



# THE GOLDEN KNIGHT

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MARIANAPOLIS COMMUNITY

WINTER 2008

## Headmistress Corner

Dear Friends,

In this issue we celebrate our differences and our connections... to those who have shaped our minds and our spirits... to other countries and cultures as we celebrated International Day... to each other as we work together to nurture and learn. Our mission for this year was One Heart, One World, and nowhere was our quest for this more apparent than this past winter term. Our students never cease to amaze me with their energy and caring... They braved the cold water of Quaddick Lake to raise money to fight Muscular Dystrophy at the Turkey Dip... they gave vitamins to malnourished children in Haiti, and closer to home, raised money for the Thompson Hill Fire Dept.



For International Day, many students wore traditional dress, our moms prepared a feast of foods from around the world, and we were all impressed by distinguished guest speaker and best-selling author Ishmael Beah's compelling message of survival. Beah spoke to our students about his time as a child soldier in Sierra Leone and his work with the United Nations and UNICEF. This spring many of our students and faculty will build more international connections in their travels to Honduras, Mexico and New Orleans, as well as England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

Finally, this term we bid farewell to two beloved teachers. Father Albin Gurklis, MIC, retired after teaching at Marianapolis for 58 years. A fixture for generations, we will honor him this Graduation Weekend on May 31st. In addition, art teacher & "Mr. Halloween" Tom Perkins, retired in January after 18 years, and will be recognized as well at graduation. I hope you can join us in the festivities!

Sincerely,

Marilyn S. Ebbitt, Headmistress

## Mark Your Calendars

For more events go to [www.marianapolis.org](http://www.marianapolis.org), under calendar/month at a glance.

- March 13-30** Spring Recess
- April 2** MOM's Dinner in Library
- April 10** College Fair
- May 11** Mother's Day Mass & Brunch
- May 30** Prizes & Awards
- May 31** Fr. Gurklis Retirement event, 6 p.m.  
Reunion Dinner for Classes of '58 & earlier, '63, '68 and '73, 6:30 p.m.
- June 1** 81st Commencement Exercises

## Reunions on The Road



Marianapolis is reconnecting with friends old and new by taking reunions on the road! So far the school has hosted dinner gatherings in San Francisco in October, and more recently in Chicago, Puerto Rico & Washington, D.C.

We have not only renewed old acquaintances, but helped Marianapolis' alumni find one another. In each area an alum has agreed to facilitate future gatherings. "Our goal is to build a chapter of alumni in all major cities," states Headmistress Ebbitt.



Washington, DC

Wash., D.C., January 31, 2008  
*Front row, left to right:* Brad Mansolf '61, Headmistress Marilyn Ebbitt, Mark Dexter '01, Joel Pou '94, Robert Hendrickson '87, and Brett Marston '90 (front).  
*Back row:* Charlie Baron P'93, P '95, Joe Link '64, Father Alexei Michanlenko '60, Dan Franklin '68, Joe Salcetti '72, Joe Gromelski '70. *Also in attendance were:* Evelyn Franklin, Vlasta Link, Cathy Mansolf, Brother Jim McCormick, Sharon Pou, Martha Salcetti, Kevin Sherry and Rick Williams P'09.



Chicago

Chicago, December 3, 2007  
*Left to right:* Charlie Baron, P'93 P'95, Vidmantas Rapsys '58, Kevin Sheridan '82, Charles M. Shea '56, Michelle Sheridan, Robert Ralis '72, Allison Barasa, David Mousseau '80, Jim Barasa, Shannon Belanger DeVaul '87, Ariel O'Hara, Mary Mousseau, Headmistress Marilyn Ebbitt and John Landry '79. *Also present was* Julie O'Hara.

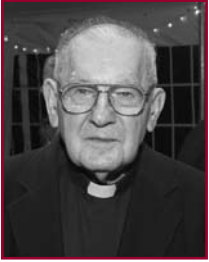


Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico, November 27, 2007  
*Front row, left to right:* Javier Mendez Rodriguez '96, Gabriel Ortiz Avila '02, Headmistress Marilyn Ebbitt, Chris Rickenbach '89, Romon Munoz '90, and Charlie Baron, P'93 P'95. *Back row, left to right:* Hector Ortiz '95, Joseph Rivera '97, Lollie Benitez and husband Richard Benitez '60, Jose Reyes, Raul Antonio Alicea '99, and Francisco Llovet '99.

# Retirements

## Fr. Albin Gurklis Retires after 58 years



When Fr. Albin Gurklis came to attend Marianapolis College in 1935 (yes, College), he also found his vocation, his home and his life's work. At the time Marianapolis offered high school, junior college, and a four year college program. It

was here that the Waterbury, CT, native would meet lifelong friends and fellow future Marian Fathers John Pretrauskas, Albin Sheputa, Peter Remeika, Frank Bulovas and Jerry Augunas. And it was here that he found his future.

Upon graduation in 1939 with a Bachelor of arts, he and three other classmates made the decision to enter into the Marian Order. That journey led him to Chicago, IL, where he attended seminary. After his ordination he spent a year teaching in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and then another year teaching at Marianapo-

lis. He went on to complete more studies in teaching and ultimately obtained his Master's degree in Mathematics at Marquette University in Wisconsin.

In 1950, Fr. Gurklis returned to Marianapolis as a math teacher, and has taught here every year since—or for 57 consecutive years! (58 total years).

Fr. Gurklis is a humble man with a true love for teaching. When asked if there was one thing he would say to his students, he replied, simply, "study mathematics." He always told his international students to "first learn English, next learn math," knowing the logic of mathematics would serve them well as a foundation for all learning.

As he approaches his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, failing health has led him to the decision to retire, "it's time," he says. His future is wherever the Marian Congregation assigns him, although he hopes to stick around Marianapolis for some time to come.

**Come help us celebrate!**

**May 31, 2008**  
**6:00 p.m. Reception**  
**6:30 p.m. Dinner**

**Marianapolis will hold a Retirement Reception & Dinner for Father Gurklis on Saturday, May 31, 2008. Watch for your invitation in the mail.**

**SEND US YOUR MEMORIES:**

**Do you have stories and memories of Fr. Gurklis? Please email them to [alumni@marianapolis.org](mailto:alumni@marianapolis.org) and we may include them in his retirement presentation.**

## Art Teacher Tom Perkins, "The Perkulator," Retires after 18 Years

*Known as "The Perkulator" and "Mr. Halloween," Tom Perkins is leaving his mark on Marianapolis. And he's not done.*

After 18 years at Marianapolis, and 41 years as an educator, art teacher Tom Perkins retired in January. As an artist and advisor, Perkins has more than left his mark on the school. His legacy includes an expansive mural in the dining room, years of community art projects and two dozen students who have gone on to make a living with their art.

The epitome of a "colorful character," Perkins admits he lives, eats and breathes art. Which is why his nickname, "The Perkulator," is so fitting. Besides the obvious play on his name, it represents his love for coffee, and the continuous perking of creative ideas that flow effortlessly and endlessly.

A resident of Manville, RI, 40 minutes from Thompson, CT, Perkins and his wife Lorraine, a teacher's aid in a School for the Deaf in MA, have been married since 1973 and have two children. Their daughter Andree, age 24, works at Citizens Bank in Providence and is pursuing her MBA at Bryant University. In her spare time she loves photography. Their son Jack, age 29, lives in Valencia, CA, and followed in his



*Perkins with his Junior Class Advisory*

father's footsteps. A Marianapolis class of '96 alum, Jack works as an animator and storyboard artist for FilmRoman, the company that produces the animated series "King of the Hill" and "The Simpsons."

Perkin's passion for art showed up early—he remembers in third grade asking permission to paint holiday murals on the school's windows. Perkins grew up in Bowling Green, Ohio, a college town where his brother has been mayor for three terms, and who at 75, still serves as a county commissioner. Tom is the third oldest of four children. After high school,

he went on to earn his Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree at Bowling Green State University, and "started to get the feeling I wanted to teach." Everything fell into place, and he began teaching art to grades 3 through 6 in Michigan. Within the year, Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) drew him to New England, and he later earned his Master's degree at Assumption College in Worcester. He continued teaching 7th-12th grade art in Central Falls, RI. In 1990, he accepted the position at Marianapolis, where he thought he'd "died and gone to heaven."

Over the years he has taught more than 500 students at Marianapolis, serving as the sole art teacher for many of those years. He stays in touch with many of them, proudly noting that more than two dozen MPS students have gone on to major art schools, and to establish successful careers in product design, jewelry design, painting, fashion design, film animation, computer animation, and architecture.

Perkins is known to all at Marianapolis as "Mr. Halloween," for his creative costumes. Over



*continued on page 4*

# Boys Basketball Dominates in Semi-Finals; Finish #2 in Division



Senior Michael Myers Keitt (right), in action



J.V. Basketball team with coach Andrew Vitale (center)

Depth of talent with six new players gave Marianapolis the strongest team Coach Dave Vitale has seen in the 4 years he's been coaching here. "Having 10 strong players meant it wasn't a one-or two man show, and the team was able to withstand injury and just wear the other teams down," comments Vitale.

The team had an exciting season with 24 wins and 6 losses total, going into the playoffs seeded #1. They beat a very determined Deerfield Academy in the quarterfinals, and toppled Salisbury School in the Semi-Finals, sealing their spot in the championship game. This was the third consecutive year the team has made it to the Championship round in their NEPSAC Division, two years ago winning the championship in Division D, and last year losing the Class B title by a last minute shot at the buzzer. This year's championship was also a nail-biter. Marianapolis had split during the season with Tilton. The New Hampshire powerhouse has standout players, two of whom are going on to play college ball at UCONN. But that didn't deter Marianapolis from fighting back from the brink twice. Tilton came out of the gate with an early lead, but Marianapolis fought back to one point down by half time. The Golden Knights then came back again in the second half, managing to tie the game at 55 points with 6 minutes left. But a key foul and a fast break by Tilton gave them the momentum to win, with a final score of 73-62. The bottom-line, says Vitale, is he is "very, very proud of the effort the players made in the championship game and all season. We were right there with 2 minutes to go and a couple of bounces of the ball didn't go our way. I couldn't ask for anything more out of this hard working high character team."

Vitale counts one of the season's landmark games the win against Class A Winchendon-ranked 10th in the country-in early December. But the season wasn't without its challeng-



Back row, players left to right, Erik Callo, Toso Adebamowo, Michael Myers Keitt, Ryan Lehane, Ruben Cabrera, Front row, players left to right, Colin Duethorn, Estefano Gonzalez, Nikola Vukadinovic, Corey Wright and Thomas Henneberry. Not pictured: Aaron Strothers. Staff left to right, Andrew Vitale and Trevor Smith, assistant coaches, Dave Vitale, coach, and trainer Buddy Drew.

es. Aaron Strothers, a key forward, broke his finger a month before the playoffs, but even surgery didn't keep him from returning to the court. A sprained ankle and a flu epidemic affected the team for a couple of weeks, but they "held down the fort," noted Vitale. Leading the offense in scoring this year were Michael Meyers Keitt, Corey Wright and Aaron Strothers. "We only had only 7 losses this season, so I feel we took care of our end. And these losses were not against inferior teams."

"This team was the best team collectively we've had in 4 years, top to bottom," Vitale reiterates, explaining they had good chemistry, were hard workers, and had good character. He looks forward to next year, when returning players Ryan Lehane, Toso Adebamowo, Corey Wright and Ruben Cabrera will anchor another exciting season.

## OTHER SEASON RECORDS-Girl's Junior Varsity: 19-1 / Boy's Junior Varsity: 8-3 / Thirds: 8-1 Winter Athletics Wrap Up

### Wrestling

Coach Lee Post and Assistant Coach Mike Whelan started coaching the Marianapolis Wrestling Team this season, bringing decades of experience coaching winning teams. Post has run the Killingly Youth League Wrestling Program for the past 19 years, with Whelan working with him the past 10. "Wrestling is in my blood and my family's blood," adds Post. So this season he took on a young Marianapolis team, knowing this would be a "building year." "We had 3 or 4 students with experience, but the rest of them have only a year under their belts." The team grew from a group of 12 to 26 grapplers. What the team lacked in experience, they made up for in effort. "These kids are driven," says Post. Knowing even a couple of pounds can land you in a new weight class, Post has introduced a weight management program including diet informa-



tion and strength training. Post will also train the team year-round to build them up and help them gain experience. "We will participate in some summer tournaments, and train together one night a week off season." The team's season record held more losses than wins, but that doesn't discourage Post or Whelan. "It's a great bunch of kids, and we're having a lot of fun. We're motivated, we're hitting the weight room, doing conditioning and gaining match experience—and well on our way to having a successful program."

### Girls' Basketball

submitted by Ed Dabrowski, Coach

The team completed its season with a tough quarterfinal playoff loss to St. Andrew's from RI. Down by 12 early in the 2nd half, the girls fought back bravely but ran out of clock, losing 51-49. A 9-14 record was somewhat misleading, however, as the girls lost 4 games down the stretch by a total of only 9 pts. These are games the team hopes to win next year and turn that record around. Sickness and injury also plagued the Golden Knights late in the season, as exemplified by one late season game against SENE league rival Wheeler, when only 6 (of 14) players dressed. The team will play



Junior Shannon Caine

summer ball and await next season with great anticipation, as the entire team is expected back.

The team was led in scoring (9.2) and rebounding (10.4) by junior Shannon Cain. Other leading scorers were Vicki Dabrowski at 6.4 pts. and Marissa Siedzik at 5.2 pts., also both juniors. Marissa also added 5.2 rebounds/game. Freshman Alyson Stolz was a pleasant surprise, averaging nearly 5 pts. a game. A fine group of sophomores and freshmen who played both JV and Varsity ball during the season will add great depth to next season's squad, as this year's JV team, coached by Charlie Baron, was only once beaten, ending the season 19 and 1.



# INTERNATIONAL DAY



Colorful costumes, flags, a procession, and delicious foods prepared just like in their home countries--these are the hallmarks of International Day at Marianapolis. With more than 20 countries represented in our student body, our diversity is one of our most unique characteristics.

## Author Ishmael Beah Visits Marianapolis Former Child Soldier, Human Rights Activist and Best-Selling Author

Marianapolis marked International Day with a visit from best-selling author Ishmael Beah. His book, "A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of A Boy Soldier," details his compelling journey to survive as a child soldier in a brutal civil war, his eventual rehabilitation, and the reclaiming of his humanity. Marianapolis students read Beah's account of his days as a child soldier in war-torn Sierra Leone as part of their summer reading. "The students were a bit shocked by the violence, and we had some lively debates about what choices we would make in similar circumstances," noted English teacher Karen Carter.

Adds Headmistress Marilyn S. Ebbitt, "On International Day we celebrate our global connections. Who better to open our eyes to world issues than someone who has been on the front lines as a soldier and victim of war? After fighting to regain his sense of self, Ishmael Beah used his experiences to open the world's eyes to the plight of children in wars throughout the world."

Beah spoke to a standing-room-only crowd in the school's chapel. Articulate, thoughtful and



*Junior Toso Adebamowo from Lincoln, RI, (left) and Senior Nikola Vukadinovic from Montenegro get their books autographed by Ishmael Beah (center)*

insightful, he spoke of his decision to write the book. He said he realized when he left Sierra Leone that the world had no concept of the conditions there. "Immigration kept asking me if I had any financial documents," said Beah, who tried to explain that he was lucky to get out with his life, never mind possessions. He also wanted the world to see his home country as more than just a place of war, but rather a country of high moral and ethical standards.

"In war people descend into hell and these standards are disrupted." But Beah points out there is a resilience of the human spirit that allows victims of war to reclaim their humanity given time and the right help. "When you believe someone can be saved, it brings a sense of responsibility." Beah counts himself lucky to not only have survived the war, but to get an education. He told Marianapolis students to "think of school as a journey, not a destination. Education is a way to discover what your role is in society."

After his talk, students waiting to get their books autographed, shared their thoughts: "Amazing--he is a world leader in human ethics and overall human dignity," commented senior Dominique Dufresne. "It was an eye opener," said Angelica Pascone. When Susan Ouellet asked her son Trevor about the presentation, he replied "it was amazing and life-changing."

After enjoying our International Day buffet, Beah spent an hour visiting with English classes, where students asked him questions about the book, his life today, and even his favorite soccer team.

### Tom Perkins Retires - continued from page 3

the years he's dressed as everything from a ninja turtle, to a little old lady, a large candy corn, to a security guard from (where else?) the Louvre. He also co-founded *Calliope*, a literary magazine published as a collaboration of Marianapolis Art and English students.

His words of advice to his students are to "find something you like and be really passionate about it, and don't give up. Just love life and be daring." Something Perkins knows a little bit about...in 1984, he was diagnosed with glaucoma, and multiple eye diseases. Surgeries for detached retinas and cataracts took their toll. Today, he uses a magnifying glass to read and see details. "I'm visually chal-



lenged, but that's not going to stop me." These conditions hastened his retirement, although he says, "it's time...I'm happy to rest up and do some things I'm ready to do." His feelings about Marianapolis? "I love this place. It will always be home."

So what will the future bring?: Perkins hopes to get a photograph into the "Kodak Picture of the Day," enjoy his lovely family, and visit MPS a lot. And finally, continue work on his "unfinished symphonies."

He would love to hear from past students. He can be emailed at [perkystp@aol.com](mailto:perkystp@aol.com). *An article on Tom was featured in the Feb. 1 issue of the Thompson Villager, available at <http://www.villagernewspapers.com/THOA020108.pdf>*

### Perkins Trivia

The art mural in the Dining Room is symbolic. The 4 corners each represent a different class, as well as the four seasons. It took 3 years of planning, and 120 individuals contributed.

The STP Motor Oil logo apron, worn by Mr. Perkins, stands for Speedy Tom Perkins, and is a gift from the Marianapolis Words Club.



# Scenes from the Season

## Young Alumni & Senior Class Pizza Party



More than 30 young alumni reconnected with MPS seniors and faculty at the annual Young Alumni Pizza Party on Wednesday, November 21. Held at the start of Thanksgiving break, the event allows grads returning from college for the holiday to stop by and say hello to their friends.

*Left to right are: Kayla McMahon '06, Ellen Blanchette '06, Jess Stefanik '05, Marjorie Newcombe '06, Bridget Landry '06, Kayla Morey '06, Chris Wester '06, Amy Hennigan '06, James Hollingsworth '06, Ben Kittel '06, and Chris Kaczmarek '06.*

## Semi-Formal at Speedway



Dressed to the nine's and dancing the night away, more than 200 Marianapolis students and their dates attended the annual Semi-Formal. The MOMs decorated, adding to the ambience of the evening.

*Left to right, Adam Boguszewski '09, Charles Grab '08, Marissa Siedzik '09, Noah Stuckart '08, Emily Roto '09, Anna Castronovo '09, Vicki Dabrowski '09, Natasha Manyak '08 and Josh Betley '09.*

## Students March for Life



For the third year in a row, Marianapolis students were represented at the March for Life in our nation's capital. Ten students from MPS joined activists from around the world to oppose abortion. The all-night drive and the march in the cold rain didn't deter the group. MPS faculty Ed Sembor, who organized the trip, said it was "a powerful, moving experience."

*Left to right: Jacqueline Sembor, Melanie Ciesla, Noah Stuckart, Minjung Lee, Joohyun Lee, Joobeui Lee, Yejin Lee, Kate Kelly, Hannah Choi, Yong Hyun Cho.*

## Think Pink



Girl's Basketball Varsity and J.V. teams showed their support for breast cancer awareness by dressing head-to-toe in pink, part of a week-long nationwide awareness campaign sponsored by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA). "Think Pink" week was February 8-17 with over 1,100 teams participating nationwide. Charlie Baron, coach of the girl's JV team, spearheaded the effort. WBCA director of events is Baron's daughter, Stephanie '93, former director of Admissions, asst. athletic director, and girls' basketball coach at Marianapolis.

*Sophomores Christina Casillo and Helaine Goudreau, in Pink.*

## Five Students Recognized at Regional Model UN Conference



Five members the United Nations Club were recognized at a model UN training conference at Fairfield University in mid-November. Two were named Best Delegate of the Conference for their committee, which is equivalent to first place, and three received honorable mentions. More than 200 students from 14 high schools in CT and NY attended.

Jyotsna Mullur, a senior from Millbury, MA, was named Best Delegate of the Conference from the European Union Committee; Senior Dominique Dufresne was named Best Delegate of the Conference from the World Health Organization (WHO) Committee. Receiving Honorable Mentions were Senior Janelle Peiczarka, and Freshman Zach Dombroski and Sophomore Kiran Mullur.

*The Marianapolis UN Club, left to right: Faculty Ed Sembor, Sarah Bell, Ben Wilterdink, Dominique Dufresne, Luke Ablondi, Jyotsna Mullur, Luke Stanislowski, Janelle Peiczarka, James Gazzola, Delaney Hawes, Matthew Daoust, Kiran Mullur, Zach Dombrowski, Ella Jun and Ryan Lee.*

## O'Leary Signs Letter of Intent for Soccer Scholarship



*On hand for the signing (pictured left to right), were mom Nancy, dad Thomas, Marianapolis varsity girls soccer coach Michelle Parker, developmental soccer coach Esad Darman and athletic director Eric Gustavson.*

In February, Marianapolis Senior Jessica O'Leary signed her national letter of intent to Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, NC, the first such signing on record for a female athlete at Marianapolis.

O'Leary, a soccer all-star who scored 85 goals in her years here, will receive an athletic scholarship to the division II school. O'Leary earned team MVP for each of her 4 years. "Jess became more of a leader and team player each year," comments Coach Michelle Parker. "Not only are her skills solid, but she is a good all-around player."

The mid-fielder, a resident of Millbury, MA, recently fought her way back from a knee injury, and is back playing soccer. Said her parents, "we

are the happiest parents at Marianapolis today." The family had been fielding offers from a half dozen or more schools. "It's overwhelming," adds Jessica, "I've been working toward this for three years."

O'Leary says her skills grew a lot in her years at the school, but so did her friendships; "I never had camaraderie like I had here. Especially this year—even though I was injured, the team was like family," Jess says.

## Marianapolis Junior Leads a Drive to Bring Vitamins to Haitian Children

Inspired by her family, Hannah Schwartz of Moosup saw a need, and decided to do something to help.

Her uncle, aunt, and cousin became involved in an organization that helps the poor in Haiti. The organization, Foundation Good Samaritan in Action (FGSA) assists the people of Haiti both medically and socially to improve their living conditions.

Hannah and her family started donating toothpaste and first aid kit items. Shipping to Haiti is risky and costly, Hannah explains, and often goods are stolen or intercepted. So family members bring duffel bags filled with necessities to ensure the donations reach their intended destination.

“There is just so much need,” com-

ments Hannah, “and I wanted to do more.” So she spoke with her fellow class leaders about finding a way to help. Malnourishment is a major problem in Haiti, which has an infant mortality rate of 1 in 8, so the class decided to conduct a “vitamin drive” to collect chewable children’s vitamins.

To educate the Marianapolis community, Hannah’s cousin showed a video of his work in Haiti at an all-school assembly. Then she and her classmates set up sales tables asking for donations of chewable children’s vitamins, and/or cash



*Hannah Schwartz (right) and her cousin Ricky Bogart.*

donations. In one week more than 200 bottles of chewable children’s vitamins were donated, PLUS \$1,000. “It was more than I expected,” said Hannah. “We’re a small school, so I was amazed at the generosity.”

The donations were delivered to Haiti by her cousin in January, who

took photos to send back so Marianapolis could see the difference their support is making.

For herself, Hannah sees a future in helping people. “Knowing what we’ve done helps these people touches my heart,” she says. She hopes to go to Haiti herself next year with her family. “I really want to do anything I can to help be-

cause they are truly in need and we have so much,” she adds, commenting that socks, clothing, a bed, enough food, are all things we take for granted. “Doing this really helped me find out more about what I want to be, and it inspired me to do more.”

For more information on the organization Hannah’s family works with, go to <http://www.foundationssamaritanaction.org/home.html>



*A mom and child receive vitamins donated by MPS.*

## Scenes from the Season



### Gonzalez Wins Soccer Award

**Estefano Gonzalez**, a senior from Columbia, was named to the Connecticut Soccer Coaches Association 2007 All Star Team for the second consecutive year at the All State Banquet in January. Only 10 players have received this honor in the history of Marianapolis. Only 22 players in the state were named to All Stars in the Prep S/M division. Gonzalez has had a stellar soccer career at Marianapolis, being named MVP and an SENE Division All Star. He is now applying to U.S. colleges including Worcester State and Nichols.



### Turkey Dip Draws a Crowd

More than a dozen Marianapolis students once again participated in the Quaddick Lake Turkey Dip on Thanksgiving Day, to raise money for Muscular Dystrophy. Pictured here are Seniors Janelle Peiczarka and Noah Stuckart.

### Gustavson Tops in NE MotoCross

**Ben Gustavson**, a freshman, (son of athletic director, Eric Gustavson), was named New England Mini-Hare Scramble Motocross Champion in January. He placed first in his division for the New England Trail Riders Association, a 3,000 member organization. Ben has been racing motocross since he was 8 years old, riding since he was 5, and rides a 85cc Yamaha. He competes year-round in events from Maine to New York, racing through 7 mile courses. This September he placed third in his class in a national competition, the Unadilla, a GNCC (Grand National Cross Country) race in New Berlin, New York (he placed 19th overall out of 182 youth). He competes

on the STS Motorsports team. Breaking his collar bone in October didn’t slow him down—he was back on course after missing only 2 races. The 103 lb, 14-year-old rides a 140 lb bike that he and his mom Ann Marie do all the mechanical work on themselves. He is also sponsored locally by Yamaha of Putnam. He also competes in soccer, wrestling at Lacrosse at Marianapolis.



## Staff Appreciation Day



*Sophomore Moms, left to right: Valerie Clark, Nancy Laframboise, Lisa Bodreau, Kirsten Labby and Tammy Rawls.*



*Stylist Kim Bruce with MPS faculty Brendan Wilberton.*

Each semester class MOMs sponsor a Staff Appreciation Day. In January, the senior class mothers turned the faculty lounge into a pre-superbowl party with a feast of homemade appetizers and desserts devoured by an appreciative faculty. In February, the junior class mothers transformed the library into a relaxing, peaceful spa day, offering faculty and staff hair cuts, massages, and manicures. Moms Valerie Clark and Lisa Bodreau orga-

nized day of relaxation and an amazing food spread, lovingly prepared by a half dozen moms. 45 teachers and staff received pampering. Volunteering their services were staff from Finally Lisa’s of Southbridge, Lori Lazzara of Euphoria Day Spa Auburn, MA; Jennie Plasse of Massage for Health, Southbridge, MA; and Hope Johnson of Allure Hair Design in Sturbridge, MA. Thanks to all the MOMs for all you do!

# Class Notes

**1947-Tom Sheehan** was recently awarded the Georges Simenon Award for Excellence in Fiction, by New Works Review in Houston for his book, *Epic Cures*. He had previously won an IPPY Award as well as a Silver Rose from American Renaissance for the Twenty-First Century (ART) for short story excellence. His work has also been nominated for nine Pushcart Prizes and two Million Writer awards, and will be included in the Best of the Web Anthology in 2008. His next book, "Brief Cases, Short Spans," a short story collection, will be issued in 2008. Tom was quarterback of the undefeated MPS football team in 1947, and lives in Saugus, MA.



**1955-Algris Milavickas** spent 3 years at Marianapolis on full scholarship. He and his family immigrated to the U.S. in 1949. After Marianapolis Algris attended Loyola University in Chicago for a year before joining the Marine Corps for three years. He is married with two children and 10 grandchildren, and lives in Illinois.

**1958-We** recently caught up with **Eugene Brizgys** at the Chicago, Illinois, reunion. Eugene credits Marianapolis with making a difference in his life. He and his family immigrated to the US in 1948. After graduating from Marianapolis, he attended the University of Illinois for two years. He and his wife Irene have two sons. He is retired from a consulting firm.

**1964-David Costa** has run his family business in Essex since 1979, and has two children, Andrew (36) & Betsey (31) and two grandchildren Cate age 3 and Grant age 6 months. He lives in Haddam, CT.

**1965-Gerard Beaudoin** is a noted geophysicist and project manager with 28 years of experience in the upstream oil and gas industry. During the first half of his career he developed oil and gas prospects in the Western US and offshore Alaska. A shift to international work saw him managing the application of emerging seismic technologies to problems in exploration and development geophysics. He lives in Houston, Texas, and would love to hear from old classmates at beaudo@earthlink.net

**1966-John Learson** came in 1st place in December's Greater Philadelphia Tri-State Open Racquetball Tournament in doubles (50 & over), and in January came in 2nd at the New York City Pro/Am Racquetball tournament in singles (60+) and 2nd in doubles (50+). John resides in West Chester, PA.

**1968-Daniel Franklin** attended Marianapolis as a postgraduate. He went on to earn a B.A. in Political Science at American University. After college he signed up for the Marine Corps' Officer Commissioning program, ultimately serving as a weapons platoon commander in the evacuation of South Vietnam in April '75. After two tours, he completed his Master's degree at American University and worked for the EPA. In 1980 he returned to the Marine Corps, retiring in 2000 as a lieutenant colonel. He then went on to a second career writing information security programs. He and his wife Evelyn have two daughters, Leilani and Kristina, and live in Alexandria, Virginia.

**1970-Joe Gromelski** attended Bates College in Maine, remaining in Lewiston writing for the local paper until '97, when he took a job with *Stars and Stripes*, a daily newspaper published for the U.S. military. After a year in Germany, Joe returned to DC. He is now in charge of the editorial content for the *Stars and Stripes* web site, does reporting and photography.

**Bob LaRochelle** is now a Doctor of Ministry at the Chicago Theological Seminary, in Chicago, IL.

**1971-John Adams** and his wife Diana have two children, including a daughter who was baptized by Fr. Gurklis.

**Tod Granger** reports, "There is another Granger on the way." He lives in Sag Harbor, NY.

**1972-Robert Ralis** spent three years at Marianapolis. A lawyer, Robert works in real estate development. He has a 15-year-old son and lives in Chicago, IL.

**Joseph Salcetti** holds a Bachelor's degree in psychology and a Master's degree in tax and accounting from George Washington University. A CPA, Joe is the controller at a real estate development company in Northern Virginia, and has worked in real estate development for about 20 years. He married his wife Martha in 1986 and they have 2 children - a son at Virginia Tech majoring in aerospace engineering and a son who is a junior in high school. They live in Fairfax, Virginia.

**1973-Thomas Dodge** is an Operations Director at Fidelity Investments. In his spare time, he is attempting to climb all of the 4000+ foot summits in New England. He lives in Worcester, MA.

**Mitchell LaPlante** works as Director of Disability Statistics Rehabilitation Research and Training at the Institute for Health and Aging at the University of California at San Francisco.

**1974-Neil Fitzgibbons** is making silica nano particles to ship around the world. His hobbies include the living history of US civil war and early Georgia, history. He lives in Kennesaw, GA.

**1975-Mark Langan** volunteers for Seeds of Peace and lives in San Francisco, CA.

## e-news

Please email us your email address & we will send you updates from your classmates, as well as news and information on MPS upcoming events. Email us at [alumni@marianapolis.org](mailto:alumni@marianapolis.org)

**1977-Marie Wojcik** says hello to her fellow classmates. She moved to Japan in 2006 teaching English as a Second Language to high school and adult students. She also serves as the area leader for English teachers for the Japanese English Teach program (JET) as well as the volunteer representative of A-JET in the Northern prefecture of Ishikawa-ken. Highlights from the past year have included climbing the Great Wall of China and traveling down the Mekong Delta in Vietnam. Email her at: [mimimarielouise@yahoo.com](mailto:mimimarielouise@yahoo.com)

**1978-Curtis Masiello** received his Ph.D. in political science from Johns Hopkins University in 1994. He served for twenty years in the United States Army and retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel in 2002. Dr. Masiello taught at the United States Military Academy and co-edited *American Politics: The Pluralist Tradition* (Kendall Publishing, 1993). His military assignments also included the position of antiterrorism policy and assessments division chief for the United States European Command and special assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Dr. Masiello works for Northrop Grumman and provides support to the Director's Staff Group of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. He can be reached at [cmasiel@cox.net](mailto:cmasiel@cox.net) and lives in Alexandria, VA.

**1980-David Mousseau** credited recently deceased Fr. Mark Garrow as the reason he graduated from MPS and from Catholic University. While at MPS he played soccer, was captain of the golf team and editor of the yearbook. He is now a commodity trad-

ing advisor. He and his wife of 11 years Mary Lezon live in Chicago, IL.

**1982-Kevin Sheridan** came to Marianapolis as a post-grad, and while here managed girls basketball. He went on to graduate from St. Michael's in 1988 with a degree in business administration; minor in psychology. While there he broke his neck playing football, but recovered and was able to graduate in five years. After college he went to work for an office supply company in South Windsor, and then went to work as a manufacturer's rep for Wilson Associates in Billerica, MA. He now owns a furniture company in Chicago, called Sheridan Contracts. He and his wife Michelle live in Chicago, IL, with their two children, Tessa Mae 3 1/2 and Josie Mychael 4 1/2 months.

**1985-Suzanna Bell Slaughter** spent three years at MPS. She is married with three children—a daughter in 4th grade, a son in first grade, and a son in pre-school. She is a stay-at-home mom and her husband is a 5th grade teacher.

**1987-Shannon Belanger De Vaul** and her husband Bryan are living in Woodstock, IL and have a 3-year-old daughter Teagan Ann DeVaul.

After graduation, **Marc Chiancola** worked at Polyflow in Sterling, MA, for 5 years. Since then his career has brought him to South Carolina, upstate NY, and Cleveland, Ohio, in CPA and comptroller positions in the steel industry. He is now CFO and Global Risk Manager at Metal West in Denver, Colorado. Marc was married last May in Tuscany and they are expecting their first child in June.

**Robert Henderson** holds a Bachelor's degree in English from Fairfield University, and a Master's degree from UCONN. He credits his MPS English teachers as instrumental in giving him the confidence to succeed academically, and remembers MPS as a great chapter in his life. "I still tell people that college and grad school weren't too difficult because I learned such strong discipline and good habits at Marianapolis." At age 25, after grad school, Rob landed a job with Andersen Consulting in Hartford, later moving to the London, England office, and returning to the U.S. in 2000. Seeking warmer weather than Connecticut, they moved to Reston, VA, where just this year he launched his own business as an independent consultant helping organizations implement large changes, such as new computer systems and workflows.



**1988-Robert Viens and Maria Heaton**, MPS Faculty, were married in January. Viens is mayor of Putnam, CT, and Heaton teaches English as a Second Language at Marianapolis.

**1991-Zachary Klee** is a partner in Klee Odom + Klee, PLLC, an architecture firm serving the Gulf Coast region. KO+K's office recently relocated to the Gulf Coast Business Technology Center in Biloxi, Mississippi. The company began as a one-person firm in 2002 and in early 2007, relocated to the Gulf Coast from Washington DC. Klee and his wife and business partner, Donna J. Klee, both attended Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia.

**1993-Jeff Beaulac** and his wife Tonya welcomed Jesilyn Samantha into the world on Oct 21st. They live in Napa, CA. You can send them well-wishes at [jbeaulac@comcast.net](mailto:jbeaulac@comcast.net).



**Martha Mazeika** is living in Norfolk, VA. She graduated from UMASS Dartmouth in 1997 with a Bachelor's degree in Humanities and Social Sciences. Martha worked at Nichols College and completed

# Class Notes

*continued from page 7*

her Master's in education at Springfield College. She then spent six years working as an admissions counselor at Springfield Technical Community College and later as an advisor. In 2006, she was accepted into the PhD for Community College Leadership program at Old Dominion University, and will begin her last semester of coursework in January, take comprehensive exams in June and hopes to complete her dissertation in 2009.

**1996-Justin Leonard** is getting married on Aug 7th to **Kaitlin Gainen '96**. **Javier Mendez Rodriguez** passed the Federal Bar Exam in December, allowing him to practice in the federal courts.

**1997-Kristy-Lynn Gaska** was married on October 21, 2006 and gave birth to 8 lb 12 oz Austin Michael Gaska on October 28th, 2007. She would love to hear from any former classmates at [kristyvires@yahoo.com](mailto:kristyvires@yahoo.com).

**Sabrina Zadrozny** recently moved from DC to New Haven, CT, after six years in the nation's capital. As an undergrad, she attended Assumption College, earned a Bachelor's degree in history and biology, and then attended grad school in DC, earning her Master's degree in epidemiology at George Washington University. Most of her time in DC was spent working at a non-profit healthcare policy organization, although she initially moved to the area for a fellowship at NIH. She now works at Yale, researching translational study based in NYC community health centers to reduce HIV/STDs in pregnant teenagers.

**1999-Tiana Giebultowski** will be graduating from the Roger Williams University School of Law in May. She can be reached at [tgiebult@gmail.com](mailto:tgiebult@gmail.com).

**2001-Amanda Ashlaw and Dennis Simoneau** have an August 2008 wedding planned, and welcomed son Caleb Michael on Dec. 4, 2007.

**Rebecca Bissonnette** was hired as new girls coach at local Tourtellotte Memorial High School in Thompson, CT. She's a former girl's basketball standout at Marianapolis, and coached at Woodstock.

**Elise O'Brien's** daughter Katherine Rose recently celebrated her first birthday.

**2002-Elizabeth Giebultowski** earned a B.A. in psychology at St. Joseph's in West Hartford and is living in Meriden, where she works at a residential assistance facility for individuals with mental health disorders. Her current email address is [egiebultowski@sjc.edu](mailto:egiebultowski@sjc.edu). **Gretchen Kita** is engaged.

**2003-Michelle Columbia Smith** graduated last May from Johnson & Wales University magna cum laude, with a B.S. in hospitality management. She recently married Brad Smith, a U.S. Navy sailor, and is living in Norfolk, VA.

**Casey Salvietti** is working at an economic consulting firm called NERA in the Antitrust division, and living on the Upper West Side of NY City.

**2006-Jackie Andstrom** reports that her semester is going very well. Her experience with Marianapolis in New Orleans last May inspired her to work at a food bank in South Windsor, and led her to major in social work.

**Curtis Fitch** recorded his first career basketball double-double as the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, leading to a win that snapped a two game losing streak. Fitch's tip in opened the half and gave the Devils their biggest lead of the game.

## IN MEMORIUM

Sadly, **Gamal Patrick**, has died. He was a basketball standout who attended Marianapolis from 2000-01.

## Class Agents Wanted!

We are looking for class agents-individuals who will take the lead in gathering information and organizing events for their class. If interested, call Alumni Relations at 860-923-9565 x 236 or email [alumni@marianapolis.org](mailto:alumni@marianapolis.org)

## Have News to Share?

We'd love to hear from you! Please email [dcreed@marianapolis.org](mailto:dcreed@marianapolis.org), or call 860-923-9565, x 225 and we will publish your news in an upcoming issue!

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