



# TROJAN TRADITION

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1  
SPRING 2015



## Save The Date:

Family Day At The Races  
Monmouth Park on  
9-26-15



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Matthew Roche named a Newman Civic Fellow	2
Tom Cavanaugh performs in NYC	3
Amy Suznovich sings for Philadelphia Phillies	3
Gillian Beltz-Mohrman wins award	3
Alumnus Saves a Life	4
STA 1973 and 1974 Joint Class Reunion	4
BGA/STA Annual Golf Classic	4
Alumni News & Announcements	5

## Upcoming Issue:

- Where in the world is BGA? - Send Your Vacation Pictures in your BGA gear
- Pet Corner - Share Your Best Photos

## Bishop Ahr Graduate Signed by Colts

Congratulations to **Class of 2010** alumnus, Brandon Vitabile on signing with the Indianapolis Colts on Saturday, May 2nd as an undrafted free agent.

At Northwestern University, Brandon started every game at the center position over the last 4 years. He was voted a two-time captain (Junior and Senior years) and was named a three-time Big Ten Distinguished Scholar.



While at Bishop Ahr, Brandon gathered First Team All-Middlesex and First Team All-State honors, and was invited to play in the Aloha Bowl all-star game in Hawaii, all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

## A message from the Director of Advancement

Check out our New Alumni Newsletter. Sign up today to be a part of all the great new and exciting things happening with our **Bishop George Ahr/St. Thomas Aquinas Alumni**.

Have a new engagement, anniversary, baby, job, sports news or need a prayer request?

Tell us, we want to share it at: [alumni@bgahs.org](mailto:alumni@bgahs.org)

Update your contact info on [bgahs.org](http://bgahs.org)

## Matt Roche Wins....

La Salle University senior **Matthew Roche, Class of 2011**, has been named a Newman Civic Fellow for his dedication to service and outreach. Presented by Campus Compact to inspiring college student leaders, only 197 students nationwide were designated as fellows for 2014.

Roche is from East Brunswick, and graduated from Bishop George Ahr High School in Edison. He was a double major in secondary education and history at the university in Philadelphia.

“When I learned about the award, my first reaction was surprise, but then I had a feeling of satisfaction and closure,” said Roche. “I feel like there were definitely times when the service I was doing required a great deal of time and effort, and to balance it with being a student was a challenge. Receiving this award really helped to make everything that I do seem important and gave it a purpose.”

“I think the major reason I work so hard and continue to push myself to do community service is because it’s something that doesn’t require any extraordinary skills or talents, but instead is something that anyone can do,” he said. “The service I do helps give me fulfillment, that I am truly making a difference in the world even if it isn’t on a global scale. Service is a part of what it means to be human, and I use the gifts I have been blessed with and the opportunities available to me to try and help other people, because that is what needs to be done.” Some of the activities Roche is involved with at La Salle are the Peer Ministers, a group that works to promote justice on campus and gives students the ability to explore their faith; AIDS Outreach, the Philadelphia Police Athletic League and Pheed Philadelphia.

This is the third consecutive year a La Salle student has been named a Newman Civic Fellow. Newman Civic Fellow awards are made in memory of Frank Newman, Ph.D., a co-founder of Campus Compact, which seeks to foster students’ involvement in public service and as democratic change-agents. Campus Compact has grown to represent more than 1,100 college and university presidents committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education. The Newman Civic Fellow awards are made possible through the generous support of the KPMG Foundation.



### 2015 BGA-STA \* Super 50/50 Raffle

Alumni, please show your support for **Bishop George Ahr/Saint Thomas Aquinas High School** by participating in our Super 50/50 Raffle.

**Our drawing will be held at 11:00 a.m., on Thursday, June 4th in the main office.**

Take a chance with family, co-workers, friends, neighbors, etc. **Tickets are \$50.00 each.**

Visit [bgahs.org](http://bgahs.org) to download an order form.

**Remember, you need to be in it, to win it!**

## Tom Cavanaugh Performs to Sold Out Audience



**Tom Cavanaugh, Class of 1983**, performed in *Chance—A Festival of One Act Plays about Love, Fate & Destiny* on March 26th—29th in New York City. He received his M.F.A. in Playwriting from the Actors Studio Drama School in New York City.

Tom's screenplay *The Wilderness Treatment* won an Honorable Mention at the 2012 Movie awards and was a finalist at the 2013 Beverly Hills Film Festival. Tom was commissioned by the North by South Los Angeles Theatre Company to write their 2014 Tidings Show that opened in December.



Classmates from the Class of 1983 attended Tom's performance.



## Amy Suznovich Sings for the Philadelphia Phillies

A **2005 BGA graduate**, **Amy Suznovich**, a professional opera singer, performed God Bless America during the seventh inning stretch at Citizen Bank Park for the Phillies vs Mets game on Sunday, May 10th.

She has sung for other sports teams including: Sky Blue F.C. Women's Major League Soccer, New Britain Rock Cats (CT), Lake County Captains (OH) and the Long Island Rough Riders Soccer Team but this was her first time singing for a Major League Baseball game at a stadium which holds over 43,000 people.

## Gillian Beltz-Mohrmann wins award from Wellesley College

**Gillian Beltz-Mohrmann, Class of 2012**, won the Sarah Frances Whiting medal, awarded by the Wellesley College Astronomy Department.

The award is given to a junior in the department who has shown excellence in academics and research. Gillian is the second recipient of the award, started last year and named for Sarah Frances Whiting (1847—1927), who was the first professor of physics and first director of the observatory at Wellesley College.



## Alumnus Saves a Life

**Patrolman James Dolinski** from the **Class of 2004** and his partner Sean Flanagan responded to a call of a man suffering a heart attack. They administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation, shocking his heart with a portable defibrillator from the patrol car. The man and his wife were on their way to dinner on May 27th to celebrate their 47th wedding anniversary.

The two officers met the couple and were greeted with big hugs for their life saving actions. The wife was quoted as saying, "Every single professional told me that it was you guys who saved his life. The doctor in the emergency room said if the first responders hadn't done what you did in those first minutes, they could not have saved him."



## Joint STA Class Reunion 1973 and 1974

The setting was our high school, St. Thomas Aquinas HS cafeteria and if anyone wanted to record the decibel level of chatter, greetings, catching up with old friends, laughter, reliving old memories and overall merriment in the room, it was right off the chart.



This was a first time venture of combining the two most senior classes, 1973 and 1974, for a high school reunion from the days when the high school was known as St. Thomas Aquinas and our rally cry was "**STA All The Way**". Yes, we paved the way for those of you who have followed in our footsteps. It was great to meet once again to see our friends. The festivities began at 7pm and it was difficult to get people to finally leave at the end of the night. We look forward to our next event.



**Mary Adamski**  
Class of 1973

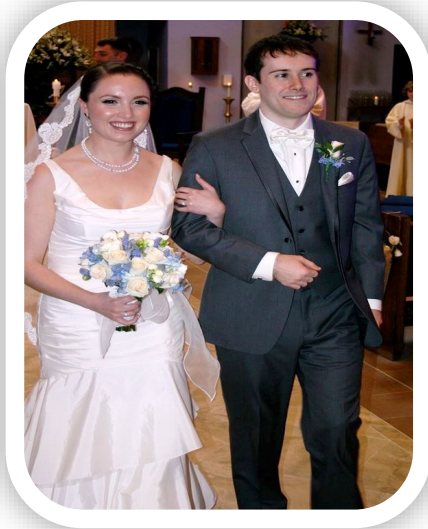
## BGA/STA Annual Golf Classic

The BGA/STA Annual Golf Classic was held on Thursday, May 7th at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, NJ. There were 91 golfers who participated and helped to make this event a success.

Golfers began the day with an 8:30 a.m. tee off. There were contests throughout the day. The day concluded with a BBQ banquet, a raffle and awards ceremony.



## Alumni News & Announcements....Congratulations!



**Katy Roche ('08) and Jim McAndrew**



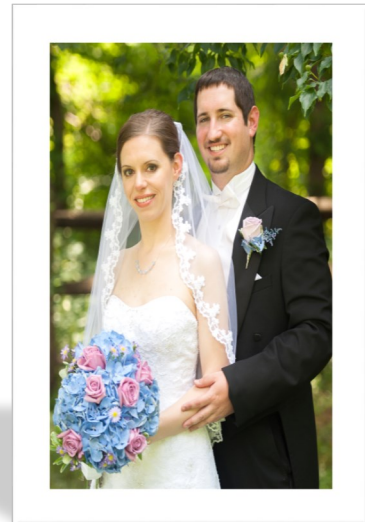
**Mark ('95) and Anna Fiore**



**Robyn and Joe Borrello were blessed with the birth of their daughter, Mia Lucianna on December 18th, 2014. Robyn (Butvilla) is an alumna from the Class of 2000.**



**Steve Rossi ('09) and Theresa D'Addio ('07)**



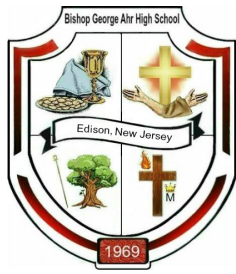
**Joey ('02) and Katie Cullinan**



**Dan Hurley ('07) and Maria DeSantis announced their engagement in July 2014. They are planning to wed in October 2015. The couple will live in Staten Island.**



**Jillian Butvilla ('03) is engaged to Eric Zimmerman. A July 2015 wedding is planned.**



# Today's Students. Tomorrow's Leaders.

## Office of Advancement

**Director: Deborah Chippendale**  
One Tingley Lane  
Edison, NJ 08820

732-549-1108 Ext. 605  
Fax: 732-494-2227  
Email: [dchippendale@bgahs.org](mailto:dchippendale@bgahs.org)



### BISHOP AHR/ST. THOMAS AQUINAS ALUMNI

Purse - \$18,000

Rising Sun Racing Stables, Inc., Owner

Gregory Sacco, Trainer

Gabriel Saez, Rider

6 Furlongs 1:10 4/5

Wildcat Creek 2nd

Surprise Strike 3rd

September 27, 2014

© Equi-Photo.com

## Quepos



## Fun Times with Alumni



**A Day At The Races**  
**Monmouth Park on 9-27-14**  
**5K Run 9-28-14**



**Principal: Sr. Donna Marie Trukowski**

**Associate Principal: Harry Ziegler**

**Vice Principal: Brian Brogno**

**Campus Minister: Sr. Cynthia Marie  
Babyak**

**Editor-In-Chief: Marie Smith**

**Contributor: John Roche**