

Franciscan Alumni Association



Established May 28th, 1989

Serving Provinces of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. John the Baptist
www.franciscan-alumni.org

Volume 18, Issue 1
Spring 2007

Survey & Financial Appeal a Great Success! *By Butch Feldhaus '75*

Last Fall a Survey and Financial Appeal was mailed to the 1,180 Alumni in our database. We had no idea what to expect, but were pleasantly surprised when nearly 12% of you (139) responded with your input and support. The surveys provided interesting, helpful information and approximately \$5,515.00 was donated to the Association.

An initial review of the survey responses revealed a few interesting trends:

- Nearly 60% of those who responded indicated that they have been in contact with other Alumni in the past month or year. Others who responded indicated a range from "never" to "daily."
- While the majority of respondents indicated they have access to the Internet and email (65%) only 50% of those who have access have visited the FAA website recently.
- Most respondents favored holding our Chapter meetings on the grounds of the former St. Francis Seminary. Albuquerque, NM came in a strong second. Other sites that were suggested are: Dayton, OH; Detroit, MI; Oldenburg, IN; St.

Louis, MO and Bloomington, IL. There were also several suggestions that we meet at other Franciscan sites and Friary's (Mt. Airy, St. Clements and St. Anthony's).

It's interesting to note that:

- There was a tie for the Class that returned the most surveys with '52 and '70 submitting seven surveys each.
- The earliest Class with a respondent was the Class of '31, and the latest was the Class of '83.
- The "decade" that returned the most surveys was the 70's with 25 surveys submitted.

The average donation was \$25.

We got a lot of constructive feedback concerning the FAA website:

- Many of you were concerned about the SPAM that has been appearing in the Guestbook. *We are working on this.*
- There were several suggestions that a new feature "*Whatever Happened to Old*

What's His Name" — both students and those who taught us — should be added. *This was the intent of the "Stories" section of the website; we'll try to make it more accessible and up-to-date.*

- It was also suggested that the old editions of the *Brown and White* be posted to the website. *We're working on this.*
- Finally, an alumnus requested content that "feeds and challenges us."

We are also pleased that a number of you asked to be contacted about how you can help with the Association's projects. A member of the FAA Board will soon contact you regarding your interest.

Although we are well into 2007, we are still receiving surveys and donations. If you had intended to respond but didn't, please take some time and send in a survey response and possibly a donation. Information and the survey itself can be found on the FAA website (www.franciscan-alumni.org).

Thank you for generously sharing your good ideas and financial support!

2007 Chapter—June 21-24 in NM

By Tom Baca '72

"The Jagged Peaks of the Sandia Mountains Rise Up to Greet You – Therefore, Like the Magi, Go West!"

Five years ago, in 2002, the St. Francis Seminary Class of 1952 celebrated its 50th anniversary and the Class of 1972 celebrated its 30th anniversary during the FAA Chapter in the Southwest. Both classes had fantastic turnouts as some old friends had not seen each other in all those 30 to 50 years. To say the least, the reunion was a highlight of many of our lives bringing to mind the depth of our brotherly

love and the embedded Franciscan spirituality that makes us who we've become.

Provincial Minister Larry Dunham OFM, Our Lady of Guadalupe Province, has once again most kindly invited the FAA to celebrate our brotherhood in St. Francis and return to the land of enchanting sunsets and juniper trees.

The 2007 Reunion will take place June 21-24 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, a city dating back to the 18th century along the Rio Grande Valley, where in the 17th century the first Franciscans entered what we now call the

United States of America. Franciscanism has been at the very heart of the multicultural maturation in the southwest since the colonization of the New World, and in fact, Franciscanism is at the very core of the linguistic development of the Navajo language in its codification by Fr. Berard Haile, OFM.

Well, Fr. Berard Haile's namesake, our own Fr. Berard Doerger '52 has taken on the task of calling our brotherhood to return to a land of ancientness where water-carved red rocks reveal the mysteries of the desert sands of

time. The first great evangelization of the New World by Catholics took place here in this land of great contrasts, blue sky, and fiery sunsets. So please come join us.

The reunion will begin with dinner on the evening of Thursday, June 21st and end with Mass and lunch at the Provincial House on Sunday, June 24th.

A special room price has been negotiated at the Days Inn West, near the Intersection of Interstate 40 and Coors Blvd NW. The address is 6031 Iliff Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87121. This is a great, moderately priced and relatively new Days Inn giving the FAA a group rate of \$52 per room up to 3 persons in a room. Children under 14 are free and the price includes a complimentary continental breakfast each morning. The property has an indoor pool and spa as well. It is within 2 miles from the location for the banquet and alumni meeting, which is at the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Catholic Center, 4000 St. Joseph's Place, N.W. where the FAA met in 1999.

A block of rooms has been set aside but registration must be completed by May 14th to let them know more or less how many rooms to release. Please register as early as possible. You can do so by calling the Days Inn West directly at (505) 836-3297. You may also register using the 1-800-325-2525 national Days Inn toll-free number and tell them you are interested in one of the rooms set aside for the Franciscan Alumni Association in June (21st through 24th) at the Days Inn West in Albuquerque, NM. There are other hotels in the area, including a Hampton Inn and a Holiday Inn Express, but their rates are higher.

The chapter/reunion officially begins on Thursday, June 21st, with registration at the hotel lobby beginning at 1 p.m. You can also register at Al Lovato's house Thurs evening or whenever you arrive in town — see an FAA Board member or someone on the reunion planning team. There is a recommended registration fee of \$25 per family to help cover the cost of some of the meals and refreshments. For those who plan to go on the Friday sight-seeing excursions in the rented vans there will be an additional charge of \$25 per family, which will be applied to the rental fee.

Everyone is invited to a **cookout on Thursday at 6 p.m. at Al Lovato's house**. Al's address is 6508 Caballero Parkway in the north-west section of Albuquerque. It's located between I-25, I-40, the Rio Grande, and Alameda Blvd. Further information, driving directions and maps will be available at the hotel. Maps and directions to other gathering points will also be provided.

On Friday morning you can join one of several guided tours to see ancient ruins, pueblos, atom bombs, Santa Fe, a huge crater, or other places of interest. We also have a new tour planned to visit Guadalupe Vineyards in San Fidel (about 50 miles west of Albuquerque) where SFS alumnus and vineyard owner Antonio Trujillo ('78) will host a wine tasting event. See the list of attractions near the end of this page. On Friday, **Mass will be celebrated at Holy Family Parish at 7 p.m., with a cookout following** on the Parish Picnic grounds where you can play volleyball, horse-shoes and enjoy the New Mexico ambiance.

Saturday morning mass will be at 9 o'clock (tentatively) at St. Joseph's on the Rio Grande Parish near the Archdiocesan Center. St. Joseph's is one of Albuquerque's newest parishes and is the site of some of the most beautiful juniper carvings, stations of the cross, and is one of the area's newer worship spaces with seating for 1,000 people. Most of Saturday is free for you to relax or take in more sights. **At 6 p.m. there will be an exquisite, delicious, catered buffet-style dinner at the Archdiocesan Center**. This is the only meal for which there is a specific cost: \$25 per adult and \$12.50 per child under 9 years of age. After the group photo has been taken, the Alumni Association meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m., followed by the award ceremony and a remembrance service.

The Franciscan Alumni Awards Committee has chosen two men to be honored at the Chapter as follows: **The Christian Life Award will be presented to Fr. Berard Doerger '52; the Humanitarian Award will be presented to J.D. Moya '70**. Tom Baca '72 will present plaques recognizing the values their life achievements have represented to so many of us in view of our common heritage as members of the Franciscan community.

Sunday morning mass will be at the Franciscan Provincial House at 11 a.m. The friars will provide lunch after mass. Then it will be time for most of us to say farewell :(

Tour options for Friday will be as follows: Please indicate your preference so we'll know how best to plan transportation options.

Tour I: Tour of Laguna/Acoma Pueblo – and the Guadalupe Vineyards winery owned by alumnus Antonio Trujillo '78

Tour II: Jemez Pueblo, San Isidro Jemez Springs, soda Dam, Battleship Rock, Banderlier National Monument (cave dwellings) and Los Alamos

Tour III: Pena Blanca Mission, San Felipe Casino, Santa Fe, St. Francis Cathedral Minor Basilica, Lorreto Chapel (miraculous staircase), San Miguel Mission (oldest mission church in U.S. still in operation)

Tour IV: Sandia Mountain tour, Tijeras Canyon, turquoise trail and Sandia Crest Drive, Madrid NM Artist (arts and crafts) Colony, Cerrillos Mission

Tour V: Albuquerque tour: Fantastic Botanical Gardens, nationally acclaimed Aquarium and Zoo, Museum of Natural History, Historic Plaza Vieja (Old Town) with plenty of places for souvenirs and great New Mexico cuisine

Additionally, Fr. Berard invites interested parties to extend their stay a couple days and **tour the Navajo reservation** where he lives in northeastern Arizona, a few hours drive.

We hope to see you soon. If you plan to attend the Chapter, please send a check for \$25 registration + \$25 tour van + \$25 per adult/\$12.50 per child for the Saturday dinner to:

**Franciscan Alumni
4401 Masthead, NE
Suite 130
Albuquerque, NM, 87109**



Sem Night Out!

By Tim Lacey '77

Over a cold beer and a bratwurst at a local church festival in June 2003, Tim Lacey '77 and Joe Vormbrock '78 were sharing laughs and memories of days at St. Francis Seminary. While reminiscing about the antics of a number of characters from that era, Joe suggested getting together with Steve (Fred) Froehle '75 and perhaps get a few more details of the stories that were being told. The initial thought of a once a year reunion was great, but getting together every other month or so seemed easy enough to do without committing a bunch of anyone's time. A backyard grill out was had with these three families – and the "Seminary night out" meetings were born.

The alumni web site provided a decent contact base. A number of local alumni were contacted via email and invited to an informal gathering at the Hofbrau Haus restaurant in Newport, Kentucky. One reason for choosing a German locale was because of Joe Vormbrock's fond memories of his favorite seminary food... "rhino's." The first couple gatherings were a bit light in attendance, but over time it has grown to as many as 19 people. During these gatherings, Tim Lacey has been reminded of the many reasons that he had work period virtually every weekend.

There have been many instances of the same story being told, but what makes it so fun is the different twist that each alumnus may remember about it. There are countless Fr. Aubert and Fr. Aldric stories, each adding more names and details to the tall tales told – to the

point that they become legendary. Of course we hash out nothing but the truth on many topics: teachers, meals, sports, study hall, chapel, work period jobs, Picnic Day, chemistry lab, barber shop, dormitory situations, infirmary visits, and even bun fun. We never realized how much fun sem life was for all of us.

These are some of the alumni who have attended Sem Night Out events: Joe Vormbrock, Fred Froehle, Tim Lacey, Mark Kling, Tom Schumate, Don Weller, Mike Daly, Pat Daly, Mike Fritsch, Steve Simon, Pat Findley, Mike Duncan, Nick Neyer, Jeff Sherpenberg, Dave Ball, Mike Lippmann, Rick Gardner, Mike Niklas, Roy Brannan, Paul Landers, John Peroutka, and Chris O'Hagen.

Our most recent gathering was at the Don Pablo's Restaurant, 705 Kemper Commons Circle, in the Tri-County area of Cincinnati on Thursday, April 12, 2007 (photo below).

There is no certain schedule to our gatherings, nor is there ever an agenda, other than renewing past friendships, telling stories, sharing memories, sipping a drink, and laughing until your cheeks hurt. Please consider coming out to join us. Drop us a note where to find you and how we can contact you via email. The next Sem Night Out will likely be at the Beer Garden of the Hofbrau Haus in early June.

Tim Lacey timlacey2@yahoo.com
 Joe Vormbrock JVormbrock@cinci.rr.com
 Steve Froehle steve_froehle@hotmail.com

Find a Classmate

By Dennis Kirby '56

The last time I saw my classmate Mike Berkemeier was in 1970 at my wedding. I "found" him last year after a void of 35 years by calling all the Berkemeiers listed in the Piqua, Ohio phone book until I connected with one of his relatives who put us in touch.

Mike Berkemeier was not aware of the Franciscan Alumni Association nor the FAA website, even though he had been living in Cincinnati for many years. Mike subsequently attended the 2005 Chapter in Cincinnati and had a great time reconnecting with people he had not seen nor heard from in years.

Recently, I also found another 1958 classmate, Chuck Moellinger in Birmingham, Alabama, after 45 years. I remembered the Moellinger family ran a bakery in Cincinnati back then. I contacted Cincinnati alumni, who tracked down the bakery, which had been sold to another party. The current bakery owner had a telephone number and address of Chuck's brother, who then got me in touch with Chuck.

At the St. Louis Chapter, the challenge was thrown out for everyone to find two "lost" classmates by next year's Chapter. Don't you have a couple of "lost" classmates that you would like to see again?

Here are several approaches to finding classmates: use internet searches, patrons listings from Brown & White issues, family members who may still be in the same area, contact the registrar of the school your classmate last attended, consult with the Provincial Archives, contact your classmate's old parish for a record of the last known address or any relatives' names and addresses, phone directories and "Who's Who in America" at libraries, ask other alumni in the same city, etc.

Once you have reconnected with your classmate, don't forget to give them the FAA website, and to give their name, address, phone number, email address to the FAA so your classmate can start getting the newsletter, etc. Then please email your classmate's info to Pat Daly, the Alumni Assn database manager at this address: jpgdaly@mail@fuse.net

Many alumni have found our organization over the years through internet searches of their own or by a chance meeting of an old acquaintance. The techniques described above can help you to **help them find us**.



Franciscan Alumni Association



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Cincinnati, Ohio 45223

www.franciscan-alumni.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Franciscan Alumni Website News

The Alumni Assn website will soon be given a facelift to address problems with spammers and to make it easier for you to interact and find what you're looking for.

We'll be adding a new guestbook, scanned Brown and White magazines, a categorized stories section that you can add to, and several additional new features.

Most recently a scanned copy of Fr. Aubert Grieser's music training sheets were placed on the website. This document contains collegiate level music theory and vocal exercises which were originally published in the red hymnal that many of us used daily during our memorable days at the minor seminary. Fr. Aubert spent countless hours developing this training program based on his advanced studies at universities in the United States and abroad. We'll also be adding a couple of his original compositions, including one on which he collaborated with Fr. Murray Bodo.

Our most prolific writer in the website guestbook has been Fr. Bill Sanchez, with his photographic memory for anecdotal details. Here is a sample of some of his recent wit:

"By far the most intriguing story I heard my freshman year, while I was first cleaning tables after supper, was the "elevator incident." One recent morning, I sat across from Ruben Gomez '56, and listened—first to silent recollection, then to a remarkably detailed day in the life of a seminarian in 1954. Our Sophomore crew was cleaning tables that day with a rhythm that practice makes music with mops and brooms, wiping the grey-topped refectory tables, stacking the dishes, pans and silverware on rolling carts; Phil Gallegos and Joe Gavin took charge of dispatching the carts heavy with the meal's dirty dishes into the elevator and down to the basement kitchen. The sound of the clanging elevator gate and heavy metal door, groaning of the falling and rising, added to the concerto of our remarkable, well-oiled sophomore crew. Suddenly there was..."

The Franciscan Alumni Association newsletter is mailed to approximately 1,200 members for whom we have addresses. The editor is Mike Niklas. Other writers are identified with their articles. The only cost of production is the expense of printing and mailing. This issue is in an abbreviated format—additional details and photos are available on the website. Thank you for your interest and support.

The 2006-2007 Franciscan Alumni Association Board

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