

## UPDATE

is a publication produced by the Development Office of Calumet College of St. Joseph for its alumni and friends.

Calumet College of St. Joseph  
2400 New York Avenue  
Whiting, Indiana 46394

219-473-7770  
877-700-9100

www.ccsj.edu

Calumet College of St. Joseph

President  
Dennis Rittenmeyer, Ph.D

Vice President, Development  
James J. Adduci (BA '69)

Director of Development for Athletics  
Andy Juscik

Director of Alumni  
Herb F. Yekel (BS '75)

Director of Public Relations  
Linda Gajewski (BS '05)

Submit news to  
UPDATE:

Email: publicrelations@ccsj.edu

Write: Attention Update  
Calumet College of St. Joseph  
2400 New York Avenue  
Whiting, Indiana 46394

For Address Changes:

Visit: www.ccsj.edu/alumni

Phone: 219-473-4325 or  
877-700-9100 ext. 325

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Spring has arrived and our list of activities just keeps growing! Make your reservations to attend the 43rd Annual Ball on April 26th at the Villa de Bruno in Lynwood. Alumni can attend at the discounted rate. Perhaps you would like to donate an item for the Silent Auction? Contact Gabrielle at 219-473-4325 for details or reservations. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The Alumni Capital Campaign continues and you should have received a letter and pledge card. Please consider making a donation or pledge. With the warm weather we hope to see much-anticipated progress on the new Student Activity/Community Center. Help us make this dream a reality. Take the time to mail your donation or pledge today.

This issue of the Update is full of good news and heartwarming stories. Don't miss the story of Billy Gruszka. Helping to make Billy's dream come true touched all of our hearts. Employers Benefit Systems generously donated boxes of toothbrushes to our 'We Are Family' Guatemala project. As we get close to our departure date, we are still seeking donations of tools for schools, toothbrushes and toothpaste and monetary gifts.

Our spring sports have gotten off to a great start. You can read more about them in this issue. Pick a warm spring day and come out for a game or meet.

*Jim*



Pictured above are Matt Glaros, Michael Sparber (of EBS), students Maria Brazzale of Cedar Lake and Samantha Hunt of Whiting, and Will Glaros (EBS). We thank them for their generosity!

P.S.

This year's mission group will leave May 1st. We are currently collecting toothbrushes, toothpaste, crayons and pencils, and 81 mg aspirin. If you would like to support this project please contact Br. Jerry Schwieterman at 219-473-4239 (jschwieterman@ccsj.edu) or Jim Adduci at 219-473-4254 (jadduci@ccsj.edu).

P.P.S.

I'm looking for alumni or friends of the college who are currently working in accounting, financial services, or insurance to help advance the mission of CCSJ by encouraging clients to remember us in their will or for charitable gifts. If you'd like more information, call Jim Adduci at 219-473-4254.

CRIMSON WAVE NEWS continued from page <None>

leader on the court and off. Wilfredo also received the Freshman Player of the Year Award, the first in Wave basketball history.

The women's team finished the season 3-27 overall (0-9 in conference play). Katrina Pradziad was named CCAC First Team All-Conference honors.

## SOFTBALL

The softball team started strong with a 4-2 record. Home games are played at Standard Diamond in Whiting.

## BASEBALL

The baseball team is off to a great start with a record of 6-1. This is the best start in the program's history. Home games will be played this year at Calumet High School. This could be a great year for baseball and softball. Make plans to catch a game!

Athletic schedules can be found at  
<http://www.ccsj.edu/athletics/news.html>

## CCSJ Supports Lake County Advancement Committee

Calumet College of St. Joseph is pleased to announce that it will provide administrative support for the Lake County Advancement Committee. This new organization is the successor of the Lake County Community Development Committee which had been administered by the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service.

The mission of the Lake County Advancement Committee is to identify major social, economic, and policy issues impacting the citizens of Lake County, Indiana, to educate its members and the public about these important issues, and to propose possible solutions that arise from its dialogue.

"The new committee will continue to share interesting topics of discussion that promote community development. We typically have luncheon meetings on the 3rd Friday of each month", said current chairperson Andrew Kyres.

The first meeting of 2008 was held on January 18th and featured Congressman Peter Visclosky. Future speakers are:  
April 18 - Ernest Yelton, Indiana Gaming Commission Executive Director  
May 16 - Matthew Greller, IACT Executive Director

Meetings are held at noon at Teibel's Restaurant in Schererville, Indiana. Guests are welcome and the cost is \$15. For more information, please email Nick Zivanovic, Operations Supervisor of the Public Safety Institute of Calumet College of St. Joseph, at [nzivanovic@ccsj.edu](mailto:nzivanovic@ccsj.edu), or call 219-473-4303.

Calumet College of St. Joseph is pleased to announce the

## 43rd Annual Ball

Featuring Carl Linden and the  
Royal String Artists

April 26, 2008  
Villa de Bruno



Alumni are eligible for the Annual Ball discount rate of \$90 per person or \$150 per couple.

For more information, contact Gabrielle at (219) 473-4325 or [gmanson@ccsj.edu](mailto:gmanson@ccsj.edu)

## Guarantee Your Name In History!



Your name or the name of someone near to you will be permanently attached to one of the lockers that will be installed in the new Calumet College of St. Joseph Student Activity Center now under construction and due for completion summer 2008.

Don't miss this once in a lifetime offer!

YES I would like to have the name of \_\_\_\_\_ permanently attached to a locker in the NEW Student Activity Center. Rush \$100.00 today while lockers are still available.

Mail to: **CCSJ Development**  
2400 New York Ave.  
Whiting, IN 46394

For more on naming rights in the new Center contact Andy Juscik 219-473-4326 / [ajuscik@ccsj.edu](mailto:ajuscik@ccsj.edu)

## When the big game is on, where will you be?

How about a seat with your name on it?



For a minimum donation of \$20.00 a year for 10 years, your name will be affixed to a seat on the bleachers in the new gymnasium.

Call Andy Juscik at (219) 473-4326 for other options or fill out the form below and mail your first payment to:  
**Calumet College of St. Joseph**  
Development Office  
2400 New York Avenue  
Whiting, IN 46394

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check Enclosed  
 Discover  MasterCard  Visa  
Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_  
Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## LEGACY GRANT

The CCSJ Legacy Grant will award up to \$3000 to the children of our alumni starting 2008-09.

For additional information please contact the Financial Aid Office at 219-473-4296.

Cut on dotted line

# Alumni News

MIKE PUENTE

Mike is from the class of 1992 and earned his BA in Communications. He is a reporter with NPR in Chicago.

LISA D. DENEAL

Lisa graduated in 1991 with a BA in Communications. She is now in her 12<sup>th</sup> year as a correspondent of the Post-Tribune, as well as a contributing writer for the Port of Harlem Magazine, which focuses on African American issues and events.

JAMES B. JACKSON

James received his Masters Degree in Law Enforcement in 2005. James has recently been named as the First Deputy Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department. It is the second highest-ranking in the Department.

Congratulations on your successes from the Alumni Association!

*Are you experiencing some exciting changes in your life - perhaps a new job, engagement, marriage, or a new baby? We would love to hear about it and share it in an upcoming Update! Send your news to Herb Yekel, Director of Alumni, at [hyekel@ccsj.edu](mailto:hyekel@ccsj.edu).*

## Crimson Wave News

### BOWLING

This has been an amazing season for our bowlers. In only their second season, both the women's and men's teams have qualified for the USBC Intercollegiate Championship. The men's team defeated Wichita State, who has won 15 national titles, to take the title at the Fairview Heights Sectional. It was truly a David and Goliath story.

The women's story is just as remarkable. Last year they only had six members on their roster. This year they placed fourth at the Fairview Heights Sectionals, enough to earn a berth to the nationals. Both teams will be heading to Wichita, Kansas where competition begins on April 16th. Good luck to all!

### BASKETBALL

The men's basketball team ended their season with an overall record of 18-13 (7-5 in the conference). Senior Tom Radtke and freshman Wilfredo Escobar received CCAC First Team All-Conference honors. George Kelly and Andy Anderson received All-Conference Honorable Mention honors.

Tom has been a cornerstone for the men's basketball program. This season he recorded his 1,000<sup>th</sup> rebound and led the Wave at 9.9 RPG. Tom was also named CCAC Division II Player of the Week four times this season. He has been a true *continued on page 5*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 22 Admissions Information Session
- April 26 Annual Ball - Villa de Bruno
- May 1-8 Guatemala Mission Trip
- May 3 Women's Guild Luncheon - Dynasty
- May 6 Athletic Awards Night
- May 9 Graduation Awards Banquet
- May 12 1st day of Summer Session 1
- May 17 Graduation
- June 1-2 Alumni Phone-a-thon
- June 16 1st day of Summer Session 2



# UPDATE

*Inside this edition*



Annual Ball-See Page 5



College Dreams Come True--See Page 1

- College Dreams Come True - page 1
- Crimson Wave News - page 3
- Naming Opportunities - page 4

*and much more!*

*Visit us on the web - [www.ccsj.edu](http://www.ccsj.edu)*

**Remember CCSJ  
in your will!**

Calumet College of St. Joseph  
Alumni Office  
2400 New York Avenue  
Whiting, Indiana 46394



# UPDATE

A newsletter for alumni and friends of Calumet College of St. Joseph Volume 22, Apr. 2008

## College Dreams Come True

"I want to go to college." This is a statement said millions of times every year all across the country. This was Billy Gruszka's wish - to go to college. He watched his sister and brother go to college, graduate, find jobs and raise families - and he still wanted to go. Billy has special needs and is now 46 years old. His sister, Julie Christin, decided to try to make this dream come true, if only for a day.



Left to right: Billy Gruszka, Alexandra Victor and Julie Christin

Julie graduated from CCSJ in 1989. She contacted her classmate, Alexandra Victor, who is now Vice President of Student Affairs and explained it was her hope to sit with Billy in the back of a class just to give him the college experience. Ms. Victor sought out just the right instructor for this task, Garrard McClendon of the Education Department. Billy was invited to attend on Tuesday, February 20th.

Julie and Billy arrived at the college at 9:00 and he was presented with a backpack full of CCSJ school supplies and clothing. Class began and with wide eyes Billy watched intently. During the presentations, students had prepared group activ-

ities for the class. Billy joined a group for each activity and the sense of kinship grew. "Billy was a great speller and helped his team win during the curriculum game show. This experience showed that social justice and inclusion in classrooms are important to the well being of society. I thought the experience was amazing," said Garrard McClendon.

At the end of the class, President Dennis Rittenmeyer and Ms. Victor presented Billy with a certificate in a diploma folder announcing that he had attended college. Following the short ceremony, Billy and Julie joined Ms. Victor for a tour of the college. There were calls of "Hi, Billy" as his classmates passed him on their way to class and he was encouraged to attend the upcoming basketball game.

We like to think of Calumet College of St. Joseph as an opportunity factory. It is our mission to support those seeking to better themselves by a higher education. We know that this creates better families and communities. Yes, the college gave Billy an opportunity. But like so many of our students, Billy gave us so much more. He gave us the opportunity to see the joy of a wish fulfilled and to share in the realization that dreams really can come true, no matter how distant they may seem. Thank you, Billy, for allowing Calumet College of St. Joseph to be a part of it.

