When asked what she will remember most about her trip, Smittick-Pulido had a difficult time narrowing it down to one thing. "Working with the kids and interacting with them and the people there was one of the best parts of my six weeks," she said. "It was also fun to teach them English and learn about their lives. They asked a lot of questions about the United States and things we might take for granted," she continued. "They wanted to know simple things like how I learned to ride a bike. I realized that something as simple as that for an American is not so common to others in the world."

To help her remember her experiences and, more importantly, learn from them, Smittick-Pulido wrote a weekly blog about her trip and she took over 900 pictures. In the future, Smittick-Pulido plans on returning to Uganda in 2012 after she graduates from Biola University. "I hope to be able to get to northern Uganda next time because there is even more strife in that part of the country."

To see more pictures and to read more about her experiences in Uganda, visit her blog at <http://matorianuganda.blogspot.com/>.

Walking Where Jesus Walked

By Bobby Cappasola '91

In March 2004, BMHS Religion teacher John Fitzsimons boarded a plane for Israel as part of the fledgling Holy Land Democracy Project, a joint venture between the Jewish Federation and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The goal of this pilot project was to bring Catholic school teachers to Israel to experience the Holy Land first-hand, and then return to their schools to share their experiences. Six years later, Fitzsimons is working with the Archdiocese and the Federation's Rabbi Hal Greenwald to take the next step and bring students directly to Israel. Once again, Bishop Montgomery stands at the forefront of the project, with five to seven students slated to make this historic trip.

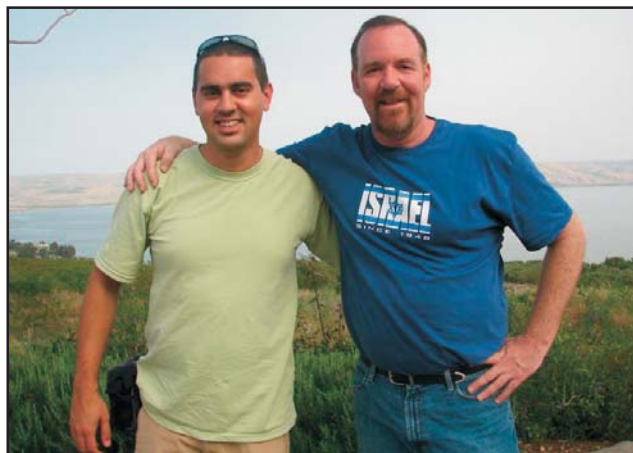
Mr. Fitz, as he is affectionately known by his students, was accompanied on the initial trip by high school teachers from Ramona Convent, Pomona Catholic, St. Matthias, and St. Joseph's, along with members of the Jewish Federation. The project was deemed a great success and that first mission served as the template for future trips. BMHS was prominently featured in the promotional video for the Project, and several Bishop students won awards in the student essay contest, including grand prize winner Rachel Pittluck '06.

Since 2004 The Holy Land Democracy Project has grown to include the Dioceses of Orange County and Bakersfield, and Bishop Montgomery's participation and leadership has never diminished. In 2006, BMHS teacher Tomas Renna joined Fitzsimons as he returned to Israel on the third trip, and in 2008, BMHS teacher Bernadette St. James was one of eighteen teachers to visit Israel with the Project.

"My participation in the Democracy Project has been a high point of my teaching career," said Mrs. St. James, "One can't help but feel the spiritual wealth of the land while growing to appreciate and understand better the vibrant history, politics, culture and diversity of the people. This project has opened the imaginations of my students and sparked passion and intrigue for Israel's sacred places and history."

It seemed only natural, then, to someday expand the trip to include students. "If the students are so impacted by learning about Israel from a teacher who has been there," noted Fitzsimons, "How much more will they gain from hearing about it from classmates? We started dreaming of this during the plane ride home."

Juniors Laura Bell, Blaire Frei, Nikki Garcia, Karly Goins, and Karlygush Smith have been chosen to represent BMHS and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles as the pioneers in this latest genesis of the project. Having already been inspired by the project in Mr. Fitz's class, these eleventh graders are understandably excited



ABOVE:

Tomas Renna and John Fitzsimons in Capernaum with the Sea of Galilee in the background.

about the possibility of visiting the Holy Land. "It's Israel! It's like the Hawaii for believers in Christ!" says Smith. Goins is equally excited: "I was inspired by the way Mr. Fitz described his experience at the Western Wall; I want to feel that amazing connection."

It was Nikki Garcia, however, who really got Mr. Fitz thinking the timing was finally right. At the end of the unit last May, she told him, "I talked it over with my parents, and I just want you to know that if you ever take students, I want to go." Garcia has dreamed of going to Israel since her grandparents went a few years ago, and that desire was reawakened during the unit, particularly, she said, as she looked at the various artifacts Fitzsimons brought back.

The students were chosen strictly through merit with no regard for their financial status: "Fr. Sal Pilato (Superintendent of Catholic Schools) felt it was important that this opportunity be available to all students, and I agree wholeheartedly," says Fitzsimons. Thus, some of the students will be seeking sponsorship.

It seems fitting that Mr. Fitz's students would be participants in this trip; since the first project meeting in January 2004, he has been a part of the fabric of the program. In addition to having gone on two missions and having his class filmed for the promotional video, he currently serves as educational consultant, working closely with Rabbi Hal. The two conduct the teacher training and are co-authoring a student reader as they revise and update the curriculum. Now, having received the blessing of the Archdiocese, they are working to put the last piece of the puzzle in place - a student trip. Tentative plans are being made for an August mission that would include tours of Jerusalem, the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, and other holy sites. The trip would also include experiences unavailable to the average tourist, including visiting Druze village, meeting with a member of the Knesset, and having leisure time with Israeli teens of various backgrounds and faith.

Once in a lifetime seems to get used loosely, but these students will have the chance to experience something truly unique. What better way for students to learn about Judaism and Christianity than to walk amongst the history themselves?

BMHS in the “News”

This past fall, BMHS principal Rosemary Libbon received a call from the publishers of *U.S. News & World Report*, one of the most respected and widely read magazines in the country. The purpose of the phone call was to invite Bishop Montgomery to create an advertisement in their January 2010 issue, featuring the magazine's rankings of America's 100 best high schools. Only one school in each area is invited by the magazine to place an advertisement and BMHS was the South Bay's representative.

For years, *U.S. News & World Report*, which has a circulation of more than 2 million, has published many “best of” lists - colleges, medical schools, hospitals, and cars, for example. More recently, the magazine has published its rankings for America's best high schools. The BMHS advertisement appears in over 94,000 issues of the January 2010 edition. These issues are circulated to homes and businesses in the South Bay. Below is the advertisement as it appears in the magazine.

Special Advertising Section

As Seen In... *U.S. News & World Report*, January 2010

Bishop Montgomery High School

'Speak Truth, Seek Justice, Serve With Honor'

An Archdiocesan, college preparatory Catholic high school whose name honors the first American-born Bishop of Los Angeles, the Most Reverend George T. Montgomery, Bishop Montgomery has been dedicated to “educating the whole person” for more than 50 years, says Principal Rosemary Libbon. “Recognizing parents as primary educators, we assist in the spiritual, intellectual, social, and physical development of every student. To do this, we provide a challenging college preparatory curriculum that enables our students to continue with higher education,” she explains. “We strive to create an atmosphere which provides opportunities for our students to grow into mature young men and women who are responsible for their actions and ready to pursue their goals.”

Bishop Montgomery graduates are prepared and qualify for admission into the University of California and California State University systems as well as other prestigious colleges and universities in the United States; among them, Harvard, Stanford, Johns Hopkins, Brown and Yale. Ninety-four percent of the Class of 2009 applied to a four-year institution, and 92 percent of those students were accepted. The curriculum includes opportunities to choose from among five languages as well as 27 Honors and AP classes.

Students enjoy a wide variety of co-curricular activities that include 12 athletic programs for young men and 10 for young women, academically-oriented affiliations, and student interest clubs. Students can choose to participate in the Campus Ministry program, theatre arts, the school newspaper, student government or one of the many interest-based clubs. There are a wealth of opportunities for students to apply the teachings of the Gospels to human relationships.

Campus Ministry fosters faith development and promotes a spirit of community through Masses, a retreat program and other faith-sharing activities. Community service is an integral part of life at Bishop Montgomery, a concrete expression of faith that is manifested through acts



of generosity and service to individuals and families within the school community as well as to those in need outside of the school community.

One Diverse Community

Bishop Montgomery's diverse student body, faculty and staff come together to form a dynamic community. Ms. Libbon says, “This is a special place blessed with an excellent faculty and staff and wonderful students who strive daily for excellence. We are large enough, 1,200 students, to offer a wide range of opportunities, but small enough for each student to be seen, acknowledged, recognized and valued for who he or she is.”

“Bishop Montgomery High School,” she adds, “is an exceptional place.”




Go Knights: Athletics are important to life at Bishop Montgomery High School. Combined, the girls' and boys' athletics teams have won 23 CIF (California Interscholastic Federation) and 11 state championships.

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ANNUAL REPORT

2008-2009



Thank You.



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Each year, alumni, parents, past parents, and friends support Bishop Montgomery High School by contributing to BMHS' fundraising efforts. The Knight Pride program and our other fundraising programs allow us to continue to make BMHS an outstanding school. Our sincerest appreciation goes to all those listed below for their meaningful endorsement of the mission of Bishop Montgomery High School. The list of donors below encompasses the fiscal year July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009.

In reports of this nature, mistakes are inevitable. If your gift was omitted or improperly noted, please accept our apology. If you have noticed such an error, please notify the Development Office at 310-540-2021 ext. 246, so we can correct our records.

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ABOVE:

BMHS student Mary Hoffman '13 works on a project in her ceramics class.

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Mission Statement

The mission of Bishop Montgomery High School is to provide quality Catholic education primarily to college bound students of varied academic abilities from the South Bay area.

We serve the needs of the Church and the larger community by providing intellectually mature persons who have learned to integrate world knowledge with Catholic beliefs and values.

Our mission is accomplished through the cooperative efforts of parents, students, and staff by providing a rigorous curriculum and a positive discipline program that challenges all students to reach their potential.

The mission is realized in a community that nourishes the faith life of the parents, students, and staff through prayer, worship, and service to others.

The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, racial or ethnic origin in administration or its education policies, admission policies, scholarships and loan program, and athletic or other school administered programs.

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ABOVE:

Cristina Cooper '03 and Kristen Castillo '04 share great memories at the Girls' Volleyball Alumni game.

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April Ricardo
Sean Whalen



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Black & Gold Night

Each spring, Bishop Montgomery hosts its biggest fundraiser of the year, Black & Gold Night. The event is attended by current and past parents, alumni, friends, faculty, and staff who join together to enjoy the event's silent and live auctions, dinner, dancing, and Hall of Fame induction ceremony. We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to all those who attended the 9th Annual Black & Gold Night in 2009 and to all those who supported this fundraising event.

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ABOVE:
BMHS faculty member Linda Reano, right, and her husband, Jim, enjoy themselves at Black & Gold Night.



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ABOVE:

Matt Gomez '10, Leslie Salisbury '10, Alejandra Gonzalez '10 and Jessica Flores '12 (l to r) earn spirit points for their classes at the Black & Gold Breakfast.



HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Golf Tournament

The 7th Annual Bishop Montgomery/Morgan Miranda Memorial Golf Tournament was a tremendous day for all involved - golfers, dinner guests, volunteers, and the committee. Once again, the tournament raised money for the tuition assistance scholarship in Morgan Miranda's name. One of the highlights of the day was the recognition of the annual award recipients. The Linda Award was presented to George and Shirley Taylor. The Nelson Award was presented to Rod Mendoza and his family. The Spirit Award was presented, posthumously, to Mike Murphy. Mike's sons, Paul and Ed accepted the award. We thank all those who made this a special day.

George Adkins
Frank Asaro '74
Tony Asaro
B. Bieski
Matt Blanco '00
John Briscoe '73
Ron Buchanan
Andy Burschinger '12
Jim Burschinger '73
Geoff Caesar
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Andy Marafino
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Ricky Mendoza
Mr. and Mrs. Rod Mendoza
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Ed Miranda
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Alex Proano '05
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Steve Salisbury '05
Pete Schiller
Roger Shaulis
Elaine Shiller
J. Southern
Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor
Ed Trejo '94
Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Villegas
Bernie Vujicic
David Woods
Mark Woods '00
Tim Zimmerman '00



ABOVE:

BMHS Alumni (l to r) Neal Manalansan '03, Allen Manalansan '00, Tracie Manalansan '00 and Jason May '00 prepare to tee off.



Endowed and Annual Scholarships

In the past twelve years, the scholarship program at Bishop Montgomery High School has grown from one scholarship to twenty-five. The tremendous growth of the program is due in large part because of the generosity of so many parents, alumni and friends who have chosen to create a lasting gift to BMHS. Endowed and annual scholarship funds are essential to ensuring an economically diverse school community and are a critical component in BMHS' tradition of supporting financially needy students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend the school. For the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2009, endowment funds for Bishop Montgomery totaled \$466,144.86.

Endowed

Mayr-Leahy Scholarship
The Palos Verdes Resale Endowment
in Honor of Fran Donohoe Pitts
Robert Roach Memorial Scholarship
The Michael B. Ruggera, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
The George and Virginia Schneider Endowment
William Wolfenbarger Scholarship Endowment

Annual

Sumer Nicole Alvarez Scholarship
Mike Antista Memorial Scholarship
BMHS Queen of Angels Scholarship
Fred Brierley Memorial Scholarship
Jimmy Clarke Scholarship
Doheny High School Scholarship Program
Adam Guymon Memorial Scholarship
Kathryn Kelly Scholarship
Joshua Lopez Scholarship
Jeffrey J. Mahowald Memorial Scholarship
Val Manalansan Memorial Scholarship
George H. Mayr Scholarship
Damion Mendoza Scholarship
Morgan E. Miranda Memorial Scholarship
Jean Miyoshi Scholarship
Mike Murphy Memorial Scholarship
Piechocki Scholarship
John Scanlin Memorial Scholarship
Susan Stark Meyer Memorial Scholarship



ABOVE:

BMHS Development Director Andy Marafino, center, with Joan Ortolano, left, Fran Donohoe-Pitts '67, seated, and Karen Malinowski, right, of Palos Verdes Resale at their volunteer breakfast on December 7, 2009.

Endowment in Honor of Alumna Established

On December 7, 2009, Palos Verdes Resale presented a \$52,000 check to Bishop Montgomery to establish the Palos Verdes Resale Endowment in honor of Fran Donohoe Pitts. The scholarship honors Donohoe-Pitts, a 1967 BMHS graduate and the founder of Palos Verdes Resale, a thrift shop that is dedicated to serving the community. Since the shop opened in 2004, it has distributed close to \$1 million to charitable organizations. The purpose of the endowment is to provide an annual scholarship to a BMHS graduating senior for college tuition. At the check presentation, BMHS Director of Development Andy Marafino expressed his gratitude to all the volunteers and board members of Palos Verdes Resale. "I was truly thrilled to finally meet Fran," said Marafino. "She is a remarkable person and it is obvious that she touches so many lives with her presence and with all the work she does for the community."

National Merit Scholarship Program Honors Ten BMHS Seniors

Ten BMHS seniors have been honored by the National Achievement Scholarship Program for their exceptional performance on the PSAT taken in October 2008, when they were juniors.

Annette Martin '10 was named a National Merit Semi-Finalist - one of the 16,000 highest-scoring students in the country (less than 1%), out of 1.5 million who took the exam. Martin was also one of 5,000 students (out of a pool of over 200,000) recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program. Her performance on the PSAT placed her in the 97th percentile among Hispanic students who took the test.

Six students were named National Merit Commended students: Christopher Heppell '10, Erika Holmbeck '10, Anthony Lubbers '10, Edward McLaughlin '10, Viraj Panchal '10, and Andrew Petersen '10. These students are among the top 5% of the 1.5 million students who took the PSAT.

Tyler Kincaid '10 was named an Outstanding Participant by the National Achievement Scholarship Program for African American



ABOVE:

BMHS' Merit Scholars (top from left): Tyler Kincaid, Christopher Heppell, Anthony Lubbers, and Sandra Zaragoza (bottom from left): Annette Martin, Eddie McLaughlin, Viraj Panchal, Teresa Puente, and Andrew Peterson.

High School students. Of the 160,000 African American students who took the PSAT, Tyler's score placed him in the top 3%.

Teresa Puente '10 and Sandra Zaragoza '10 were recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program for their achievement on the PSAT. They placed in the 97th percentile among all Hispanic students.



BMHS Senior Speaks at Undergrad Awards Ceremony

On November 3, 2009, BMHS senior Leslie Salisbury '10 was the featured speaker at the Undergraduate Awards Ceremony held in the campus gymnasium. Salisbury urged her classmates to take a moment to thank their teachers, counselors, and Ms. Libbon for guiding them through their studies and helping them achieve success in the classroom. She also asked her peers to try new things while at school. "We should all challenge ourselves with the time we have left at Bishop, whether it is three years or just a few months, to try something we have not done before... We may discover talents or qualities we never knew we had, or make new friends in the process of discovering something we are terrible at, for that lesson is just as important." Salisbury's final message to her classmates was to embrace all that the school has to offer - the gift of a great education, the opportunity to make lifelong friends and "the community that is fostered here at Bishop."

Athletic Hall of Fame to be Established

After months of planning and research, Bishop Montgomery will establish an athletic hall of fame to honor those in the community who have made a significant impact in athletics at the school. "There are so many people and teams who have had a positive influence on Bishop Montgomery, dating back to when the school opened in 1957," states Andy Marafino, Director of Development and Alumni. "We want to appropriately acknowledge and honor the exceptional alumni, coaches, parents, boosters, and teams who have made BMHS athletics successful over the years."

Plans have begun to induct the first hall of fame class in the early part of 2011. The selection committee, which will be chaired by BMHS alumnus and current parent **Bob Jamison '68**, will have several responsibilities including the creation of a mission statement, nominee evaluations, and the induction ceremony planning.

Those interested in nominating a former athlete, coach, team or BMHS supporter are welcome to do so. "We are looking to honor those who demonstrated outstanding athletic achievement while at Bishop Montgomery," explained Jamison.



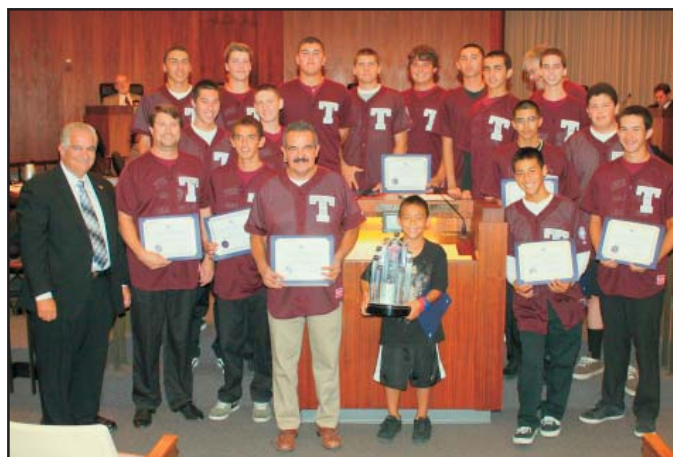
"But," continued Jamison, "we also think that it is important to induct members who have demonstrated a high standard of ethics in the years following their time at Bishop."

In the coming months, complete nomination procedures, rules, and forms will be available at www.bmhs-la.org.

Two Students Honored by City of Torrance

On Tuesday, October 27, 2009, two current BMHS juniors, **Michelle Glymph '11** and **Johnny McLaughlin '11**, received proclamations from Torrance Mayor Frank Scotto and the Torrance City Council. Glymph and McLaughlin had busy summers as they represented not only their school, but also the City of Torrance and the United States.

Glymph, an accomplished baton twirler who has competed both nationally and internationally, was honored not only for her achievements as a twirler, but for her philanthropy as well. In the fall, Glymph traveled to Peru to participate in the country's 59th Springtime Festival. While in Peru, Glymph and others from her delegation volunteered at orphanages, prisons, hospitals and nursing homes and were successful in raising enough money to build a new hospital. Glymph is pictured, at left, with Torrance Mayor Frank Scotto.



ABOVE:
Members of the Torrance 15-year old Babe Ruth team pose with Torrance Mayor Frank Scotto. Johnny McLaughlin is in the top row, sixth from the left.

McLaughlin, an All-Del Rey League pick for the Knights' baseball team, was honored along with his teammates on the Torrance 15-year old Babe Ruth team that competed in the World Series in August. The 15-year old Torrance team was the Pacific Southwest Regional Champions and had a magical run in the World Series held in Longview, WA. The team lost in the championship game, 4-3, to Tallahassee, FL. McLaughlin, a pitcher and infielder, was named to the All-Tournament team.



ABOVE:

Andy Cannata '10 passes a competitor at the State Finals in Fresno.

BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY

The boys' cross country team turned in some impressive performances both individually and as a team under new head coach **Barbara Frank**. At the Del Rey League finals, **Andy Cannata '10** finished 2nd overall with a time of 15:24 in the three mile race. His performance earned him First Team All-Del Rey League honors. The team finished third in league and qualified for the CIF Division IV finals, where they finished in 16th place. In the CIF finals, Cannata was the Knights' top runner, taking 13th place (16:09) to qualify for the state finals in Fresno. In the state finals, Cannata finished 10th with a time of 16:02 and became the first runner in school history to earn All-State honors. In the southern section finals, strong performances were turned in by **Charley Grove '10** (17:37), **Walter Gonzalez '10** (17:51) and **Chris Balcer '10** (18:05). Earlier in the year, the team traveled to Palo Alto to compete in the prestigious Stanford Invitational, where they placed 14th out of 32 schools.

FOOTBALL

After an opening week 28-10 win against Mary Star, the Knights' football team struggled to stay healthy and struggled to find consistency on offense en route to a 1-9 season. Several players turned in solid performances under head coach **Arnold Ale**. Senior co-captain **Unaloto Hamala '10** was named first team All-Del Rey League. Hamala started at full-back and linebacker and signed to play at the University of San Diego. Fellow co-captains **Quinten Howard '10** and **Matthew Simmons '10** were named 2nd team All-Del Rey League. Howard was a running back and defensive back. Simmons, a Washington State Signee, was a wideout and cornerback. Three others were named 2nd Team All-Del Rey League - senior **Felix Gonzalez '10**, junior **Christian Holloway '11** and freshman placekicker **Jonathan Kim '13**. Kim had several highlights during the year, including kicking a career-long field goal of 44 yards against El Segundo.

GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY



Annie Grove '12

Not only did the girls' cross country team have an impressive year, but they did so with some talented young runners under the guidance of head coach **Shannon Williams '01**. Sophomore **Annie Grove '12** won the Del Rey League individual cross country championship with a time of 18:28 over the three mile course. She was named Most Valuable Runner in the Del Rey League. Freshman **Danielle Shanahan '13** placed 2nd in the league finals with a time of 19:13 and was named first team All-Del Rey League. As a team, the



Quinten Howard '10

Lady Knights came in 3rd in league and qualified for the CIF Division IV finals, where they placed 13th overall. The CIF finals proved to be very successful for BMHS as both Shanahan and Grove qualified for the state finals in Fresno. Shanahan finished 7th with a time of 18:35 while Grove finished 11th (18:48). At the state finals, Shanahan finished in 12th place (18:47). Grove finished in 15th place with a time of 18:53.

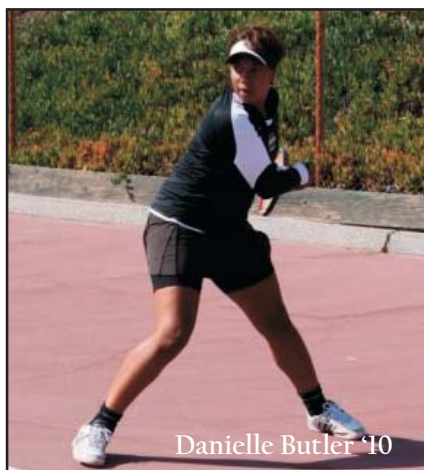
GIRLS' GOLF

The girls' golf team, under the guidance of new head coach **Ed Miranda**, made significant improvements throughout the year. The young squad was led by junior **Siena Rizzo '11**. Rizzo was the Lady Knights' top scorer at the Del Rey League finals with a 13th place finish.



Siena Rizzo '11

GIRLS' TENNIS



Danielle Butler '10

The girls' tennis team (12-3) won their third straight Del Rey League team title with a perfect 8-0 record in league matches. Under the guidance of new head coach Alex Angel, the Lady Knights advanced to the second round of the CIF Division IV playoffs and had several athletes advance to the CIF individual playoffs. Leading the way for BMHS were seniors Danielle Butler '10 and Melanie Scott '10. In the Del Rey League singles final, Butler defeated Scott 6-1, 6-2 to

claim the individual title. Teammate Samantha Judan '12 reached the league semi-finals before falling to Butler. BMHS' top doubles team of Sionan Barrett '12 and Nicole Caluag '11 reached the league finals before losing to a duo from La Salle 6-4, 6-1. Butler, Scott, Barrett and Caluag were named first team All-Del Rey League. Following the CIF team playoffs, Butler and Scott advanced to the CIF individual playoffs in Whittier. The doubles tandem of Barrett and Caluag advanced to the CIF doubles tournament, also held in Whittier.

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

The girls' volleyball team (25-8) added to its rich history with another outstanding season. The Lady Knights, led by head coach Carrie Rey, went undefeated in league, won the Del Rey League title for the fourth year in a row, and advanced to the CIF playoffs for the 28th consecutive season. Unfortunately, the Lady Knights' season ended in dramatic fashion when they lost in the CIF semi-finals to Redlands East Valley in five games 25-18, 25-23, 23-25, 21-25, 15-12.

"The girls fought and played as a team," said Carrie Rey after the semi-final loss. "They did everything this season a coach could ask." The team was led by University of Virginia-bound Rachel Clark '10, who was named Del Rey League MVP, and setter Teresa Puente '10, who was a 1st team selection. Seniors Sami Almarez '10 and Dani Bongard '10 were also 1st team All-League selections. Amelia Keeling '10 and Bria Green '13 were named 2nd team All-League.



Rachel Clark '10

Athletic News & Notes

- Josh Jones '05, a senior football player at Harding University, was named 1st Team AP Little All-America and 1st Team AFCA Division II All-America. He finished the season tied for 2nd in the nation (Div. II) in interceptions with eight.
- Michael Kim '08, a freshman soccer player, below right, started 14 of 15 games for the United States Military Academy men's soccer team this past season.
- Maiya Cooper '09, a freshman soccer player at Southeastern Louisiana, below left, was named 1st Team All-Southland Conference and led her school to its first-ever NCAA tournament berth. Cooper led the team with 14 goals and 32 points.



ABOVE:
Rachel Clark '10, center in orange sweatshirt, and Kim Kurata '10, center in gray sweatshirt, pose with classmates after signing national letters-of-intent to continue their athletic careers in college. Clark, a volleyball standout, signed with the University of Virginia. Kurata, a standout on the softball team, signed with Fairfield University (CT).

JSA Students Earn Their Gavels

On November 14-15, BMHS teachers Jeremiah Bruner and Cynthia DeLay accompanied 22 students to the Junior State of American (JSA) Fall Convention at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott. The purpose of JSA is to allow high school students an opportunity to express their opinions on current events and controversial issues that affect United States citizens. At the fall convention, approximately 650 students from over 30 California high schools participated in debates and discussions of current events and politics. One of the characteristics of a JSA debate is that students watching and participating in the debate vote for the student whom they felt was the best speaker in that individual debate. The weekend proved to be especially successful for the Bishop Montgomery contingent as three students won awards - gavels - for best speaker in their respective debates. Brendon Villalobos '10, a junior and BMHS chapter president, won two "Best Speaker" gavels, one for his discussion on the role of women in military combat and



ABOVE:
L to R: JSA members Savana Schwarzkopf '11, Ericka Lewin '11, Cazimir Park '12, Brendon Villalobos '10, Alisha Lewin '11, and Peyton Porche '11 before the opening session of the Fall Convention.

one for his discussion on giving convicted felons the right to vote. Senior Eric Park '10 won a "Best Speaker" gavel for his discussion on a resolution to ban recreational hunting. Finally, sophomore Cazimir Park '12 rounded out the awards for BMHS by winning a "Best Speaker" gavel for his debate on a variety of topics during the main assembly of the convention.

Alumna and Students Use Soccer to Help Others Through Get!Give!Go!

Look in the closets and garages of almost any family these days and you are sure to find used AYSO soccer uniforms that no longer fit and equipment that is no longer needed. Instead of throwing it away, one Bishop Montgomery family has started an organization that not only finds a use for these items, but helps those less fortunate in the process.

This summer, Vicki Leach-Gomez '80, along with her husband, Greg Gomez '80, and children, Matt '10 and Megan '12, started Get!Give!Go!, an organization dedicated to providing soccer balls, running shoes, cleats and team uniforms to children in third world countries. With the help of over twenty local grammar and high schools, including BMHS, Loyola, Palos Verdes, and Peninsula, colleges, teams and retail stores in the South Bay and Los Angeles, Get!Give!Go! collects the used items and ships them to Africa, India, Mexico, Afghanistan and other destinations. "We wanted to give back in some way," explained Vicki. "The love in our family for soccer and for children was the perfect segue. We realized sports and soccer is a universal language, and thought it would be cool to help children less fortunate all over the world."

One of the primary recipients of the items is the people of Kibera, a province of Nairobi, Kenya and the second



ABOVE:
Vicki Leach-Gomez '80 (back row, far right) organizes students in the gathering of soccer equipment along with her daughter, Megan '12 (fourth from left).

largest slum in Africa. After learning of the poverty that overwhelms the people of Kibera from a woman they befriended over the summer who travels to the Kiberan slums often, Leach-Gomez knew it was a great place to start. "Our friend shared with us her stories of the poor children who play soccer with a foil-made ball, dirt patch for a field, no shoes on their feet or shirt on their back," Leach-Gomez explained.

One of the obstacles Get!Give!Go! faces is financing the cost to ship the items overseas. "Because the boxes are so stuffed with uniforms, cleats and balls, it costs about \$500 to ship just one," explained Megan, who helps prepare the boxes by separating uniforms into similar colors so that the children can have teams when they play. Other BMHS ambassadors joining Megan and Matt Gomez are seniors Giovanni Falcon '10, Kristin Mihara '10 and Michelle Rohrer '10 and sophomore Nicolas Quijije '12.

If you would like to donate soccer equipment and/or uniforms or money to help with shipping, contact Vicki Leach-Gomez '80 at v.leach@verizon.net.

ADVANCING THE MISSION OF BISHOP MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Dear Friends of Bishop Montgomery,

Welcome to another issue of *Veritas* magazine and our Annual Report edition. As always, it is a pleasure to bring you the stories and adventures of the members of the Bishop Montgomery community - students, teachers, alumni, and current and past parents. When the Development staff sits down to plan each issue of *Veritas*, we are proud of the fact that there are so many stories to tell. The current students continue to amaze with their academic, athletic, artistic and leadership accomplishments and with their generosity to those in need in the school community and the communities in which they live. The work our alumni are doing in their communities is also overwhelming. There are so many stories to tell that choosing those to put in the magazine is one of the most difficult jobs we have.

The Annual Report is an opportunity for us to once again thank all of those who made a financial commitment to Bishop Montgomery. Without your support, we would not be able to continue to grow as a school and as a community. We would not be able to provide the students with the facilities, equipment and programs that help us carry out our mission of helping to produce graduates who are Christ-centered, academically dedicated, physically knowledgeable, and socially responsible.

We would also like to take an opportunity to thank all those who help make *Veritas* magazine possible - our readers. Financial contributions to our annual giving program, Knight Pride, are vital to allowing us to continue to publish the magazine, but we would also not be able to do so without all the members of our community who continue to do great things. Many of the articles we publish come to us through alumni who stop by our office to let us know what they are up to, or through the news we receive for our "Class Notes" section. We also get to experience, on a daily basis, the outstanding work our students and faculty are doing and we want to relay that to you.

The last few years have been a challenging time economically for many of us and we have had to shift our perspectives and our priorities. However, now more than ever, BMHS will rely on our annual giving program to support the continued success of Bishop Montgomery and its students.

Each year, we have families who need tuition assistance to keep their children enrolled at BMHS, and this year that number has grown. We will continue to direct all unrestricted gifts to our tuition assistance program, but, as always, you may direct your gift to any program of your choosing. Both last year and this year, the response to our requests for support has been overwhelming and every gift is a blessing to our school and our students.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Veritas*. The magazine and the Annual Report is one of the ways we say "thank you" to every member of the Bishop Montgomery community. Your support is evident in the pages of the magazine; more importantly, it is evident in the smiles on the faces of the students in the halls of Bishop Montgomery. Our students are truly happy to be here. This would not be possible without your continued support.

Thank you!

Gratefully,



Andy Marafino
Director of Development



"Fastest Woman in the World" Returns to BMHS



Jeter sprints to the finish line in Greece.

October 8, 2009 marked a special day at BMHS when Carmelita Jeter '98 returned to campus for both business and pleasure. Less than a month after establishing herself as the dominant female sprinter in the world, Jeter returned to campus with a Swedish television crew to shoot some footage for a story about her. After the film crew left, Jeter spent time visiting with some of her former teachers and student-athletes (she served as the BMHS track coach from 2005-2008). While visiting with Mrs. Skelley and her 2nd period sophomore English class, Jeter took some time for pictures and autographs. Students in Ms. Britton's freshman English class asked Jeter questions about her travels and she asked the students about how they were doing in the Spirit Games that were taking place during Homecoming Week.



Jeter, center in purple shirt, poses with Mrs. Skelley's 2nd period sophomore English class.

The month of September culminated a busy year for Jeter. On September 13 at the World Athletics Final in Thessaloniki, Greece, Jeter won the women's 100m with a time of 10.67. Just seven days later, Jeter bested her performance by running a 10.64 100m at the Shanghai Golden Grand Prix, a time that is the second fastest time ever recorded by a woman. Only the late Florence Griffith-Joyner (10.49) has run a faster 100m. For more information on Jeter, visit her website at www.carmelitajeter.com.

1960's

Glen Conway '62 is a pharmacist in Eugene, OR. He and his wife of 26 years, Barbara, have 2 daughters, a son and one granddaughter.

1970's

Patti Murphy-McCormick '71 and her husband, Walt, work on the space shuttle program in Florida.

1980's

Karen Forney-Brooker '86 and her husband, Neil, welcomed Emily Elizabeth, below, on April 10, 2009. Emily's new big brother, Nathan, 4, loves making his little sister smile!



Cece Deiparine '88 works as an Electronic Surveillance Technician for the FBI.

1990's

Gerard Deiparine '91 currently works as a DEA agent for the federal government.

Shaida Kafe-Gomez '93 and her husband, Luis, welcomed Kiana Grace, below, on January 23, 2009.



Erin Elexis '96, a 2000 graduate of the University of San Diego, received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Alliant International University in March 2009. She is currently working as a child psychologist for the Center of Autism Research, Evaluation & Service (CARES) in San Diego.



Dave Podzimek '98 and his wife, Salina, welcomed their first child, Easton Joseph, above, on September 13, 2009.



Liza McMichael-Laurent '98 and Tony Laurent, above, were married on July 20, 2009 in Malibu.

2000's

Daniel Fynaardt '00 and Hailey Lowe were married on November 22, 2008 in Boulder, CO. They reside in Denver.

Christopher Vigil '01 works at Dream-Works Animation. He worked in the animation department for *Kung Fu Panda* (2007) and he is currently working as the Production Art Coordinator for *Shrek 4* due out in Spring 2010.

Aaron Vigil '06 is attending Long Beach State where he is studying music and journalism. He is also the music engineer for several commercial websites.

Libby Dippel '09 is attending Sonoma State University where she is studying nursing. Last year, she participated in Providence Little Company of Mary Hospital's Biomedical program, which is designed to introduce students to nursing. Dippel was one of 11 South Bay students, along with fellow classmate Kayla Almaraz '09, to receive a scholarship from the Providence Little Company of Mary Foundation.

HELP WANTED: CLASS REPS

In an effort to reach as many graduates as possible, we are looking for alumni to be representatives for their class. The job entails communicating, generally electronically, with your classmates about class news, reunions, and other special events and activities at BMHS. Not an e-mailer? Not on Facebook? Not a problem. We also welcome those who prefer traditional methods of staying in touch. It is our goal to have at least one representative for each class, but more are welcome.

If you are interested, contact Andy Marafino at 310-540-2021 ext. 246 or amarafino@bmhs-la.org.

Confirmed Class Reps:

1965 John Metcalf	1994 Celeste Adams
1971 Mary Pat Smith	2001 Tyre Sperling
1985 Natalie Slawson	

Send us your news for publication in VERITAS.

amarafino@bmhs-la.org or
Development Office

Bishop Montgomery High School
5430 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503

In Loving Memory

Bishop Montgomery extends its prayers to the families of members of our community who have passed away:

Alumni

Geraldine Allen-Holford '62 of Lake Havasu, AZ passed away on July 16, 2009.

Michael John Lynch '66 of St. Petersburg, FL passed away on November 16, 2007. A 20-year veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, he is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Linda Jersey-Pieniaszek '79 of Long Beach passed away on June 30, 2009.

Mary Helen Sapien '81 of Longmont, CO passed away on July 7, 2009.

Traci Rhodes '91 of Henderson, NV passed away on July 11, 2009.

Alumni Families

Palma Sroka and Harry F. Sroka, parents of Michael Sroka '80.

Louise Q. Deiparine, mother of Cece Deiparine '88 and Gerard Deiparine '91.

Claire Stetson, mother of Michael Stetson '62, Patricia Stetson-Kasity '63, Kathryn Stetson '69, Daniel Stetson '71, James Stetson '72, and Edward Joseph Stetson '76.

Vilma Castro-Bran, mother of Denise Castro-Bran '81, Sandra Castro-Bran '82, and Kim Castro-Bran '83.

Toni Sablan, mother of Anelise Sablan '99 and David Sablan '06.

Ramon Montenegro, father of Mark Montenegro '79 and Eric Montenegro '81.

Charles Bookhammer, father of Michelle Bookhammer-Curtis '94, Brandi Bookhammer '96, Tracy Bookhammer-Rose '97.

Vera Moeder, mother of Bill Moeder '64, Suzanne Moeder-Henry '69, Melinda Moeder-Biddle '70, and Sheila Moeder-Kuhlman '73.

John Kestle, father of Mary Kate Kestle-Lancaster '71.

Tom Baumgartner, father of Steve Baumgartner '76, Tim Baumgartner '77, John Baumgartner '79, Kathy Baumgartner-Marafino '85 and Christy Baumgartner-Voorhees.

Current Families

Yvonne Beck, mother of Laura Beck '13.

Ramona Gallo, mother of Cristina Gallo '11, and Joshua Gallo '13.

Faculty & Staff

Sr. Rose Margaret Braiden, an original faculty member, passed away on November 14, 2009 at her home in Santa Barbara. She taught art, history, and religion at BMHS from 1957 to 1966 and also served as the Art Department Chairperson. After BMHS, she moved to Santa Barbara to teach at the Brooks Institute. She co-founded the Los Padres Watercolor Society and was recognized as one of the nation's foremost teachers of egg tempera.

BMHS Alumni,

We would love to have you back on campus! Consider holding your class reunion at BMHS. Facilities and tours are available and there is no facility rental fee. Times and dates are subject to availability.

Contact the Development Office at 310-540-2021 ext. 246 or e-mail amarafino@bmhs-la.org.

Upcoming Reunions & Events

Class of 1965 (60's Decade Reunion)

- May 15, 2010
- Del Amo Room, Torrance
- Registration forms at <http://bmhs60sreunion.com>
- Contact:
John Metcalf '65 / jcm16057@hughes.net
Mary Manis '66 / marymanis@aol.com

Class of 1969 (40th Reunion)

- Spring 2010
- Bishop Montgomery Campus
- Contact:
Pamela Watson-Maran '69 / 310-375-1423

Class of 1976 (35th Reunion)

- Contact:
Nora Montoya '76 / nimontoya@msn.com

Class of 1981 (30th Reunion)

- Contact:
Noreen Garin-Helvie '81 / 408-244-8619

Class of 1990 (20th Reunion)

- Contact:
Suzanne Brown-Gibson '90 /
gibsonandgibson@sbcglobal.net

2nd Annual John Scanlin '71 BMHS Scholarship Fundraiser

March 11, 2010
6:30 pm - 10:00 pm
Hennessy's Tavern (Redondo Beach)

Please join us as we gather together to celebrate John Scanlin's life and raise money for the scholarship at BMHS in his name. Two annual \$2,500 scholarships have been established, one each to a graduating boy and girl. Last year, the event raised over \$7,000. Our goal this year is to raise \$10,000.

For more information, e-mail John Mellis '80 at mistermellis@yahoo.com or visit www.bmhs-la.org.
You can also find information on Facebook!

Recent Reunions & Events

Girls' Volleyball Alumni Game

On Friday, October 23, 2009, the girls' volleyball program hosted their 1st Annual Alumni Game. Varsity head coach Carrie Rey welcomed back close to 20 alumni for a game against the 2009 varsity team. Prior to the game, current players and alumni introduced themselves to each other, relived memories from the past and shared stories about their lives. We invite all former players back next year to play in the alumni game or just drop by to visit.



ABOVE:

Alumni volleyball players pose with the 2009 Varsity team prior to the 1st Annual Girls' Volleyball Alumni Game.

1967 CIF Baseball Champs Reunite

An August 2009 day at the races at beautiful Del Mar Race Track was the setting for a get together for the 1967 BMHS CIF Championship baseball team. In addition to celebrating the school's first ever CIF title, former players, coaches, and classmates reunited to enjoy the horse races and a meal together. Many former players were in attendance, as well as several former coaches, including head coach Marv Wood and former BMHS football coach George Swade.



ABOVE:

L to R: Bill Brady '67, George Swade, Bob Jamison '68, Bill Brown '65, Marv Wood, Jerry Leninger '64 reunite at the Del Mar Race Track.



June 18, 2010

Lakewood Golf Course

Entry Fee: \$130.00

First 80 Golfers

First Tee Time: 10:30 am

Entry Fee Includes:

- 18 holes of golf with cart
- Dinner
- Prizes
- Goodie Bag

*Format: 4-man scramble
with handicap*

Dinner Only: \$40.00

For more information, contact any of the following:

Ed Miranda, Tournament Chairman
310-675-8957 / moraga_ed@yahoo.com

Dane Larsen, Tournament Co-Chairman
dlarsen@keystone-asset-management.com

Andy Marafino, BMHS Director of Development
310-540-2021 ext. 246 / amarafino@bmhs-la.org

Dinner will be held at Lakewood Golf Course
Dinner starts at 6:30 pm

Entry Deadline is June 4, 2010

Make Checks payable to Ed Miranda

Send entry to:
Ed Miranda
15139 Florwood Ave.
Lawndale, CA 90260

All proceeds will go to the Morgan Miranda Memorial Scholarship at Bishop Montgomery

Download a copy of the entry form at

www.bmhs-la.org

Go to the Development/Alumni page and
click on "Events"





VERITAS Magazine

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HOMECOMING 2010

September 24

More information at www.bmhs-la.org