



# MIS MESSENGER

January 2010

Communications for Mary Immaculate School Alumni and Faculty

## MIS Alumni Committee

Rosemary Schmitz Martinez '79

Lisa Gonzales Leos '91

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*We invite you to become a part of your MIS Alumni Committee, whether as a class rep or as a part of the new MIS Alumni Association leadership. Contact Rosemary at 214-243-7105 x20 or [rmartinez@mischool.org](mailto:rmartinez@mischool.org) for more information.*

### Upcoming Alumni Gatherings

Winter/Spring 2010 offers several opportunities for alumni of MIS to gather to renew friendships, kindle memories, and join together in fellowship at Mary Immaculate:

- Chili Cookoff/Texas Hold'em/Bunko Night on Fri., Jan. 16
- Alumni Mass during Catholic Schools Week on Fri., Feb. 5
- The MIS Heart of Gold Auction on Sat., Feb. 20
- Parish Trivia Night on Sat., Apr. 24

Articles within this newsletter will provide details for these events. Come join the fun!

## Happy New Year...and New MIS Alumni Association!

Alumni passion for school is generally more common with a high school or college alma mater...but at Mary Immaculate School, that alumni passion is growing!

With the addition of the MIS Office of Advancement (which included a Director of Communications position) in September of 2009 came the re-birth of the MIS Alumni Association. The association had originally formed in 2002 under the direction of **Martha Curran Mehl '79**, reaching out to alumni at that time through newsletters, an All Class Reunion event, and an appearance on the school website. However, after the event and a subsequent loss of data through a computer crash, the association lost steam and alumni failed to come forward to spearhead a 50th anniversary event.

Past efforts to find alumni have been hampered by the fact that there are no written or electronic records of students prior to 1980. Family directories and yearbooks were not published between 1959 and 1980 by the school, and class records from these years could not be found at the school nor at the diocesan office. Alumni from within those years have pulled together to identify classmates from memory and from photographs, but few have been found from the early 1970s, and even fewer have been identified from the 1960s.

Since September, attention to reviving the association has focused on creating a fan site on Facebook, corresponding with alumni who have created and are maintaining Facebook groups and rebuilding a database of alumni. **Lisa Gonzales Leos '91**, who is a current MIS parent, has stepped forward to identify and coordinate class reps from each of our 50 graduating classes.

Plans for the MIS Alumni Association include creation of a full leadership committee, maintaining an electronic newsletter to support alumni communications, enhancements to our current alumni web pages, creation of an MIS Moms Club, and parish support of alumni class reunions. Discussions regarding another All Class Reunion event have also taken place, but have been postponed pending identification of leadership committee and more class representatives.

Any former students or faculty of MIS who would like to be a part of rebuilding the MIS Alumni Association should contact **Rosemary Schmitz Martinez '79** at 972-243-7105 x20 or [rmartinez@mischool.org](mailto:rmartinez@mischool.org).

*Presently at MIS, we have over 35 families...roughly 10%...that have a parent who went to MIS as a child. Most of these parents graduated in the late 70s and early 80s and have returned with their children seeking the Catholic affirmation, community bonds and quality education that they remember from their years at MIS.*

*Several alumni are now teaching at MIS, including **Sherry Fallon McCord '88**, **Patrick Finch '88**, and **Kimberly Murawski '00**.*

facebook

BECOME A FAN  
OF MIS ON  
FACEBOOK!

## MIS Alumni Tracey Bates Leone '81 to Speak at Heart of Gold Auction

We are proud and excited to announce our speaker at this year's Heart of Gold Auction: **Tracey Bates Leone**, Mary Immaculate Class of 1981, who was the assistant coach of the 2004 gold-medal winning US Olympic Womens Soccer Team.

From the time she was a student at MIS, sports have played a huge part in Tracey's life, with soccer as the sport that has been her life-altering passion. Tracey began competing during 3rd grade with several of her MIS classmates, and continued playing soccer throughout her high school years at Ursuline Academy. She then played for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1985-89, on their women's soccer team that won the National Championship 3 of those 4 years. Tracey's enthusiasm and dedication to the sport made her a 3-time All American player during those years. She also spent four years as a member of the US Women's National Team (1987-91) which culminated with the Americans winning gold at the 1991 World Championships.

Her professional coaching career took off in 1993, when she accepted a position as Head Coach for Clemson University. From there,



Tracey spent several seasons as a member of the US Women's National Team coaching staff, serving as the head coach of the Under-19 squad from 2000-03. In 2002, the US Under-19 Women's National Team won the first ever youth world championship in Canada. Her life journey then led her to

serve as an assistant coach of the gold medal-winning US Olympic Women's Soccer Team at the 2004 Games in Athens, Greece.

Today, in addition to coaching soccer at Harvard University, Tracey is an Olympic Development Coach on regional level, serving as the Head Coach of the South Region. With over 17 years of coaching experience at both the international and collegiate levels, Tracey's impressive credentials brand her as one of the top mentors in the business.

Tracey's international endeavors and winning spirit make her a perfect addition to our 2010 MIS Heart of Gold Auction's *Windows to the World* celebration!

### 2010 MIS Heart of Gold Auction: Windows to the World

This year's Heart of Gold Auction takes place during the excitement of the 2010 Winter Olympics, so this year's auction theme, "Windows to the World", celebrates awareness of the world around us. Held at the Hotel Intercontinental, the event features **Tracey Bates Leone '81** as guest speaker and includes a delicious four-course meal, music by the Last Man Standing Band, dancing and live/big board/silent auctions. This all takes place on the Saturday following Valentine's Day, February 20th, so tell your sweetheart that you already know where you would like to celebrate!

An online auction will also be held in conjunction with the event from February 10th through the 17th. Items offered online will include teacher gifts, restaurant gift certificates, and gift certificates for other goods and services. The online auction will be available to anyone and everyone, but bidding will end on February 17th. Items offered online will not be up for bid the night of the Auction.

The auction committee is extending a special invitation to all MIS alum to join in the fun and spirit of the evening. Gather your old classmates and fill a table! Tickets are \$65/person if purchased before January 29th; after that, they are \$75/person. For more information about the evening, donation and underwriting opportunities, raffle tickets or auction tickets, check out the auction website at [www.misauction.org](http://www.misauction.org) or contact **Alina Masferrer Gaubert '84**, this year's auction chairperson, at 972-939-9370 or [a.gaubert@verizon.net](mailto:a.gaubert@verizon.net).

Don't settle for the same old thing to celebrate Valentine's day...this is a fun and exciting way to dine with your sweetheart, catch up with old friends *and* champion a great cause!



### A Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon School

On October 21, 2008, Mary Immaculate School was officially awarded status of a No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon School! Only 4 private schools in Texas received this honor that year.

Being named a Blue Ribbon School indicates that our efforts to deliver the highest quality education have been successful. Blue Ribbon Schools are selected based on one of two criteria: Mary Immaculate qualifies because our students achieve in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests.



Dedicated MIS teachers and staff — particularly Thelma Glasgow, Dana Beachner, Cheryl Eliason and Nancy Russell — put a tremendous effort into preparing the documents and forms for the Blue Ribbon Application.

To read more about this award, go to <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2008/09/09092008.html>.



*Photos: The award plaque; Principal Nancy Russell accepting the award; Mrs. Marino and her choir singing at the award presentation.*

**Lawrence Liu '88** currently lives in Washington, DC. He is a Senior Counsel for a bipartisan federal commission, the Congressional-Executive Commission on China ([www.cecc.gov](http://www.cecc.gov)), which monitors human rights and rule of law developments in China. The Commission issues a report annually to the President and Congress. Before moving to Washington, Lawrence practiced corporate law at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP in New York City. In his spare time, he enjoys writing and playing music. He also volunteers for AAA-Fund, an organization that promotes greater political participation among Asian Americans.

**Sharon Woster Pabon '90** maintains a private flute studio in Silver Spring, MD, and directs flute and flute choir for the Washington DC Youth Orchestra. Her 13 student-member flute choir was invited to play at the White House on Dec. 8, 2009, with Sharon directing the choir. She was able to personally meet President Obama and his wife, Michelle.

**Bee Lee '92** lives in Uptown Dallas and recently opened an office for her company, Room12 Concepts, on Lower Greenville Ave. Room12 Concepts ([www.room12concepts.com](http://www.room12concepts.com)) specializes in marketing, public relations and strategic event planning to local clients. In addition, as a long time hobby, she now offers social and object photography in her list of services. In 2009, Bee was voted one of Dallas' Top 10 Most Beautiful Women in Dallas by D Magazine and is featured in the December 2009 issue of D Beauty Magazine. In her spare time, Bee also enjoys modeling and acting and has appeared in *Machete* (2010), *Barney and Friends* (2010) and in a Bud Light commercial.

*Tell us what's happening in your life so we can pass it along to your classmates! Send your news/announcements to [alumni@mischool.org](mailto:alumni@mischool.org). We'd love to hear from you!*

**Congratulations to Natalia Gonzalez '09, who was named one of America's Top Young Leaders 2009 by Catholic Digest and QSP! Read more about her at [www.catholicdigest.com](http://www.catholicdigest.com)**

**Joey (Brother Jacob) Hsieh '98** is in his fourth year of preparing to become a priest of the Norbertine Order at St. Michael's Abbey ([www.stmichaelsabbey.com](http://www.stmichaelsabbey.com)) in Silverado, CA. He is 25 years old and will become a priest when he is 30 — the Norbertine order requires a few more years of training than others. He highly recommends the Catholic boy's summer camp that is associated with the Abbey.

**Julie Pham '98** has just received her Masters. She is a nurse practitioner, and has returned to the Dallas area to begin working with patients.

**Kimberly Murawski '00** knew just where to go after leaving Texas A&M with two degrees (a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Masters in Education)...back to MIS to teach 5th grade! When not teaching, Kimberly enjoys singing, reading, going to movies, and both playing and watching sports.



*Joey Hsieh '98 and Julie Pham '98 during their recent visit to MIS.*



*Class of '79 members recently gathered to catch up in Dallas. Left to right: Danielle Grimmitt-Cain, Rosemary Schmitz Martinez, Oscar Martinez, Nate Bernbaum, Cathy Bates Bernbaum, Terri Colley.*

Our list of class reps is growing, and we'd love to add you to our list! As class rep, you serve as an ambassador for your class by promoting the involvement and fostering a spirit of loyalty and pride in MIS among your classmates. Responsibilities of the class rep are to advise the MIS Alumni Association of class gatherings and provide the association with updated address information on your classmates. For more information or to become a class rep, please contact **Lisa Gonzales Leos '91** at leosinc@hotmail.com.

GRAD CLASS	CLASS REP	CLASS REP EMAIL	FACEBOOK GROUP NAME	GRAD CLASS	CLASS REP	CLASS REP EMAIL	FACEBOOK GROUP NAME
1959				1983			
1960				1984			
1961				1985			
1962				1986			
1963	Priscilla Morantes Mahaffey	priscillamahaffey@sbcglobal.net		1987			
1964				1988	Suzy Rossol Matheson	srossol@hotmail.com	MIS Class of 88
1965				1989			
1966				1990			
1967				1991	Lisa Gonzales Leos	leosinc@hotmail.com	MIS Class of 91
1968	Lib Grimmett/ Connie Black Taylor Bratton	libgrimmett@hotmail.com		1992			
1969				1993	Sally Hill Derrick	sally.derrick@gmail.com	MIS Class of 93
1970	Lois Zacha (Burt)	lezacha@aol.com		1994			
1971				1995			
1972				1996			
1973	Doug Kile/ James Mcginn	dkile@techlightusa.com		1997			
1974				1998	Beth Beste		Mary Immaculate School Class of 1998
1975	Joe Meza	jmeza2002@msn.com		1999	Stephanie Wilson Koch	se506@aol.com	MIS Class of 99 Reunion
1976	Linda Lee	lindaclaurette@verizon.net		2000			
1977				2001	Sara Fine	sfine@webershandwick.com	
1978				2002			
1979	Rosemary Martinez	rmartinez@mischool.org	Mary Immaculate School Class of 1979 - Farmers Branch	2003			
1980				2004			
1981	Kristin Heath Florence	kflorence@sbcglobal.net	Mary Immaculate School (MIS) Class of 1981	2005			
1982	Mary DelValle Fregia		Mary Immaculate School - Farmers Branch, TX - Class of 1982	2006			
				2007			
				2008			
				2009	Parker Martinez	parkermartinez@hotmail.com	Mary Immaculate (MIS) Class of 2009

### Do You Feel Lucky?

Or do you just feel the need for a fun night out? Well, then gather your classmates together for this adults only (21+) evening on **Saturday, January 16, 2010** in the Mary Immaculate Parish Hall to show off your best Chili or join us for some fast paced Texas Hold 'Em or Bunko!

Chili Teams are provided a 6' table plus wall space behind the table to provide room for decorating in your choice of themes. Chili is judged on appearance, taste, palatability, the burn, and originality. Prizes are given for top 3 chilis as well as for Best Booth. Chili and booth judging begins at 5 pm.

Texas Hold 'Em and Bunko contestants are served a chili dinner with all the fixings (BYOB!) at 6 pm. Cash prizes are given to top winners of Texas Hold 'Em. Bunko will have prizes for most wins, most Bunkos and most losses

for each group. Texas Hold 'Em and Bunko will begin at 6:30. Winners will be determined by 9 pm. And if you've never played before, now's your chance to learn...several players at the final Texas Hold 'Em table last year were first time players!

Contact Jane Shafer, wife of **Paul Shafer '75** at shafer61@aol.com for more information or to register for the event. Mark January 16th on your calendar, and we'll see you then for food and fun!



### Trivia Night

Tickle your frontal lobes with a night of food, fellowship...and random trivia! We'll provide food, drinks (including beer and wine), and match you up with a team of 8 other trivia buffs. It's a great way to show off your wealth of useless knowledge, while getting to know other people! Winners gets bragging rights as well as fabulous prizes!

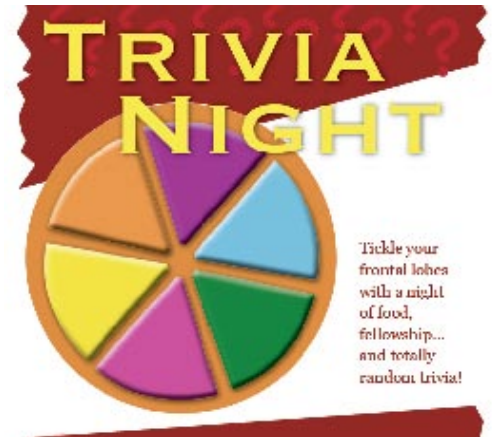
Date: **Saturday, April 24, 2010**

Time: 7pm

Place: Mary Immaculate Parish Hall

Minimum donation for entry is \$30 per person/\$50 per couple or reserve your entire team of 8 at a table for \$180 of prior to April 2nd. Advanced registration is encouraged to reserve your spot as seating will be limited.

To register, contact Rosemary Schmitz Martinez '79 at rmartinez@mischool.org or at 972-243-7105 x20. We look forward to seeing which grad class has retained the most useless information!



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*MIS Class of '99 is celebrating their 10-year reunion at the Mary Immaculate Parish Hall the evening of Saturday, January 30, 2010.*

*For more info, contact Stephanie Wilson Koch '99 at 214-641-7355 or at se506@aol.com.*

### Alumni Celebrated at Special Mass

Remember going to Friday morning Mass? Walking girls in one line, boys in the other (silence please!), dressed in our least worn uniform (with beanies on our heads for some of us now older ladies!), the achy smell of incense during Lent, the reverent glow of candles during Advent.

The faces have changed—as has the uniform for some of us—but the tradition of school Mass on Friday morning carries on.

Alumni are welcome to join in the Friday morning Masses, and you are especially invited to join us at the Mass honoring all MIS alumni on **Friday, February 5th**. Celebrated each year in conjunction with Catholic Schools Week, the Alumni Mass has gathered quite a number of former MIS students in prayer and fellowship, and the numbers are increasing each time! We hope to see you here!

Send us photos of your class reunions...we love smiling faces!

Class of '88



MIS 20 Year Reunion



MIS 20 Year Reunion



MIS 20 Year Reunion

Class of '88





**Mary Immaculate School  
Alumni Association**

14032 Dennis Lane  
Farmers Branch, TX 75234  
972-243-7105 x20

[alumni@mischool.org](mailto:alumni@mischool.org)



The Mary Immaculate School Alumni Association is supported through the MIS Office of Advancement. To update your contact information, please go to the Alumni section of our school website at [www.mischool.org](http://www.mischool.org).

For more information or to volunteer as a class rep or association leader, please contact Rosemary Martinez.

## About the MIS Office of Advancement

“Advancement” is the term used to describe the various efforts to build relationships that advance the aims of a school, college or university. The MIS Office of Advancement encompasses many different programs and activities, all with one common purpose: building a stronger school, one that is known for its past successes and respected for its future promise.

Key functions of the MIS Office of Advancement, which was introduced in September 2009, includes:

- **Development:** pursuing funding from the government, corporations and organizations as well as contributions from individuals.
- **Communications:** keeping families, staff and faculty informed about what’s happening on campus and promoting events through the news media.
- **Marketing:** positioning MIS in the marketplace to support student recruitment and other objectives.
- **Alumni relations:** forming bonds among graduates and keeping alumni connected with our school.
- **Volunteer Relations:** working closely with the various volunteer groups to build community and otherwise support the school.

Advancement Office hours during the school year are Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 3:30pm

**Rosemary Martinez, Director of Communications,** is in-office on Mon, Tues, and Thurs. She can be reached via email at [rmartinez@mischool.org](mailto:rmartinez@mischool.org).

**Holly Kerr, Director of Development,** is in-office on Mon, Wed, and Fri. She can be reached via email at [hkerr@mischool.org](mailto:hkerr@mischool.org).

**972-243-7105 x20**