

President Update April 2009

Dear Bellarmine Students, Faculty and Staff,

This 2008-2009 basketball season, Bellarmine University and the region had the privilege of enjoying and cheering for the best NCAA Division II Men's Basketball team in the nation – the Bellarmine Knights!

Congratulations and thanks to each and every person who made this possible, including our outstanding student-athletes themselves, Coach Davenport and his staff, the managers, trainers, cheerleaders, mascot, dance team, band, Athletic Director Wiegandt and his staff, and the amazing Bellarmine University fans – led by our students but also including many faculty, staff, alumni and alumnae, parents, trustees, overseers, and many others who followed and supported the team this year. This historic and distinguished team achieved what they achieved this year – not only because of their immense talent, commitment, passion, and teamwork – but because of you and your support.

Thanks as well to our Student Affairs staff, the Bellarmine Alumni Association, and the Bookstore, Finance, Physical Plant, and Security staff. I am sure I am leaving people out and apologize for any such oversight, but you get the point – congratulations to us all and thank you, thank you, thank you to all who made the season possible!

Bellarmino to grant honorary degrees to New York City Ballet dancer and Owensboro Bishop

During spring commencement services, Bellarmine University will grant honorary degrees to Bishop John J. McRaith, who led the Diocese of Owensboro for more than 25 years, and New York City Ballet principal dancer Wendy Whelan. The ceremony will be held in Knights Hall on May 9 at Noon.

Student and alumni achievements

Senior English major **John Patrick James** has been accepted into Columbia University's MFA Program in Creative Writing.

English major **Jennifer Durbin** has been accepted into the Spalding University MFA program in fiction.

The *Paducah Sun* highlighted Bellarmine graduate student, **Abbie Morris** (MAILSA student from Graves County) in an article on Saturday, March 7th. Abbie's School Improvement Project through her studies at Bellarmine was the focus of the feature article.

BU alum **Shawn Trail** (Music/German/Ghana study abroad 2002), won a Fulbright Grant to study at the Medialogy Institute at Aalborg University in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Staff & Faculty News

Congratulations to BU creative director **Brad Craig** and his wife (and BU alumna) Laura Craig on the birth of their baby daughter, **Ella Rose Craig**. Ella Rose was born March 25 at 12:02 a.m. Mom, dad and baby are healthy and very happy.

School of Arts and Sciences

Larkspur Press has accepted **Frederick Smock's** new book of poems, *The Blue Hour*, for publication. Individual poems in this collection have first appeared in *Ariel*, *The Iowa Review*, *The Antioch Review*, *Cold Mountain Review*, *The Merton Seasonal*, and others. Mr. Smock chairs the English department and directs the Creative Writing program.

Christine M. Hutchins, M.A. has been accepted to the 2009 NFLRC Summer Institute for Non-native Teachers of Chinese & Japanese. After she completes two weeks of training, she will then be eligible to be a mentor teacher for three weeks at the University of Hawaii Chinese Language Immersion Sports Camp, which is a STARTALK/Confucius Institute Program at University of Hawaii.

School of Communication

Congratulations to **Dr. Kimberly Parker** for winning "Best Paper" in two categories at the prestigious National Communication Association. In the Communication & Social Cognition Division, her paper *Can Inoculation Create Umbrella Protection Spanning over Related, but Untreated, Attitudes? Applying Inoculation as a Strategy to Protect Young People's Attitudes from Pressure to Engage in Risky Behaviors*; Kimberly A. Parker & Bobi Ivanov. In the Public Relations Division: *Effectiveness of Advertising and Public Relations Sequencing in New Product Introductions: Corporate Credibility and Image as Moderators of Message Sequencing Success*: Bobi Ivanov, Kimberly A. Parker and Jeanetta Sims.

School of Education

Education faculty members **Jan Calvert**, **John Sizemore** and **Deb Baker** participated in the statewide taskforce on the redesign of principal preparation sponsored by the KY Department of Education in February.

The student Education Club sponsored a dinner for education students and their Kentucky Education Association-Retired Teacher mentors on Thursday, February 19.

Approximately 50 Bellarmine education majors attended the first annual Kappa Delta Pi & Education Club **Aspiring Leader Conference** on Sunday, Feb. 22. **Dr. Kathy Cooter** delivered the keynote. Participants attended sessions on such topics as principals' preferences when hiring new teachers, insights from first-year teachers, the Kentucky Intern Teacher Program, graduate school options, and teacher benefits and retirement plans.

On Tuesday, February 24, 2009, **Kathleen Cooter** (in absentia) and **Robert Cooter** presented a paper entitled "Reflections Regarding Principal Training as an

Avenue to Sustainability in The Memphis Striving Readers Project” at the annual meeting of Striving Readers grantees held at the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C.

Deborah Baker and **Anne Bucalos** presented *It Takes a Village: A State, District and University Partnership in Principal Preparation* at the KY Association of Colleges of Teacher Education Spring Conference in Georgetown, KY. on March 6.

Anne Bucalos co-presented (with several representatives from KY institutions) *Building School Capacity Through Teacher Leadership: One State’s Journey* at the KY Association of Colleges of Teacher Education Spring Conference in Georgetown, KY, on March 6.

Kevin Thomas attended the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE) Conference in Charleston, SC, from March 2 – 4, and conducted a roundtable discussion about his research using text messaging in the classroom.

Anne Bucalos was elected to a 2-year term to the Executive Board of the KY Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, representing private institutions.

Robert Cooter has been nominated to run for Vice President-elect of the Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers (formerly the College Reading Association). The results will be announced this fall at their next annual meeting.

"The Bellarmine" nominations

The 2008-2009 faculty and staff awards are still open for nomination on our website. The awards recognize the distinguished achievements of faculty and staff in living the core values of the Bellarmine campus community. Please note that the nomination deadline is May 9.