

MIS MESSENGER

Communications for Mary Immaculate School Alumni and Faculty

MIS Alumni Committee

Rosemary Schmitz Martinez '79

Lisa Gonzales Leos '91

Linda Eifert Lee '76

Stephanie Wilson Koch '99

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Join us! 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 972-243-7105 x151 or rmartinez@mischool.org for more information.



Don't settle for the same old way to celebrate Valentine's day!

Join us at the MIS Heart of Gold Auction and Dinner on Sat. Feb. 12, 2011.

Alumni parents Mary and Eddie Eason (of students Troy '98 and Amy'99) will be honored that evening for their service and dedication to Mary Immaculate School.

Your invitation to this event can be found on page 12.

Plus...online auction begins Fri. Jan. 28th at 8 a.m.!

Alumni Mass and Reception: Sat. Jan. 29

MIS is kicking off Catholic Schools week by honoring our alumni at 5:00 p.m. mass on Saturday, January 29, 2011 at Mary Immaculate Church.

All MIS alumni, alumni teachers and their families are invited to join us in prayer and fellowship at the mass, then gather in our newly renovated Parish Hall afterwards for a light reception and a tour of the school.

Alumni who graduated prior to 2006 will be amazed at the improvements to the school campus. The most celebrated is without doubt the tournament-sized school gymnasium, that was built from the old church sanctuary with aid from the MIS Vision Endowment Fund and through the generosity of many current and alumni families. The full size art room, previously the cry-room of the old church, allows an entire classroom of students plenty of elbow room for creating large projects. The expanded school offices have replaced the old church offices — and during the summer, a faint trace of candle wax and incense lingers throughout them.

The school now also hosts a large music/drama room, an expanded Content Mastery classroom, and a small conference room.

Technology improvements are also evident throughout the school. The classrooms all are equipped with laptop-driven projectors that facilitate online learning. Interactive white boards grace several classrooms, and are in the process of being installed in the remaining rooms. New desktop computers fill the computer lab, and a new phone/intercom system throughout the school helps with daily communications.

Despite a weak national economy and a competitive private school market, Mary Immaculate Catholic School continues to strive and to be blessed with a benevolent alumni and parish community.

We invite you to re-experience the warm Mustang Spirit that is MIS!



A+ For America
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

*Catholic Schools Week 2011
celebrates Catholic schools as an
added value for the nation.
Because of their traditionally high
academic standards and
high graduation rates, all supported
by strong moral values,
Catholic schools and their graduates
make a definite, positive contribution to
American society.*



BECOME A FAN
OF MIS ON
FACEBOOK!

This article on MIS alumni Drew Bernet '01 is printed with permission from The Dallas Morning News.

Dallas-area man who lost eyesight inspired to help others

11:10 AM CDT on Thursday, September 9, 2010

By ERINN CONNOR / The Dallas Morning News

econnor@dallasnews.com

When Drew Bernet walks around in public, people generally have two reactions. The first is sympathy, complete with sad stares and overwhelming gestures of help. The second is to avoid him altogether. Bernet, 24, became blind in April 2009. Since then he's had to adapt to a different world, one where he's treated differently, where everyday activities are harder.

But to him, harder doesn't mean impossible. It doesn't mean avoiding people or not being the same independent person he was before that April date.

"It's really not as much of a hindrance as people think," he said. "You definitely have to change your perspective on how you take things in. But that's really all it is. It's just a shift in perspective."

It took Bernet three months to master independent travel with a cane. Normally, it takes a visually impaired person at least a year. He plans to get a master's degree and teach mobility skills so he can give other blind people the valuable gift of independence.

His mobility teacher, Alexa McIntyre, says he has a gift for teaching others, for drawing people out of the shells they can get stuck in once they go blind. McIntyre takes Bernet with him to mentor her younger students, already self-conscious teenagers who hate the added attention that blindness brings. He's planning on channeling that gift into a career.

When Bernet is confronted with people feeling sorry for him, or having to figure his way around an unfamiliar place, or an off day brought on by his diabetes, he usually has one thing to say:

"It's all good."

Losing his sight

Right before Bernet turned 21, while he was a student at the University of Arkansas, he started seeing spots.

"It was like seeing a bunch of little bugs," he said.

Wherever he looked around, the bugs followed. This continued for six months. Then, after he took a nap, half the vision in his left eye was gone. Just like that.

At first he thought maybe it would clear up, that it was just the typical post-sleep cloudiness. But a few weeks later, after another nap, another chunk of vision disappeared.

When he woke up a third time, he was blind in his left eye. Just like that.

Bernet knew this was coming, knew it had started with the bugs following him. The progression was described to him during one of his many visits to the doctor to check on his diabetes.

When he was 3, Bernet was diagnosed with Type 1 juvenile diabetes. Since then, he's had to monitor his diet and control his blood sugar with insulin injections. What happened to his eye was a common side-effect – diabetic retinopathy.

Between 40 percent and 45 percent of diabetic people develop some stage of retinopathy, according to the National Institute of Health. Extra blood vessels form in the back of the eye, leaking blood little by little until they hemorrhage, usually while the person is sleeping.

Even after losing sight in his left eye, Bernet could still drive, could still do almost everything people with perfect vision do. His eyesight was in a precarious state – retinopathy is a degenerative condition. It was only a matter of time until bugs showed up in his right eye.

On April 28, 2009, while home on spring break, he was rear-ended while driving home from his job at a veterinary clinic in Highland Village. It was little more than a fender-bender. Bernet was going 20 mph. The airbags didn't even go off.



The Bernet siblings from left to right: Kristen '04, Drew '01, Aaron '02, Katie '04.

Amazing Alumni Adventures

Two days later, he woke up completely blind. Just like that.

Last summer, Bernet had eight surgeries to try to restore his vision. They worked, a little – he has some light perception in his left eye now. He says it's more annoying than anything, and when doctors suggested more surgery, he declined.

"After the eighth one I was like, 'No, I'm done with these, I'm good,'" he said.

Getting back to life

That summer, Bernet was bored. It was nothing but surgeries, uncomfortable stitches and eye patches.

The worst part, though, was being stuck in his house.

Bernet was used to going places and being outdoors. He liked to camp and fish. At Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas, he'd been captain of his wrestling team. Teammate Nick Holmans said Bernet "could drink a lot and was a party animal. He wants the most out of life."

Instead of going out, he was getting to be on a first-name basis with nurses.

"I couldn't move around as freely as I could before," Bernet said.

He tried to go back to school at the University of Arkansas but found it too difficult. He had to bum rides. Professors gave him a hard time about homework he was physically unable to do. After a semester, he moved back into his parents' home in Flower Mound.

By last December, Bernet had had enough. He wanted his life back to normal – or, at least, he wanted to create a new normal.

He called the Texas Division of Blind Services, a state agency that assists the visually impaired based on their needs and goals. Since he planned to go back to school, he was set up with classes to learn to use a computer (again) and an orientation and mobility instructor, McIntyre, to teach him how to get around (again).

It took him three months to finish lessons with McIntyre. She normally spends a year to 18 months teaching students to get around.

"The thing about Drew's personality is that he's fearless," McIntyre, 40, said. "He's not afraid to get out and put himself out there."

Today, Bernet is almost back to "full capacity," as he puts it. He's an assistant coach for his old high school wrestling team. He rides DART to hang out with friends. He's heading to the University of North Texas in Denton, hoping to receive a degree in rehabilitation studies.

He joined a "beep" baseball team this year, a game in which the ball beeps so batters can hear it coming. There are only two bases, first and third. The batter picks one to run to. Bernet was a natural, said his coach, Bobby Lakey.

"He had no hesitation," the coach said. "The first time people go to a base they do a fast walk or jog with their hands out in front of them. He just took off."

That's just his nature, Bernet said: sometimes more fearlessness than common sense.

"I've never really been one that's worried about safety," he said. This Fourth of July, he said, "I freaked out a bunch of people because I was lighting bottle rockets out of my hand, and I was like, 'It's all good' and they're like, 'It's not all good, you're on fire.' "



Drew, with his service dog, Jake, coaching at a Jesuit wrestling match.

Amazing Alumni Adventures

A knack for teaching

Often the first thing a visually impaired person learns is how to navigate with a cane. While it's almost a necessity for getting around, it draws a lot of unwanted attention.

"There's such a social stigma with carrying the cane," McIntyre said.

She said a lot of her students won't carry a cane because it makes them self-conscious. Instead, they'll just stay inside where no one judges them.

LaTasha McGee, 23, started cane training about a month ago. For lessons, McIntyre takes her to NorthPark, where she can learn to find stairs and escalators and navigate indoor spaces.

The new student wears her insecurities on her sleeve. If she runs into a wall during a lesson, she'll cover her face with her hands, embarrassed.

One day not long ago, McIntyre brought Bernet along to one of McGee's NorthPark lessons. Bernet tap-tapped the cane as he navigated the crowded mall with ease.



He still has a wrestler's walk, all shoulders and swinging arms. Bernet takes stairs like he has 20/20 vision out of his ice blue eyes. It's this confidence that gave McGee a more positive outlook.

"I was less scared after he gave me lessons," she said. "He didn't mind showing me many times how to find stairs."

Bernet said teaching was a natural fit for him. He'd been struggling to figure out what to do with his life, now that he can't be a veterinarian.

"We'll be out, and you can tell when they're feeling skittish or embarrassed," he said. "I'll just go out there and I'll intentionally start drawing attention, like it's all good."



Above: Drew and MIS Alumni, Ryan Mediano '09, cheer on a Jesuit teammate at a recent wrestling match.

Left: Drew and his service dog, Jake.

Amazing Alumni Adventures

A Life of Service

In 2004, an automobile accident took the life of a 21-year-old whose strong civic awareness and deep spiritual beliefs contributed to her life of loving aid to church and community. Rebekah Leah Rivera believed in serving others — and even after her death, she is still helping out.

The devotion that Rebekah showed towards her alma maters, Mary Immaculate Catholic School and Ursuline Academy, as well as to Mary Immaculate Catholic Parish prompted her friends and family to take action to keep her memory alive. In 2005, they established the Rebekah Leah Rivera Foundation and created Spirit of Love Scholarships for students from Rebekah's communities who best demonstrate that they use their God given gifts and talents to serve others.

Service to others was a concept deeply ingrained throughout Rebekah's years at MIS and Ursuline. Rebekah's mother, Rina Rivera, explains her daughter's devotion to service with a glimpse into one of Rebekah's Confirmation Retreat Journals, written as a teen leader. "When a teen speaker asked the audience to reflect on why we are here on this earth," said Rina, "Rebekah quoted her junior high teacher, Mrs. Minigutti, who said, 'To whom a lot is given, a lot is expected.' Rebekah understood that we have to pass Jesus on to others in the community, that we have to love everyone and do good to everyone also."



Each year, one eighth grader and one graduating high school senior receives a Spirit of Love Scholarship...\$500 for the younger student and \$2,500 for the older student. A total of \$17,000 has been awarded through these scholarships since 2005, and the foundation plans to expand their scholarships this year to include both two new Diocesan Spirit of Love Scholarships. Plans are also being made to raise money to award \$1,000,000 in scholarships by 2013, including scholarships outside of the current communities.

According to Mrs. Rivera, the foundation supports the development of young Catholic leaders who are working to make the world a more fitting place for all to live. Mrs. Rivera explains, "Rebekah wrote in her journal that she was 'filled with fire to share God and show Him to all those who couldn't see Him. If I made a difference in one person's life, that was enough for me.' Our Scholarship recipients have this kind of spirit and 'fire' and make a difference in many people's lives, we are just acknowledging them and affirming them on their journey. We are helping them monetarily to continue doing what they are doing now and investing in their future which is making 'the world a more fitting place for all to live.'"



Top: Rebekah Leah Rivera as an adult. Bottom: Rebeka with her sisters, Rosanna '95 and Roina '98.

To be eligible for a Spirit of Love Scholarship, a student must be a member of Mary Immaculate Catholic Church or must be graduating from Mary Immaculate School, Ursuline Academy or Jesuit. To be eligible for Diocesan Spirit of Love Scholarships, a student must be a member of a parish in the Diocese of Dallas and be nominated for the award.

For both types of scholarships, the student must offer proof of community service, provide a written essay, and present at least one recommendation letter before the February 2, 2011 deadline. For full details and the application form, please visit www.rebekahleahrivera.org.

Jordan King '00 is currently a second grade teacher in a Carrollton/Farmers Branch school. She recently traveled to Africa with the Family Legacy Missions International and shares with us a story of how MIS ties into that trip:

I have always been proud to have attended Mary Immaculate. Mary Immaculate has prepared me and touched my life in many ways. However, I have never been more proud or touched as I was this summer! Ten years after leaving Mary Immaculate, MIS continues to impact my life.

This summer I spent 2 weeks in Africa serving orphan children with Family Legacy Missions International. This company has quite a presence in Zambia, Africa. Their biggest operation is Camp Life. Thousands of AIDS orphans spend a week at camp learning about our Savior.



I served as a camp counselor for Camp Life this past July for a group of 17 boys ranging from age 5-12. During camp, we sang songs, praised Jesus, heard bible stories, learned about His great love, and just had fun! The theme for the week was "JOY — Jesus, Others, You!" With the camp verse being "The Joy of the Lord is my Strength!" Throughout the week, the children learned about Jesus' love and serving others. On Thursday, the children went into their community sharing about Jesus and passed out food to the local people. Mind you, these children have next to nothing themselves! To their GREAT surprise, on Friday, the children received the same gifts as well as brand new socks and shoes!

This is where my Alma Mater comes in! To prepare for the socks and shoes distribution, we had to sort through thousands of socks and shoes. When it was my turn to get socks for my boys, I picked one of many boxes to dig through. It was in this box that I saw numerous pairs of socks with the MIS logo on them! I was shocked to see the familiar logo in such a far away place. I grabbed them and showed my friends and told them about my grade school. I was so proud to think that my school had contributed to this cause! I am not sure how these socks got into this box, but I do know without a doubt, that someone from Mary Immaculate had to have donated them at some time. I also know that it was no accident that I

looked in that box. It was a comforting gift from my Lord to show me a piece of home at the end of a long trip. It inspired me and showed me that even the simple donations that don't take much time or effort can dramatically impact someone else's life!



RICHARDSON, Texas (Aug. 30) -- Central Oklahoma place-kicker Chris Robbs has been named Lone Star Conference North Division Special Teams Player of the Week, it was announced by the league office Monday.

A sophomore from Bishop Lynch High School in Dallas, Robbs made all four kicks and scored eight points in UCO's season-opening 31-20 loss to Pittsburg State last Saturday at Wantland Stadium, hitting both field goal tries and both extra point attempts.

Robbs had two PATs in the first half as the Bronchos took a 14-7 lead and he came back with field goals of 39 yards late in the third quarter and 36 yard with 10:06 left to play to give UCO a 20-17 lead after PSU had surged in front, though the Gorillas eventually came back to win the game.

Note from Editor: Chris Robbs is MIS Class of 2005. This excerpt was taken from http://www.bronchosports.com/news/2010/8/30/FB_0830102228.aspx?path=football

Mary Immaculate Champs

Athletes from Mary Immaculate School were honored Saturday night in the annual All-Sports awards dinner.

The banquet was held in the Knights of Columbus Hall on Harry Hines Blvd. and was attended by about 150 Mary Immaculate students and their parents.

Mary Immaculate won the Dallas Parochial League Championships in football, boys and girls basketball and track during the past school year.

In football, most valuable back award went to Chris Jabin, the quarterback who led the Mustangs to the DPL title last fall. Tim Thomas won the most valuable lineman award and Tommy

Gutierrez and Tony Kotecki won the spirit awards.

Mike Martin won the MVP for basketball. Tommy Gutierrez again won the spirit award along with Jimmy McHugh. The Coach's award went to Steve Heath.

City track champions honored were Mike Kalish, winner of the 100 and 220-yd dash; Chris Jabin in 440 and

800-yr runs, Mike Hoskins in the high jump and Mark Dobecka in the shot put.

Most valuable guard went to Mary Hammett of the girls' championship team. Kim Carter was named most valuable forward.

In girls' softball, Kim Carter and Debbie Bartlett were named to the top awards.

Mike Martin '73 is enjoying the beach life in Huntington Beach, CA. with his wife, 17 year old son and 15 year old daughter. His nephew Danny (son of Rosemary Martin Zrubek '79) is currently attending MIS. Mike sends these photos as a blast of the past for your enjoyment.



Vision Annual Giving Campaign

Over \$150,000 has been pledged so far in our 2010-11 Vision Annual Giving Campaign — with close to \$60,000 from generous MIS alumni!*

This campaign contributes to short-range programs and projects in the school budgets, as well as builds our school's Vision Endowment Fund to ensure long-range growth.

The Vision Endowment Fund has funded large projects such as our recent gym renovation, art room, expanded school offices, enlarged music room and content mastery room. This is in addition to providing the means to sustain our school into the future for any unforeseen circumstance.

This year, the Endowment Fund will fuel the first phase of our strategic plan for technology by adding interactive white boards to every classroom, upgrading the school computer lab with 34 new computers with Windows 7 & Office 2010, installing a new phone system so that every teacher will have voice mail, and installing a new PA system so communications throughout the school will be heard by everyone.

The implementation of phase one will cost approximately \$60,000. This money will be borrowed from the Endowment Fund with a 5-year payback schedule at no interest. Historically, we pay off all projects well ahead of schedule.

Prior to this year's campaign, the Endowment Fund stood at \$808,537; our goal is to reach \$1,000,000 by the year 2015.

* Watch for a story on how generous alumni families are contributing to the success of MIS in our upcoming July 2011 edition of MIS Messenger!

MIS Receives \$10,000 Vision Gift from Knights

The Knights of Columbus Council 5052, in thanksgiving for growth and longevity as an organization, has donated \$10,000 to MIS in support of Catholic education. The check was presented by Grand Knight Cliff Starnes to Fr. Michael Forge at the Council's 50th anniversary celebration dinner on Saturday, November 13.

"I am so humbled to accept this generous gift on behalf of Mary Immaculate School," said Fr. Forge. "We certainly appreciate it and can use it!" The school will include the gift in their Vision Annual Giving Campaign account, which addresses both short-term and long-term needs of the school.

The Council has a long history of support to the students at MIS, including through their sponsorship of Cub Scout Troop 713 and Boy Scout Troop 713 and their support at the Fall Festival. For many years, several of the Knights have also volunteered as greeters at the school.

Knights of Columbus Council 5052 was chartered in November 1960 by the national organization to support the religious faith, family values and service to the community by men of the Carrollton-Farmers Branch and North Dallas area. From a charter enrollment of 70 Knights, the council has grown to an active membership of more than 300.

Media Lab Planned

Earlier this year MIS received a \$2000 grant from an anonymous donor to be used in the establishment of a media lab. This money will be used to purchase a computer capable of editing video, a camera and software for editing of anything student shot. The goal of this project is to teach our junior high students how to utilize media equipment and edit video to be shown to the school at large. We would love to be able to shoot weekly news programs for the school filled with student shot articles and news that they can use for the week to come. The students would be able to be journalists for the school and find interesting news concerning the happenings that go on every day

Tuition Assistance

A \$12,000 Grant from Darling Foundation and a \$3,000 donation from Town North Bank of Dallas have greatly assisted MIS families in need of a financial boost through our Emergency Tuition Assistance Program this year.

Fr. Michael accepts a \$10,000 donation for MIS from Grand Knight Cliff Starnes.



MIS Class Notes

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	Fred McCurley, Andy Reddick	fmcurley@flash.net; andy@andyreddick.com		1988	Suzy Rossol Matheson	srossol@hotmail.com	MIS Class of 88
1965				1989			
1966				1990	Lisa Chmiola Burns	lisac77@yahoo.com	MIS Class of 1990 Reunion
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			Liz Mahaffey	MahaffeyE@cfbisd.edu	
1971				1994			
1972				1995			
1973	Doug Kile/ James McGinn	dkile@techlightusa.com		1996			
1974				1997	Beth Beste		Mary Immaculate School Class of 1998
1975	Joe Meza	jrmeza2002@msn.com		1998			
1976	Linda Eifert Lee	lindaclaudette@verizon.net		1999	Stephanie Wilson Koch	se506@aol.com	MIS Class of 99 Reunion
1977				2000			
1978				2001	Sara Fine	sfine@webershandwick.com	
1979	Rosemary Schmitz Martinez	rmartinez@mischool.org	Mary Immaculate School Class of 1979 - Farmers Branch	2002			
1980				2003			
1981	Kristin Heath Florence	kflorence@sbcglobal.net	Mary Immaculate School (MIS) Class of 1981	2004			
1982	Mary DelValle Fregia	fregiafam5@gmail.com	Mary Immaculate School - Farmers Branch, TX - Class of 1982	2005			
				2006			
				2007			
				2008			
				2009	Parker Martinez	parkermartinez@hotmail.com	Mary Immaculate (MIS) Class of 2009
				2010			

Alumni Parents to be Honored at MIS Heart of Gold Auction

"It is amazing how God works."

**—Mary & Eddie Eason, 2011 Honorary Chairs
for the MIS Heart of Gold Auction**

It's often said God works in mysterious ways, creating miraculous circumstances and impact through the simplest of everyday occurrences or the humblest of people. And that's exactly how our honorary chairs, Mary and Eddie Eason, were led to 20+ years of service to Mary Immaculate Church and School.

It started simply enough: a pickup basketball game among friends. Fellow University of Dallas students Eddie and Mary met on the court. Soon, they went from playing a game to creating a family. Mary, a "cradle Catholic" from Plainview, Texas, and Eddie, a native Dallasite, were married November 25, 1977. And not only did Mary share her life with him—she also shared her faith. He was introduced to the Catholic Church through Mary's family and was confirmed in the spring of 1982 at St. Patrick's in Dallas. Children Troy (a '98 MIS grad) and Amy (a '99 MIS grad) followed.

Living in Dallas, the Easons attended their local parish, St. Monica. When Troy was in kindergarten, the family faced another one of those routine steps every family does, purchasing and moving into a new home. The move took them



to Carrollton, and their new parish was Mary Immaculate. The Easons say the decision to move Troy from St. Monica to MIS was an easy one. "We wanted our kids to attend Catholic school at their parish church. In retrospect, it was the best decision we ever made both from a faith and education perspective."

"We were a little apprehensive, wondering if MIS would provide that great experience. But then, it is amazing how God works . . . we can't imagine our lives now without the friends we made and our experiences during our years at MIS."

Getting involved at MIS was a given for the Easons, and as often happens, one simple question can open the floodgates! At the first PTC meeting of fall 1990, Mary approached then-president Jan Bigbee and asked how their family could get involved. Many volunteer requests followed, and Mary & Eddie cheerfully accepted them all! Mary took numerous turns as room mom, cafeteria assistant, PTC member, substitute teacher and playground monitor. The Easons coached sports teams and lead scout troops.

The Easons had a hand in introducing a number of things to MIS, many of which have become tradition for current MIS families! Some of the changes were out of necessity—Mary played a large role in getting an outside vendor to provide cafeteria service, in part because Mary was "tired of counting money!" Others, like our school newsletter and PTC Wish List, were based on programs they had seen succeed at the

About the Eason Alumni:

Troy, 27, attended high school at ESD. At MIS, he received the Gutierrez Spirit Award and is remembered for his lip sync performance of "Guitarzan" with good friend Tim Stacey. He graduated from Texas A&M in 2006 and earned a degree in Biomedical Science. Troy currently lives in San Antonio, where he teaches middle school math and science and coaches at Texas Military Institute—The Episcopal School of Texas.

Amy will be 26 in May. At MIS, she received the Sara Murawski Spirit of Community Award. Amy graduated from ESD in the top 10% of her class in 2003 and graduated from The University of Texas at Austin in 2007, earning a degree in International Business. She currently lives in Los Angeles and works for the Walt Disney Corporation in Burbank as an Executive Compensation Analyst.

Episcopal School of Dallas (ESD), where Eddie has spent his career. And today's MIS students are likely most thankful to the Easons (along with Diane & Mehdi Taheri, Cheryl Harrington, Mike & Jerry Murawski and others) for our wonderful playground, built in the 1992–93 school year.

The Easons had a hand in one MIS program that even made the local news! When their kids started at MIS, the few students who sold the most in our magazine fundraiser were awarded a limousine ride to a restaurant for pizza. The following year, after the limo ride was ditched due, in part, to an article in the Dallas Morning News, "weeples" were introduced as prizes. (Ask Mary about those!) Mary and Eddie, along with Annette Butler, Prici Mahaffey and many others, helped start the T-shirt trend, so that every student who participated in the magazine sale would receive something for their effort.

Today, the Easons continue to serve our school and parish. Eddie is a member of the MIS Advisory Council. He was an integral part of the search for our new principal, using his 30 years of experience as an educator to guide the AC. (Thanks, Mr. Eason!) And, he is currently available as a mentor for Mr. Krause, sharing his expertise from his time as a teacher, coach and administrator. But, according to Eddie, "Mr. Krause was so well trained as an assistant principal; he was ready to go on day one without any guidance." Mary is part of our Parish Council, serves as an Extraordinary Minister, helps with funeral meals and act as webmaster for the parish website.

The Easons believe the success of MIS is due in large part to a "tested and timeless formula: An outstanding faith-based Mission, dedicated faculty, students who give their best, engaged parents, and an endless army of volunteers and supporters. Our future looks brighter than ever."

Simple beginnings, a pickup basketball game, a PTC meeting, a move to a new home . . . Look where it's led. Over 20 years of service from a family who truly love Mary Immaculate.

Join us on February 12, 2011 at the MIS Heart of Gold Auction, as we honor Eddie and Mary Eason for all their years of service at Mary Immaculate School! Visit www.misauction.org for more information and on-line registration.



**Mary Immaculate School
Alumni Association**

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Favorite MIS Memories for the Easons:

- All the Sacraments
- Kindergarten confetti eggs
- Searching for the "Gingerbread Man" in 1st grade
- Oregon Trail in 5th grade
- The Pines in 6th grade
- "Living Stations of the Cross" (Debby King) in junior high
- Mother's Day Tea
- Father's Day "How God made fathers"
- Back-to-school skating parties
- Individual grade Masses—so unique and the students were always so proud of their Mass
- Odyssey of the Mind coordinated by Liz Williams
- Band with Tom Faver
- World Bazaar in 6th grade
- Choir with Vivian Marino (Monica Luisi in the earlier years)
- 7th grade Austin trip
- 8th grade canoeing down the Trinity River with Michelle Jones
- Pumpkin carving
- "Guitarzan" (the Talent Show)
- PE campouts with Michelle Jones
- Mayfair
- Thanksgiving "Feast" in 1st grade
- Fun Time Pizza for good report cards
- Enterprise City in 5th grade
- Magazine Sales
- Buck-a-Jean Days
- The massive pile of donated toys at the Altar at Christmas every year
- The large number of shoes brought in every year for "Soles for Souls" day
- Science Fairs—how well they were run by Joan Minigutti and her crew of judges
- Speech Competitions (Debby King)
- Mapping by Memory in 7th grade
- Karen Saldaña's annual book fairs to raise fund for the library since she had a very tiny budget
- 7th grade Mustang Trail
- May Crowning in 8th grade
- Lip Sync ("Guitarzan") in 8th grade
- 8th Grade PE campout with Michelle Jones
- Mrs. Linda Coffin, Mrs. Thelma Watts-Glasgow, Mrs. Joan Minigutti & Mrs. Dee Santini and the love and care they showed for every single student in the junior high

MARY IMMACULATE SCHOOL HEART OF GOLD AUCTION 2011

"If someone thinks that peace and love are just a cliche that must have been left behind in the 60s, that's a problem. Peace and love are eternal." - John Lennon



You are cordially invited to attend
Mary Immaculate Catholic School's
11th Annual Heart of Gold Auction
"All You Need is Love"

Honorary Chairs

Eddie and Mary Eason

Saturday, February 12, 2011

6:30pm – 1:00am

Westin Galleria Dallas

13340 Dallas Parkway

Dallas, TX 75240



RSVP Online!

<https://www.auctionsourceonline.com/maryimmaculate/reservations>

Reservations are \$65/person (\$75/person for late purchase after February 1st).

Babysitting available for \$15/child (includes pizza).

RSVP early to guarantee your reservation as seating is limited to 400!

If you cannot attend, but would like to contribute and/or sponsor a teacher ticket you can do this through the reservations site as well.

Approximately \$1,900 and 120 volunteer hours were saved by GOING GREEN with the 2011 Auction Invitation

