

# PIONEER CONNECTIONS



A PUBLICATION FOR THE COMMUNITY OF PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL

FALL 2011

## PHS NAMED "CHAMPION FOR CHARACTER" SCHOOL



# PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL YOU BELONG HERE.

COMPASSION RESPECT JUSTICE EXCELLENCE STEWARDSHIP



## MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

**D**ear Friends of Providence High School,

I can't believe that Christmas is almost here! Time has flown by here at Providence High School. It seems like just yesterday that we were welcoming all of our students back from summer break and beginning the 2011-2012 school year. Events like Pioneer Round-Up, masses and spirit assemblies, school dances, athletic events, the Dinner Theater/Broadway Review fundraiser, the Parent Board Wine Tasting fundraiser, the CIF Champion for Character banquet, the fall drama, "Rumors" and of course, Theme Night, were all terrific community building events. Additionally, our very own Providence Singers performed at the County of Los Angeles Tree Lighting ceremony. I continue to be blown away by the love our students, faculty and staff, parents, and alums have for this special place. I have never been a part of a kinder or more giving community.

There have been so many successes already this school year. We were so very blessed to receive a very generous, anonymous, unrestricted donation to the school. With this donation we were able to establish the Blessed Emilie Gamelin Endowment which will be used to support faculty development. Our enrollment is robust, as we welcomed 60% more freshman this year than last year. We were featured on the front cover of the back to school

issue of the *Tolucan Times*. Our students, faculty and staff also participated in a successful food drive that contributed to both Burbank Temporary Aid and Fishes and Loaves, and culminated in the celebration of Blessed Emilie Gamelin Day. Our community also adopted needy families and helped to brighten their holidays. As we attended high school nights at local feeder schools, we kept hearing a great "buzz" about Providence High School...why wouldn't we? Great things are happening around here!

In this issue of *Pioneer Connections* you will read about many of our other accomplishments. There is a lot to be proud of at PHS. I appreciate your support of the Providence Fund and the Family Pledge Program. Without your continued generosity, we will not be able to sustain this impressive momentum.

Yours in Providence,

Joe Sciuto  
Head of School  
YOU BELONG HERE.

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# PHS RECEIVES ANONYMOUS DONATION

**A**ppause broke out at a faculty and staff meeting when Head of School Mr. Joe Sciuto announced that an anonymous donor bequeathed \$943,572 to Providence High School, a contribution that will enhance the innovative programs offered at Providence High School. It was earmarked for development programs to support and enhance the Providence faculty well into the future.

“Providence High School has long prided itself on maintaining a talented, well-educated, committed and nurturing group of teachers,” Sciuto said. “This endowment will allow us to continue to support, retain and attract the caliber of educators we need to provide the highest standard of academic excellence for our students.”

Financial gifts from parents, alumni, nonprofit organizations and local businesses continue to enable PHS to provide top quality educational programs and updated facilities.

The gift will be used to set up the “Blessed Emilie Gamelin Endowment.” Emilie Gamelin founded the Sisters of Providence in 1844 to care for the poor and vulnerable. The religious order founded Providence Health & Services, parent organization of Providence High School.

YOU BELONG HERE.

# ANNUAL WINE TASTING EVENT A SUCCESS

**P**rovidence’s annual wine tasting fundraiser was held on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at D’Argenzio Winery Enoteca, which is owned and operated by Richard and Kathy Dargenzio, parents of Alisa Dargenzio Nelson ‘97, Nicholas Dargenzio ‘02, and Jenna Dargenzio ‘08.

There was a great turn out with 100 people attending throughout the afternoon. Participants had the opportunity to taste five different wines and enjoy a variety of appetizers. In addition to the fellowship, \$2,800 was raised for PHS. A good time was had by all.



Mrs. Lisa Reed Kinman, a former PHS student and current parent.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT



**D**ear Providence Alumni, friends, and Providence Families,

Providence High School had an amazing 2010-2011 school year. With freshmen enrollment up over 60%, the 2011-2012 school year looks to be equally as promising. As we move to improve, it is more important than ever to support Providence High School.

Every dollar you give is a dollar well spent. Whether you are giving to the Annual Providence Fund, The Family Pledge Program, Named Scholarships, or to Capital improvements, your contributions directly impact Providence students.

As the school looks to improve curriculum, create a fine arts center, and expand on athletics, the need for funding will increase. Alumni, board, faculty, and family support will be critical for success.

Planned gifts (like the one just announced) such as bequests, charitable remainder trusts, property and stocks are excellent ways to ensure the future of Providence High School.

Thank you for your generosity!

Paul Kaminski  
Director of Advancement

## PLANNED GIVING

HOW TO REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL: 4 EASY STEPS

**R**emembering Providence High School in your will is the most enduring statement you can make about your belief in our mission. The support you have offered throughout your lifetime can go on for years to come.

Your gift can be a specific asset, such as a certain amount of cash, securities or property, or a percentage of your estate. Plus, not only is a gift in your will flexible—you can change your mind at any time—but it can be accomplished in as little as four steps:

1. Determine whether you'd like to make a gift of a specific amount or if you'd like to leave a percentage.
2. Decide if you want to direct your gift to help particular projects or leave your gift unrestricted, allowing it to be used for our most pressing needs.
3. See your attorney to include your gift in your will or revocable living trust.
4. If you desire, please notify us of your intention so we can thank you and keep you informed of ongoing activities. We are happy to adhere to your wishes regarding anonymity.

A gift in your will is an easy way to support Providence High School. To learn more about this simple way to ensure our mission continues into the future, please contact Paul Kaminski, Director of Advancement, at (818) 846-8141 ext. 402 or [Paul.Kaminski@providencehigh.org](mailto:Paul.Kaminski@providencehigh.org).

## NAMED SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

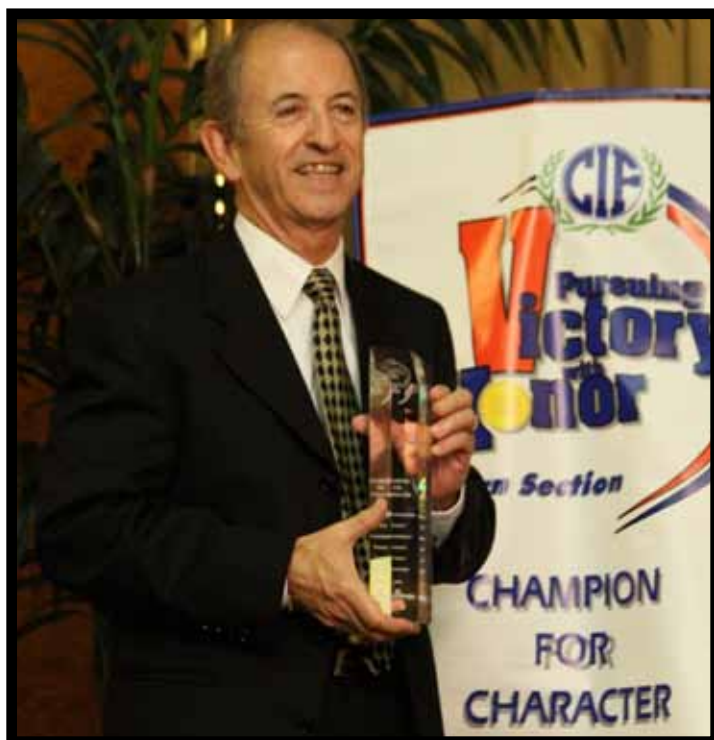
**A**s a result of a generous anonymous donation, an endowed scholarship fund has been set up in memory of Sister Renate Hayum, SP who passed away earlier this year. The scholarship will be awarded to young men or women interested in pursuing the field of library sciences or information technology.

The Victor LeBreton "Champion For Character

Scholarship" has been established in honor of Mr. LeBreton, longtime Vice Principal of PHS who retired this past June.

For more information, or if you would like to contribute to either scholarship fund, please contact Mrs. Vickie Bagwell, Director of Development, at 818.846.8141 x403 or [Vickie.Bagwell@providencehigh.org](mailto:Vickie.Bagwell@providencehigh.org)

# PROVIDENCE HONORED AS “CHAMPION FOR CHARACTER” SCHOOL



Character.” Mr. Rogondino spoke about Mr. LeBreton’s 30 year relationship with PHS, and his commitment to proper sportsmanship and respect. Mr. Rogondino also commented about Mr. LeBreton’s now legendary daily public address sign-off of “study hard, stay safe, and God bless you” at the end of each school day.

Mr. Rob Wigod, Commissioner of Athletics for the CIF-SS said, “It is with great pleasure that I congratulate all of tonight’s honorees and thank them for their dedication and commitment to representing the highest ideals of sportsmanship and character among the 581 member high schools in the CIF-SS. Our Champions for Character award winners truly represent the very best of the Section, and tonight we recognize them for being the outstanding schools and individuals they are.”

In accepting the award, Mr. LeBreton and Mr. Sciuto both spoke about the importance of respect at PHS.

On Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, Providence High School and its former Vice Principal, Mr. Vic LeBreton, were honored at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Jim Staunton Champions for Character Award Ceremony which was hosted by the CIF Southern Section (CIF-SS) and held at the Queen Mary in Long Beach, CA.

Providence High School was named a “Champion for Character School” in part because of its athletic department’s commitment to respect and sportsmanship. PHS has won three straight CIF-SS Liberty League Sportsmanship Awards. Mr. Mark Rogondino from Fox Sport, who served as the evening’s Master of Ceremonies, noted that in addition to the sportsmanship awards, PHS also is known for its well thought-out sportsmanship policies, active administrative support at athletic events, and the athletic teams’ community service projects.

Mr. Vic LeBreton, who retired this past June from his position of Vice Principal of Students Activities & Discipline, was named an “Administrator for

Among the 21 representatives from Providence that attended the dinner ceremony were Head of School, Mr. Joe Sciuto; Athletic Director and PHS alumnus, Mr. Andrew Bencze; Assistant Athletic Director, Ms. Karri Kirsch; Director of Advancement, Mr. Paul Kaminski; Dean of Students, Mr. Dennis Bullock ‘88, in addition to Mr. LeBreton and his family.



Top left: Mr. Vic LeBreton accepting his award; Above: Mr. Andrew Bencze ‘88, PHS Athletic Director; Ms. Karri Kirsch, Asst. Athletic Director; Mr. Joe Sciuto, Head of School; Saoirse McAllister ‘12, ASB President, and Mr. Vic LeBreton.



## BROADWAY DINNER REVUE RAISES \$10,000 FOR CHOIR

**T**he Music Department held their first annual Broadway Revue Show and Dinner on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. This event was extremely successful, raising more than \$10,000 for the students involved in Providence's various choirs. The money will go toward their travels during the Spring of 2012.

This spring, the Pioneer Chorus, Les Dames and Los Caballeros will be performing at "The Music in the Parks Competition" at the Disneyland Resort. The ensembles will have the opportunity to enter Disneyland and California Adventure for the two days along with staying at The Grand California Hotel.

Providence's award-winning advanced choral ensemble, The Providence Singers, will travel to New York City to perform at the "Festival of Gold" series from April 26-30. The invitation to perform came as a result of winning first place in their division at the Heritage Festival in San Diego in 2011.

PHS will compete against choirs from around the country at St. Bartholomew's church in Manhattan

and will also participate in the honor choir ensemble. In addition to performing, the students will have an opportunity to see the famous sights of New York City, including Central Park, Ground Zero, Little Italy, and China Town, and will attend a Broadway show.

Unfortunately, not all of the students can afford to participate in these events. If you are interested in donating to support these students, please contact Choir Director, Mrs. Marisa Bradfield, at [Marisa.Bradfield@providencehigh.org](mailto:Marisa.Bradfield@providencehigh.org) or Director of Advancement, Mr. Paul Kaminski, at [Paul.Kaminski@providencehigh.org](mailto:Paul.Kaminski@providencehigh.org).



# PIONEER NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS



## PHS SENIOR SCORED 2390 ON SATs

**K**evin Mark '12, PHS' 2011-2012 Associated Student Body (ASB) Treasurer, scored a total of 2390 out of a possible 2400 on the SAT. He scored a perfect 800 in Critical Reading, another perfect 800 in Math, and a 790 in Writing.

A dedicated student, Kevin says his greatest

strength is easily his desire to learn. "I have always enjoyed learning," Kevin said.

Outside of school, Kevin's extracurricular activities include being a part of the Boy Scouts, tutoring other students, and ushering at church.

"I love video games, both playing them and creating them," Kevin said. "I like building models and robots, especially when they work the way they are supposed to! I am highly interested in the space program and NASA; I know all about the history of manned spaceflight and hope to be part of its future."

Kevin, who has applied to CalTech, MIT, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and UCLA, intends to major in either Aerospace Engineering or Architectural Engineering.



## Sam Mouradian and Mrs. Maribel Kuklish; Darryn Albert STUDENT LEADERS REPRESENT PHS

**S**am Mouradian '14 has been selected as the new HOBY Ambassador to represent PHS at their Annual Conference in June 2012.

The Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership is an international non-profit organization devoted to inspiring and developing our global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation. HOBY believes these students represent the future leaders of the world—leaders in business, education, government, or any field they choose. Each year for more than 50 years, HOBY Los Angeles has hosted the best and brightest high school sophomores from around Los Angeles for its flagship three day leadership seminar.

HOBY Ambassadors are selected as representatives from their high schools because they have demonstrated the potential to lead others. HOBY Ambassadors are given the opportunity to interact with, question, and respectfully challenge political, economic, and social leaders from around the county, state and country.

**D**arryn Albert '12, has been re-elected Chairperson of the City of Burbank Youth Board for 2011 – 2012. He successfully led the board in preparation and celebration of the city's Centennial events this year including 100 Best Communities for Young People and Austin Cook Award for Outstanding Youth.

The Burbank Youth Board consists of representatives from each middle school and high school and at-large members. Its purpose is to advise the City Council on issues relating to the city's youth and to become knowledgeable of programs and activities affecting the youth of the community.

# PHS CELEBRATES “MISSIONING” OF MR. SCIUTO

It is the practice of Providence Health & Services to celebrate a Missioning ceremony for new executives and administrators, and on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, the Providence High School community celebrated the Missioning of Mr. Joe Sciuto.

In accepting the mission, Mr. Sciuto accepts responsibility to ensure that the mission of Providence High School is promulgated with clarity and integrates consistently within the total life of the school. Mission acceptance formalizes the intention to serve students, parents, faculty, staff, board members, and the community in promoting the highest standards of education.



Mr. Joe Sciuto receiving a blessing from Providence Health & Services Ministry Sponsors Sister Barbara Schamber '61, SP, Sister Anita Butler, SP, Ms. Barbara Savage, and Mr. Johnny Cox.

## DRAMA STUDENTS SPREAD *RUMORS*



Andrew Carrillo '12 as Lenny Ganz and Alyssa Hitchcock '12 as Cookie Cusack.

The talented drama students at PHS successfully tackled Neil Simon's comedy, *Rumors*, November 10-12, and 18-19. There was a special free performance on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> for anyone that attended the Open House. The play was produced in conjunction with Discovery OnStage, and presented live at "The Box Stage II," Providence High School's new and improved black box thrust theatre built from the imagination up.

Check out [www.providencehigharts.org](http://www.providencehigharts.org) for more information about the exciting things the visual and performing arts department is doing!



Karl Ravancho '13 as Ken Gorman.



Katrín Rochon '14, Becky Paz '13, and María Mathias '14 as police officers.



## PHS CHOIR PERFORMS AT TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

**T**he Providence Singers performed at the “County of Los Angeles Tree Lighting at the Music Center” on Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at Music Center Plaza in downtown Los Angeles.

Hosted by Fritz Coleman, KNBC weatherman, the ceremony also featured County Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Music Center President and CEO Stephn D. Rountree, and the chamber music brass ensemble, Brass Pacifica. In addition to performing, Marilyn Rodriguez '12 had the distinct honor of lighting the tree!

The Singers performed “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,” “Blizzard,” and “The Christmas Song.”



# PROVIDENCE IN ACTION - ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS!

**O**n Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, nearly 170 prospective students, the most that have ever attended, participated in Providence In Action, which is an interactive workshop for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students were able to participate in three "mini" classes of their choice in order to get a feel for what is in store for them at PHS.

Providence is accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school year. Either pick up a packet in our main office, or download an application online. The application due date is January 12, 2012.

The High School Placement Test will be proctored on January 21<sup>st</sup> and January 28<sup>th</sup>. To qualify for a PHS Academic Scholarship you must test on our campus.

For more information, please contact Mrs. Judy Egan Umeck '75, Director of Admissions, at (818) 846-8141 x501 or [Judy.Umeck@providencehigh.org](mailto:Judy.Umeck@providencehigh.org).



## RAIN OR SHINE, OPEN HOUSE DRAWS BIG CROWD

**P**rovidence's annual Open House took place on Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup> and was a huge success! Despite the torrential downpour, Providence High School welcomed more than 700 visitors. They were treated to guided tours, addresses from the administration and a lunch prepared by the Parent Board. Although umbrellas were in abundance, everyone seemed to have a great time. After the Open House the Visual and Performing Arts Department opened the theatre to all potential Providence families for the final performance of Neil Simon's "Rumors."

"It was an amazing day... our teachers, staff, parents, and our students displayed why PHS is the place to be," commented Mr. Joe Sciuto, Head of School.



PHS students David White '15 and Kevin Mark '12 volunteer at the Open House.

# ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS



## GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

**T**he girls' varsity volleyball team finished the season in a three way tie for second place in the Liberty League with a 6-4 record and qualified for the playoffs. The team was lead by a group of five seniors including stand out Outside Hitter Thalia Alvarez and Libero April Leyva. Middle Blocker Jessica Mendoza and Outside Hitters Gian Mari Llaguno and Jackie Brewer round out the seniors.

The team finished the season strong behind great defensive play and traveled to play 10<sup>th</sup> ranked St. Paul on the road in the first round of the playoffs. The girls lost a tough match in four close and exciting games. The team was coached by Coach Josh Eggleston, in his third year with the Pioneers and he was assisted by Elizabeth Reuter '07.

## CROSS COUNTRY

**T**he boys' and girls' cross-country program ended their seasons on a strong note. Liberty League Finals were held on a cold and wet morning at North Hollywood Park, where Providence boys' junior varsity and varsity teams had their best finishes of the season. The girls' varsity team placed second that day and cemented a second place finish overall in League, earning them a trip to the CIF Prelims. In the Liberty League finals race, All League honors were awarded to the top 15 athletes in the boys' junior varsity, boys' varsity, and girls' varsity races.

Providence medal winners in the boys' junior varsity

race were Brandon Swofford '14, Yujin Okuda '14, and Robert Tolentino '13. In the boys' varsity race, both medal winners were freshmen as Marcus LoVett '15 finished 10<sup>th</sup> and Lalo Fisher '15 finished eighth. In the girls' varsity race, Jaii Jiang '12, Kelly Castillo '12, and Drew Tacchino '14 each earned All League honors with Jaii leading the pack with a third place finish overall.



The girls' team ran at Mt. SAC for prelims where another wet and rainy day greeted them as they ran the rain course and finished quite well, battling back and forth for the fifth place spot. Senior Jaii Jiang was Providence's top finisher that day and she and the entire girls' team ended their season on a positive note with an excellent run.

## BASKETBALL PREVIEW

**T**he girls' squad this year looks to put up its third consecutive Liberty League banner, and hopes to get a bigger banner once the CIF playoffs roll around. The team should be ranked in the top four of its division and is led by three returning starters which include Senior Guard Catherine Saint '12 and Junior Forwards Bea Benedicto '13 and Janel Adraneda '13. With the addition of Freshman Point Guard Katia Dabbaghian '15, the team is on solid ground. Katia is the niece of Barry Dabbaghian '93 who is the boys' basketball career scoring leader at Providence with 1555 points.



The boys' squad comes in with the highly anticipated return of Senior Patrick Gonzalez '12 who lead the state of California in scoring last year. This year, Patrick has a lot of help alongside him with the addition of highly regarded Freshman Point Guard Marcus LoVett '15 and Sophomore Guard Christian Ware-Barry '14. With 6'6" Senior Kellen Smith '12

down low, the team is challenging for their first Liberty League Championship since the 1998-1999 season. Under new Coach Ernest Baskerville the boys should be ranked in the top four in their division and look to challenge for their first ever CIF crown.

## PHS INTRODUCES TECHNOLOGY FOCUS PROGRAM

Providence High School is known for its unique Media & Medical Focus Programs, and this year a third program has been added. The Technology Focus Program is designed as a broad-based introduction into various areas of technology, providing a launching pad for further college study and industry application. Under the guidance of Mrs. Susan Beckenham, the program is thriving with 59 students!

The program's curriculum does not focus on a single area of technology, but provides a well-rounded overview into the many aspects of technology available to the students. It includes 2D and 3D game programming, robotics, programming mobile device apps, web design, fractal art, and more. Students will also learn about business technology, which includes database applications and management, business statistics, and accounting -

which is the first UC approved accounting course in the state.

At the completion of the program, students will have attained a certification in IC3 (internet and Core Computing) as well as acquired a strong foundation in modern technology in anticipation of further study at the college/university level.

Like the Media and Medical Focus Programs, the Technology Focus Program is looking to have guest speakers visit and talk about various areas of technology.

If you are interested in being a guest speaker, please contact Mrs. Susan Beckenham at Susan.Beckenham@providencehigh.org.

# A WALK IN THE COMMUNITY

BY ARJAN HARJANI, MD  
PHS SCIENCE DEPARTMENT CHAIR & MEDICAL FOCUS PROGRAM DIRECTOR

**P**rovidence Pioneers typically call the corner of Buena Vista/Riverside in Burbank their regular home. However, on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011, some of our Pioneers ventured out to West Hollywood, where they represented PHS in large numbers at the 2011 Annual AIDS Walk Los Angeles. Fr. Chris Ponnet of The Los Angeles Archdiocese HIV/AIDS Catholic Ministry Network is always amazed at the “show of force” that our students put out when it comes to expressing their support for a cause. Our Pioneers clearly outnumbered the rest of the schools in the LA Catholic Archdiocese. We also had a pug named Yoshi (junior Jared Veran’s pet) who agreed to be our companion and lead us on the 10K walk starting from the Pacific Design Center near San Vicente and Santa Monica Boulevards.

Thirty thousand Angelenos walked and raised three million dollars. Our contribution was truly a reflection of our students’ team work and camaraderie. They shared rides, laughs, texts and mails, Jamba Juice and Starbucks, and one student, Marco Paoletta ‘13, even brought a box of doughnuts to share with friends. Thanks to a few helpful and supportive parents, Mr. Ingrassia, Media Program Director, and Mr. Bird, our biology instructor, we were able to get our students assembled in the designated area by the playground of West Hollywood Park.

Mr. Bird is one of two Key Club Moderators. His presence was vital to supporting the Key Club’s community outreach programs along with the involvement of club officers Tiffany Garcia ‘12, Laura Georgia ‘12, and Eldrin Masangkay ‘12. The collective energy was evident as they slowly began to gather as a group. Although a large group, we had no difficulty in getting them to pose for a picture before having the other Catholic high school

students join us in one big picture to represent the Catholic Network’s team. We were now ready to join the masses as we headed out east along Santa Monica Boulevard.

It was a great way to spend the early half of a sunny and beautiful October Sunday morning. Most of our students completed the walk and are now proud owners of completion certificates which they will present to get an additional bonus from the Office of Campus Ministry in the form of Christian Service hours.

I really enjoy and look forward to this annual ritual and I always admire and appreciate the participation and support of our students. They truly are what make Providence High the best place to be not only in Burbank but just about anywhere we decide to show up!



# PIONEERS IN THE FIELD - A PROFILE OF MAJELANE BAUTISTA '06

BY ARJAN HARJANI, MD  
PHS SCIENCE DEPARTMENT CHAIR & MEDICAL FOCUS PROGRAM DIRECTOR



*lesson for tomorrow about the Oil Spill in the Gulf and they are going to mix oil and water on their own in the bottles to observe the effects. I am creating a copy of my Capstone project for you to keep or share with who ever you wish. My hooding ceremony at Woodbury is scheduled for August 13 and it couldn't come any sooner! I hope to have more technology and engineering aspects of the program up and running before the end of July so I hope to have more good news to share soon!"*

Majelane has always been in touch with the school and kept me updated about her activities and her journey after leaving Providence. She, her sister (also a PHS alumna), and her parents have visited the school on many occasions. Last September, Majelane returned once again but this time to assist me with a number of important assignments related to the day-to-day running of the focus program and has been helping me every week since. With two freshmen groups this year, her help could not have come at a more opportune moment. Her memory of how she spent the four years of her high school is still so vivid that on some occasions, it is remarkable how well she knew what she was required to do. I have seen her grow and develop into a confident young adult, articulate in thought, word, and action. Her academic adventures continue as she looks for ways to give back to the school and the community at large. She uses her energy and optimism to bring encouragement to my current crop of students by reminding them of the importance of a solid education as they journey through high school.

**T**he world is a better place because of our students. Last year, a member of the Class of 2011 founded an organization to help fight cancer through funding for cancer research. This year, it is my pleasure to reintroduce one of our graduates: Majelane Bautista graduated from Providence High School in 2006 and in only three years she received her bachelor's degree in Cognitive Science with a minor in Sociology from University of California Irvine. This past year she completed her master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Woodbury University. In August, she completed her Capstone project based on her experience implementing a science, technology, math and engineering based curriculum with the US Dream Academy, an after school learning center for the disadvantaged middle school students in Watts.

The following is an excerpt from an e-mail she sent me in July while working on this project-

*"Thank you again for allowing me to visit your class at LMU. It really brought me back to the fun times I had as a student in health careers. I hope everyone is enjoying their time with you at the program. As I was telling you, summer school started for my students last week. We have already explored sound waves, cloud observation, aerodynamics and the science behind paper planes, and even took our first field trip to Long Beach Aquarium to look at the underwater ecosystems. It's a bit overwhelming trying to get all this in to a summer intensive program - I don't know how you do it so well! I just finished preparing my*

Looking at her (and some of her classmates) clearly solidifies my belief that my work and that of my colleagues here at Providence is filled with so much hope, an abundance of God's blessings, and a genuine support for each other in our common goal of striving for excellence, living with respect, working for the common and greater good, and nurturing the spiritual, physical, and emotional well being of each other. Finding ways to give back to the community makes Majelane a "cool adult."

# THEME DAY: A PHS TRADITION



Providence's annual Theme Day event took place on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. This year's themes included "Freshmen Gettin' Real," "Storybook Sophomores," "Junior Airways," and "2012: Senior Legacy." The senior class took home the first place honors.



# WE PRAY TO THE LORD...

Please keep the following members of the extended Providence Community in your thoughts and prayers:

The family of Jade De Alba '97. Jade passed away this past September.

Danny Fuentes '12 for the loss of his grandmother.

PHS Plant Manager, Mr. Jesus Godinez, Danny Godinez '96, and Michelle Godinez '98 for the loss of their father-in-law and grandfather, Pedro Lopez Flores.

Bonnie Bowren Jacobsen '79 and Garry Bowren '82 for the loss of their sister, Susan Bowren-Ciucci '64.

PHS Director of Advancement, Mr. Paul Kaminski, for the loss of his father, Daniel Kaminski.

Rosemary Cunha Kehl '65 and Carole Cunha Brodbeck '72 for the loss of their sister, Joanne Cunha '68 on December 5, 2010.

PHS staff member, Mrs. Mary Lubeley, Janet Lubeley Henson '92, Danielle Lubeley Maki '95, and Theresa Lubeley Costello '97 for the loss of their aunt and great-aunt, Constance Rock.

PHS English teacher, Ms. Kerry Martin, for the loss of her mother, Christine Leslie.

The family of Jackie McManus '79. Jackie passed away last March.

Samantha Millian '14 for the loss of her grandfather, Jose Agustin.

PHS English teacher, Marisa Paolone '96, and her brother, Paul Paolone '03, for the loss of their Great Aunt, Anita Torreano.

Loretta Frances Syracuse Raye '72 and Lisa Syracuse for the loss of their sister, Sylvia "Sibby" Syracuse '75.

Lisa Romero '86 and Jasmine Romero '14, for the loss of their father and grandfather, Anthony Romero.

Patty Vogelsang '01 and Michael Vogelsang '01, for the loss of their father, Mike Vogelsang.

David White '15 for the loss of his grandfather, Philip Soto.

The family of Martha L. Willman '60. Martha passed away this past September.

# UPDATE ON NEW SCIENCE CENTER

The new Science Center is slated to be completed by August of 2012. This new modular facility will consist of three classroom/lab combinations for biology, chemistry, and physics. Construction will begin soon. Joe Sciuto, our new Head of School commented on the new facility, "The new science center is essential in keeping our science curriculum progressive and competitive. It will benefit the entire Providence community." The school would like to thank all the donors listed here and for all the efforts of the Facilities Committee for making this dream a reality.



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Mr. and Mrs. Sanh Ly  
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 Mr. Cheng Yang  
 Mrs. Susan Yee  
 Mary L. Zaghikian '10  
 Mr. James Ziegler

**A**s we approach Christmas, I am reminded by the words and actions of my father, who recently passed. He taught me at a young age to give and be thankful. As you gather to be with your families, I want to thank those who have given to the Family Pledge Program and The Annual Providence Fund. I am truly grateful for your generosity. I encourage all supporters of PHS to give to either the Family Pledge Program and/or The Annual Providence Fund. Your donations make a direct impact on our students and families here at Providence High School.

Merry Christmas, and a Happy 2012!

- Paul Kaminski  
 Director of Advancement

IN MEMORY OF...

*Don DeMont*  
 - Mr. Doug Parker

*Adelaide McNutt*  
 - Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ferrante

*Dr. Bernadette Wehrly*  
 - Dianne Tomsicek-McGinnis '63

*Sister Renate Hayum, S.P.*  
 - Ms. Jennifer Bello

IN HONOR OF...

*C. Victor LeBreton*  
 - Ms. Michele Collins  
 - Mr. and Mrs. Gary Pantaleo  
 - Ms. Linda Wyatt

## ALUMNI NEWS

**T**he PHS community is pleased to welcome Sharron Dowthwaite Nelson '75 and Eddie Navas '01 back to campus, this time as employees of the school!

Sharron has been hired as the new Alumni Relations Coordinator and Eddie has been hired as the Alumni Marketing Coordinator. Welcome back to PHS, Sharron & Eddie!

An alumni career day is being scheduled for March 30, 2012. If you are a PHS alum, and are interested in participating, please contact Sharron Nelson at [Sharron.Nelson@gmail.com](mailto:Sharron.Nelson@gmail.com).

# ALUMNOTES

## 1960's

Sherry Sullivan Patterson '61 has been married for 43 years to husband, Allen, and has two adult children, Cari and Sean. She is a retired dental hygienist and realtor and is presently an elected Water Commissioner and has been for more than years and an elected Fire District Director for five years. Sherry continues to enjoy flying, politics, lobbying, and dancing.

Brigid Healy Graham '65 is married with three children and grandmother to four granddaughters.

Mary Schaub Matasso '66 has been married for 42 years to Tom Matasso. They have four sons, who are all married, and 10 grandchildren. Mary works for the Catholic Pro-Life Committee of North Texas, and also works with her husband in their media ministry, Catholic Media International where throughout 2011, the ministry travelled to Medjugorje and Vienna. Log on to [www.marytv.tv](http://www.marytv.tv) to see live stream events!

## 1970's

Robert Bates '79 married Joicy Sanusi in December of 2007. He has retired from the practice of law and is now pursuing a teaching credential at Cal State Los Angeles while continuing to work part time as a mediator and arbitrator helping others resolve their legal disputes.

## 1990's

Charlene Antenoracruz Moncrief '92 is married to Zac Moncrief and has two daughters, Bella and Vivi. Charlene is an animation checker at Nickelodeon Animations Studios.

## 2000's

Daryl Dimalanta '06 received his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering in 2011 from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo. He is a Computer Engineer for Crystal Engineering Corporation.

Nicolas Estrada '07 graduated from the University of San Diego in 2011 with a Bachelor of Art degree in History and Theology. He is currently pursuing a Master's degree at Loyola University of Chicago.

Every now and then, the teachers at PHS pass on letters and/or emails they have received from past students. While it is always great to hear how the students are doing now, it is also a nice pat on the back when the teachers find out how much of an impact they had on their students. Here is a recent example of an email received.

Dr. Harjani,

Hello! I hope all is well with you and the new school year! =] I just wanted to update you on how things were going with me. This past June, I graduated from UCLA! I received a Bachelor of Science with a Major in Nursing. After studying for my nursing board exams over the summer, I passed my NCLEX-RN exam and received my RN license! Now, I am working at Northridge Hospital Medical Center in the Emergency Department! I am one of 12 RN new grads in Northridge's Versant RN Residency program.

I just wanted to let you know that I feel so blessed and so thankful for everything that has happened to me in my life. As cheesy as it sounds, I have you and the Medical Focus Program to thank for that. I am a true believer that everything happens for a reason, and being a PHS Medical Focus Program alumna was one of the major events to help me get to where I am at today. Thank you, Dr. Harjani.

If you would like or have an opening in your syllabus for the semester, I would love to come to Providence and speak to your Medical Focus Program classes. If you have an opportunity come up, please let me know.

Best wishes on the new school year! I hope to hear from you soon! Take care!

– Sammie Esguerra, B.S., R.N.

PHS Class of 2007

UCLA School of Nursing Class of 2011

# CLASS OF 1961 CELEBRATES 50<sup>TH</sup> REUNION



Kathy Martinet Buccola, Maureen Birney Rosenblatt, and Gloria Ortiz Garcia.



Sharon Fornaca Alix assisting at Memorial service.



Margo Smolinski Petterson, Patricia Weigand DeCurtins, and Darlene Bickel Niers.



George Parkinson and Reba Rudler Parkinson.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion of the Class of 1961 was represented by 40 members from California, Arizona, Oregon and Washington, but also from Idaho, Maryland, North Carolina and New Mexico. The weekend of October 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> allowed plenty of opportunity for visiting and remembering, developing and renewing friendships. As one alumna said, "it was more like a family reunion than a high school reunion."

One highlight of our weekend was the Memorial service at PHS in the Multi Purpose Room, where we

prayed for our deceased classmates and teachers, and for our families and friends. The campus tour led by Paul Kaminski, Director of Advancement, brought us up to date on what has been happening at PHS and what is intended for the future. We were fascinated by all the changes and planned future projects. We all agreed it would be marvelous to be able to attend PHS during these exciting times.

- Sharon Fornaca Alix '61

# CLASS OF 1971 CELEBRATES 40<sup>TH</sup> REUNION



**W**hat a weekend it was for the all girls' class of 1971! We teamed up once again with the all boys' 1971 class of Notre Dame. I can honestly say that our 40<sup>th</sup> reunion weekend was a major success. Thank you for your participation.

Friday night started the weekend with a Sock Hop. The music was played by Paper Rain who used to play at most of our mixers. They sounded just as good if not better. Naturally, there were plenty of songs from the 60's and 70's to dance to. The floor was never empty. The place was jumpin' with everyone shaking their tail feathers continuously. Screams of "OMG" when someone new would walk in was rampant.

My co-conspirator for the reunion was Lou Farah from Notre Dame. He and his wife Claudia out did themselves in making the brochure (that had to be mailed out due to the lack of e-mails which has now been remedied), ordering flowers, etc. I couldn't thank them enough for all the arrangements done ahead of time since I live out of state.

For those of you who didn't attend you really missed out on a great time. This was our class' 3<sup>rd</sup> reunion since we left the halls of Providence in 1971 and it

was by far the best.

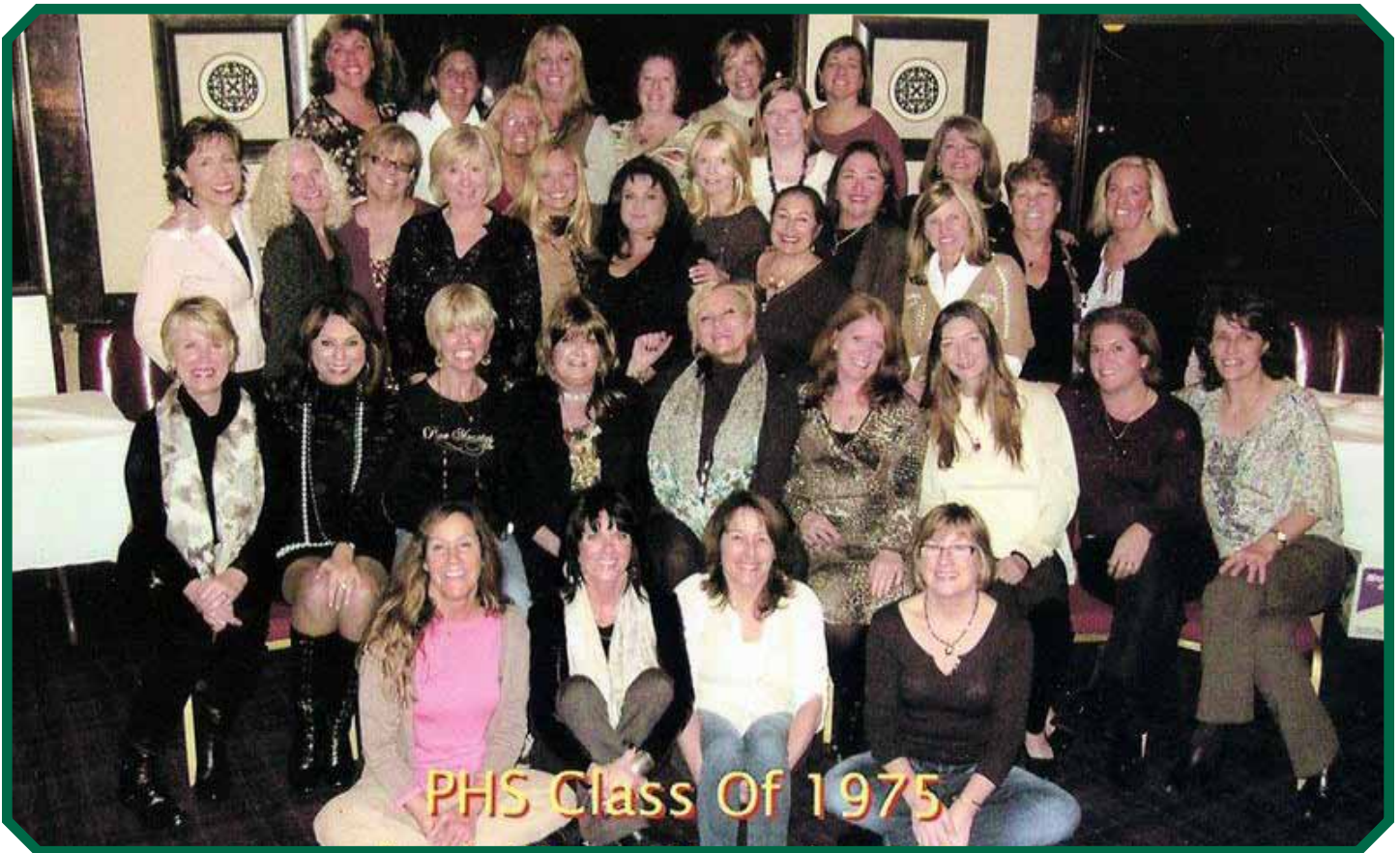
The weekends' events were all held at The Burbank Holiday Inn Media Center Hotel. It was a fabulous venue especially for Saturday night cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at The Crystal View Lounge.

We have all mellowed with having shared similar experiences of either caring for an aging parent, bearing the loss of a parent or partner/spouse, finding a new relationship, just plain getting on with life! Being all together and seeing the guys that we all grew up with was just too much fun... 40 years is a long time when you think of it, but to just about everyone that night it was just yesterday.

I'd like to thank Mr. Vega for taking the personal time to join us at our reunion. Everyone had been asking about him and it meant so much that he cared enough to share part of his Saturday night with us. What a treat from such a lovely, kind man.

In talking with all of you who attended, no one wants to wait another 10 years. So what I say to that is stay tuned....

- Maggie Sebastian '71



**If you ever happen to find yourself looking for the Class of 1975, you can always count on us being at The Smokehouse on the first Friday in November for the 'Birthday Dinner!'**

The tradition of 'The Birthday Dinner' began in 2006, as we were approaching our 50<sup>th</sup> birthdays. That year, nine of us got together to have dinner, cocktails and celebrate all of our birthdays at once. We had so much fun that we decided to do it annually, and every year since then, it's gotten a little bit bigger!

This year, we had 33 women from the Class of 1975 attend, including several women that we haven't seen in MANY years!! We were able to book a private room, so that we didn't even have to behave!

There were goodie bags for everyone (thanks to PHS and Paul for providing some fun PHS 'swag' and to Zappos and Bethie Zankoski for the rubber duckies!), trivia games (thanks to Sandy Nassif Moses and Cheryl Polfus Minor for reminding us of exactly how much we'd forgotten!). We exchanged birthday gifts via a silly and sometimes completely

out of control gift exchange!

We applauded Pam Jansen, a former classmate who has written a book, *How I Became a Fearless Woman*, chronicling her triumph over a devastating car accident.

We honored our classmate, Sibby Syracuse, who was continuing her brave fight against cancer, with a 'Necklace of Hope' (thanks Ann Murphy for the amazing, inspired idea and for making it possible). Sadly, Sibby lost her battle a short 16 days after the dinner. We are all grateful for the opportunity we had to spend time with her and show her how much we love her. She will be missed....

Most of all, we laughed and laughed; it was as though the 36 years since graduation had never happened! We had an amazing evening and I hope everyone has saved the date on their 2012 calendars! I know I am already looking forward to it!

- Christy Olson Edwards '75



## ANNUAL ALUMNI BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT & GAME

**O**n Saturday, November 22, Providence held its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Basketball tournament and had a great turnout. There were five teams and approximately 40 alums representing classes from 1989 all the way up to the class of 2010. The winning team of RJ Matta '03, Gino Pedraja '00, PJ Sison '04, George Panossian '04, Frank Catota '04, and Marco Pedraja '01 went undefeated on the day. Look for the Alumni Tournament next year the Saturday after Thanksgiving!

In addition to the alumni tournament, the past came back to play the present as the alumni took on the current Providence Squads in the Annual Alumni Games at Providence. The alumni teams put up a good fight but both of the current squads pulled out big victories. Thank you to all the alumni that came back to participate and we look forward to next year's tournament and games!

### SAVE THE DATE - ALUMNI MIXER!

An alumni reception will be held on campus on January 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30 pm before the Boys' Varsity Basketball game against Viewpoint. Alumni will be invited to the pre-game reception and then will get to attend the game. The boys' basketball team will be challenging for a league title this year! For more information, please contact Eddie Navas '01 at [mundonavas@yahoo.com](mailto:mundonavas@yahoo.com).



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...celebrating our community*

SAVE THE DATE  
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2012

*Pioneer Connections* is published by the Advancement Office at Providence High School.

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