

Lorcan Barnes
Amb. Dinner Remarks

George Cunningham '40
Ambassador of the Year

When George Cunningham looks back on his life, there are four events that stand out as pivotal: the day he married his wife, Rosalie; the day his son, Michael, was born; the day he began working for Sacramento County; and the day he graduated from Christian Brothers High School.

"I really think that high school was the most important phase of my life," says Cunningham. "I grew up at Christian Brothers and thanks to the education I received, I was ready to be successful in college and in my career."

After graduation, Cunningham enrolled at Sacramento City College. He vividly remembers sitting in a classroom and being told to stand up to listen to a message from the president. The United States had declared war on Japan. Shortly thereafter, Cunningham enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Forces (USAAF). He served mainly in the Pacific, flying the B-24 Liberator and ultimately, as a member of the Allied Forces in Japan following the war.

After returning home, he continued his education. In 1948, he met and married the love of his life, Rosalie, and in 1949, their son, Michael '67, was born. Throughout the years, Rosalie suffered with an illness that necessitated periodic hospitalizations. Yet, the family was happy and enjoyed traveling, built a home in South Land Park and a cabin at Lake Tahoe, and simply loved spending time together.

"I have to admit, I was not in close touch with the school over the years," says Cunningham. "I was working for the County Department of Social Welfare, and caring for Rosalie and Michael. But, I never stopped being thankful for all that the Brothers taught me."

In 2005, Cunningham's world was shattered with the death of his son, Michael. Hoping to create some good from such a tragic loss, he decided to donate the proceeds of Michael's estate to a place they both held dear, Christian Brothers High School. Through his generosity, the east annex classrooms were remodeled, creating the choir and instrumental music classrooms.

"Christian Brothers has a phenomenal performing arts program," says CB President, Lorcan Barnes. "Thanks to George's generosity, our talented singers and musicians have state-of-the-art facilities in which to learn and develop. Although I cannot imagine the pain of losing a child, I do hope that when George hears our orchestra play or the choir sing, he finds some comfort in knowing that Michael's gift brings joy to hundreds of young men and women every day."

After spending more time at the school, attending alumni events and performances, Cunningham decided in 2008 to join the *Building on the Tradition Campaign – Phase II* with a \$1 million pledge. At the public announcement of the campaign, he was

recognized as the lead donor. He also began sponsoring a student in the 2009-10 school year, a gift that he has extended to this year as well.

"Christian Brothers today has the responsibility of receiving students who need an awful lot of growing to be prepared for college and their careers," says Cunningham. "It was the most important phase of my life. I was able to grow up there. Now, I am fortunate to be in a position to be able to help the students. I just don't think they can get the care they need at other schools."

These days, George remains active with twice daily visits with Rosalie, who lives in an assisted living facility. He is a regular attendee at CB alumni and arts events and enjoys attending the opera in San Francisco and the Portland Rose Festival each year.

"I am deeply grateful for George's generosity," says Barnes. "His support of the school and the difference he has made in the lives of our students will live on for generations. To me, personally, he is a hero and one of the people I most admire in terms of his generosity, his continued devotion to his wife and his unwavering positive attitude. I am proud to call him a friend and delighted to recognize him as Christian Brothers High School's 2010 Ambassador of the Year."

a member of the Brothers

George believed in the
4 C's:
communicate
coordinate
cooperate
compromise
but he has earned
an A+ at CB



*Lorcan Barnes, President
of
Christian Brothers High School*

*Requests the Honor of your presence
at the 26th Annual*

*Ambassadors' Club
Dinner*

*Honoring our
2010 Ambassador of the Year*

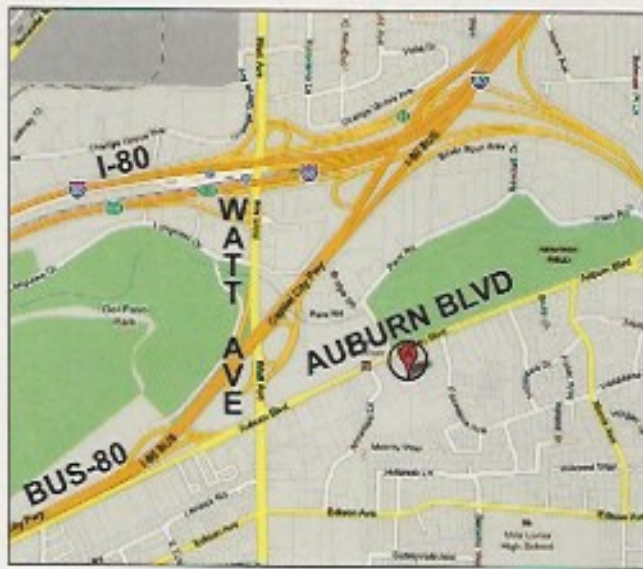
George Cunningham '40

*Wednesday, October 13, 2010
Cocktails at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner at 6:45 p.m.*

*The Croatian Cultural Center
3730 Auburn Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95841*

*Kindly respond by Sept. 28th
to Jan Brown
(916) 733-3603*

jbrown@cbhs-sacramento.org



From I-80

Take Watt Ave. exit, go south on Watt Ave., left on Auburn Blvd., pass Annadale Lane (on your right) and proceed to driveway just after Abreu Gallery. There is a blue sign, Croatia Cultural Center (but difficult to see).

From Business-80

Take Watt Ave. South exit, left on Auburn Blvd. Cross Watt Svc., pass Annadale Lane (on your right) and proceed to driveway just after Abreu Gallery. There is a blue sign, Croatia Cultural Center (but difficult to see).

Look for CB's Falcon to direct you in!





WELCOME TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL
AMBASSADORS' CLUB DINNER

THE THIRTEENTH OF OCTOBER
TWO THOUSAND TEN

Program

6:00 PM.....Cocktails

6:45 PMWelcome
Lorcan Barnes, President

Invocation
Br. George Van Grieken, FSC

Dinner

7:45 PM.....President's Remarks

CB City Rhythm

Ambassador of the Year Award George Cunningham '40

Lorcan Barnes, President

Story Time

Jerry Kirrene '53

8:45 PM.....Closing - *Lorcan Barnes*

Student Ambassadors

Britney Belme '11
Alex Contreras '11
Sam Franzoia '11
Abby Williams '11

Musicians

Travis Maslin, Instr. Music Dir.
Angelo Cook-Perez '11 – Violin
Abby Scurfield '12 – Violin
Vincent Salazar '14 – Violin
Joyce Mok '12 – Cello
Samuel Rose '11 - Acoustic Bass
Jordyn Chew '11 – Piano

CB City Rhythm

Holly Slabbinck, Choir Dir.
Emily Christina Braaten '12
Nicole Martin '12
Miguel Carlos Francisco '11
Samuel Blaine Lovell '11
Brianna Lovett '12
Joseph Kassel '12
Mitchell Blair Shahbazian '12
Marie Claire Tucker '12
Madeline Jean Walsh '12
Austin David Whitted '11
Hannah Kathryn Wilson '11
Jordan Schulz '12



October 13, 2010

Dear Ambassadors and Friends of Christian Brothers:

Welcome to our 26th annual Ambassadors' Club Dinner. Your presence here tonight signals your deep commitment to the students of today, and your dedication to the mission of the Christian Brothers in Sacramento.

While much has changed in our 134 years in Sacramento, we hold steadfast to the tradition of our Founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle, and his insistence on finding and fostering the gifts unique to every student. We have outstanding programs in academics, the arts, athletics and Christian service. Our freshmen class enrollment is up 20 percent over that of last year and our graduates continue to tell us that they were well prepared for the rigors of college.

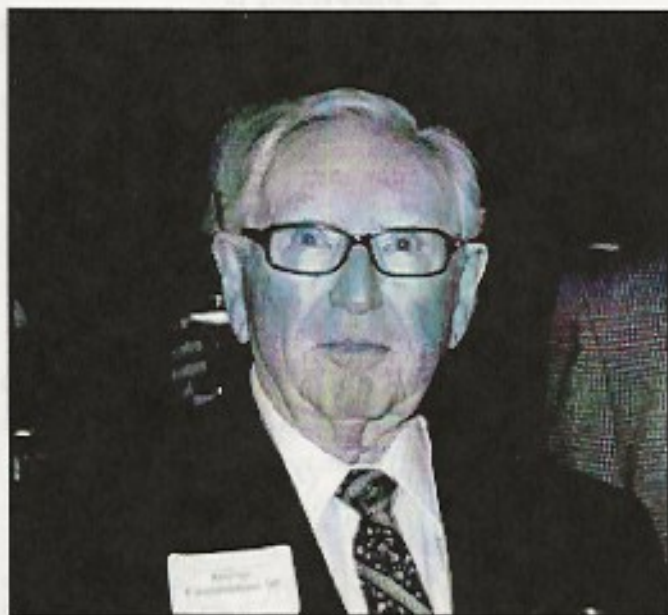
Thank you for all that you do to support us in our ministry of Catholic, Lasallian education. As members of the Ambassadors' Club, your generosity directly impacts and improves the lives of the 1,022 students of Christian Brothers High School. In the words of the Founder, "You are ambassadors and ministers of Jesus Christ." We are profoundly grateful for your generosity.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorcan P. Barnes".

Lorcan P. Barnes
President

2010 Ambassador Of The Year



George Cunningham '40

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Ambassador of the Year Recipients

- 1988 Richard Carlson '47 †
1989 John Jackson, Jr. '68
Leo "Butch" Schuering, Jr. '60
Charles Sylva '65
1990 Ron Carissimi '51
Msgr. Richard Dwyer '32 †
James Mulhern
Manuel Perry, Jr.
Frank Ramos
1991 Br. Bertram Coleman, FSC †
Jean Lahey
Norm Montgomery †
Dwight "Dinty" Moore † (posthumously)
Robert Roche '44
Steve Scully '66 †
1992 James Dunphy, Jr. '41
1993 Robert Massa
1994 Kassis Brothers (Frank†, Louis†, Edward†, Walter, Dr. John†)
1995 Msgr. Edward Kavanagh
1996 Dr. Donald Gillott
1997 Frank '71 & Carrie Vellutini
1998 John and Claudine † Jackson
1999 Bob '48 & Mercedes Slakey
2000 Sisters of Mercy, Auburn Regional Community
2001 Bishop Weigand, D.D.
2002 The Brothers of the Christian Schools
2003 C. Stanley Gilliam '41
2004 Sal "Chado" Vasquez '52
2005 Thea Stidum
2006 Lon '73 and Mary Ann Burford
2007 Bill '68 and Elaine '68 Schaedler
2008 Al '39 and Denise Franzoia
2009 Asa Whetstone '51
2010 George Cunningham '40



"You are Ambassadors and Ministers of Jesus Christ"
-St. John Baptist de La Salle

The Croatian American Cultural Center
3730 Auburn Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95821