



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 14, 2006

To the Friends of the Brothers:

When last I wrote to you, it was September; fall had come and we were ushering in a new school year and a new freshman class. Now, five months later, I am pleased to share all of the many wonderful things that have happened since at Christian Brothers High School.

KBFT is #1 in the U.S.

For the second time in three years, KBFT has been recognized by the Student Television Network as the top student run TV station in the country. The Student Television Network had 330 schools in 44 states competing for the top prize. In recognition of their achievement, the KBFT cast and crew co-hosted an educational seminar at the Student Television Network Convention at Disneyland.

KBFT, also known as Brothers Falcon Television, was founded in 2002 and is managed by 27 CB students; KBFT produces three live news segments a week and broadcasts them into classrooms and on the Internet. A pioneer in the field, KBFT has served as a model to other schools building their own student television stations.

Falcons Soar on the Field and on the Court

With the fall sports season over, our student athletes have moved onto league play in the winter sports. But from what heights do they begin their new season—the CB Falcons brought home countless athletic honors this fall, most notably on the football field.

In the last *To the Friends of the Brothers Letter*, I had the honor to inform you of our first ever home football game here at our Oak Park campus and of our tie with Jesuit High School at the Holy Bowl. I am happy to report our football season ended as magically as it started. Our varsity team went 7-2-1, including a 5-0 record at home. They knocked four teams out of the top ten and advanced to the playoffs for the first time since 2001.

Adding to our athletic achievement, our Lady Falcons advanced to the final eight in the California State Volleyball Tournament, and our cross country program's commitment to victory earned them respect throughout Northern California. Our Falcons soared high this fall, with triumphs in all our athletic programs, including Men's Soccer, Women's Golf and Tennis.

A COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL IN THE LASALLIAN TRADITION

We are proud to carry on Christian Brothers' rich athletic tradition.

50th Anniversary in Oak Park

It was the summer of 1956 and the diocese built Bishop Armstrong High School on what was once known as Sacramento Boulevard in Oak Park. A new model of education was introduced—a "co-institutional school." Bishop Armstrong High laid the foundation of Christian Brothers as we know it today.

It may be hard to believe but the summer of 2006 marks fifty years here in Oak Park. We are committed to maintaining a strong presence in the Oak Park community for many years to come.

Improvements to Softball and Baseball fields

Thanks to the generous support of some, we are moving forward on several greatly needed improvements to our baseball and softball fields. The varsity baseball infield has received a total makeover, while the junior varsity field has had minor improvements. The cost of the improvements is approximately \$40,000.

We are grateful to those alumni and friends who contributed to the Joe Marty Baseball Fund Held in Trust over the years and the Ron Limeberger '53 Endowed Athletic Fund. The two funds (the latter with family permission) contributed approximately \$22,000 to the project. We are still in need of the remaining \$18,000.

The softball field is being reoriented to move home plate closer to the track. The new backstop is under construction as I write this letter. The cost of this project is roughly \$73,000. We are grateful to the Alumni Association who identified the softball program as the beneficiary of its annual fundraising efforts over these past few years.

Benefactors wishing to contribute to either project should contact the Athletic Director Jill Bennett at 916-733-7673 or Paul Rieschick, Director of Advancement, at 916-733-3608. We welcome you to come out and cheer on the Falcons this spring.

East Annex Renovation Project

With the construction of the Science, Math and Technology (SMAT) wing in 2001, the east annex building across from the cafeteria has been underutilized. Two former science classrooms have been used for storage. The third classroom remains in operation. With the phenomenal growth of our music program, it has become necessary to provide better instruction space. This summer, we will undertake an \$800,000 project to renovate this building. When completed, we will have two brand new classrooms (one for choir and one for instrumental music) and an improved science classroom. All three rooms will be air conditioned. Although major funding for the project has come from an estate gift (approximately \$200,000 - \$400,000), a private loan, and a few generous benefactors, there is still need for additional gifts. If you are interested in contributing to this important project, please call Paul Rieschick.

Class of 2010 is knocking on our door

It may be hard to believe for some of our older alumni, but the babies born in 1992 are getting ready for high school. On Saturday, January 28, 350 students took the CB placement test. All in all, we will likely receive 375 applications for 275 available seats.

If past trends continue, the Class of 2010 will be increasingly diverse, academically prepared and technologically savvy—children of this “iGeneration” have no memory of a world without computers.

Yet, while academics is certainly an important factor in the selection process, we are proud to base our admissions on more than just grades and test scores. We are proud to welcome—quite intentionally—students from a wide range of academic abilities.

CB's Annual Auction March 11

Call your classmates, your old CB friends and plan a night of fun in support of Christian Brothers by attending our annual auction buffet at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 11. Tickets are now on sale for \$50 each.

Auction items include an opportunity for four couples to pick, crush and receive their own wine with their private wine label; Gregory Kondos piece of art; vacation rental homes at Sea Ranch and Tahoe Donner; vertical tastings of classic wines such as Opus One and Joseph Phelps; and an original “Seinfeld” shooting script signed by Jerry, Elaine, George and Kramer. The grand prize drawing is a \$3,000 travel voucher.

For more information about donations, the event or tickets, visit the Christian Brothers website at www.cbhs-sacramento.org or call (916) 733-3600.

Local Benefactors with No Ties to CB Provide Critical Support

Three years ago, CB was invited to present its greatest needs to a new private charitable family foundation. CB's President, Mark Warren, conveyed to them our mission of providing an excellent Catholic, college preparatory education to students from all walks of life. In particular, CBHS requested support of our “5% Program,” which welcomes children from below the federal poverty line into our student body and provides them with tuition assistance.

Inspired by the mission and the potential to have a transformative impact on individuals, the foundation pledged to fund one student in the 2003-04 school year and grow it to four students in 2006-07. On behalf of these students, we are grateful to this family foundation for providing \$100,000 in need based tuition assistance over the course of four years. Nevertheless, tremendous need remains. If you are interested in following their example please call me or our Advancement Office.

The CB Rugby Club Sees Early Success

What started as an alternative club sport has turned into a mainstream success story. The Men's Rugby Teams have seen success at all levels—to date the varsity is undefeated with a 4-0 record while the Frosh/Soph team is 2-2. From Rugby Coach Rich Boyer: “Come on out and watch the rugby teams. The games are action packed and quick paced.” A game schedule is available online at the Christian Brothers Web site.

We Remember Roy Cortopassi '40, Ray Clemmons, Lewis Kassis and Bud Graham

Countless individuals have contributed to building a rich tradition of excellence over the past 130 years. Among them, some stand out as contributing in direct and special ways. In recent months, our school community mourned the loss of four such men. Roy Cortopassi '40 was a well-known CB teacher and a beloved coach. Football coach Ray

Clemons, though not an alumnus, was a powerful influence on a generation of Gaels, acting a mentor and a dedicated servant to youth and Church. A well-known Sacramento businessman and philanthropist, Lewis Kassis was a generous donor with strong family ties to Christian Brothers. Bud Graham, a longtime cafeteria employee, will always be remembered for his commitment to CB.

Brother George Takes on New Responsibilities

Many of you know and love Br. George Van Gricen, FSC who has served as Director of the Brothers Community since 2001. Recently, Brother Visitor Stanislaus Campbell, FSC asked Br. George to serve the District as Director of Vocations, effective July 1.

Brother George's responsibilities on the CBHS Board of Trustees and his role as Director of the Brothers' Community will be determined in the next couple of months.

Changes in Alumni Relations

Last month, Larry Cline resigned as Director of Alumni Relations, a role in which he served for almost two years. Larry did a good job working with the Alumni Association on special events such as our annual Wine Tasting Event, the Alumni Golf Classic and the Alumni Dinners. We are grateful for his service and friendship.

Nevertheless, Larry's departure presents an opportunity for Christian Brothers to restructure his former position. The title will change to Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving and the new duties for this position will enable us to streamline some of our fundraising programs with the goal of attracting more unrestricted annual gifts. These funds not only help us provide more tuition assistance and tuition control, but also monies to improve programs and facilities. If you know of someone outstanding who might be interested in joining our staff, please have them contact Paul Rieschick.

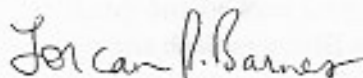
Until Next Time

Christian Brothers High School is a blessed community and I am honored to serve our mission. On behalf of our students and our faculty/staff, thank you for your words of encouragement, your prayers, your financial support, and your presence at our events.

I invite you to please contact me to discuss your thoughts on this letter, its topics and Christian Brothers' future. I welcome your feedback and am encouraged your suggestions. Indeed, the old adage remains true: Together, we can accomplish more than we are capable of doing alone.

St. John Baptist De La Salle. Pray for us. Live Jesus in our Hearts. Forever.

God bless,



Lorcan P. Barnes
President