



LEO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION *NEWSLETTER* BANQUET ISSUE



ANNUAL ALUMNI BANQUET FRIDAY APRIL 27, 2007 ~ LEXINGTON HOUSE

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING - Wednesday, August 1, ~ Gleneagles C.C.



From The President

Fellow Alumni:

For the first time in many many years this section is being written by someone other than Jack Howard. For those few of you who still may not know our longtime president and my very dear friend passed away on December 6th. 2006. Jack will be greatly missed.

When I was first approached about replacing Jack I was reluctant. How do you replace Lombardi at Green Bay, Rockne at Notre Dame or Wooden at UCLA?

I felt this was a no win situation, however the board that has been assembled exceeds my fondest expectations. I am joined on the board by Dan Stecich '75, 1st Vice - president, John Gardner '75 2nd Vice - President, Larry Lynch '75 Activities Director, Tom Lynch '73 Secretary and Bob Cheval '74 Treasurer. Please give us the same support that you have always given and continue to make the Leo High School Alumni Association the number one alumni association in existence.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you at the banquet. Please come by and say hello. The banquet will be held on April 27th at the Lexington House. Complete details are contained later in this newsletter.

You should have received your decal request letter. Please support this fund raising drive, which has now been named in honor of Jack Howard. It is thru this drive that we can support present day Leo students in realizing the Leo experience.

Best Regards

Rich Furlong '59
President

Annual Banquet

The date for this year's banquet is April 27th. at the Lexington House. Cocktails will begin at 6:30 p.m. with dinner following. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door.

Our golden jubilee class this year is the class of 1957. The seniors in that class led the way to Leo's last city championship in football in 1956.

The class of 1982 will celebrate their 25th. anniversary. Contact Frank McDermott, 815.478-7917 for class of 1957 and Dan

Earnar 708. 636-8827 for class of 1982.

We urge classes with anniversaries to make a concerted effort to reunite with their classes. In the last few years the 40 year class has turned out large groups. This year should be no different. Members of the class of 1967 can contact Mike Hickey 708. 738 - 7502 for detailed information.

Like all groups our younger members, the last 25 years, do not turn out in large numbers. All organizations including the American Legion, VFW and other alumni associations experience this. People don't traditionally reconnect with their past until well into middle age. However, we are Leo and we traditionally lead the way in most things. I hope all of you more recent graduates turn out to once again meet with old friends and classmates.

As usual our highest honor the Leo Alumni Association "Man of the Year Award" the "Community Service Award" along with the "Dr. Thomas Driscoll Memorial Award" will be presented. Inductees into the Leo High School Hall of Fame will be duly honored. Be sure to read elsewhere in this letter the profiles of these deserving recipients.

This is the largest single event we sponsor. It is a great chance to get together with former classmates and continue with the Leo experience.

See you on April 27th.

Doctor Thomas P. Driscoll Memorial Award

John R. Howard '61

When the Doctor Thomas P. Driscoll Memorial Award was first established it was felt that this was not an award that should be bestowed every year. Everyone felt that because Doc was so special in what he meant and did for Leo that future recipients should be held to that same standard. The award will be made this year because the recipient is not only worthy, I felt that if the award were not named in honor of Doc Driscoll it could have been named after Jack Howard. Jack was our longtime president. More than that he was our longtime friend. His love of Leo High School is not surpassed by anyone. He graduated from Leo High School in 1961. He then went on and graduated from Notre Dame in 1965. He established Howard and Associates, a successful consulting firm. Jack was president of our association for too many years to remember. He was a Past President and Member of the Leo High School Advisory Board,

the 1994 Leo High School Association, "Many of the Year" and Member of the Leo High School Hall of Fame. He was a Marine Corp. veteran and truly lived by the mottos of both Leo and the Corp. "Facta non Verba and Semper Fi". Jack was married to his beloved Joan, who is known to all of us, father of John and devoted grandfather of Brendan and Daniel Howard. While Jack left all of us too soon, he will never be forgotten.

LEO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MAN OF THE YEAR



Thomas W. Lynch '73

Tom Lynch (Class of 1973) followed in his brother's footsteps (Michael Lynch, '71) when he came to Leo High School from St. Mary Star of the Sea Grammar School (Another brother Daniel followed Tom). At Leo, Tom participated in a variety of student activities, most notably the Cross Country and Track teams for all four years. The high-

light of his years at Leo for Tom was the friendships he made and the camaraderie he enjoyed with his Leo classmates.

Having qualified as "one of the faster" runners on the Leo running teams, Tom secured a running scholarship, which paid his tuition for four years at Chicago's DePaul University. Tom attributes the scholarship in large part to the efforts of Leo students who graduated before him and made contacts with college coaches on his behalf and encouraged him to follow up and pursue the opportunities. Tom shared a dorm room with one of these former Leo runners during his first year at DePaul, Gary Benton '72.

Tom graduated from DePaul in 1977 and subsequently passed the CPA exam, working in that profession until approximately 1980 when he took a job as a "Revenue Agent" with the Internal Revenue Service, a position he held for seven years. Tom attended law school in the evenings at The John Marshall Law School during the last four of those years. Tom passed the Illinois Bar Exam in 1986, and left the IRS shortly thereafter, taking a job at the Illinois Attorney General's Office where he learned to practice law. Tom currently runs a Law Office in the Southwest Suburb of Hickory Hills where he specializes in financial matters including assisting people who have the IRS "at their door" as well as on other tax, estate, real estate, bankruptcy and other financial matters.

Tom met his future wife, Kathryn Fitzpatrick, while a student at DePaul, and was married in 1985. He has two children, a daughter Alaina currently age 20 and a son Sean age 17. Alaina is a Junior at DePaul and Sean is a Senior at Marion Catholic High School.

Tom has been a regular supporter of Leo High School through the years and was encouraged to attend Alumni meetings by Larry Lynch '75 (no relation). At these meetings Tom became aware that there was a substantial need to create a website for the Alumni Associations and the School. Tom conceptualized a site for the Alumni Association which allows the Alumni to review the history of the school, record their experiences, interact with other Alumni and keep up on and take care of, Leo Alumni Association business. With substantial input and help from Larry Lynch, Jack Howard '61 (deceased former Association President) and Pat Hickey (Leo High School Alumni coordinator) as well as many unnamed others the site

has materialized. The website has also involved substantial efforts from Tom's Law Office secretarial staff, summer help and others. Among the highlights of the site is the inclusion of eighty yearbooks which are available for viewing on the site. The site is a work in progress, which continues to expand and improve as a vehicle to advance the interests of Leo High School.

2007 Inductees into the Leo High School Hall of Fame

Richard Driscoll '58

Richard Driscoll played four years Lightweight Basketball, during which, in his sophomore, junior and senior years, the lights only lost a total of 9 games combined, resulting in two consecutive Catholic League Championships in 1957 and 1958. "Chico" as he was called, was a vital part of that championship team. In 1956, he was also voted Most Valuable Player in the Fenwick Tournament.

Rich came to Leo from another noted Catholic institution, Little Flower, and from Leo, he went on to Loyola University for a time. He would go on to officiate in the Catholic League and Illinois High School Association for over 25 years. A resident of Mount Greenwood and St. Christina's Parish, he and his wife Mary Ann have raised four wonderful children, Richard, Jr., Jay, Allison and Tony. To this day, Rich remains an active supporter of all Leo and Alumni Association functions, propelled by his fierce sense of pride in his alma mater and the principles of excellence and integrity, which it stands for.

Joe Gorman - Leo 1954

Played on the great 1954 Leo High School Catholic League Championship football team. Coming from St. Cajetan Parish in the Morgan Park neighborhood, Joe was a standout athlete and scholar. He played for the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and upon graduation joined the Chicago Police Department where he served with honor and distinction for thirty-nine years. After the Chicago Police Department, Joe Gorman worked another twenty-five years for Sears Roebuck & Company. Gorman also served his community on the Zoning Advisory Committee of the 19th Ward Organization for thirty years and coached the many great St. Cajetan's football teams which sent so many young men on to Leo High School.

Joe and his wife of forty years, Marilou, spend their winters on Marco Island, Florida and return for the summer to Oak Lawn, IL and enjoy the company of their seven children and sixteen grandchildren.

Joe Gorman is a great member of the Leo High School Hall of Fame Class of 2007

Joel Kagann - Leo 1954

A native of Little Flower Parish, Hon. Joel A. Kagann, graduated from Leo High School and went on to the old Navy Pier Campus of the University of Illinois. Beginning his career in public service as a police officer in 1957, Joel Kagann was named Chief of Police of the Village of Woodridge in 1962 and served as chief until 1971.

In 1973, the people of Woodridge "wrote in" and elected Joel Kagann Mayor of Woodridge until 1977. In that year, Kagann was appointed Assistant to the Dupage County Clerk of the Circuit Court, Acting Clerk of the Village of Woodridge in 1979, Chief Deputy to Clerk of the Court in 1988, and in 1991 the judges of Dupage County appointed Joel A. Kagann Dupage

County Circuit Clerk.

From 1991 until his retirement in 2004, Joel A. Kagann served as Clerk of Circuit Court of Dupage and also was named to the Illinois Supreme Court's Judicial Management Council.

Joel A. Kagann is active at all levels of his community and was a founding member of the Catholic Parish of St. Scholastica in Woodridge, Illinois. Joel A. Kagann has proudly supported Leo High School and is a 2007 Leo High School Hall of Fame Inductee.

Lou Knox – Leo 1942

Lou Knox came from St. Columbanus Parish and was captain of his grammar school basketball team. Knox once played in a game where there were no baskets scored, until the very end. St. Columbanus won the game by a score of 3-2. Lou Knox was the high scorer with 2 points and football great and teammate George Connors (Bears, Notre Dame) scored the other point.

Lou Knox played on three Championship teams at Leo. The Leo Lion Heavies in Knox's senior year were 30-1. They won the Catholic League and beat 3 other State Champions that year. It was especially satisfying for the Lions beating St. Phillips by about 30 points at Leo. When they played St. Phillips at their gym, Leo was down 42-41 with 7 seconds to go. Babe Baranowski called for a timeout. Babe called for the "around the horn" play. He told Lou "Don't miss the shot." Knox was open under the basket for a lay up and Leo won 43-42.

After graduation in 1942, Lou was awarded a scholarship to DePaul where he played on the freshman team. (Ray Meyers first year) But, America was at war and college and basketball would need to wait. In December, Lou Knox joined the U.S. Army.

In August 1943, he joined the 4th Battalion of Darby's Rangers, as a replacement. The Rangers spearheaded the surprise night landing at the Port of Anzio, Italy. The 1st and 3rd Battalions infiltrated five miles behind enemy lines, while the 4th battalion fought to clear the road to Cisterna. Greatly outnumbered, the 1st and 3rd were wiped out, and only 139 out of the six hundred survived from the 4th battalion. Lou received two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star and the Silver Star. He came home in November of 1945.

In the great White Sox World Championship series, Leo Hall of Fame Inductee Jackie Schaller and his most popular bartender, Lou Knox, were frequently interviewed. Today, Lou Knox lives in Tinley Park with his wife Dee. His three children (Bobby, Marilou and Lou) are proud to witness Lou Knox's induction to the Leo Hall of Fame Class of 2007.

Thomas F. Mahoney – Leo 1954

From the time that he first followed the Leo Marching Band down Morgan Street to Shewbridge Field, Tom Mahoney has been in the front of the pack for the Leo Lions.

Present at every Leo event, banquets, home games, away games, prayer breakfast, Veterans Observances and wherever men wear the Black and Orange, Tom Mahoney stands out among the active.

A proud member of the Leo Band, Tom played the "baritone horn". (Baritone is a tenor Saxhorn in B \flat , one octave below the B \flat trumpet.) Tom also played two years of lightweight football one Varsity Spring Season.

From Leo, Tom Mahoney went on to St. Joseph College in

Indiana and then to Loyola University School of Law.

In 1967, Tom worked as a trial attorney for the Securities Exchange Commission and succeeded in working for Pullman Bank, Sunbeam Corp., Marleann Corp. and ended his legal career as a Labor Relations attorney for the Keebler Corporation in 1996.

Through all of his work in the legal profession, Tom Mahoney never failed to devote time and effort to his country nor his interest in Irish literature and history. Tom served as a Petty Officer 3rd Class aboard the Destroyer Tender U.S.S. Shenandoah and was a contributing member of the American Conference on Irish Studies and the International James Joyce Foundation. A lifelong White Sox fan, Tom was an active member of the Nellie Fox Society that succeeded in getting Nellie Fox inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Most importantly, Tom Mahoney is always the most visible Leo Man in the State of Illinois. His Proud Orange Sport Coat announces to the world – Here is a most worthy Leo High School Hall of Fame Inductee in 2007.

Ray Topolski '52

Ray Topolski came to Leo from St. John of God Grammar School. While at Leo he played football and basketball for four years and ran track for two. After graduating from Leo he attended Lewis College where he played basketball and baseball.

After college Ray spent the next 19 years working in the stockyards. He was the head of Local 171 Meat Cutters and worked in both labor and management positions.

When the stock yards closed Ray moved on to the Cook County Sheriff's Department working as an adult probation officer. He still works part time at the racetracks to keep busy. Ray is married to his wife Theresa. They had 6 children, 4 boys and 2 girls and 20 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Ray is proud to point out they have all received Catholic educations. Welcome to the Hall of Fame Ray!

G. Harry Valadez – '58

Harry came to Leo from Our Lady of Guadalupe grammar school. From his sophomore year to his senior year, Harry was a starting guard for the Lightweight Basketball team. In those three years, the Lights lost only 9 games. In Harry's junior and senior (1956-57, 1957-58), the Lights won back-to-back Catholic League Championships. To this day, in so many circles, people still remember Harry as a vital part of those fine lightweight teams representing Leo in that era.

After graduating, Harry served two years in the Armed Forces. Upon his discharge, he began work as a machinist at U.S. Steel for 29 years. Later, he would work as a Loaned Executive (on behalf of U.S. Steel) for the United Way Crusade of Mercy. In 1992, flying in the face of conventional wisdom, he embarked on a late-in-life career change (at age 52), spending 11 years as a police officer for Cook County Forest Preserve District. He finally took his retirement in 2003. What's more, Harry and his lovely wife Marge raised a son, Mark.

Harry remains an active supporter of and a familiar face at virtually all Leo and Alumni Association functions. He continues to maintain close relationships with former Leo classmates and teammates, as well as alumni from various other Catholic high schools in the city, who competed against each other as teenagers.

2007 Community Service Award

Lawrence R. Sink '58

In 1958, Larry Sink graduated with honors from Leo High School. He played on the 1956 City Championship Team that was coached by the late Jim Arneberg.

In the 70's and 80's, Larry gave back to the community by contributing his time and services as head coach of several youth football and baseball traveling teams in the western suburbs of Chicago.

For many years Larry has continued his community commitment, by being deeply involved in fundraising activities serving on action committees for Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Mr. Sink is a member of the Catholic Charities Advisory Board. His initial major contribution was writing the first Southwest Region business plan which was later adopted and used by Catholic Charities and United Way as a model.

Larry Sink has raised emergency monies for poor and homeless families of Cook County. Most recently, Larry co-chaired *Catholic Charities 7th Annual Helping Hands Benefit* held at the Double Tree Hotel in Alsip which raised over \$50,000 for the new St. Leo Veterans Center and the southwest side needy.

Larry is currently involved in fundraising and promotion of the new St. Leo Veterans Campus which just opened in the Englewood area on the south side at 77th and Emerald. The center provides full services and assisting homeless veterans needing transitional help back into the mainstream of the local community.

Larry was recently appointed to the Government Relations Committee by Fr. Boland, Director of Catholic Charities. This powerful committee interfaces with the Federal Government U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and HUD securing funding for needy veterans.

Larry Sink is now a retired executive from the education industry. He pioneered the startup of three nationwide companies that launched innovative educational products for students impacting the direction of education.

Larry wishes to thank his family for their support in these community service activities. Especially his wife, Carol, and three children: Mary Therese, Michael and Stacey and their families. Larry and Carol also have six beautiful grandchildren that keep them very busy. They are Tyler, Garrett, Connor, Julia, Patrick and Christopher.

Decal Drive

As you know our decal Drive that now funds the "John R. Howard Memorial Scholarship Fund" is underway. It is our only request for funds and as always its purpose is to help young men receive a Leo education. If you did not receive your letter or if you misplaced it please submit your contribution today payable to the Leo H.S. Alumni Association and mail to post office box 603, Oak Lawn, IL. 60454.

Missing Graduates from 1982

If you are on this list yourself, let us know that we had the right address.

Call Dan Garner at 708/636-8837 if you have any classmate information.

Uncertain Addresses

Greg Adams
Robert Allen

John Kelly
David Laux

Maury Allen
Dwight Bragg
Timothy Brooks
Paul Cassaday
Rydell Cephas
Don Cherry
Walter Duval
Raphael Fossett
Rogers Frazier
David Frye
Andre Gage
Keith Hines
Ken Howard
Ken Howell
Fred Hudson
David Johnson

Willie McDonald
Ken McDonnell
John Moore
Duane Morton
Michael Musa
Roderick Oden
Lyndon Patterson
Fred Peoples
Tom Reed
Maurice Roberts
Stanley Warren
Kevin Wright
James Wyatt

Future Newsletters

One of my early goals is to spice up the newsletters. I have asked Pat Hickey to do a column, "From the Lions Lair". I plan on having a small section dedicated to little known information about Leo. It will be titled "Did You Know". I would like to include 2-3 short and tasteful jokes.

Deceased Leo alumni are always listed in our newsletter. We have a very small group in this newsletter. Due to Jack Howard's death I really believe I do not have every name. If I have missed anyone you know please accept my apology and bring those names to my attention. I will include them in the next publication.

I would also like to include a guest column each newsletter written by one of our alumni. I have written the first one to give you an idea of what I hope to receive. Feel free to share any fond memories of your Leo experience; maybe it revolves around a specific brother or lay teacher, or a sports team or just good friends or a scholastic achievement story. Contact me before writing anything, simply tell me what you would write about. If I contact you, then submit your article to me.

I would like to have updates on whereabouts of more of our alumni. What are you doing, where are you living, and what would you like to say to your fellow alumni? This is something we can do a better job of but we can't do it if you don't give us the input.

Finally is your class having weekly or monthly get togethers? Let me know about it, perhaps we can get the word to more of your group.

As you can see, I am opening this up to the alumni for more participation. Please contact me at

Rich Furlong
C/o Leo H.S. Alumni Association
P.O. Box 603
Oak Lawn, IL. 60454
E mail address rc5463@sbcglobal.net

Football Weekends In The Fifties

I attended Leo from 1955 thru 1959. My fondest memories go back to football weekends. Starting with the pep rally on Friday afternoons. We entered the gym with our respective classes. The first thing you noticed was the elaborate decorations, orange and black streamers everywhere. Could every weekend in the fall possibly be Halloween? The band was seated on the gym floor. Once the gym was packed, the team entered from the third

floor entrance and sat in the small section in the corner. At that moment the gym exploded, the band struck up the "Leo Fight Song" and 1000 strong knew that we could beat anyone. I'm not just talking about our Catholic League foes I'm talking about Notre Dame or the Chicago Bears also.

About the time the roar subsided our coach headed to the rostrum. The gym exploded again but instead of "Lions Lions" the roar of "handsome Jim handsome Jim" was deafening. Our little Marine Corp war hero assured us that on Sunday victory would be ours and 1000 strong we believed him.

On Sunday we got up early and went to church. Then we proceeded to the Capital Theatre parking lot at 80th. and Halsted. There 30 - 40 cars were decorated and the car caravan was ready. We proceeded to the school where the band was ready to lead the parade down Morgan Street to Shewbridge Field. Imagine the sight, 75 band members playing the "Leo Fight Song" followed by 30 - 40 highly decorated cars honking their horns and thousands of neighbors standing on porches waving.

After the Leo victory the parade reversed itself back up Morgan and to the school. Then everyone would rest up before proceeding to the St Sabina's dance in the evening.

Could it have been 50 years ago, it seems like only yesterday. What a great memory. Do you have similar memories you would like to share with us? Contact me and we can arrange for you to do so in one of our future publications.

Rich Furlong '59

"Did You Know"

In it's first 45 years of football competition Leo won 264 games and lost only 111. A winning percentage of over 70%.

The most successful coach, record wise, was Whitey Cronin who between 1931 and 1943 compiled a 91 - 17 -13 record. This is a winning percentage of 84%. In that 13-year period his teams won 7 south section championships, 6 Catholic League championships and 2 city championships.

The first Leo Alumni banquet was held on February 9, 1955 at the LaSalle Hotel. The next one will be April 27th. at the Lexington House.

On October 12th. 1952 the Irish Christian Brothers moved into their new residence at the southwest corner of 79th. and Sangamon the present site of the Leo Alumni Field.

Do you have similar little known facts, if so write me at P.O.Box 603 Oak Lawn, Il. 60454 or e mail me at rc5463@sbcglobal.net

Lions Laughter:

Marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right, and the other is a husband.

A woman came home screeching her car into the driveway, and ran into the house. She slammed the door and shouted at the top of her lungs, "Honey, pack your bags. I won the lottery!" The husband said, "Oh my God! What should I pack, beach or mountain stuff?" "Doesn't matter" she said, "Just get out."

Fifty-one years ago, Herman James, a North Carolina mountain man, was drafted by the Army. On his first day in basic training, the Army issued him a comb. That afternoon the Army barber sheared off all his hair. On his second day, the Army issued Herman a toothbrush. That afternoon the Army dentist yanked seven of his teeth. On the third day, the Army issued him a jock strap. The Army has been looking for Herman for 51 years.

BOURKE/MAHONEY GOLF OUTING

This shotgun and a half event will be held on Wednesday, August 1st at Gleneagles Country Club. This has become a very successful and satisfying good time for all of us. Please understand that the reason we don't accept tee time reservations without payment in full is because whether you show up or not, we are obligated, and rightfully so, to pay Gleneagles. Thank you very much for your cooperation. Don't forget that non golfers (Is there such a thing??!!) may come for dinner only. We are holding last year's pricing structure for golf and dinner and dinner only. We will be notifying last year's golf foursome "Captains" of request for foursomes as the date approaches. If you have not golfed in the past and would like to do so, please call Joan Howard at 708/361-4194 and let us know of your desire to participate this year.

In the past years we have been fortunate enough to have sponsors for the golf hats, golf balls and towels we include in the bags we hand out a the golf outing. If you or a corporate sponsor you know or could find would be interested in helping out in this fashion, please let us know. It saves us a considerable sum of money - which means more for our Alma Mater.

In Memoriam

Unfortunately we have lost several alumni
and family members.

John Boardman '51
George Bresnan '36
Joseph Byerwalter '50
Emile Cheval (Father of Bob '74 and David '76)
Rev. Jack Clifford '45
John Coghlan '49
Robt. Cook '47
Jerry Coyne '52
Timothy Dillon '36
Donna Earner (Wife of Gene '50)
Tom Gibbons '44
William Hartney '41
Richard Hourihan '45
John Howard '61
Robt. Hynes '61
Betty Kuenster (Wife of Ron Kuenster '37)
Bernard Lundy '46
James Lundy '47
Ray Lyons '44
Matt Malone '45
Martin McIntyre '52
Rev. Theodore McNulty '45
James Monahan '45
Dorothy Moss (Mother of Jim '66, Mike '69,
Bill '75 and Dan '83)
John O'Byrne '35
Edward Piper '43
John Sexton '35
James Sheeran '42
George Skrabby '53
Dan Stokes '44
Robert Whelan '42

May their souls and all the souls of the
faithfully departed rest in peace. Amen

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TOM 1989 DICK 1943
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Matthew J. Morrissey
Attorney at Law

33 N. Dearborn St., Ste. 502
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 541-4600 - Telephone
(312) 541-4601 - Facsimile
mmorrissey@mjmorrisseylaw.com

Class of '73



John G. Linehan '77
Vice President - Investments
Financial Advisor

WACHOVIA SECURITIES

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**Best Wishes
From
Jack Farnan '63
Bill Farnan '64**



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The Jubilee Classes

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NICHOLAS J. MOTHERWAY '87
ATTORNEY AT LAW

MOTHERWAY & NAPLETON, LLP

(312) 726-2699
FAX (312) 726-6851
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E-Mail: omalley@sxu.edu




Edmund J. Swain '54
Vice President - Investments

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