



WELCOME TO THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL
AMBASSADORS' CLUB DINNER

THE TWENTY-THIRD OF OCTOBER
TWO THOUSAND FOURTEEN
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL
JACK WITRY FIELD HOUSE

Program

- 6:00 PM.....**Reception**
Music by CB Jazz Trio
Travis Maslen, Conductor
- 6:45 PM**Welcome**
Lorcan Barnes, President
- Invocation**
Most Reverend William K. Weigand
- Women's Chamber Chorus**
Anthony Lien, Director
- Dinner**
- 7:45 PM.....**Video Presentation**
John Costa '12, Director
- President's Remarks**
Lorcan Barnes
Daniel Lee '15
Garrick Sigl '15
- 8:15 PM.....**Ambassadors of the Year Award**
Leo '55 & Gayle Granucci
Robert '55 & Carolyn '57 Granucci
Ken '54 & Marolyn Harris '57
Presented by: Isabella Granucci '15
and Luke Harris '16
- 8:30 PM.....**Closing**
Prayer of Thanksgiving
Br. George Van Grieken, FSC
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*A special thank you to the volunteers and students who helped in
making this a memorable evening.*



October 23, 2014

Dear Ambassadors and Friends of Christian Brothers:

Welcome to the 30th annual Ambassadors' Club Dinner. Your presence here signals your deep commitment to today's students and your dedication to advancing the mission of the Christian Brothers in Sacramento.

While much has changed in our 139 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. With your help, we are able to provide more than \$2.3 million of tuition assistance to 421 students. The Class of 2014 gained admission to many of the nation's most respected colleges and universities and they are off to 19 states and the District of Columbia. I am proud to say that our students, alumni, faculty and staff shine as living examples of faith throughout Sacramento and beyond.

Exciting things are happening at CB today. We welcomed our largest freshman class in 10 years and are now Sacramento's largest Catholic high school. We launched the first year of our engineering program in a state-of-the-art engineering classroom. We relocated and recreated the library as a "Learning Commons" in the centrally-located space that housed the music classrooms from 2006-14. CB is the only local school named to the *Washington Post's* 2013 and 2014 lists of "America's Most Challenging Private High Schools." We are in year three of our International Student Program and have a group of 31 students from seven countries.

It is heartening to know that we have dedicated partners in our Ambassadors' Club supporting us along the way. Your generosity directly impacts and improves the lives of the 1,074 students of Christian Brothers High School and we are profoundly grateful for all that you do to support us in our ministry of Catholic, Lasallian education.

God bless,

Lorcan P. Barnes
President

2014 AMBASSADORS OF THE YEAR

Leo '55 & Gayle Granucci Robert '55 & Carolyn '57 Granucci Ken '54 & Marolyn Harris '57

When Ken Harris '54, and twin brothers Leo '55 and Bob '55 Granucci attended Christian Brothers High School, the all-boy school was located at 21st and Broadway. Twin sisters, Carolyn '57 and Marolyn '57 (Meredith) were part of the first class of young women to attend Bishop Armstrong's co-institutional school at the school's current campus.

While their experiences were very different, their respect for and admiration for the work of the Christian Brothers are woven into their formative experiences of growing up in Sacramento.

"We met the Brothers when we were attending St. Francis High School (a precursor to attending Bishop Armstrong High School)," says Carolyn. "Back then, they were frequent visitors to the school and we knew them all by name. Br. Gabriel and the others were wonderful."

Carolyn and Marolyn's father, Z. Bud Meredith, attended Christian Brothers in 1926 and was later awarded an honorary diploma by Br. Bertram Coleman, FSC. The list of memorial donors who contributed to CB following Bud's passing in 1985 reads like a "Who's Who" of Christian Brothers history with names like Delgado, Higgins and Westlake.

"I respect the Brothers so much," explains Gayle who met Leo on a blind date in 1954. "I went to Sac High where my graduating class had 400 students. I met Leo, his friends and family and attended dances at CB. Leo's class had 75 graduates and everybody knew everybody. The Brothers knew everybody. I was so impressed."

"I have such positive memories of my experiences at the school," says Ken. "Our sons (Kenneth '81 and Patrick '83) and now our grandson, Luke '16, have had great experiences. People's feelings for the school are deep and lasting."

"Our boys (Thomas '82 and Brian '85) could not get here fast enough," says Carolyn. "They really liked going to school here and the teachers really cared about and liked my children. That is important."

"When you look at the formation we received in academics and personal character, it really set us up to be successful," explains Bob. "I really believe that if you instill a sense of personal character, people will succeed. That is what the Brothers have done for us, for our sons and, now, for our grandchildren."

"Gayle and I moved to Fresno, Bakersfield and Southern California after graduation," says Leo. "After an absence of about 30 years, what impressed me the most was that CB continued its tradition of service to others, *Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve*," says Leo.

“What I really appreciate about Christian Brothers is that it really makes no difference what your culture, ethnicity or family life is like, they are going to offer the same excellent education and formation to every student,” says Bob. “St. John Baptist de La Salle fed them, formed them and educated them. That tradition continues today at Christian Brothers and I’m proud to support it.”

“The true testament to the success of Christian Brothers is the fact that school is providing \$2.3 million of tuition assistance to more than 400 students,” says Ken.

“The Granucci and Harris families have been tremendous supporters of Christian Brothers High School and its mission,” says President Lorcan Barnes. “Together, they helped create our Class Sponsorship program.”

Bob, Leo and a group of classmates (Terry Dorsey '55, John Giordano '55, Dick Giusti '55 and Jerry Williams '55) met to discuss strategies for giving. Collectively, they embraced the idea of trying to sponsor a student at CB. All members from the Class of '55 were then asked to consider a gift. Every gift, large or small, was important to their efforts. The goal was to raise as much as possible, and if the class was successful, they hoped to raise enough to sponsor a student. The program was launched in July, 2008.

Soon after, Ken shared the idea with two of his classmates, Larry Lynch '54 and Frank Silvey '54. Shortly thereafter, the Class of '54 hit the ground running.

After sending several letters and making a few telephone calls, both classes successfully raised over \$11,600 -- fully covering the tuition and fees for two students whose families could not afford to send them to CB without assistance.

Today, 49 classes are involved in Class Sponsorship efforts resulting in more than \$300,000 for tuition assistance this year.

Their involvement with the school doesn't end there. Ken worked with Jerry Kirrene '53 and the history committee gathering and compiling information on alumni through the decades. Bob served as a member of the Board of Trustees for six years. Leo and Gayle established the Leo '55 and Gayle Granucci Endowed Scholarship Fund to provide tuition assistance each year to a deserving student.

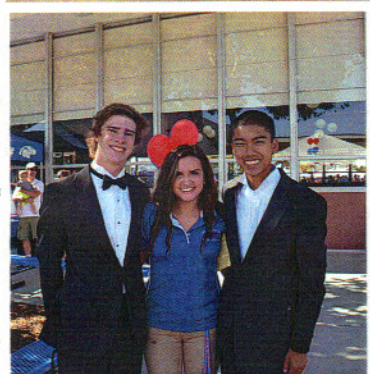
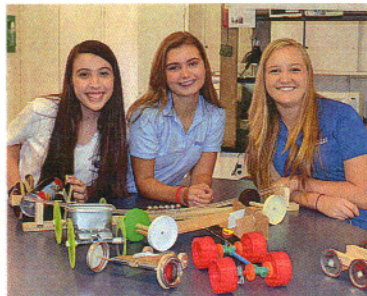
“We were reluctant to accept this award,” says Bob. “But, I really see this as a celebration of family and all of the families who support Christian Brothers High School. This is an honor for all of us.”

“Ken, Marolyn, Leo, Gayle, Bob and Carolyn are six of the most loyal, consistent supporters of Christian Brothers that I have had the pleasure to meet and get to know,” says Barnes. “Their generosity to the school and deep, steadfast support of the Brothers and our mission has truly earned them the distinction of *Ambassadors of the Year*.”



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†, Lewis†, Edward†, Walter†, Dr. John†)
1995 Msgr. Edward Kavanagh
1996 Dr. Donald Gillott
1997 Frank '71 and Carrie Vellutini
1998 John, Sr. and Claudine† Jackson
1999 Bob '48 and Mercedes Slakey
2000 Sisters of Mercy, Auburn Regional Community
2001 Bishop William K. 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
2011 Richard and Connie Koppes
2012 Bill '73 and Helen Pierson
2013 The La Salle Club
2014 Leo '55 and Gayle Granucci, Bob '55 and Carolyn Granucci,
Ken '54 and Marolyn '57 Harris



Thank you,
Ambassadors,
for all that you do!



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