

CONNELLY *Current*

Cornelia Connelly School

Anaheim, California



2006-
fall/winter
2007

Let us never
think we have
done enough."
—Cornelia Connelly

celebrating 45 years

INSIDE

page 5 : koala sports



page 6 : happenings



page 8 : spiritual life



Connelly Celebrates 45 Years

On Friday, October 13, over 400 students, faculty and guests attended a beautiful Mass, presided over by Father Gerald Horan, O.S.M., Vicar of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Orange, celebrating Connelly's 45th Anniversary. A special prelude was written and performed by Mr. Kevin Weed, and the Connelly Advanced Vocal Ensemble, Handbell Ensemble, and Instrumental Ensemble, under the direction of Mr. Brian Dehn, provided liturgical music. Students placed symbols of our life at Connelly in front of the altar, and Sr. Susan Slater, SHCJ, a member of Connelly's first graduating class and a Connelly Trustee, and Senior Caitlin Lang, offered reflections on the 45 year history of the school and the value of a Holy Child education: past, present and future. Guests joined the students and faculty for a joyous reception following the Mass. 🍷

Cover: Pictures from 45th Anniversary Celebration.

NEW TRUSTEES



Penny Abad-Santos, M.D. Penny is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Irvine, and the parent of Patricia Abad-Santos '06, who is currently a student at New York University and recipient of The Connelly Cup, Connelly's highest honor at Graduation. Penny and her husband, Dr. Greg Abad-Santos, continue to give time and support to all Connelly activities.



Larry L. Carter Larry earned an MBA from Harvard University, owned and operated multiple heat transfer businesses throughout the United States, and now owns and operates Johnny Rebs, a 4-store restaurant business. Larry and Cheryl are the parents of Ashley, a sophomore at Connelly, Saavannah, an incoming 9th grader, and two grown sons. We can all thank Larry and his family for the delicious ribs we all enjoyed at the Family Celebration Day in September.



Tinnie Grewal Tinnie holds a Masters in Business Management. She is now retired from the corporate world and is enjoying being a full-time mom to a Connelly junior, Mehr Grewal, and being involved with Artwallah, which promotes and provides a forum for young budding artists in all fields of the arts.

Marcia Spehar Halligan '65 Marcia is a member of Connelly's first graduating class in 1965. She holds a Masters in Pastoral Studies, an Internship in Liturgy, and a BA in Medieval History. She is currently a Pastoral Administrator at St. Hubert Catholic Church on Whidbey Island, Washington. She says her "life time has been an interplay of passion for ministry and passion of education," has been involved in one or both for over 20 years, and wants "to be a part of the continued quality of Cornelia Connelly today."



Brian K. Peck Brian graduated Order of the Coif and received a law degree, Cum Laude, from the University of San Diego School of Law. He is currently a counsel with Crowell & Moring, an international trade practice. Brian and Noriko are parents of sophomore, Akira Peck, and are active Connelly volunteers and supporters.



Faculty Summer Courses, Seminars, Conferences & Workshops

Throughout the summer Connelly's faculty was busy attending courses and seminars around the United States, most made possible through a grant to Connelly for professional development by the Edward E. Ford Foundation. **Mike Ambrose**, Chair of the Math Department, attended a Calculus AP Workshop at the University of San Diego and a Physics AP Workshop. Mike and fellow math teachers, **Melanie Duffin '00** and **Emma Mallon**, traveled to Phillips Exeter Academy, N.H., for a course on Innovative Technology in the Teaching of Math and Science. **Mary Cioffoletti '77**, Computer Lab Assistant, traveled to Memphis, Tennessee, for a Laptop Institute course, and attended the National Education Computing Conference in San Diego. Spanish teacher, **Ana Lucia Hankins**, attended the AP Summer Institute for Spanish Language at the University of California, Riverside Extension. **Nanci Lesley**, English, traveled to Boston University for the Fifth Poetry Institute for Educators hosted by Robert Pinsky, Poet Laureate. **Larry Seely**, Director of Technology, attended courses on Improving Skills on Exchange Servers, Increasing Proficiency of Network Trouble Shooting, and Training for Microsoft Servers. Fine Arts Chair, **Pam Toomey '72**, attended a four-day AP Studio Art course at Columbia College in New York. **Hani Zubi**, Social Science Chair, traveled to Glen Arbor, MI, to attend a seminar at the A.P. U.S. History Institute, and to Scottsdale, AZ, to hear Nobel Laureate Douglass C. North discuss his latest book, *Beliefs, Learning and Economic Change*, with question/answer and discussion following. 🍷

Student LIFE

Congratulations Koalas...

Five Connelly seniors and six 2006 graduates received national academic recognition for exceptional academic performance. **Grace Nolde '07** earned the distinction of "Finalist" in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program and "Scholar with Honor" by the AP College Board; **Moira Marie Notarstefano '07** earned "Commended Student" in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program and the designation of "AP Scholar" by the College Board; **Carolyn Hoey '07** was named a "Commended Student" in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program; **Christina Nunez '07** was named a "Scholar" in the College Board National Hispanic Recognition Program and an "AP Scholar" by the College Board; and **Catherine Dang '07** earned the designation of "AP Scholar" by the College Board. Connelly 2006 alumnae **Lauren Biedenharn, Priya Shah, Anam Siddiq** and **Elizabeth Tran** were named "AP Scholars," and **RaeAnn Halenda** and **Katrina Lindsay** were named "AP Scholars with Distinction." 🍷

Grace Nolde



Moiramaria Notarstefano



Carolyn Hoey



Christina Nunez



Catherine Dang



NEW FACULTY, STAFF, ADMINISTRATORS

Connelly welcomed 11 new faculty and staff for the 2006-2007 school year.



Ms. Claire Daniel, English, received her BA in English, Magna Cum Laude, with a Minor in Secondary Education and Speech Communication/Theater from Valparaiso University, and her MA in Child and Adolescent Literacy from Loyola Marymount University.



Mrs. Michelle Elkerton, English, holds a BA in English, Magna Cum Laude, from San Diego State University and a Master of Arts in Early American Literature from UC Irvine.



Mrs. Donna Greenhut, Librarian, served as Librarian at the Fullerton Public Library, holds a BA with Distinction in Anthropology from The George Washington University, and a Master of Science in Library Science from The Catholic University of America.



Mrs. Ana Lucia Hankins, Spanish, received her Licenciado en Español y Lenguas from La Universidad Pedagógica Nacional in Bogotá, Columbia, and has taught high school Spanish in the U.S.



Mrs. Bridget Keenan, Director of Development and part-time teacher of Latin, earned her BA from John Carroll University and is completing work on a Master of Education in Educational Leadership.



Mrs. Amy Luskey-Barth returned to teach at Connelly. Amy is the founder and was Director of Tri-School Theatre for 15 years, and is now teaching Drama at Connelly. She earned a B.A. in Drama from USC and a master in Pastoral Counseling at Trinity College.



Ms. Erin Mobley, Director of Admissions, holds a B.S. in Education and Social Policy from Northwestern University and participated in the International Study Program through the University of Copenhagen.



Mrs. Lorraine Mullen, Science, received her BA at California State University at Northridge, and her Master of Science at California State University, Fullerton.



Mrs. Catherine (Robbie) Santillo, School Reception & Assistant to Academics, served as Administrative Assistant to the Bishop of the Diocese of Orange.



Mrs. Beatriz Izabal Jacobson, Spanish, graduated Magna Cum Laude, Loyola University, Chicago; earned a Masters in Education, Azusa Pacific University; and a "Certificado de Estudios Superiores de Lengua," La Universidad de Computense Madrid, Spain.



Karen Welch '79 returned to Connelly as Personal Guidance Counselor. Karen received her MA in Counseling Psychology from Trinity College and she and her husband, Jim, are parents of Kaely '09.



Koala SPORTS



Jennifer Reyes '07 running with Connelly's Cross Country Team.

Fall Season

Junior Varsity Volleyball, coached by former Connelly champion **Dominique O'Sullivan '03**, had an outstanding season. This talented team placed 1st in the San Joaquin League.

Cross Country, led by veteran Coach **Hani Zubi**, and Assistant Coach **Phil Morales**, had an excellent season, earning a slot in CIF competition. This year's highlight was running in Catalina for the first time.

Returning Golf coach **Kris Olsen** continued to build Connelly's Golf Team and led them to 2nd Place in the San Joaquin League. This year's players included **Kristine Lee '07**, **Sohee Lim '07**, **Sharrise Boop '08**, **Carrine Licata '08**, **Therese Militante '08**, **Lauren Schenkel '08**, and **Tess Parsons '08**.

Coach **Michael Michika** and seniors **Jimin Lee** and **Nicole Vlassoff** led this year's Tennis Team in a strong season. This young and talented team developed improved skills and strength on the court, and six juniors look forward to returning next year to lead the team.



Competing with Connelly's Golf Team, junior Sharrise Boop lines up a shot.



L-R Jimin Lee '07, Julianne Solis '09, Kristen Stevens '08, and Nicole Vlassoff '07 are united in team spirit at a tennis match.

Winter Season

Connelly's young and exciting Varsity Soccer Team, coached by **Claudia Bechara**, earned second place in the league, and went to the second round of CIF playoffs. Juniors **Claire Burgess**, **Patrice Payne** and **Ashley Rayford**, and sophomore **Christine Yost** were selected for 1st Team All League. Senior **Claire Ramirez**, juniors **Francesca Delgado** and **Kelsey Kobzi**, and sophomores **Krista Engle** and **Katherine Tuebner** earned 2nd Team All League.

After many exciting games, Connelly's talented Varsity Basketball Team, led by Coach **Mark Ingram**, tied for second place in the league and earned a trip to the CIF playoffs. Freshman **Sara Virgil** was selected for 1st Team All League, sophomore **Akira Peck** for 2nd Team All League, and senior **Catherine Dang** received Honorable Mention.

Coach **Mark Ingram** also guided the Jr. Varsity Basketball team in non-league play. They gained valuable basketball experience and preparation for varsity play next year. 🍷



Team Spirit!



Score!

CIF

Southern Section

Division V-A

Volleyball

Champions!



All Smiles – Koalas win the CIF Southern Section Division VA Volleyball Championship!

Momentum carries Connelly

The Koalas show chemistry on the court, beating the SVC girls team for the Division V-A championship.

By LOU PONSI
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

CYPRESS - There was a telling moment just before the start of the CIF-SS Division V-A volleyball championship between Connelly and Saddleback Valley Christian on Saturday at Cypress College.

The Connelly starting six stood side-by-side on the court and locked arms as the national anthem began.

The moment symbolized unity, which translated to chemistry on the court, and it helped the Koalas defeat the Warriors, 25-21, 25-9, 25-20.

The Koalas (22-5) didn't lose a game through four playoff matches and defeated the Warriors (18-6), their San Joaquin rivals, for the third time.



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: Connelly's volleyball players leap for joy after defeating Saddleback Valley Christian in three games Saturday, 25-21, 25-9, 25-20, at Cypress College. SAM GANGWER, THE REGISTER

cause we are small, we can still be mighty."

Both teams appeared a bit jittery in the first game, with both yielding points because of unforced errors.

The Koalas opened a 22-15 lead, before two kills each by Adamo and Kim Jensen, an ace by Rose Rogers, the Warriors two points

nd. Connelly took a time-hard kill by Lilla Frederick serving the momentum to the Koalas, who served three of the next four

points to win the game.

"She (Frederick) put the ball away and sent a loud and clear message," Bresciani said. "That has been the trend all year. One girl sets the tone, and the other girls rally behind her."

The Koalas dominated the second game with eight points on service aces.

Gracie Rae Smith-Gallegos served three consecutive aces and four for the game as the Koalas built a 14-3 lead.

"We just served them off the court" in the second game,

Bresciani said.

Kit Donovan led the Koalas with nine kills, and Frederick added eight kills.

Adamo led the Warriors with 10 kills, and teammate Alex Dj Siena contributed 21 assists.

"Volleyball is definitely a game of momentum, and holding that momentum is key," SVC coach Gini Williams said of the defeat. "Hopefully, we will see them here again next year."

The Warriors were playing in their first CIF final.

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: Connelly's volleyball players leap for joy after defeating Saddleback Valley Christian at the CIF Division V-A Championship game at Cypress College on November 18, 2006

(article courtesy of the Orange County Register).



Varsity Volleyball, coached by P.E. Department Chair **Nikole Bresciani**, earned their first Division Championship. Coach Bresciani was named Coach of the Year by the San Joaquin League, and junior **Lilla Frederick** was named Co-MVP of Division V-A CIF. Senior **Connor Cherry** was named to CIF 1st Team and seniors **Kit Donovan** and **Sara Teal** were named to 2nd Team. **Lilla Frederick** was named Most Valuable Player in the San Joaquin League, **Sara Teal**, **Connor Cherry** and **Kit Donovan** were named 1st Team All League, and senior **Kirby McCord** was named 2nd Team All League. The Koalas didn't lose a game through four playoff matches. As the National Anthem began to play at the playoff game, the starting six stood side by side on the court and locked arms. The moment symbolized unity, which translated into the chemistry on the court which led the Koalas to a division championship.

September

Family Celebration Day - What a beautiful day for a picnic! Following Mass, (l-r) Michael Talin, Ms. Lisa Chrisman (Family Celebration Day Chairwoman), Betsy Clare '09, Chelsea Chrisman '09 and Erik Chrisman joined a record turnout of families and friends on Sunday, September 24, to enjoy barbeque ribs provided by the Carter family and Johnny Rebs Restaurants, music, fun and games.



Spirit Week – Little Sisters (front l-r) Lindsey Johnston, Patricia Infante, Claudia Squillace and Gabrielle Espejo, and Big Sisters (back l-r) Christina Nunez, Britney Khacherian, Stephanie Mitri and Anika Sully, swarmed together to celebrate “Twin Day” during Spirit Week on September 25 – 29.

October

15th Annual Golf Classic & Spa Day – Cheerleaders (l-r) Brittany Haines '10 and Jessica Laurel '09 helped golfers purchase an “arm’s length” of raffle tickets at the banquet following a day of golf and spa on October 30. Wonderful items were acquired at Silent and Live Auctions, trophies were awarded, and all enjoyed a delicious dinner.



Homecoming 2006 – (L-R) Junior Princess Maegan Rivera, and Senior Princesses Nicole Correa, Katya Khazei and Danielle Morabito reigned over the Homecoming 2006 football game on October 27, and dance on October 28.

Student Head for a Day – Jarielle Uter '09 (seated) ruled Connelly on October 31 as Student Head for a Day. Her assistants that day were sophomores (l-r) Rose Rogers, Akira Peck, Jillian Cule, and Sr. Francine Gunther.



November

Talent Show – Connelly talent was on display November 8, when sophomore Rose Rogers played the violin, and other students sang, played guitar and accordion, and entertained with an instrumental ensemble.



December

Christmas Service - Joseph (Audrey O'Neill '07), Mary (Alena Cabral '07), and baby Jesus (Gianna Cabral) at the Christmas Service for Connelly families and friends on December 14.



Ring Night – The special Connelly tradition of Ring Night was celebrated on the evening of November 15. Juniors (Front l-r) Kathryn Morales, Susan Kimball, Eleni Cuevas, Raquel Martus, (back l-r) Megan O'Connell, and Samantha Swoger show off their new rings.

January



Father/Daughter Dance – Fathers and Daughters masqueraded behind brightly colored masks and danced a Conga Line at the annual Father/Daughter Dance, “A Masquerade in Paris”, at The Old Ranch Country Club in Seal Beach on Saturday, January 27.



Science Fair – Projects in Behavioral Science, Biology, Physics/Math, Microbiology and

Chemistry filled the auditorium for the January 30 through February 1 Science Fair. Sophomore Virginia Nolde’s project on the effects of spices as food preservatives won third place in the Microbiology division.

February

Close Up - Thirty juniors and seniors, Social Science Chair Hani Zubi, Social Science Teacher Shannon Gerlach, and Fine Arts Chair Pamela Toomey '72, attended “Close-Up,” a government studies program in Washington, D.C. on February 4-10.



Career Day – Connelly alumnae representing diverse professions returned to campus on February 22, for Career Day, to share insights into their chosen fields with the students. Mrs. Claire Fenton '68 shared information on her profession as an IT Business Analyst, Student Systems.



March

Class Plays - The annual and traditional day of Class Plays was held on March 16. Creative plays, presented by each class, were enjoyed by the entire Connelly community. (L-R) Leyla Aliyazicioglu, Maliha Ghazali, Celeste Lindsay and Nicole Laygo on stage in the Junior Class “Best Overall Play,” *Exposé – Holiday Celebrities Tell All*, a play by Bryan Starchman.



World Cultures Week - The festive annual tradition of World Cultures Week was celebrated March 19 through March 23. Many students, faculty and staff wore costumes from their native countries; the International Club held a bake sale featuring foods from many countries; and The Gulistan Dance Theater Troupe, in authentic costumes, performed classical and folkloric dances of Central Asia and the Middle East.



Galaxy of Stars Benefit - This year’s benefit, held at Joe’s Automotive Museum in Tustin, on March 24, was an outstanding success. Many fabulous auction items, surrounded by unique antique and racing automobiles, tempted the 300 plus attendees. Connelly students, draped in pink boas, helped to make the evening fun by selling raffle tickets, displaying live auction items, and delivering prizes.

Spiritual LIFE



The inspiration and strength of the Holy Spirit was shared by the Connelly community as Father Steve Correz presided over the first Mass of the school year, the Mass of the Holy Spirit, on September 20.

Following the Mass, pledges of honor, integrity, and intention were taken by students, faculty, and 2006-2007 Student Council. Father Ed Penozek, O.S.M. led Connelly families in Mass and joined them for a picnic and games on Sunday, September 24, at the annual Family Celebration Day. On October 13, 2006, Connelly celebrated its 45th Anniversary. Reverend Gerald M. Horan, O.S.M. celebrated Mass, memoirs of our 45 years were presented at the altar, the handbells and choir provided beautiful music, and all enjoyed a reception in Alumnae Hall.

On November 1, Father Michael Heher presided over the All Saints Day Mass, where the Connelly community remembered deceased family and friends with prayer. Following breakfast and visits to classrooms on November 22, a Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated with Connelly's grandparents and special friends by Father Bao Thai. Following Mass, over 3,000 lbs. of food was presented by the students and faculty to St. Vincent de Paul Society for over 150 needy families.

On December 8, new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion were Blessed and Commissioned after the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass, celebrated by Father Patrick Moses.

The Connelly Community came together to begin 2007 at a New Year's Mass on January 17, where Father Christopher Smith presided over an informative Instructional Mass.



Father Eugene Lee celebrated Ash Wednesday Mass on February 21. Father Lee and Eucharistic Ministers distributed the ashes and Connelly's Instrumental Ensemble and vocalists provided beautiful music. The sixth Connelly Kairos, held February 27 through March 2, at Serra Retreat Center in Malibu, was commended by all who attended. The seniors testified at an assembly following the retreat that it was a "must" for juniors to attend next year. The program led them "closer to God," they "bonded as classmates and friends," and gave them "a chance to unwind and get away from all the stress of senior year." On March 14, the Pastoral Ministry Class prepared a Lenten Reconciliation Service, and Fathers Pat Rudolph from St. Ireaneus, Joseph Droessler from St. Justin Martyr, Steve Correz from St. Columban, Bao Thai from St. Anthony Claret, and Tan Pham from St. Martin de Porres, presided over the Individual Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Clockwise
 2006-2007 Student Council members recite a pledge to uphold the high purposes of the office following the Mass of the Holy Spirit
 Seniors Hannah De Los Reyes (left) and Kristen Begg cantered the Responsorial Psalm at the All Saints Day Mass.
 Senior Nicole Cantoria offers a reflection at the Thanksgiving Day Mass.
 New Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion were blessed and commissioned following the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass.



(Top, l-r) Father Christopher Smith prepares for the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the New Year's Mass. • Connelly's Instrumental and Vocal Ensembles at the Ash Wednesday Mass. • Seniors enjoy a beautiful day at Kairos VI: (Front l-r) Victoria Valdez, Alicia Armour, Krystal Lares, Monique Siddhom; (Back l-r) Nicole Spitaleri, Mrs. Kitty Callinan, Michelle Krummes. • Seniors Claire Ramirez, Alena Cabral, and Nicole Correa depict "Sinfulness" at the Lenten Reconciliation Service.

TRIPLE CROWN ACCREDITATION

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
WESTERN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION



Reaccreditation Visiting Team representatives (l-r): Mr. Tim Molak (Chair), Woodside Priory School, Portola Valley, CA; Heather Meriweather, Viewpoint Schools, Calabasas, CA; Lauralee Barton, Notre Dame High School, Riverside, CA; Deb Christenson, Wildwood Secondary School, Los Angeles, CA; Paul Amadio, Happy Valley School, Ojai, CA.



Following the year-long process of completing a self-study, directed by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, The California Association of Independent Schools, and the Western Catholic Educational Association, and a four-day visit from a team of representatives from each of these organizations, Connelly has successfully completed the reaccreditation process.

Connelly received "Major Commendations" in many areas, but the Commendation reflecting the spirit and accomplishments of the students is especially descriptive:

"The students for being positive role models to each other, great ambassadors for the school and who are articulate, self-confident and would make Connelly very proud of the young women they have become."

In a letter following the visit, Mr. Tim Molak, Head of Woodside Priory School and Chair of the Visiting Team, said, "The Connelly Community should take a sense of pride and satisfaction in creating an environment which resonates with the values of a School of the Holy Child Jesus."

Thank you to faculty, staff, students, parents, and alumnae who participated on committees, filled out surveys, and assisted in the reaccreditation process.



A LOOK AHEAD

May 23

End of the Year Mass

May 25

Senior Prayer Breakfast

June 1

Spring Concert

June 9

Baccalaureate Mass
Senior Family Dinner

June 10

Graduation

Head of School:
Sr. Francine Gunther, SHCJ

Editor:
Sharon Olsen

Design & Layout:
Ciro Design, Irvine, CA
Joan Jung '78
Nora S. Gard

Thank You

VOLUNTEERS, SPONSORS, UNDERWRITERS, AND
ALL WHO ATTENDED AND SUPPORTED CONNELLY'S
15TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC & SPA DAY
& 24TH ANNUAL GALAXY OF STARS BENEFIT



15th Annual Golf
Classic & Spa Day
Co-chairs: (L-R)
Chuck Stevens,
Donna Willshire
and Jerry Smith

24th Annual Galaxy
of Stars Co-chairs: (L-R)
Margaret Nolde,
Margaret Dobos,
Rae Stambuk, and (not
pictured) Maribeth Gillis



Reminder

Don't Wait! The fiscal year is almost over. Please send in your Annual Fund gift before June 30, 2007. We are nearing our goal of 100% participation and we need your help to reach this goal.



2323 West Broadway, Anaheim
California, 92804
(714) 776-1717
Fax (714) 776-2534
e-mail: cornelia@connellyhs.org

Address Service Requested

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Garden Grove, CA
Permit No. 308