

CARRYING ON THE TRADITION



Mrs. Lynn Rinehart receiving the Micah Distinguished Alumni Award

Mrs. Lynn Anne Rinehart, Saint John's Class of 1962, was presented the Micah Distinguished Alumni Award during Commencement. Mrs. Rinehart was recognized for her long and distinguished career in the area of social work, her many contributions to the Catholic Church, and for her volunteer service in both Frederick and Washington Counties.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented annually at Commencement to celebrate the accomplishments of an alumnus or alumna and is based upon the following Biblical quotation.

"... This is what the Lord asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8).

Mrs. Rinehart has lived her life in service to her community and her church and we are ever so grateful for her continued and unwavering support of Saint John's.

WE ARE GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER



Rendering of the football/ soccer/ lacrosse stadium

I want to take this opportunity to update you on the plan for the new campus. We are still moving forward in all areas to break ground and open the new school as quickly as possible. However, the same economic factors that are affecting us all are affecting the financial bond markets that are the source for the new school project.

As a result, we were advised by our Financial Advisor, Wye River Group, and by our bond underwriter, RBC Capital Markets Corporation, that financial prudence requires that we postpone finalizing the sale of our bonds, our primary financing source, until early April, 2009. What does this mean? The opening of the new facility may be pushed back to the fall of 2010. When the bonds have been issued and sold, we will officially break ground on the new campus.

Let us look at what has been accomplished to date:

- In December of 2007 the school purchased the 49 acre site on Buckeystown Pike.
- We have all of the architectural specifications and plans for the entire new campus which also includes the detailing of all furniture and fixtures.
- We have a contract with Coakley Williams Construction, Inc. to construct the new facility.
- We have a contract from a buyer to purchase our current property when the bonds are sold, and an agreement that will allow us to continue, thereafter, to operate the school rent free in our current space until such time that we are able to move to the new campus.
- We will have all construction permits in place to build the new campus. These include the building permits from Frederick County, access permits from the Maryland Highway Administration, and other permits from the Maryland Department of the Environment. We have been diligently working towards acquiring these permits for the last two years and we are absolutely ready to build our new facility.
- Our *Legacy Campaign* has raised over \$1,619,000 in cash and pledges, or 23% of our \$7 million goal, in addition to a number of verbal pledges that takes us closer to \$2 million. We are directing the efforts of our capital campaign committee to expand its membership and to target additional donor prospects. More information will be forthcoming about the campaign and how you can become part



Rendering of the new Chapel



Rendering of the new Theater



Rendering of the new Gymnasium



(L to R) new faculty members, Tim Van Schaick, Bethany Witcher, Maria Lecuona & Jessica Collins



SJCP Chorus performs a Josh Grobin song at the Music in the Mansion performance



Freshmen get a big surprise at the Spirit Week Pep Rally!

of supporting this exciting venture in the Spring of 2009.

- In accordance with my job description, I am fully committed to focus the majority of my efforts toward the success of the *Legacy Campaign* and the relocation to a new school campus.

All of us involved in this project have been working diligently for more than two years to bring the new campus to fruition in a timely manner. Were it not for the current circumstances that are beyond anyone's control, this project would have been started in November – we are that ready to proceed. Our delay ensures that we act in a fiscally responsible manner to guarantee the long-term viability of this institution for the benefactors and students, present and future. I ask that all of you have patience as we navigate the uncharted waters of the credit market crisis. Be united with the Board and Staff as we continue to move forward to achieve the goal of locating to the new facility.

SAYING GOODBYE AND WELCOMING NEW FACES

At the end of last year we said goodbye to a number of faculty members who are pursuing other career avenues. I know that you join me in wishing the very best to Dr. Neil Clark, Ms. Michelle Huhn, Ms. Sandra Dawson, Mr. Scott Rippeon and Gary Rand.

Fr. George Jakopac, a member of the Theology Department, has been named the first full-time Director of Campus Ministry and Chaplain. We are deeply grateful to Archbishop Edwin O'Brien of the Archdiocese of Baltimore for Fr. Jakopac's continuing assignment to Saint John's.

Joining our faculty for 2008 – 2009 are the following:

Mr. Curt Foxx, who holds a BA degree from Kenyon College, two Master's degrees from Vanderbilt University and from McDaniel College will join our Theology faculty. He is also the Head Men's Lacrosse Coach at Hood College here in Frederick.

Ms. Jessica Collins, who holds a BS degree from Mount Saint Mary's University, joins the faculty in the Science Department.

Mr. Eric Dummann, who holds a BA from West Virginia University and an MS from McDaniel College, joins our staff as the new Dean of Students. Previously, he worked at Hood College as the Head Men's Lacrosse Coach and as the Assistant Dean of Students at DeMatha Catholic High School.

Ms. Maria Lecuona, who holds a BA in Spanish from Wilson College, is part of our Foreign Language Department. She comes to Saint John's with a teaching background both at the high school and elementary levels.

Ms. Melissa Phillips, who holds both a BA and MA in Teaching from Mount Saint Mary's University, joins our English Department.

Mr. Tim Van Schaick, who holds both a BA and an MA from James Madison University in American History, joined us this year as the Librarian. Mr. Van Schaick has now been named to the Social Studies Department as a replacement for Mr. Jeremy Mattoon, who has been named as the new Head Lacrosse Coach at Husson University in Maine. A replacement librarian will be named at a later date.

