

December 2006

President's Update

Dear Bellarmine Community Members,

December is always a very busy month, especially as the Fall term comes to a close. In the midst of this activity, I extend to you and yours my very best wishes for a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year.

Student Achievements

The BU Mock Trial team is off to another impressive start this year. Bellarmine's team is the largest ever, with 18 members, eight of whom are new to mock trial. Nevertheless, the team made strong showings in Virginia, Tennessee, and Arizona, including a top 20 Tennessee finish out of 72 teams that included the likes of Duke, Emory, Notre Dame, Furman, Gonzaga and Vanderbilt.

English major and Honors student Janell Oliver has won a poetry prize from Sarabande Books, a regional publisher of quality poetry and fiction. Her poem, "Breaking the Ice," earned her an award and \$200. Benjamin Lesousky's poem "Fellows Garden, Cambridge," was a runner-up in Sarabande's competition. Both poems will be listed on Sarabande's website.

Bellarmino student-athletes had a 91 percent Academic Success Rate (ASR), the second highest in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, according to a recent NCAA report. The ASR is a new graduation-rate technology used by the NCAA. All eight Bellarmine women's sports teams (basketball, CC/Track, Field Hockey, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Tennis, Volleyball) received an ASR of 100

percent and the men's cross country/track team, men's golf team, and men's tennis team each received an ASR of 100 percent.

The Bellarmine athletics department is collecting hats, gloves, scarves, and socks for the youth of Maryhurst. Maryhurst is a local program that works to assist young people between the ages of 12 and 18 who have been traumatized by abuse and neglect. The Knights will also be collecting household items such as cleaning and personal hygiene products, as well as toys and kid's clothes to donate to Mom's Closet Resource Center. The MCRC assists single mothers who are going back to school. Bellarmine supporters are asked to help with this project by donating items at any home basketball game in December.

Volleyball player Chelsea Bibelhauser became the first Knight in six seasons to earn a spot on the GLVC All-Conference team when she was selected to the second squad last week.

Soccer forward Lindsay Scheer was named to the ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA All-District All-Academic First Team. Scheer currently is carrying a 4.0 grade point average in physical therapy.

Field hockey senior Michelle Esterle closed out her Bellarmine career in style by being named to the womensfieldhockey.com weekly honor roll. Esterle picked up the award by scoring both game-winners in the Knights final two victories of the 2006 season.

Junior field hockey player Sarah Roney was selected to the 2006 All-America Second Team by both the National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) and womensfieldhockey.com. In just three seasons, Roney has already climbed to fourth all-time at Bellarmine in career goals with 27.

After seven weeks of intercollegiate tournament action the Bellarmine University Women's Bowling Team is currently ranked 19th in the nation. Because bowling

isn't divided into Divisions, this ranks Bellarmine among all colleges and universities in the nation with women's bowling teams.

Faculty Achievements

Professor Christy Kane, Respiratory Therapy Department, Lansing School, is the recipient of the 2006 Gish Award. This national competitive award includes both a cash prize and meeting expenses to further post graduate research.

Jack Grundy, a student at St. Francis Assisi School and a protégé of Dr. Karen Golemboski, was one of 15 students chose from the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge to receive a major award. Jack was honored with the "Sights to See" Award for his research of the presence of staph and other bacteria in soil. Jack won a scientific quality telescope (with GSP) and he gets to name two minor plants.

Frederick Smock's most recent book, *Sonnets*, has been nominated for both the Pushcart Prize and the Kentucky Literary Award for Poetry. In addition, his essay "Poetry & Compassion" has been accepted, and will be published in *The Writers Chronicle* in February. The *Chronicle* is published by AWP (Associated Writing Programs) at George Mason University. Smock's new book, *Pax Intranitibus: A Meditation on the Poetry of Thomas Merton*, will be published in March by Broadstone Books.

Mark your calendars: journalist and author Bob Woodward will deliver the Wyatt Lecture in the spring. He will deliver an evening lecture on Tuesday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m.

The Thomas Merton Center was joint sponsor with the International Center for Mystical Studies in Avila, Spain of the first international conference on Thomas Merton to be held in Spain. The October conference was directed by Dr. Fernando Beltran of Salamanca and Dr. Paul Pearson. Over 350 participants

took part in the conference from nineteen different countries. The entire conference was both bilingual and broadcast live over the internet. The conference proceedings will be published bilingually in the Spanish journal *Cistercium*. The Spanish magazine, *Imágenes de la fe*, in cooperation with the conference directors, dedicated its entire October issue to Thomas Merton.

December Commencement

Reminder: December Commencement Exercises are Wednesday, December 20 at 5 p.m. The Commencement speaker will be Sister Helen Prejean, the author of "Dead Man Walking," who has been called "The Mother Teresa of Death Row." Sr. Prejean and Mr. Mason Rudd, civic leader, will receive honorary degrees from Bellarmine.