



# ARCHBISHOP WALSH HIGH SCHOOL

Archbishop Walsh is a high school that, in the Franciscan tradition, inspires students to achieve their full potential in spiritual, academic, and athletic growth.

## Walsh World: Fall 2008

### Contents:

**Walsh Grad Johns invents new way to use education**  
**Students, faculty attend Papal Mass**  
**Bysiek's 3 wins alumni hoops game**  
**Letter from the Principal**  
**Throughout the years at Walsh**

## Walsh Grad Johns invents new way to use education

Think you've invented the gizmo that no American should be without? If so, Walsh alumnus Andrew Johns is the man to talk to.

Johns has been a patent examiner at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office since graduating from Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y., in 1990. And while the 1986 Walsh graduate received his degree in electrical engineering, the responsibilities of his job are more like those of a lawyer.

"The core of my job involves reviewing patent applications, researching the existing technology and making a determination as to whether or not the invention described in the application can be patented," Johns said.

A patent for an invention is a grant of property rights by the U.S. Government through Johns' office. The patent grant excludes others from making, using or selling the invention in the United States. A patent cannot be obtained on a mere idea or suggestion, and it's typically Johns who determines which inventions will ultimately make the cut.

"If the invention has been made before, or would have been obvious in view of what was done before, I prepare a written rejection of the application," Johns said. "The applicant can challenge my finding or amend their application, and I must review their response to evaluate its merits."

For inventions that are new and not obvious, Johns issues a notice that a patent will be granted. But that's only part of his job description as a patent examiner.

"I also assist my supervisors with the training of our large number of new employees," he said. "I help them understand the inventions in their applications, coach them in determining a proper field of search and provide suggestions as to how to best communicate their findings."

"I also review and sign the work of several of our newer employees. I have also taught at our 'Patent Academy' and have prepared and conducted training sessions within my work unit."

Johns admitted a career at the Patent and Trademark Office wasn't what he originally had in mind. Then the Office sent a representative to Clarkson to recruit potential new hires. After attending an informal session, Johns was intrigued by both the job description and the government career benefits.

"By that point I was realizing that I probably didn't want to work in actual engineering, and this was an opportunity to use my education in a different way," he said.

Like many other Eagle alums, Johns attributes much of his success to his experiences at Archbishop Walsh, specifically his ability to connect with those around him.

"I certainly believe that my education at Walsh provided me with the communication tools that are so critically important to be a successful patent examiner," he said. "While the technical background of my university degree is necessary to understand the inventions I review, the larger part of my job involves communicating my findings to the applicants."



# ARCHBISHOP WALSH HIGH SCHOOL

“As I frequently see in the examiners I help train, these communications skills are not generally learned in engineering school. Without these skills, I would not have been nearly as successful in this job as I have been.”

The '86 alum said the job also takes a high degree of personal integrity to truly excel. It can be tempting to cut corners and issue decisions based on shoddy work, he said, but in the end it would be a huge disservice to the applicant.

“To truly do this job well, you need to recognize that you have a duty to do the best job you can on every single application that crosses your desk. I have to believe that my experiences at Walsh helped contribute to my ability to focus on what is best for the applicants and for the public interest, even if it creates short-term problems for me.”

Johns has been cited numerous times as a result of this hard work. In 1999, he received an award from the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA), recognizing his “outstanding contribution to the integrity of intellectual property law.” In 2000, he received a U.S. Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Award for Superior Federal Service, and in 2005, he received the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office’s Exceptional Career Award for exceptional performance and service.

## Students, faculty attend Papal Mass

On April 20, approximately 50 students, parents, teachers and guests journeyed to New York City to attend the Papal Mass at Yankee Stadium. Although the temperature was very low, and their seats very high, those representing the school were warmed by the beautiful Mass given by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI.

“It was an historic trip,” said Nick Bianco, a junior. “The Pope was just as happy as everyone else to be here in America. It was an overwhelming moment for me and every other American as we saw Jesus embodied in the Holy Father. As President Bush said, when you look into the eyes of Pope Benedict you see God.”

### **Ed Bysiek, a 1997 Walsh graduate, recounts his experience at this historic event:**

“I was very excited when I first heard that Pope Benedict XVI was planning a trip to the United States, and specifically to New York City.

There are few religious leaders who can unite a religion like the pope, and it is not often that he comes to within traveling distance of home. I was 15 years old when Pope John Paul II visited the city and interestingly, I also made the trip to see him say Mass and wrote an article about the trip that appeared in the Olean Times Herald soon after.

Benedict’s visit was very meaningful for Christians, especially those who, like myself, were able to see him and hear him speak. His trip was highlighted by an outreach to not only American Catholics, but also other Christian churches, other religions, and the families of victims of September 11. In a day and age where organized religion often receives the stigma as being divisive, the pope did his best to foster a sense of unity among people of various cultures, backgrounds and traditions.

I arrived in Queens on Friday evening, accompanied by my fiancé, Evelyn, who just recently joined the Catholic Church. The pope’s presence had the whole city abuzz; streets were shut down, traffic was redirected and it seemed like the entire NYPD was on duty to ensure security.

We caught a unique glimpse of the pontiff on Saturday afternoon. After performing Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, he made his way up Fifth Avenue in Manhattan to greet the people in his pope mobile. At one point he passed to within about 25 feet of where we were standing, and waved right at us.

What was particularly striking was the melting pot of different cultures that lined the street together to welcome the Holy Father with their own unique ethnic songs, dances and prayer styles. We were



# ARCHBISHOP WALSH HIGH SCHOOL

also fortunate enough to have scored tickets to the papal Mass on Sunday.

Since I had never been to Yankee Stadium, I saw it as a “two for the price of one opportunity” - except that the tickets were free. Prior to the Mass, we were treated to a two-hour concert, featuring the Harlem Gospel Choir, Jose Feliciano, a famed Italian opera singer, and Harry Connick, Jr. When Pope Benedict arrived just shy of 2:30, he was greeted by a crowd over 57,000 strong.

It was the very first time I heard Benedict speak in public. His soft-spoken, positive manner and German accent seem to endear him to the crowd, both young and old. A group of high school students chanted “Ben-e-dic-to” upon his arrival, and I overheard a little girl say to her mother, “I want him to be my grandfather.”

When it was time to deliver what has been dubbed “the sermon on the mound,” the pope’s message was one of encouragement and love. Rooted in the Gospel message selected for the service, he spoke of true freedom being found “by surrendering ourselves to God, in whom we find ultimate happiness.”

He specifically addressed the young people in attendance as being “the Church’s future,” encouraging us to let our “faith and love bear rich fruit in outreach to the poor, the needy and those without a voice. Only God in his providence knows what works his grace has yet to bring forth in your lives and in the life of the church in the United States.”

The entire experience was very moving, and I think Evelyn put it best when she said, “I’m really proud to be Catholic today.” To see tens of thousands of people from various cultures, ages, and walks of life be united in the same faith was a remarkable testament to the universality of the church, and maybe even more importantly, that God still has an important place in the lives of many Americans.”

## **Bysiek's 3 wins alumni hoops game**

The Archbishop Walsh High School alumni basketball game was resurrected after a seven-year hiatus in early February ... and the final result made it well worth the wait.

With just 4.6 seconds remaining and his team trailing by two, 1997 graduate Ed Bysiek buried a 3-pointer from the corner to give the white team a dramatic 102-101 victory in front of nearly 150 spectators in the Walsh gymnasium.

Bysiek’s shot capped an improbable comeback as the white team went on an 11-2 run in the game’s final minute to cement the win. John Butler, a ’72 grad, and Josh Dean, a ’99 grad, nailed back-to-back 3s with just over 50 seconds remaining to ignite the comeback. A missed free throw on the back end of a 1-and-1 and later a turnover under the white team’s basket gave Bysiek a chance at the game-winner.

Leading all scorers was 1986 grad and current St. Bonaventure athletic director, Steve Watson, who went 6-for-8 from behind the arc and finished with 33 points for the green team.

Dean led the white team in scoring with 19 points while ’97 grad and former Canisius standout Andy Bush added 18, and ’03 grad Greg Landries 11. For the green team, ’06 grad Brad Barie notched 15 points while Jason Blatchley ’98 and Kevin Butler ’06 each had 12.

Following is a complete list of the players in the 2008 alumni game. White team: John Butler ’72, Dan Butler ’73, Ed Bysiek ’97, Andy Bush ’97, Mike Bysiek ’99, Josh Dean ’99, J.D. Kamery ’02, Greg Landries ’03, Cody Davis ’06, Pat Hennessy ’06. Green team: Dave Blatchley ’76, Brion Neary ’78, Joe Bantelman ’83, Steve Watson ’86, Mike Droney ’89, Jason Blatchley ’98, J.P. Butler ’03, Dan Gerringer ’05, Kevin Butler ’06, T.J. Sevinsky ’06, Brad Barie ’06.



# ARCHBISHOP WALSH HIGH SCHOOL

## Letter from the Principal

Dear Alumni and Friends,

In just a few weeks the Class of 2008 will graduate from Archbishop Walsh High School. Like all graduation classes before them, they have their plans, hopes and dreams. We congratulate each of them and we pray that our graduates will take their Archbishop Walsh spirit and education with them into the future.

I have instructed many Walsh alumni over the past 25 years. I am always impressed by our alumni and their success. Many have said that their success in life is due in part to the dedication of their teachers and friends here at the school.

On April 20, I took a group of 45 students, parents and faculty members to Yankee Stadium to participate in the mass with Pope Benedict XVI. All who went were ecstatic at seeing the Pope and hearing his words of hope.

Earlier that week, Pope Benedict spoke to Catholic educators in Washington, D.C. He said: (Catholic education) is an outstanding apostolate, seeking to address the material, intellectual and spiritual needs of over three million children and students. It also provides a highly commendable opportunity for the entire Catholic community to contribute generously to the financial needs of our institutions ... Indeed, everything possible must be done to ensure that they (Catholic schools) are accessible to people of all social and economic strata. No child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation."

This is the basis of the newly-formed Walsh 500, which is meant to help the school attain a sounder financial base. There is still a way to go. I would invite all our friends and alumni to join in the effort if they have not had a chance to do so.

I hope to see many of our alumni back at the school for the reunion this summer. There will also be a golf tournament in Ellicottville where a Cadillac will be awarded to the person who makes a hole-in-one. This makes the event a great opportunity for people to compete in the tournament and give back to Walsh at the same time. Those who do not golf are still invited to the dinner.

May God bless all of you.

Sincerely,

Fr. Barry J. Allaire

## Throughout the years at Walsh

Sifting through the annals of Walsh High School and unearthing facts, figures and folks from the last half century.

### **1963 – The N.P.A.A. is formed**

The rapid influx of students of Polish descent resulted in the formation of an organization to promote their ideals and culture among students at Archbishop Walsh High School. The National Polish American Alliance, under the leadership of Fr. Cairnan Haggerty, O.F.M., was active in procuring a better life for the student. It established standards for the bookstore as well as obtaining a "free day" for students and faculty.

### **1965 – Walshites in the 'Space Age'**

Since a course of astronomy was not offered at the school, it was the purpose of the Quasi-Stellar Club to try and help the above-average student build a background in astronomy. The club, which consisted of 12 select members, studied and discussed observations of the bodies of the universe and theories concerning astronomy. Jerome Mikowicz, James Newman and Edward Wagner were directors of the club.



# ARCHBISHOP WALSH HIGH SCHOOL

## **1965 – Walsh World rated first**

The “Walsh World” was the weekly student publication that appeared in both the *Olean Times Herald* and *Salamanca Republican Press*. Awarded first honors by the Catholic School Press Association in Milwaukee, Wis., the paper endeavored to relate to the entire area all facets of student life and student activity.

“Accent,” the yearly literary magazine, combined the best poetry and prose of the students into an award-winning publication. It won first honors from Columbia University, an All-Catholic rating from the CSPA and with “Walsh World,” a certification and a blue ribbon from the Buffalo Evening News.

## **1966 – Debaters prove themselves worthy**

The Duns Scotus Debating Society was one of the most active and fastest growing clubs at Walsh. The Society was an active member of three state leagues: the Buffalo Catholic Forensic League, the New York State Forensic League and the Southern Tier Debate League. The Scotus society participated in several tournaments across the state, radio debates and the Kennedy Round, an oratorical contest to determine who represents Walsh in the American Legion Oratorical Contest.

## **1968 – Walsh Football goes undefeated**

Led by second-year head coach Jim Cleveland, the Walsh football team finished the season 8-0, surrendering just 12 points the entire year. Dave Hlasnick established a new school record with 684 yards rushing. The Eagle offense set records with 207 points scored and 2,310 yards gained. Hlasnick and fellow senior John Flynn served as captains.

## **1969 – Homecoming Celebration**

On Saturday, the senior class took first place with its float, “No. 4 on the charts but No. 1 in our hearts.” The Walsh Eagles then trampled St. Mary’s of Lancaster at Bradner Stadium, 26-16. After the game the festivities were climaxed by the Homecoming dance. The Roadrunners played in the gym, which was transformed for the occasion to a “Camelot” theme. At midnight, Queen Mariellen Tierney and King Mike Hart were crowned and their court presented.

## **1974 – All the world’s a stage**

For years, the largest organization at Walsh was the drama club. In 1974, under the direction of Fr. Fafinski, the club had a busy year. For the fall performance, Lesley Burton portrayed Linda in “Out of this World.” Its success led to Fafinski and the directors to choose “My Fair Lady,” the English play of gutters, glimmer and grammar, for the spring musical. In May, the gym became a London theatre as Joe Duda played Higgins and Patty Dunn, Eliza.

## **1980 – Bishop Celebrates Mass for 1,200**

The highlight of religious services in 1980 was a mass in early January celebrated by Bishop Edward Head and concelebrated by 23 priests. Over 600 sixth, seventh and eighth grade students from the area, as well as parents and people in the community attended. As expressed by the Bishop in his homily, “Walsh is like a city on a mountain; we are where everyone can see us and learn from our example.”

## **1995 – Whittle Program**

The Whittle Club brought the morning news and school events to students every morning through television.