

BLACK & GOLD

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ST. JOHN VIANNEY FAMILY

WINTER/SPRING 2010



Alumnus Delivers Aid to Haitian Earthquake Victims



Vianey alumnus Pat Bradley (73) helps unload a truck of supplies for earthquake victims in Haiti. Bradley's logistical skills enabled him to get supplies into the hands of victims more quickly than larger organizations.



Through Pat Bradley's efforts, children at a Haitian orphanage received desperately needed water and food.

It's amazing what a determined Griffin can accomplish.

The devastating earthquake that struck Haiti Jan. 12 caused many people to open their checkbooks or go online to make a donation. It caused Pat Bradley to catch a plane so that he could deliver earthquake relief in person, through sheer force of wits, will and determination.

Bradley, a 1973 Vianey grad, is founder of International Crisis Aid. The organization's mission includes meeting the immediate needs of victims in crisis situations. Bradley's work has taken him to countries as varied as Afghanistan and Ethiopia, Cambodia and Indonesia.

Front-page stories in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in January and February detailed Bradley's efforts. The articles described Bradley's struggles to reach the devastated country and to get desperately needed supplies into the hands of victims.

Bradley initially focused his efforts on aiding children at a demolished orphanage about 20 miles from Port-au-Prince. Through

creative wrangling and (as near as anyone can figure) divine intervention, Bradley was able to provide food, water and temporary shelter for some 80 orphans.

In his work for the orphanage, Bradley formed an impromptu partnership with U.S. Marines. By working with the Marines and employing his startling knack for down-to-earth logistics, Bradley was able to deliver enough water and food to meet the needs of more than 100,000 people in the same vicinity.

The Post-Dispatch reported that the Marines expect to use Bradley's tactics as a model for delivering assistance in crisis situations.

"Without God's hand, none of this would have come about the way it's come about," Bradley said in an article in the Post-Dispatch in early February. "To get the amount of people fed in that short of a time period, I don't know how to describe it other than God is blessing this work."

To learn more about Bradley's work, please visit his website www.crisisaid.org.

Griffins Go Pink, Raise \$2,600 for Cancer Patients



Real men wear pink and root for the Griffins! Vianey fans cheer a Griffin field goal during the "Paint it Pink" basketball game vs. CBC. In the front row are, from left, senior Joel Glasscock, junior Ryan Snyder and seniors Tyler Sindelar, Joey Hilderbrand, Zach Schuchardt, John McEvoy and Luigi Scire. The students purchased pink t-shirts to raise funds for the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge.

There are not many things that can make Griffins give up their black and gold. A chance to help cancer patients, however, put hundreds of Griffins in the pink.

"Paint it Pink" was the theme for a January basketball game that was part of the American Cancer Society's *Coaches vs. Cancer* program. Students had the opportunity to buy commemorative pink t-shirts and participate in raffles and other activities as a way of supporting Hope Lodge, which provides housing for out-of-town cancer patients being treated at St. Louis hospitals.

The event netted \$2,578.61 for the charity, and Vianey beat Christian Brothers College High School in overtime, 67-62.

On the cover: At the Marianist Heritage Mass in January, junior Andrew Szczepan bestows a Marianist medallion on freshman Andrew Fox. Freshmen and new students receive these medallions as a symbol of their membership in the Marianist family. At left is Chaplain Fr. Tim Kenney, S.M.

The Many Shapes of Service



On Thanksgiving Day, freshman Josh Thum, along with other Griffins and their family members, helped prepare, package and deliver meals at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Food Pantry in North St. Louis. Freshmen and sophomores are required to log at least 20 service hours each school year.

One of the five characteristics of Marianist education is to “Educate for service, justice and peace.” At Vianney, we view service as a key part of every Griffin’s education. Vianney has a structured program to ensure that every student gains from performing service during his time with us.

But that doesn’t mean service is always dull or hard!

Service takes many forms at Vianney. Sometimes it’s part of the regular school day. Sometimes it includes family and friends. Sometimes it takes Griffins to other parts of the country, or other parts of the hemisphere!

To learn more about service at Vianney, go to our website, www.vianney.com, and click on “faith formation,” then on “service program.”



Sophomore Will Molloy drums up support for the Toys for Tots campaign in December. Will’s band, The Refugees, along with three other student-led bands, performed a concert to benefit the Toys for Tots campaign. Through an in-school campaign and this concert, Griffins raised nearly \$8,000 to purchase toys for disadvantaged children.



At the Thanksgiving Mass, senior Matthew Aul offers communion to freshman Mike Allen. Each year, around 15 seniors volunteer to be Eucharistic ministers at school Masses. Any given all-school Mass will involve up to 50 students serving in various roles.



Last spring break, John Chibnall, now a senior, traveled with other Griffins to La Chinatla, a village in southern Mexico, to assist with Marianist-sponsored projects. In addition to painting a mural at the Marianist mission, John and his fellow Griffins poured concrete for a clinic and built fences.

Vianney Salutes its Longest-Serving Faculty and Staff

The 30-Year Club



Members of Vianney's "30-Year Club" include Tom Stevison, Steve Travis, Charlie Walsh and Colleen Judge.

Mimeographs. Intramurals. Typewriters. May Festival. Corporal punishment. Some elements of Vianney's history have disappeared over the course of the decades.

Others remain strong.

Vianney is uniquely blessed to have the continuity of many long-term teachers and staff members. Eight current staff members have given 30 years or more of their working lives to Vianney. These include Fr. Don Cahill, Charlie Eisele, Judy O'Connell and Jerry Stevison, all of whom were featured in a special article in the fall issue of *Black & Gold*.

In this issue, we salute the remaining members of the "30-Year Club": Steve Travis, Colleen Judge, Tom Stevison and Charlie Walsh. These four have logged a combined total of 125 years at Vianney. That means around 23,500 lunches in the Griffin Café. Roughly 100,000 attendances taken. And Lord knows how many pencils worn to nubs.

And one of these four could write a book about his or her years at Vianney. Here, we'll take just a quick peek at the memorable careers of these Vianney icons.

Steve Travis

Steve Travis came to Vianney in 1969 as a Marianist brother assigned to teach history and religion.

Although he left the order and went to teach in Chicago for a few years, he returned home to Vianney. He coached baseball for 25 years – 12 of those as varsity coach – and he ran the intramural program. He drove athletes to games on the Vianney school bus for 20 years "until our last bus broke down." He's been a timer for countless basketball and soccer games, and has been the chief videographer for football and basketball.



Steve Travis in 1969

Travis has served as head of the social studies department and he's taken scores of students to Washington D.C. for the annual "Close-Up" trip. The most recent trip in February fell in the middle of the D.C. area's "snowpocalypse." Travis took it in stride. "It made things tough, but we managed. I'm

sure the kids won't forget it," he said. Perhaps 35 years of teaching Griffins provides a certain realism and perspective.

"When I started at Vianney, three-fourths of the faculty were Marianist brothers. We had over 800 students packed into this small school, and with the brothers' residence so close, there was something going at Vianney around the clock," Travis said.

Along with Charlie Eisele, Travis is one of Vianney's longest-serving faculty members. **"I have always said that longevity is overrated. Of course, I have also said that longevity might be my best talent!"** he said. But when he reflects on his career, Travis doesn't focus on the years, he recalls the people. "I think of all of the brothers and priests who once walked the halls of Vianney with a simple dedication to their vocation as teachers of youth ... and I recall the many lay teachers that I became close to over the years. In short, I think of the Vianney family," he said.

Colleen Judge

Art teacher Colleen Judge started at Vianney on Valentine's Day in 1978. "I was supposed to start on Feb. 13, but it turned out to be a snow day," Judge said. "I thought it was a good omen – both the snow day and to start on Valentine's Day!"



Colleen Judge in 1983

Judge came in mid-year as a replacement for Bro. Gerry Hyland. The space for art classes at the time consisted entirely of the “chicken coop,” which is exactly what it had been when the Vianney property was a farm. **“I had to stand in the middle and talk out of both sides of my mouth,”** Judge laughed, describing the long, narrow space crammed with 20-plus desks.

And yet, the coop was “love at first sight” for Judge. “I appreciated having my own unique space,” she said. And perhaps because art is unique among other academics, the coop was a good fit for both Judge and her students. A large, bright classroom was added on to the coop in 1983, but the coop remains, enjoying yet another life as a gallery of student art.

When Judge started at Vianney, she was one of only a few female teachers. While the number of women on staff has grown over the years, Vianney is, of course, still a male-dominated environment. This has never bothered Judge. “I think in some ways men are less likely to sweat the small stuff,” she said. “And the boys – the students – have always been wonderful.”

Colleen Judge loves art. She loves teaching. She even loves the old chicken coop. Perhaps it makes sense that her 31-year relationship with Vianney began on Valentine’s Day.

Tom Steverson

Guidance counselor Tom Steverson still remembers his first semi-official duty at Vianney in 1979. It was a hot, mid-August “book night” for freshmen. “My previous job had been at a large, urban, public school with 2,000 students, where attendance of students — let alone parents — was always a problem,” Steverson said. He was amazed when only three Vianney families out of 220 failed to show up. **“Right away, I could tell that Vianney was a place where families cared about what happened,”** Steverson said.

It was Steverson’s brother Jerry (who had started at Vianney a few years earlier and is also a



Tom Steverson in 1979

member of the 30-Year Club) who encouraged him to apply for the job at Vianney. “He told me that it was a well-run ship and a very congenial environment,” he said. The advice turned out to be true. “This has always been a fun and stimulating faculty to work with,” Steverson said. “The brothers were talented and dedicated folks ... men like Bro. Harold Lootens, who was such a gifted musician, or Bro. John Hamman, who was an amazing magician. And of course teachers like Bob Hoffman, who always had interesting ideas to add to any conversation,” Steverson said.

In addition to his work as a guidance counselor, Steverson has also coached soccer, track, cross-country and tennis, and he has served for many years as moderator of the Photo Club.

Even after 30 years at Vianney, Steverson enjoys a surprise every spring. “I’m always amazed when I call alumni and ask them to come back to speak to our students for career day. Maybe one out of 20 will say no, and that one “no” is usually because of a schedule conflict,” Steverson said. “That Vianney family spirit really does carry on.”

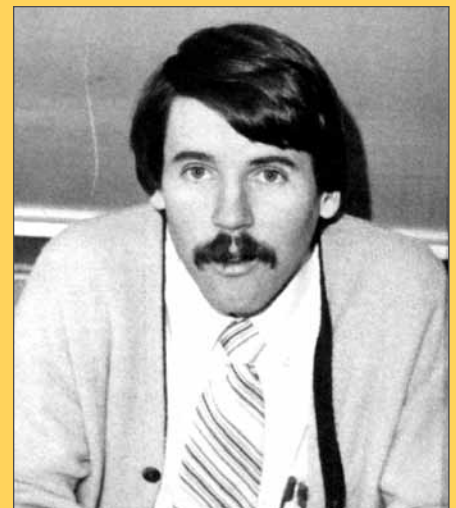
Charlie Walsh

Just down the hall from Tom Steverson’s guidance office, a young social studies teacher named Charlie Walsh was also starting his Vianney career in the fall of 1979.

“Like all young teachers, I paid my dues just trying to survive my first few years,” Walsh said. He was helped in part by the example of other faculty members around him. “Of course, back then there were more brothers in the classroom. And it’s a shame that our students today can’t experience men like Bro. (Francis) Haug or Bro. Vic (Winkler),” Walsh said. **“But I’ve always been amazed at the dedication of the faculty. The names and faces change over the years, but the commitment endures,”** he said.

Walsh’s commitment to Griffin athletics has endured as well. He coached baseball for five years and has coached basketball for 25 years. One of his fondest Vianney memories involves a 1993 grad. “The day Cliff Politte pitched at Busch Stadium in a Cardinal uniform was a storybook day for me,” Walsh said. “And watching Cliff pitch in the World Series (for the White Sox in 2005) was an extension of that magical day.”

Over the years, Walsh has moderated the Photo Club and the yearbook, as well as the Environmental Club and the Lettermen’s Club. He’s coached hundreds of Griffins on the field and on the court. And his love for Vianney is based exactly where it started back in 1979. “I love the classroom – it’s ever-changing. I think teaching is a blast! It’s never tough to get out of bed and come to work, even after all this time,” he said.



Charlie Walsh in 1981

David Mueckl Receives Papal Honor



David Mueckl ('78)

Alumnus David Mueckl ('78), the Chief Administrative Officer of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, recently received a special high honor from Pope Benedict XVI. Mueckl was named a Knight Commander with Star of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great.

The honor is awarded to Catholic men and women in recognition of "unusual labors, support of the Holy See, and the good example set in their communities and country."

Mueckl is among only a handful of Americans to receive this honor and the only one in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Mueckl, who has served as the Archdiocese's Chief Administrative Officer for two and a half years, has also served the Church in various roles at the Vatican level.

The Order of St. Gregory the Great was created in 1831 by Pope Gregory XVI and is one of five orders of knighthood in the Catholic Church. Other well-known members of the order include Bob Hope and Eunice Kennedy Shriver.

Which Bader Was in Your Class?



The Bader brothers, from left, Adam ('97), Luke ('94), Dan ('91), Mark ('98), John ('03) and Andy ('06).

Dan Bader, the oldest of the brothers, started at Vianney in 1987. Andy, the youngest, graduated in 2006. That's almost 20 years of Griffin Baders. Which one was in your class?

Thanks to Jenn Bader, Dan's wife, for sending us this photo, which was taken at Thanksgiving.

Pences Keep It All in the Family



Jerry Pence ('79) and sons Nelson (left), a sophomore, and Nick, a senior. Both boys received Marianist Awards in January.

Alumnus Jerry Pence ('79) was proud to have two sons receive Vianney's Marianist Award in January. The Marianist Awards are given to those select students who truly embody the Vianney spirit. Vianney faculty and staff members choose the award winners from among current sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Jerry Pence has been active in Vianney's alumni association and is a frequent volunteer at school. He is a vice president of design management and horticulture for Gannon Properties, and a horticulture instructor at St. Louis Community College – Meramec.

Marianist Award Winners

In addition to the Pence brothers, other students who received Marianist Awards included seniors Joey Allen, Mark Hager, and Andrew Ogle; juniors Nick Dondzila, Mike O'Fallon and Ryan Snyder; sophomores Andrew Auer, Tony Cochran, Matt Giegling, Dominic Mueller and Alex Tankersley. The award was created in 1998 by Fr. Richard Wosman, S.M., then president of Vianney.

Going Shopping? Going Out? GoGriffin



The Vianney Alumni Association recently launched a website called *GoGriffin.org*. The site connects Vianney alumni and parents with other members of the Vianney family who provide various goods and services.

Alumni and parents of students, along with their immediate family members, are eligible to advertise on GoGriffin. Proceeds from the website support Alumni Association programs, including a scholarship fund that provides need-based scholarships for Vianney students.

The site is hosted by GadellNet, an internet consulting firm owned by Joe Gadell ('99).

For more information, go to www.GoGriffin.org.

Classmate Update

1967

Last fall, **Robert Kinsella** was a featured speaker at an international conference, "Global Private Capital: Maximizing Shareholder Value in the Middle Market," in Eltville-Frankfurt, Germany. Kinsella is founder and president of Kinsella Group, which is based outside of Chicago. At the conference, he described new developments in U.S. acquisition opportunities for foreign investors.

1972

Michael Crowe was in Vancouver for the Winter Olympics, but not as a spectator. Crowe is the speed skating coach for the Canadian National Team. His life has always been on ice. He started skating at age 7 and was a member of the U.S. speed skating team in 1973-74. He's been working with the Canadian team for three years.

The Crestwood Police Department honored its deputy chief, **Lt. Frank Arnoldy** in December. Arnoldy received the 2009 Lt. John Walsh Professional Excellence Award from the city. The award recognizes excellence in police work and community service. Arnoldy joined the Crestwood police as a dispatcher shortly after graduation from Vianney and became an officer in 1976.

1973

"Miracle worker" may not be too strong a description of **Pat Bradley**, who made the front page of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch repeatedly because of his work following the Haitian earthquake. See the story on page 2.

1974

Civil War ghosts haunt the latest book by **Thomas Freese**. It's called *Haunted Battlefields of the South*, and it is Freese's fifth book.

1979

Andy Pauk has been named chairman of the Annual Catholic Appeal for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Pauk is a senior VP and chief operating officer for Dierbergs Markets.

1980

A self-described "computer geek," **Mark Uptegrove** is a senior technology specialist with Nestle Purina Petcare Company. He's a single dad with two kids and lives in Crystal City.

1982

Steve Pelch was recently named to the board of directors of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Metro St. Louis. Pelch is a vice president of strategic planning at Emerson. He joins another Vianney alumnus, **Steve Lux** ('79) on the board. And since we're keeping it in the family, we'll note that **Dan Harbaugh** ('78) is president of the organization.

1987

"Save water, drink beer" is the motto at JP's Corner tavern, now owned by **Jim Musiol**. Do your part to save water; stop by JP's on Gravois at S. Geyer Road.

1989

Joe O'Keefe was recently appointed chairman of the 2009-2010 Federal Taxation Section Council for the Illinois State Bar Association. O'Keefe is a principal with the law firm of Mathis, Marifian, Richter & Grandy in Belleville, IL.

1992

Drury University inducted **Mike Montana Jr.** into its Athletic Hall of Fame last fall. While at Drury, Montana was a soccer standout and was named to the All-District and All-Midwest teams. He graduated from Drury in 1997 and now owns a tax and accounting firm in St. Peters, Mo. He and his wife Jill have three children.

1994

Gavin Keil is the name of the newest future Griffin in the Bader family. **Luke Bader** and his wife Sue welcomed Gavin last November.

James Lauber joins his brother **Gary** ('95) in a general law practice in South County. The firm emphasizes criminal, traffic, family and personal injury law. For more information, check out www.garylauberlaw.com.

2000

Steve Longo and his wife Julie welcomed a daughter, Geneva, last October. Steve teaches history and coaches football and baseball at Warrenton High School.

Many members of the Vianney family cast votes for **Ryan Klepac** and his fiancé Kim Heimos (Ursuline '00) in their successful bid for a "Mega Wedding" sponsored by radio station Y98-FM. By gaining the most votes in an online poll, the couple received a deluxe Valentine's weekend wedding at the Sheldon Concert Hall, complete with catering, photography, music, flowers, rings and a seven-night honeymoon in Mexico. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

2001

"Moonlight Swim" is the name of the debut album by the Griffin-filled band Science Hill. The band includes 2001 alumni **Chris Seithel** and **Chris Barnes**, along with **Jeff Nations** and **Dave Seithel** from the class of 2003. The band signed with EliteRock Records in 2008 and spent much of last year touring the United States. The group's music is described as "beach funk," a dynamic fusion of rock, funk, reggae and jazz. Go to www.myspace.com/sciencehillmusic for video clips and performance dates.

Kyle McCoy is a firefighter and emergency medical technician in central North Carolina. After graduating from Vianney, McCoy spent two years in the Coast Guard doing search and rescue and law enforcement. He and his wife have two children.

2004

Magnifico! **Tim Adams** is currently attending culinary school in Colorno, Italy, through the Italian Culinary Academy.

Geoffrey Van de Riet recently joined Planning Design Studio in St. Louis as an urban designer. He has a master of architecture degree from Kansas State University.

2005

Andy Bannister recently graduated from Southeast Missouri State University with a degree in mass communication with an emphasis in advertising and a minor in marketing management. He's back in St. Louis and is communicating with potential employers.

2006

Kyle Amelung recently was promoted to supervisor of pharmacy students at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. He oversees the work of all pharmacy students at Barnes-Jewish. Amelung is a senior at St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

2008

Tom Adams received an Irene Ryan Nomination from The Kennedy Center College Arts Festival for his role in "The Importance of Being Earnest" at Rockhurst University.

In Memory

Robert Burgess, father of Ryan ('09).

Aloys Betz, grandfather of Michael Flatley ('08) and junior Matt Flatley.

William Cox, father of Bill ('62), Mike ('64), Tom ('66), Chris ('68), Tim ('71) and Craig ('76); grandfather of Chris Jr. ('02).

Kathy Diel, mother of sophomore Kevin Diel.

Erma Fullenkamp, mother-in-law of Barb Fullenkamp (faculty).

Jasper Giardina, grandfather of junior Nick Stratton.

Steven Maddox, father of Mike Maddox ('78).

William Ogle, grandfather of senior Andrew and freshman Kevin Ogle.

Ronald Ragsdale, uncle of Adam Ragsdale ('09).

Frank Simonis, grandfather of freshman Alex Hoffmann.

John Sullivan, grandfather of Vincent Borkowski ('07), father-in-law of Dan Borkowski (faculty).

It's great to hear from alumni! Please send your news to Pete Cerone, Director of Alumni Relations, at pcerone@vianney.com or by mail to the school address.

Scenes You Won't See at Vianney Any More

The Marianist family spirit, sense of brotherhood and quality Catholic education have been constants at Vianney since its inception 50 years ago.

There have been a few changes in other areas however, as these photos reveal.

Do you recognize any of these Griffins?

Send us the IDs and year of the photo, along with your name and contact information. We'll enter you in a drawing for a Vianney 50th Anniversary commemorative book! Send the information to Carol Dexter, cdexter@vianney.com or by mail to the school address. Watch for the winner in the next *Black & Gold*.



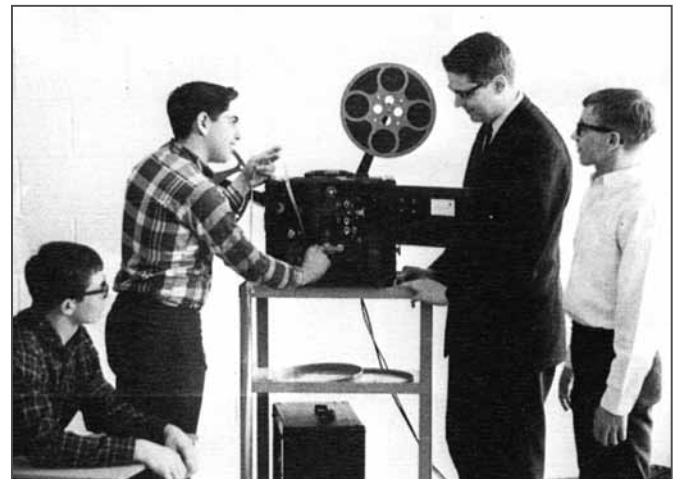
Which is more obsolete, the typewriters or the hairstyles? But hey, great posture guys!



How many Griffins can roost on a press box? Possibly a few too many. This photo sets safety aside for the fun of getting all the members of the Art Club into the shot.



What's that thing by the Pepsi bottle? Old-timers would recognize it as a portable radio. Griffins today would all be plugged in to their individual iPods, and at least one would be talking on a cell phone.



There aren't any more film projectors around Vianney, although it remains true that occasionally students help the teacher with cutting-edge technology. On another note, do you suppose not having horn-rimmed glasses was a violation of the dress code?

Politte, Cochran Named to Jefferson College Baseball Hall of Fame



Vianney Director of Admissions Terry Cochran and alumnus Cliff Politte ('93) were recently named to the Jefferson College Baseball Hall of Fame.

Alumnus Cliff Politte ('93) and Vianney staff member Terry Cochran were named to the Jefferson College Baseball Hall of Fame late last year.

Most know Cliff Politte as major league pitcher who earned a World Series ring as a reliever with the Chicago White Sox in 2005. Politte honed his skills on the Griffin ball field, where he earned Vianney's Cy Young Award and a slot on the MCC All-Conference First Team his senior year. Politte played at Memphis State, then Jefferson College, then was drafted by the Cardinals in 1995. After playing A and AA ball for the Cards, Politte made his major league debut with the club in 1998. He also played

for the Philadelphia Phillies and the Toronto Blue Jays before joining the White Sox.

Cochran, who is Vianney's director of admissions, played for Jefferson in the early 1980s. He started at second base, hit third in the line-up and had a career batting average of more than .330. When he transferred to Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, he was an NCAA All-Region selection and led his team to the Division II College World Series.

Cochran came to Vianney in 2003. In addition to his role in admissions, he is an assistant varsity basketball coach – and dad to Tony, who is also mentioned on this page!

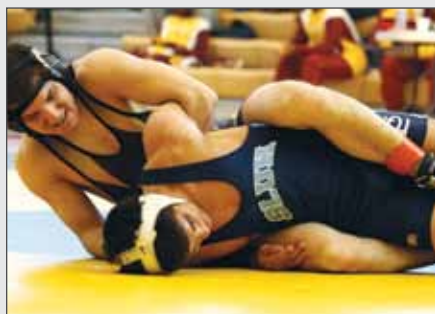
Sophomore Sets New Records, Team Finishes Third in MCC

The varsity basketball team closed the regular season with a record of 13-11 under veteran coach Kevin Walsh ('91). Season highlights included a championship game appearance in the Vianney Invitational and a third-place finish in the MCC. Sophomore Tony Cochran tied or set records for most 3-pointers made in a game, season and career.

Tony also earned First Team All-Conference honors, while senior Joe James was named to the second team. Senior Mel Drady received honorable mention recognition and senior Jack Voelker was named to the Academic All-Conference team.



Senior Joe James looks for his shot during a close game vs. Chaminade. A leading scorer for the Griffins, Joe was named to the All-Conference Second Team.



Senior Justin Dombek moves to pin his opponent at the Vianney Invitational. Justin was one of three Griffin grapplers competing at the state tournament in February.

Wrestlers Win MCC Championship, Send Three to State

It was a banner year for the Griffin grapplers under second-year coach Eric Brown. The team won the Vianney tournament, despite being in last place going into the second half. Dramatic victories by junior Sam Hanau and seniors Mike Meier and Justin Dombek sparked a spectacular comeback. A few weeks later, the team completed a sweep of the Metro Catholic Conference with a pounding 73-3 win over Chaminade. Three wrestlers – Justin, Sam and senior Brett Hentz – qualified for the state meet. Sam, called a "monster in a singlet" by a local newspaper, won a fourth-place medal at state and finished the season with an astounding 37-2 record.

Hockey Team Has Up and Down Season

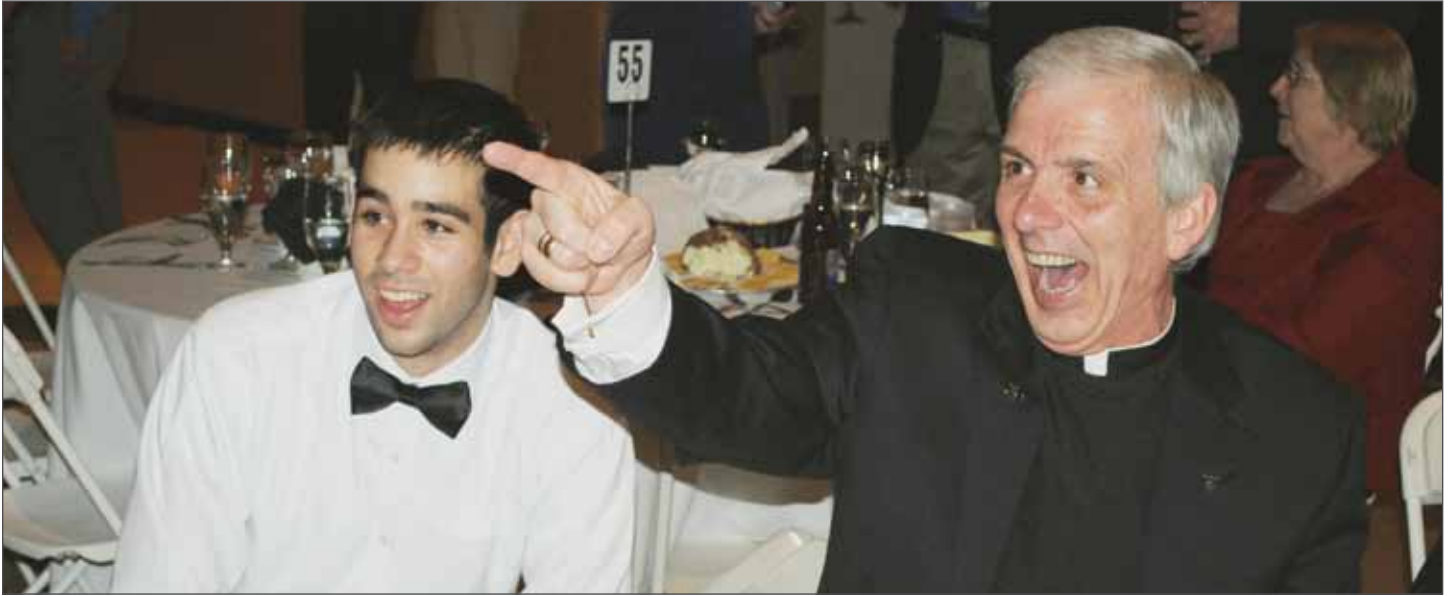
The varsity icemen finished their regular season strong with a win over Oakville and a close 2-3 loss to De Smet. In addition, the team beat St. Louis University High in a big early-season win. But in a year that was characterized by ups and downs, the Griffins finished the regular season 11-12-2. The team dropped two games to Francis Howell Central in the playoffs to bring the year to a close. Seniors Matt Aul and Eric Mebruer represented Vianney in the Senior All-Star Game.



In a game against MCC rival Chaminade, sophomore goalie Alex Naeger and freshman defender Michael Humme move to block a shot.

Night of the Griffin Dinner and Auction

A Family Effort, a Family Success



Fr. Tim Kenney's expression says it all as he and junior Mike Makhamreh watch the bidding during the live auction. The item? Christmas Eve Mass said by Fr. Tim in the bidder's home. The selling price was \$2,300.

The *Night of the Griffin* dinner and auction is a true demonstration of what we mean when we talk about the "Vianney family."

So many branches of the family are involved in making the evening a success. The event relies on alumni, parents, students and staff, many of whom in turn are volunteers, donors and guests.

Members of the Vianney family came together again to make the 28th annual auction a wonderful success. Here are some of the statistics from this year's celebration:

Attendees: 460

Gross receipts: Nearly \$250,000

Highest bid: \$4,900 for a Napa Valley vineyard vacation

Student volunteers: 86

Parent volunteers: 70+



Vianney dad Frank Woodson climbs the bleachers to remove items from the "College Closet" booth for delivery to their winning bidders. Current parents make up one of the largest categories of auction volunteers.



Alumni contribute to the auction's success in a variety of ways. Adam Pizzitola ('08) shouldered the tough "puppy holder" assignment, enabling the auctioneer to gain \$1,300 for the "goldendoodle" pup. For the last four years, Pizzitola has also created the slide show used for the live auction.

Special thanks go to auction co-chairs Sue Dombek and Deanna Snyder for their countless hours of work, and to past chair Tora Ragsdale for continuing to give her time and wisdom to the event.

Scholarships Keep Dreams, Memories Alive

For Nick Riordan ('01), creating a scholarship in his twin brother Dan's honor just seemed right.

The Riordan brothers greatly valued their time at Vianney, and when Army Lt. Dan was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq, creating a Vianney scholarship in his name seemed like the right way to keep his memory alive.

Today, the Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Memorial Scholarship Fund provides a need-based scholarship of \$3,000 to an incoming freshman. The recipient may continue to receive the scholarship each year, provided he meets certain requirements established by the Riordan family.

Could you consider providing a scholarship to Vianney?

Need-based scholarships like that provided by the Riordan family often mean the difference between a young man enjoying the privilege of attending Vianney or going to a public school.

Could you consider providing a scholarship to Vianney? You are free to define the amount and requirements of the scholarship, within certain parameters. Many of the scholarships currently offered are in memory of an alumnus, such as Tom Cella ('92) or Jack Glaser ('74). Other scholarships are targeted to certain types of students, such as minorities or sons of Vianney alumni.

A scholarship can keep alive the dreams of students and the memories of the sponsors. By providing a scholarship, you can play an important role in promoting the Vianney mission.

For more information on creating a scholarship, please contact Tom Burke, Director of Institutional Advancement, at tjburke@vianney.com, or 314.965.4853, ext. 166.



In addition to providing many hours of behind-the-scenes volunteer work, Melon and Joe Mahfood were happy to join in the bidding during the live auction.



Dom-inating the delivery of elegant meals are seniors Dom Tallo (left) and Dom Morales. More than 80 student volunteers helped ensure the evening's success.



The fruits of months of hard work appear behind auction co-chair Sue Dombek and Brian Rhame ('96), Vianney's director of special events. It was bittersweet evening for Rhame; he has resigned from Vianney to take a new role. Good luck Brian, and bless you for all your hard work!

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1311 S. Kirkwood Rd. | St. Louis, MO 63122 | www.vianney.com

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