

# company

the world of Jesuits and their friends  
winter 2006

There have been  
**Jesuits in  
Jamaica**  
since 1837! (page 24)

Who's the  
memorable Jesuit  
in your life? (page 29)

## Magis

Meet some men and  
women for others  
(page 17)



Compliments of the Jesuit Community at Xavier University

# Magis

Magis Men and Women for Others

**Company** welcomes you to meet some people,

Jesuit grads all, who have woven the Ignatian concept of *magis*—more—into their daily lives.

But, when you think of it, calling *magis* a concept makes it sound like a dry, philosophical abstract and doesn't do it justice. It's more of an ideal, one with an underlying spirit, one that we can strive for throughout our lives.

These Jesuit alumni have taken the ideal to heart in the work, volunteer and otherwise, that they do every day. It's incredible what's possible with that drive for *magis* behind you.



## On Loan to a Country

*Brian Boitano*  
Santa Clara University '03

Brian Boitano served in the Peace Corps in Benin, Africa, arranging loans to small farmers, mechanics, store owners, taxi drivers, women's groups, and others who were at or near poverty. His work with the largest micro-finance bank put him in one-on-one contact with entrepreneurs, helping them improve their financial management and gain solid financial footing and eventually generate savings that can be channeled into their families' and businesses' health.



## Father Jack/ Doctor Jack

*John Wintermyer*

Gonzaga College High  
(Washington, D.C.) '54

Throughout his life, John Wintermyer has worked two careers—at the same time. As a priest, he is “Father Jack” at the Washington Hospital Center, where until his recent retirement he ministered daily to the sick and dying. His second shift is spent with D.C.’s homeless who call him “Doctor Jack.” A physician’s assistant, he heals the ailing feet of those for whom walking is the only form of transportation. The story of the Last Supper provides Jack’s inspiration. “In the story from the Gospel of John, Jesus serves his disciples by washing their feet,” he says. “At the same time, he commanded them to do the same. Could I miss the obvious expression of love?”



## More Than Long Hours

*Alex Eble*

Brebeuf Jesuit Prep (Indianapolis) '01

Taking on the task of trying to reduce child mortality in poor countries was a shift of gears for London School of Economics graduate Alex Eble. He works with Effective Intervention in London, researching and testing low-cost solutions for ailments such as pneumonia, malaria, and diarrhea. Alex has worked in China (above) and also in India, studying a program that trained women to administer basic health care and health education; he hopes to find cost-efficient means to make health education and care available. It’s a formidable task. “My responsibilities are much more than I had hoped for, and I’m learning tons. I’m also working hours that make me think I could have hacked it as an investment banker,” says Alex.



## Witness for Peace

*Paul Kozak*

John Carroll University '04

Right after graduation, Paul Kozak became a Fellowship of Reconciliation volunteer, where he is a witness for peace in a savagely conflicted area of Colombia’s northwest. Nearly 200 residents and the local archbishop have been murdered by paramilitaries or the Colombian army. Kozak has put himself in harm’s way to nonviolently “guard” a group of former residents who have moved back after being driven off. Resident Ana Hilda Vargas, who lost her husband and two brothers, said of Paul and his fellow volunteers: “If they weren’t here, we would have been crushed.” Paul asked in a letter home, “To what extent are we willing to give of ourselves so that those we love may live better?”

[www.forusa.org](http://www.forusa.org)



## A Cup of Concern

*Tim Kantz*

St. Ignatius High School (Cleveland) '93  
Fordham University '98

When Tim Kantz (right) visited Guatemala more than a decade ago on a two-week Habitat for Humanity excursion, he got firsthand knowledge of how folks live in the developing world. The experience prompted him to move to the town of Quetzaltenango in the country, where he founded Café Conciencia, (Coffee with a Conscience), a fair-trade coffee cooperative. His organization helps worker-owned coffee co-ops, especially important in the competitive coffee industry, where corporate giants have traditionally dictated low commodity prices.

"We're trying to help the growers make more money by teaching them to do things like roast the coffee themselves instead of exporting raw beans," says Tim. Café Conciencia sells coffee in Guatemala and online.

[www.cafeconciencia.org](http://www.cafeconciencia.org)



## Boundless Hospitality

*Beth Ford*

Saint Joseph's University '99 BS, '00 MS

Beth Ford (left) taught at Loyola High School in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania for Jesuit Volunteers International. "Ignatian spirituality, St. Joe's emphasis on social justice, and my service learning classes slowly led me to appreciate the momentous gifts in my life," she says. Beth has plans to produce a documentary based on her experiences in Tanzania, "to share these stories of those who invite us all to embody *karibu*," the Tanzanian word for boundless hospitality. Stateside again, Beth is pursuing a doctorate at the Washington Theological Union in D.C.



## As Long As It Takes

*Tracy O'Heir*

Saint Louis University '96  
Fordham University '06

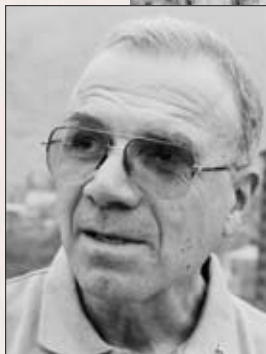
After graduating from Saint Louis University, Tracy worked with the Jesuit Refugee Service in Houston and Chicago, her hometown. A visit to the El Salvadoran university at which six Jesuits were murdered in 1989 ignited her desire to become a person for others. She spent two years with an education program for internally displaced refugees in Sudan before going to Fordham and earning an MA from the school's International Political Economy and Development program. She left, over graduation weekend, for Sudan, this time to work for Catholic Relief Services and plans to remain there for "as long as it takes."

## The Least Among You

*Dr. Anthony Lazzara, Jr.*  
Jesuit High School (Tampa) '60  
Spring Hill College '64

For fifteen years Dr. Lazzara taught pediatrics at Emory University's medical school. Later, he'd say that he felt "an unease, a feeling that [he] was not where [he] was supposed to be." In 1983, Lazzara left his job and everything he owned to move to Chacacayo, Peru, where he opened a clinic, Villa La Paz, and began caring for the sick and destitute children who came pouring in his doors. Twenty-three years later, he still spends his mornings making rounds among the 50 or so children living at the center, many of whom suffer from malnutrition, tuberculosis, leukemia, and many other diseases and conditions.

[www.villalapazfoundation.org](http://www.villalapazfoundation.org)



STEVE DOLAN



## Our Little Haven

*Scott and Kathy Hummel*

Rockhurst University '86, Saint Louis University '88

Scott and Kathy Hummel teamed up long ago to open a dream they shared: Our Little Haven, a place that would offer food, shelter, and loving care to infants and young children who suffered abuse, neglect, or drug exposure, or were born with HIV. The Hummels' original goal was to catch these kids at an early age and help them overcome the hurt. But as the project grew, new resources allowed them to develop programs that help families head off situations and solve problems before abuse has a chance to start. They even have a fostering and pre-adoption program. Today, they serve almost 500 children and family members annually.

[www.ourlittlehaven.org](http://www.ourlittlehaven.org)



## Project Pierre Toussaint

*Doug Perlitz*

Fairfield University '92

As a mission volunteer in Haiti while at Fairfield, Doug Perlitz was moved by the plight of the people he met. He returned in 1996 to begin Project Pierre Toussaint in Cap Haitien. It's a center for boys—some orphans, others from very impoverished families—that began as a one-room schoolhouse and has now grown to two facilities. The 13th Street Center provides a safe environment for the 50 or so boys who come in off the street to shower, play sports, go to class, and receive two meals. Those who come on a regular basis are asked to join the Village, a place outside the city where they live, attend classes, and learn skills. "The boys of Project Pierre Toussaint are the resurrection and hope of Haiti," says Doug.

[www.haitipt.org](http://www.haitipt.org)



## You Can Do It!

*Ginny Donohue*  
Le Moyne College '69

Ginny Donohue is the founder and director of On Point for College, a Syracuse nonprofit that helps inner-city youth enroll and succeed in college. The whole thing started when she helped her daughter's friend, a bright young man who didn't think college was an option, to apply. Now she—and over 100 volunteers—help take students on college visits, complete financial aid forms, improve interview and study skills, negotiate financing and housing, and even pay for bedding and basic needs. On Point for College has provided one-on-one college admission counseling to over 1,600 youth since 1999, 1,000 of whom have gone on to 130 different colleges and universities. [www.onpointforcollege.org](http://www.onpointforcollege.org)

## A Lifelong Dream

*Richard Kemme*  
Regis High School '48, Regis University '52  
Saint Louis University '56

Although he calls Colorado's mountains home, Richard Kemme (left) has a special place in his heart for Malawi, Africa. After practicing medicine in Greeley for 28 years, he retired to fulfill a lifelong dream of contributing to a developing country. He and his wife, Mary, volunteer with Orthopedics Overseas, a nonprofit that provides 90 percent of the orthopedic care to the country's 11 million people. For more than twenty years Richard has made annual trips to Malawi, staying up to five months to treat patients and to train medical staff to serve in his absence.



## Fighting an Epidemic

*Kaakpema Yelapaala*  
Jesuit High School (Sacramento) '98

As a Brown University undergraduate, Kaakpema Yelapaala studied public health and then earned a master's degree in the field from Yale. He then went to work for the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative (CHAI), based in Nairobi, Kenya, where he oversees regional projects aimed at increasing the resources available to sub-Saharan people with HIV. While the need is tremendous, Kaakpema is inspired by the initiative that many African governments and communities are taking to reverse the course of the epidemic. "I believe that to be a man for others is to be there for your family, friends, people you love, and people who need you."



## Done It All

*Kathleen Stout*  
Gonzaga University '05

From coordinating volunteer camps to organizing a chapter of Special Olympics teams, Kathleen Stout has done it all. While an undergrad, she devoted up to 50 hours a week to volunteering. When she was diagnosed with leukemia in 2005, she received treatment while continuing classes and volunteer work—coordinating retreats for developmentally disabled adults, rounding up Gonzaga students to coach Special Olympics teams, and working with Big Brothers Big Sisters and at a day care for the developmentally disabled. Kathleen is undergoing treatments until she is able to receive a bone marrow transplant; in the meantime she's working for Community Care in Kent, Washington, with at-risk kids.



CARLOS GONZALEZ



## Give Me Shelter

*Kathy Niece*  
Creighton University '91

On the California coast there's a short-term emergency shelter for the destitute and homeless—the home of Kathy Niece. She and her husband, Mike, founded Magdalene House, a Catholic Worker house in Half Moon Bay, twenty miles from San Francisco. The couple gives sustenance and shelter to the area's poor, most of whom are Mexican immigrants who work in the fields, on fishing boats, or at local hotels or restaurants. Three families live with the Nieces, who also distribute food and clothing from their garage (above) and lunches to laborers in the park. Though their home operation is tiny, they are trying to raise funds to build a public community center.



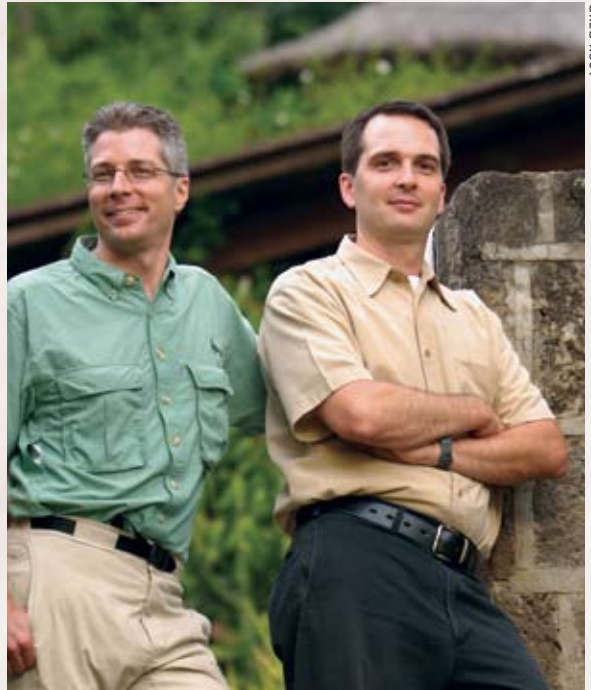
JULIE BOURBON

## Rebuilding in New Orleans

*David Uhl*

Bellarmino Prep (Tacoma) '01 Gonzaga University '05

For David Uhl, wanting to help New Orleans rebuild seemed a natural extension of the Jesuit education he received. Last year as a Jesuit Volunteer, David led University of Detroit Mercy students to the Gulf Coast for service trips. At the end of his year in Detroit, David decided to re-up as a Jesuit Volunteer and head to New Orleans. He provides emergency services to homeless people and those moving back into the city through the Jesuits' Tompson Center, operated through St. Joseph's Church. "It's exciting to be part of rebuilding the city to make it better than it was before," he says.



GREG RUST

## Textbooks: 120,000 of Them

*Joe and Jeff Berninger*

Xavier University '89 and '91

The careers Joe and Jeff Berninger (Joe is on the cover as well) began with Fortune 500 companies were put on hold after Jeff did a teaching stint in Guatemala and learned the incredible need the country's secondary schools had for textbooks. Most schools had only teachers and chalkboards, resulting in high dropout and illiteracy rates. In 1996, the brothers founded Cooperative for Education (CoEd), which finds sponsors to fund a school's first book purchase. Students rent, rather than buy, the books from the school, and the income goes to buy new books as needed; it's a self-perpetuating program. In ten years, they've delivered more than 120,000 books to 135 schools and served an estimated 23,000 schoolchildren. Jeff and Joe's home office in Cincinnati employs five other Xavier grads.

[www.coeduc.org](http://www.coeduc.org)