It may sound like a cliché, but returning to Belen Jesuit has definitely been a “coming home.” When I accepted the position as Executive Director of the Alumni Association on June 26, 2017, I knew that I would be leading an organization that dates back 164-years and includes over 7,000 alumni from Cuba and Miami. I believed the Jesuit formation that I received as a student, faculty member and coach would help guide me in my new role. In the 12 years I served as a teacher at Belen, I taught over 1,500 students and coached over 300 athletes. This allowed me to create a special connection to my former students and to continue to be part of their Belen experience.

I’m excited to report that during this past academic year we saw an increase in alumni participation across the spectrum. Our alumni not only participated in more schoolwide functions, but also volunteered the most amount of time to help others in our community through the Magis campaigns. Giving back was a regular occurrence, whether it was speaking at the school, serving on a committee or donating towards the Annual Fund. The Alumni Association facilitated key events throughout the school year to foster brotherhood. No other event is more anticipated than the annual tailgate at the beginning of the school year for the Belen vs. Columbus football game. In 2017, over 3,000 alumni and guests took part in the tailgate held at Tropical Park. The Belen Gala, the Father Izquierdo Memorial Golf Tournament and the Fr. Dorta-Duque, SJ Memorial Tombola provided memorable moments and opportunities to network and ultimately have fun. Capping a successful year was Alumni Night in April, which brought us together to reminisce about our days at Belen.

Alumni engagement is a key initiative of the Strategic Plan. The alumni tour once again took us out of Miami to visit our brothers in New York, Washington D.C., Houston, Dallas, and Los Angeles. Joined by School President Father Guillermo M. García-Tuñón, S.J., ’87 and Director of Advancement Phil Fernandez ’94, our goal is to reengage as many alumni as possible and strengthen the brotherhood. Next year, we will be going to Detroit, Chicago, Atlanta, New York and four Florida Universities: FSU, UF, UCF and USF.

The New York stop will be open to any alum who wants to participate. This out of state reunion will be the first time alumni will be asked to travel out of Florida during an official Alumni Association event, so mark your calendars and see you in the Big Apple on December 7-9.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me during my first year as Executive Director. I have enjoyed meeting many alumni and hearing stories from Belen back in the day. The common thread that unites all of us, is that no matter in what year we graduated, we all can share in the same Ignatian formation. The stories of our time at Belen is what creates the platform for us to build relationships, which can in many instances, evolve into lifetime friendships. I look forward to continue to meet as many alumni as possible to keep the brotherhood strong.

Yours Truly,
Carlos Bravo ’86
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**Belen Jesuit Alumni Magazine**

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Cover designed by: **Charlie Calderin ’90**
Featuring **Roberto S. Goizueta ’49** and **Jorge Bosch**
By: Anthony Abinader '19
Echoes Editor

• Annual Christmas Toy and Gift Distribution at Gesu Church

• Alumni Director Carlos Bravo ‘86 speaks to Belen Jesuit upperclassmen at this year’s “Beyond Belen Mentorship Program and Job Fair.” Over 2 dozen alumni professionals volunteered their time and treasure to assist with this unique event.

• A total of 20 members of the Belen community were recognized for their years of service at the feast of St. Joseph the Worker Mass, held May 1st in the dining hall.

• Dr. Orlando Puente ’71, Chair of BASH (Belen Alumni Section of Healthcare) gives a tour of Baptist Hospital to three Taiwanese exchange students interested in medicine.

• Carlos Hernandez ’88, Alejandro Muelle ’93, Fr. Willie Garcia-Tuñon, S.J. ’87, L.J. Rodriguez ’93, Rene Carballo ’03, Dr. Armando Rodriguez, Carlos Jordan ’07, Matthew Jordan ’08, Tony Castro ’86, Alfonso Duran ’94, Thomas de Quesada ’94, Javier Perez-Abreu ’78 and Crescencio Ruiz ’76, past Presidents and Vice Presidents, were honored at the Student Council end-of-the-year banquet.

• The Living Stations of the Cross was celebrated April 3rd and was an amazing experience in which the students reenacted the final hours of the life of Jesus.

• Over one hundred eighth graders made their confirmation commitment in front of the Belen community at a special Confirmation Mass held March 10th. This very special event took place in the new dining hall.

• The eighth grade pin ceremony took place May 3rd, and marked an important event in the lives of the students in the middle school. The ceremony honored the students’ accomplishments and marked the transition from middle school to high school.

• The Alumni Pin Mass and ceremony was held May 22nd, at Gesu Church in Downtown Miami. Students received their official alumni pins after a mass officiated by Father Willie Garcia-Tunon, S.J. The students then walked over to the James L. Knight Center for a rehearsal of the Commencement Exercises.
• The Hunchback of Notre Dame was Belen’s ambitious musical for the 2018 year. It was performed in the Roca Theatre for two weeks, with the grand opening performance taking place Wednesday, March 2nd.

• Junior prom was held on Saturday, May 5th at the Hyatt Regency Coral Gables and was a night to remember. The prom started at 8pm with an opening prayer shortly followed by a dinner and dancing until midnight.

• At the Commencement Exercises, Miguel Murciano from the class of 68 accepts the banner from Felipe Pardo, 2018 President of Student Council. The passing of the banner from one class to the other has been a tradition at the graduation ceremony.

• The Baccalaureate Mass took place May 10th at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Doral. The mass was presided by Father Willie Garcia-Tuñon who, in his Homily, spoke about the true significance of running to the fire and the presence Jesus should have in everyone’s life. Seniors and their mothers participated in the entrance procession, to be followed by a mass and campus ministry awards.

• Senior prom was held at Marlins Park in Downtown Miami. The event took place in the evening of May 18th at the top level of the stadium. Seniors and their dates enjoyed a sit down meal, ice cream sundaes served in a baseball cap, a view of their senior video on the jumbotron screen, and an array of fireworks that lit up the night sky.

• The seniors and their teachers enjoyed the annual end-of-year luncheon in the school gym. The event included a magnificent meal of lechon with black beans and rice, desserts and drinks. A mariachi band surprised the seniors and entertained them with their music throughout the luncheon. Marlins mascot Billie was also on hand to send the seniors off with a bang.

• Graduation was the true end of the senior year. This year the event was held May 23 at the James L. Knight Center in Downtown Miami. A total of 232 seniors received their high school diploma that evening, making the class of 2018 the largest class to graduate from Belen. The keynote speaker for the graduation was Dr. Mark B. Rosenberg, President of Florida International University.
ACADEMICS

GRADUATION AWARDS

Andres Dones
Jorge Moscoso
Felipe Pardo
Deiter Prussing
Eric Lastres
Manuel Fernandez

VALEDICTORIAN
SALUTATORIAN
SENIOR OF THE YEAR
SENIOR OF THE YEAR
JSN AWARD
ARCHBISHOP AWARD

Juan Lam
Placido Valdes
Roger Torres
Rodrigo Marin

Gerard M. Hopkins, SJ
Andrea Pozzo, SJ
Christopher Clavius, SJ
Jose Rubinos, SJ

English
Humanities
Mathematics
Modern Languages

Deiter Prussing
Francisco Barrera
William San Pedro
Javier Fraga-Vasquez

St. Francis Xavier, SJ
Pierre T. de Chardin, SJ
John Carroll, SJ
Karl Rahner, SJ

Scholar Athlete
Science
Social Studies
Theology

6. Belen Jesuit
NEWS

Where Are They Going?

Abate, Leonardo: Stetson University
Abunassar, Nicholas: Miami Dade College
Agreda, Alexei: Florida International University
Aguilar, Angel: Dartmouth College
Amore, Guillermo: Babson College
Anderson, Ian: Purdue University
Aparicio, Gabriel: The Catholic University of America
Aparicio, Michael: University of North Florida
Araozza, Javier: Loyola University Maryland
Arenas Grayeb, Juan-Pablo: Florida International University
Arriuzieta, Alec: Tallahassee Community College
Aznar, Kevin: Florida International University
Banos, Raúl: The George Washington University
Baradat, Anthony: High Point University
Bariditch, Jonathan: Manhattan College
Barral, Ivan: Columbia University
Barrera, Francisco: Florida International University
Barral, Ivan: Manhattan College
Barroso, Maxwell: Florida State University
Bencomo, Jeremy: Tallahassee Community College
Besada, Nicholas: Florida State University
Billia, Alessandro: Santa Fe College
Blanco, Eric: Miami Dade College
Bodero, Alvaro: University of Florida
Borges, Angela: Florida International University
Burch, Andrew: University of Miami
Bustamante, Javier: Florida International University
Cabrera, Ivan: University of Miami
Candela, Alejandro: Miami Dade College
Caputo, Andre: Florida International University
Cardenal, Ignacio: Florida State University
Casas, Luis: Miami Dade College
Castanos, Francisco: Bentley University
Castellanos, Kyle: Cornell University
Castro, Robert: Vanderbilt University
Castro, Victor: Florida International University
Cepeda, Alejandro: Florida International University
Chamizo, Sebastian: Loyola University Chicago
Chang, Gerald: University of Miami
Charpentier, Paul: Florida State University
Chaviano, Jose: Florida State University
Chinig, Drew: Florida International University
Christie, Lucas: University of Pennsylvania
Clark, Sebastian: Florida State University
Collins, Joshua: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Consevega, Rogelio: Florida State University
Conti, Alberto: Bentley University
Conti, Alejandro: Bentley University
Corada, Daniel: University of Florida
Corzo, Alejandro: United States Naval Academy
Cruz, Joseph: Santa Fe College
Cuesta, Nicholas: Florida International University
Dacal, Gabriel: Tallahassee Community College
Dajer, Marcos: Florida State University
De La Hoz, Marcos: The University of Alabama
de la Nuez, Christopher: Tallahassee Community College
De La Vega, Diego: Florida International University
De Los Santos, Christian: Florida International University
Delgado, Anthony: University of Central Florida
Delgado, Eduardo: Stetson University
Diago, Federico: Purdue University
Diaz, Carlos: Florida State University
Diaz, Luis: Florida State University
Dones, Andres: Vanderbilt University
Doval, Alex: Boston University
Duenas, Sebastian: University of Pittsburgh
Ebbage, Anthony: Florida International University
Escarrar, Ian: Florida International University
Espina, Ricardo: Georgia Institute of Technology
Estrada, Gabriel: University of Florida
Fager, Daniel: Carnegie Mellon University
Fernandez, Alan: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Fernandez, Alejandro: Florida International University
Fernandez, Ehren: Oxford College of Emory University
Fernandez, Eloy: Santa Fe College
Fernandez, Lucas: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Fernandez, Manuel: University of Florida
Fernandez, Roberto: Florida State University
Fernandez, Ryan: Florida Gulf Coast University
Ferrer, Joshuart: Dartmouth College
Ferro, Daniel: Loyola University New Orleans
Fidalgo, Eduardo: Loyola University Chicago
Fraga, Albert: Villanova University
Fraga, Antonio: Loyola University Maryland
Fraga-Vasquez, Javier: Miami Dade College
Fungairino, Aitor: University of Texas, Austin
Galego, Kevin: University of Miami
Gallinar, Thomas: University of Southern California
Gambin, Joseph: Florida International University
Gamae, Carlos: Purdue University
Garcia, Jose: Tulane University
Garcia, Christopher: Florida International University
Garcia, Cristian: Tallahassee Community College
Garcia, David: University of Southern California
Garcia, Eric: Loyola University New Orleans
Garcia, Francisco: Babson College
Garcia, Hugo: Florida State University
Garcia-Chacon, Fernando: University of Michigan
Garcia-Sarraff, Jorge: University of Delaware
Garrig, Mark: Tulane University
Giacosa, Daniel: New York University
Gomez, Andres: Loyola University New Orleans
Gomez, Kyle: Santa Fe College
Gomez, Matthew: Florida State University
Gonzalez, Cristian: Florida International University
Gonzalez, David: Rhode Island School of Design
Gonzalez, Henry: Florida State University
Grand, Carlos: Georgetown University
Guerra, Daryel: Florida International University
Guerrero Vicente, Javier: Georgetown University
Guthrie, Nicholas: Miami Dade College
Hart, Jared: Florida International University
Hernandez, Andrew: University of Pennsylvania
Hernandez, Eduardo: Cornell University
Hernandez, Marcelo: Florida International University
Herrera, John: University of Miami
Iglesias, Jorge: New York University
Ismael, Kasser: Purdue University
Izquierdo, Justin: University of Miami
Jimenez, Andres: University of Florida
Jimenez, Carlos: University of Florida
Jorge, Sebastian: Florida International University
Khoury, Jason: Florida State University
Krikorian, Andres: Florida International University
Krikorian, Gabriel: Georgia Institute of Technology
Krikorian, Nicholas: Florida State University
Labrador, Eric: Clemson University
Lacas, Roberto: Florida State University
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Lazaro, Noel: Florida International University
Lemos, Jon: University of Miami
Lenis, Carlos: St. Edward's University
Leon, Francisco: Southern Methodist University
Leyva, Claudia: Boston College
Llaneza, Rafael: The Ohio State University
Llano, Sebastian: Miami Dade Honors College
Llorente, Maximiliano: Fordham University
Lopez-Castro, Ignacio: University of Florida
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Lopez-Morillo, Israel: University of Florida
Louden, Justin: The University of Texas, Austin
Lucas, Lorenzo: University of Southern California
Lubian, Brandon: Florida State University
Mackle, Timothy: Loyola University Chicago
Marimow, Marlow: Florida International University
Marin, Hugo: Florida International University
Marin, Rodrigo: Cornell University
Marrero, Christopher: University of Florida
Martin, Matthew: Louisiana State University
Martinez, Christian: Miami Dade College
Martinez, Robert: Tallahassee Community College
Mascaro, Emilio: Cornell University
Mayo, Ricardo: Georgetown University
Maza, Andres: Miami Dade College
Men, Eric: University of Miami
Milton, Justin: Tulane University
Morales, Michael: Florida International University
Moraes, Richard: University of Miami
Mor, Bernardo: Florida State University
Moscoco, Jorge: University of Chicago
Moustafa, Christopher: Purdue University
Muchachao, Ramon: University of Florida
Mullins, James: Florida International University
Munoz, Nathaniel: St. Thomas University
Munoz, Rodrigo: University of Florida
Navarro, Allan: Georgetown University
Newlin, Tyler: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Nunez, Diego: Babson College
O'Flaherty, Luke: Fordham University
Olesen, Matthew: University of Miami
Pachon, Ivan: Wake Forest University
Pacios, Alejandro: Temple University
Pardo, Felipe: Boston College
Perera, Juan: Babson College
Perez, Alfred: Harvard University
Perez, Andres: University of Miami
Perez, Maria: Berklee College of Music
Perez-Blanco, Nicholas: Merrimack College
Piedrahita, Julian: Loyola University Maryland
Plascencia, Jose: University of Florida
Poulat, Bernardo: Boston College
Pridle, Hunter: University of Delaware
Pruzing, Deiter: University of Virginia
Pujals, Alejandro: Florida Atlantic University
Pulles, Matthew: Tallahassee Community College
Rivera, Bia: Vanderbilt University
River, Sean: City College of New York
Rivera, Sebastian: University of Michigan
Rodriguez, Andres: Savannah College of Art and Design
Rodriguez, Jason: Rollins College
Rodriguez, Nicolas: High Point University
Rodriguez, Raul: University of Texas, Austin
Rojas, Evan: University of Miami
Romero, Carlos: University of Arizona
Ros, Andres: University of Florida
Rubio, Juan: Miami Dade Honors College
Salinas, Daniel: University of South Florida
San Martin, Javier: University of Florida
San Pedro, William: University of Pennsylvania
Sanchez, Daniel: Florida International University
Saumell, Javier: University of Central Florida
Schultz, Joseph: Stetson University
Schultz, Matthew: Florida International University
Serna, Adrian: Florida International University
Singh, Keanan: Florida International University
Smith, Andres: Pennsylvania State University
Smith, David: University of Miami
Solera, Anthony: University of Florida
Sosa, Carlos Eduardo: University of Michigan
Sosa, Carlos Enrique: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Sosa, Nicolas: Fordham University
Stoker, Harrison: University of Florida
Suels, Daniel: New York University
Tinoco, Christian: University of Miami
Tobon, Nicolas: University of California, San Diego
Toledo, Jose: Auburn University
Torres, Humberto: Florida International University
Torres, Roger: University of Florida
Toyoi-Sitjes, Alejandro: Santa Fe College
Valdes, Placido: Loyola University New Orleans
Vela, Carlos: University of Florida
Velasco, David: New York University
Venegas, Santiago: Washburn College
Verdeja, Lucas: Florida International University
Vila, Enrique: Florida International University
Villamzi, Ignacio: University of Pennsylvania
Vizcarrondo, Jorge: Florida International University
Yaffar, Diego: University of Michigan
Yurkon, Connor: Georgia Institute of Technology
Zumpano, Lucas: Cornell University

SUMMER 2018 . 7
ATHLETICS

By: Xavier Cerrate '19
Echoes Editor

- Even though the Varsity Tennis team had a difficult season, they made it to Districts, losing by only one point. They ended their season with a record of 3-6.

- The Middle School tennis team struggled throughout the season but had some difficulties getting a win. The young team looks to play in the next level next season.

- The Varsity Volleyball team had an amazing season only losing 4 of the 23 games they played. They won Districts and lost at the Regional level, making it the second time in school history that this team wins the District title.

- JV Volleyball followed in the footsteps of the Varsity team by winning 4 of the 5 games they played throughout the season. The young team comes back next year to play at the varsity level.

- The Varsity Baseball Team started out by winning many of the games early in the season. Unfortunately, the team was plagued by injuries to some of its top players, and hit a rough patch towards the end. Their final season record was 15-6.

- The JV Baseball team started out slow losing hard against tough, more experienced opponents. They picked up the pace and won most of the later games in the season ending with a 16-5 record.

- The Middle School Baseball team played an amazing season losing only one game and tying another. The Sixth Grade Team didn’t lose a single game, going undefeated this season.

- The Varsity Track team performed well, placing first in six of their meets and second in their District Championship. Seven athletes qualified for the States Championship where the team came in eighth place. A very young team will be back next year to race for the titles.

- Middle School Track and Field was almost undefeated placing third in their first meet, and first in every meet after that. The Middle School Team came in first at the State Championship. The Sixth Grade Track and Field Team went undefeated the entire season. Its athletes show great potential for the years to come.

- Varsity Lacrosse played well this season losing only seven of their twenty-two games and winning Districts. They came very close to winning Regionals, but unfortunately lost their final game.

- JV Lacrosse had a difficult season winning only two of eleven games. They were able to defeat the Explorers with a score of 21-0.

- The Middle School Gold Lacrosse team ran into an obstacle during the end of the season losing four games straight and only winning three games. The Middle School Blue team went undefeated the entire season.

- The Varsity Water Polo team had a few injuries that prevented them from excelling throughout the season. Even with those challenges, the team played their best winning more than half of their games against some tough opposition.

- The Middle School Water Polo team went undefeated throughout the entire season. All of their games were won by landslides. The Midle School athletes look forward to playing at the varsity level.

- Sophomore Don Chaney set the school record for high jump and won the State Championship for the second consecutive year.

- Senior Carlos Grande won the individual bracket in the class 3A in Tennis.

- Junior Eric Diaz was the first athlete to make All County in the sport of volleyball since 1996.
Father Izquierdo Golf Tournament

For the last 19 years, we have honored and remembered Fr. Jose Maria Izquierdo SJ with a Golf Tournament at the International Links Miami Melreese Country Club. The mission of this event is to raise funds for the Belen Financial Assistance Program, which provides aid to over 300 students, to give young men the opportunity to attend Belen Jesuit. We would like to thank our sponsors for their participation and support.
WHY I GIVE BACK

By: Eduardo ’87 and Orlando Garcia ’88

It’s 6:45 a.m. and Orlando “Orly” is honking outside the window. Eduardo “Tito” is late, yet again. Grabbing his tie and a glass of milk as he walks out the door, Tito hops in his cousin’s car and waves goodbye. It’s Friday, so the two will stop at Chantilly on the way to Belen, a breakfast stop that has become a ritual they look forward to every week.

It is a privilege for Tito to have his older cousin there to guide him in his middle school years—to give him the in’s and out’s, to tell him what to leave in his locker, to nudge him in the hallways and zip up his backpack.

In our family, Belen takes the form of a cross-generational tradition. Our father, Eduardo Garcia ’54 (classmate of Father Cartaya), attended Belen in Cuba, as did his brother Felipe. In the days before prep courses, group materials, and group chats, we remember taking our own entrance exams for Belen in Little Havana early on a Saturday morning. Our father told us the school we would be attending was the offspring of the best school in Cuba, but we could not have fully known what that meant until ’87 and ’88, when we would graduate one year from the other. It is daunting to think that Orly will graduate just next year and Tito with the class of 2023.

Tombola, band concerts, baseball and soccer games, father-son days, pin ceremonies and parent representative meetings are experiences all too familiar to our family. Three generations of Belen graduates and students have rendered both the school institution and the Jesuit practice itself a very important entity, even for the Garcia women. Marrying into a Wolverine family, our wives appreciate what the school has done for the community and for the men in their lives. Immune to years of listening to the same stories told by their husbands and Belen classmates, they volunteer at functions and engage with the school community because again, it is more than tradition—the school has shaped our family academically and spiritually for over 70 years.

In recent years, we have been grateful for Fr. Willie’s return to Belen and his vision, one that is so inspirational to the alumni and students. Such is found in his monthly newsletter full of wit and insight that we always look forward to opening in our inboxes. Shining a bright smile at 7 a.m., Fr. Willie has the ability
to make both students’ and parents’ mornings at the drop-off line. It is this optimism that will lead Belen in continuing to shape young men and help our community for many years and generations to come.

Amongst the various values instilled is importance of giving back, by parents and students alike, as well as by alumni. Orly will be traveling to the Dominican Republic in July to help build a bridge in San Felipe Abajo as part of Belen Youth Missions. This trip has become something that the students not only look forward to year after year, but a time when the boys become united under a common front as they roll up their sleeves, slip on their oversized rain boots, and march to the job site with their retreat cross necklaces tucked into their shirts. This service trip serves as a testament to the various service opportunities not only offered by the school, but those who are just part of the Belen culture. Over the years, our family has participated in events like the Magis gift collection and distribution, helping paint “el” Gesu and working various shifts at Tombola. All acts that bring our family and classmates together to help the community.

When something comes up and we need somebody to pick up Tito from Belen in the afternoon, our mom often offers to pick him up. She does not offer, she asks—for her, it’s a treat. Not only so she can shower him with snacks and spend some time with him driving down “la ocho,” but also so she can sit in that pickup line, like she did for her older grandson, Orly. Like she did with us.

We give back so that others can reap the benefits of this amazing environment, so that others can learn from the educators and mentors that have been at the school for many decades forming young men—young men who leave Belen not only as brothers but well prepared to contribute to our community as lawyers, doctors, volunteers, politicians, and spiritual leaders. We give back not only to help ensure that future generations of students continue to receive a Belen Jesuit education, but to help the spirit live on, a spirit so transformative and unique. It is the least we can do for a place that has influenced this family so profoundly.
Orlando Puente is a third generation Belen alumni who graduated in 1971. His grandfather Abelardo Codinach Segura graduated with the class of 1921, and his father Orlando Puente Perez was class of 1937.

While at Belen, Puente considered himself the kind of person who flew under the radar. He was an unmotivated student who did not push himself hard enough with his studies. He played baseball and basketball and was a part of the school’s teams, but even the practices seemed more of a chore to him than fun.

As a student, he did not like having to wake up that early to be at school by 8. He was laid back, and whenever possible, avoided hard work. He would study to pass the tests, but for the most part, he did the bare minimum. Puente started at Belen in the eighth grade, and studied under Jesuit Fathers such as Alberto Garcia, Pedro Suarez, and Luis Maderal. Those men made such a significant impact in his life that to this day he has not forgotten their words.

After he graduated from Belen, he attended Miami Dade College, fully aware that he wanted to one day become a doctor. He knew that he wanted to help people, and taking care of their health seemed the most obvious choice. It was during these years that his father passed away, leaving him with the necessary motivation for him to achieve his degree as a medical doctor. He applied himself to his studies so much that he was later inducted in Miami Dade’s Hall of Fame for academic achievement.

"My father died when I was only 21 and all of my siblings were either finishing high school or in college. I knew I had to do something to help my family out. I started to work harder at school in an effort to support my mother and my family," said Puente.

After finishing his Associate Degree, he moved on to FIU, and then the Universidad Catolica Madre y Maestra in Santiago, Dominican Republic. During his years in medical school, he worked as an orderly in a local hospital. It was there where he got to know the people who lived in the area, and their struggles. During this time, Puente never forgot the Jesuit traditions that he picked up at Belen, and he used them to help those in need. He knew right then and there that there was a need for the people of the Dominican Republic, and that he was just the man to help them.

He noticed an immediate need for medical supplies, food, ambulances, and other medical materials; simple things like bandages and gauze were scarce. People were going untreated, and there was a lack of materials that were often taken for granted and discarded in the United States.

Puente graduated from medical school in 1980 and he returned to the United States. He applied to the Matching Program and worked in a hospital in Connecticut for five years. He took care of patients and received the experience necessary to go on his own and practice medicine. He spent one year specializing in vascular surgery in Toledo, Ohio and finally graduated in June of 1986, when he came to Miami to practice medicine.
He returned to Miami with one goal, to help those people in the Dominican Republic whom he had met while he was studying there. He began to recycle medical materials that were normally wasted or thrown away in the US such as scrubs, gloves, and lab coats. What most people took for granted here, he knew would be greatly needed there.

The director of customs at the time had been a patient of his, and he helped Puente ship the medical equipment to the Dominican Republic. He was able to bring much needed relief to the areas stricken by poverty and to those who lacked money and transportation to get to a doctor.

On one occasion, Puente found out that one of the locals wanted to learn how to be a pilot, but he could not afford the education. Puente paid for his flight classes, introduced him to other pilots, and eventually helped him to get his license to fly. For Puente it’s not just about helping someone to get something, but also helping people to achieve their dreams.

“It’s like you plant a seed, plant a seed, plant a seed, and one day it will grow to be something better,” said Puente.

Since those early days, Puente has travelled to the Dominican Republic with the Belen Youth Mission numerous times as well as other groups to help those in need. He works at the makeshift clinic and treats wounds, vaccinates kids, and even performs small medical procedures on the locals.

Puente currently has two sons in Belen, Benjamin Puente ’19 and Hayden Puente ’21. In the year that Hayden graduates, his father will celebrating the 50-year anniversary of his own graduation from Belen.

For Dr. Orlando Puente, helping others simply comes naturally, and the most satisfactory part is the end result when he gets to see how hard work pays off. According to Puente, his desire to help others stems from two things: his Jesuit traditions and his honest enjoyment in seeing people getting the help they need. The Jesuit traditions that Puente learned from Belen many decades ago have stayed with him throughout his life, especially helping those who live in poverty. Puente has made a vow to help others who are less fortunate and try to help as many people as possible as long as he can.

“To get ahead you have to be ahead,” said Puente. These are words that he lives by.

The reason he pushes himself and others is because he now understands that to be successful, one must be willing to push one’s self to the absolute limit. His hard work and dedication have helped hundreds of people, and inspired many others to do the same. The young boy who worked hard at doing the bare minimum is now a true inspiration for others of what hard work and selflessness can accomplish when it is done for the greater glory of God.
In the mid 1980s, after Belen moved from its humble location on Calle Ocho to its existing campus in west Miami-Dade, there were months when the school did not have enough money to pay its teachers, who at times had to forego paychecks to keep the school from going insolvent.

These were the kinds of growing pains experienced as the school expanded its ambitions and student body, and they were dire.

"Those were extremely difficult years. We didn’t have money to pay our monthly bills," said Jesuit Father Marcelino García, president Emeritus of Belen Jesuit.

In those desperate times, school administrators turned to rum and coke. But it wasn’t Cuba Libres that numbed their woes. It was support from the businessmen who headed two of the most iconic brands: Coca-Cola and Bacardi.

Throughout Belen’s early history in Miami, two of the champions of the school who helped it survive and thrive just happened to be from those two companies. Jorge Bosch, a former president of Bacardi, and Roberto Goizueta, former chairman and CEO of The Coca-Cola Company, each played integral roles in shaping the Belen we know today.

Belen President Jesuit Father Guillermo García-Tuñón said Bosch and Goizueta set a standard early on for supporting Belen.

“What an interesting coincidence that it happens to be Bacardi and Coca-Cola who made possible the generous philanthropic endeavors of individuals like Bosch and Goizueta,” said Father García-Tuñón.

Goizueta attended Belen in Cuba and graduated from high school in 1949. He worked for Coca-Cola since 1954, when he answered an anonymous help-wanted ad for a chemical engineer in Havana.

His son, Roberto S. Goizueta, said in a recent interview that Belen played a pivotal role in shaping his father’s character and world-view. Goizueta remains one of America’s most celebrated CEOs, having taken The Coca-Cola Company from a valuation of $4.3 billion in 1981 to $152 billion by the time of his death in 1997.

“I don’t think it’s possible to appreciate how much he contributed to the world and to appreciate his success without also appreciating the role that Belen played in that,” said Goizueta.

Goizueta, his family foundation and the Coca-Cola Foundation have
donated generously to Belen over the years, including a $2 million donation for construction of the Roberto Goizueta Athletic Center in the late 1990s. "He wanted to do as much as he could for Belen," said his son.

"You couldn't spend much time talking with dad without having Belen come up at some point in the conversation," said Goizueta with a chuckle.

"Goizueta's generosity to Belen opened the doors for other wealthy alumni and supporters to feel comfortable making large donations to the school," said Fr. Marcelino.

"It gave confidence to the Latin millionaire, as well as American companies, to donate to Belen," said Father Garcia. "This type of donor has discovered that to donate to Belen is to invest."

In 1992, Goizueta established The Goizueta Foundation to provide financial assistance to educational and charitable institutions. His widow, Olga Casteleiro de Goizueta, who took leadership of the foundation after Goizueta's death in 1997, died in 2015.

In addition to their son Roberto, a prominent theologian at Boston College, the Goizuetas are survived by their daughter, Olga Goizueta Rawls, chair and CEO of The Goizueta Foundation, and son Javier C. Goizueta, a retired Coca-Cola executive. A fourth child of theirs, Carlos Alberto, died as a child of leukemia. Roberto and Olga are also survived by four grandsons and five granddaughters.

Like the rum and coke that blend to create a unique cocktail, Goizueta and Bosch represented two very different kinds of support for Belen. In Goizueta, the school had an alumnus and supporter who had never met most of Belen's administrators and lived in Atlanta, far removed from Belen's day to day operations.

Bosch, on the other hand, served on Belen's Board of Advisors for 33 years, most of those as chairman. He was a valuable advisor to Father García and others at Belen. In a recent interview, Bosch, 93, said he supports Belen because he believes in the Jesuit mission.

"The Jesuits are very important in my spiritual life," said Bosch. "They were all my friends. I admired them very much for the job they were doing. They needed help and I was going to give it to them."

Bosch, the son of Bacardi president, Jose “Pepin” Bosch, graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire and received a chemical engineering degree from Yale University. He spent 20 years as a master brewer, launching Bacardi’s famous beer, Hatuey and cornering the Cuban beer market. He was trained as a master brewer at the Schwartz School of Brewing.

To this day, Bosch enjoys drinking beer, especially on Saturdays when
he attends horse races at Gulf Stream Park in Hallandale. He usually drinks Miller Light or Budweiser, but enjoys Honey Blonde Ale, a craft beer, when he visits Yardhouse Restaurant in Hallandale. “I love beer,” said Bosch.

The early turning point in Bosch’s spiritual life came when he met his wife, Yvelise Molina, in 1950. That’s when his loyalty and commitment to the Jesuit mission began. “She was very religious. My family was not. She took me to church every Sunday,” said Bosch. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the confusing maze of exile twisted relationships across time and distance. Belen in Cuba was shut down in 1961. A few months later the school reopened in Miami at Gesú School on the third floor in downtown. Bosch remembers those early Belen years.

“I got a call from my father saying that the Jesuits wanted to buy a house on Southwest Eighth Street, Calle Ocho and that they needed some money,” recalled Bosch. “He asked me to please send them a donation from the company - we did.”

Father García-Tuñon said Bosch helped Belen make the transition from a “mom and pop bodega-style operation” to a more professional, American-style institution.

“It had a lot to do with Bosch’s work with the board, and his expertise at Bacardi dealing with banks and refinancing of the Belen bonds and the loans,” said Father García-Tuñon. “The very solid financial state that Belen finds itself in right now had a lot to do with Bosch.”

“Time and time again, Bosch stepped up to help Belen in times of need, and to strengthen it financially,” said Father García.

“It’s about influencing your community,” said Father García, in explaining Bosch’s help to Belen over the years. “How are you going to transform the world and leave it a little better than how you found it? These are the politics behind the Jesuit philosophy.”
Bosch said it’s important for Belen alumni and supporters to carry on the tradition of supporting the school. He gives the example of a Belen alumna who worked at Morgan Stanley, and helped the school get its investments out of the failed Lehman Brothers investment bank and through the financial crisis a decade ago.

He said Belen alumni often don’t fully appreciate the impact Belen’s education had on their lives until they are older.

“In time, as you go through the test of life, the spiritual education that they received is important,” said Bosch. “And it’s going to be important for them in the development of their family and their children.”

Bosch’s wife, Yvelise, died eight years ago. The couple had two sons, Jorge Alejandro, who died of swine flu, said Bosch, and Jose Ignacio. Bosch retired from Bacardi in the 1970s, and went on to work in real estate investment and financial work. He remains a devoted Belen supporter.

Father García-Tuñón, who is Belen’s first president to have graduated from the school in Miami, said he hopes the examples set by Goizueta and Bosch are an inspiration to younger generations.

As a fourth-generation Belen alumnus, Father García-Tuñón said he feels both the pressure and the pride to take Belen into the future.

“It’s my generation now that is at the point where they should be motivated to give back to their school,” said Father García-Tuñón. “I take over an institution that has a proven track record academically, spiritually, morally, and that has a very, very bright future.”

Oscar Corral, ’92, is an Emmy-award winning journalist and documentary filmmaker and CEO of Explica Media

Above: Mrs. Olga Casteleiro de Goizueta and Father Marcelino Garcia, SJ unveil the Goizueta Athletic Center. School wide mass held in the Goizueta Athletic Center. Jorge Bosch with Bishop John Favalora. Jorge Bosch addresses the Belen community.

Opposite Page: Roberto Goizueta as CEO of Coca Cola. Jorge Bosch in his Miami home. Mrs. Olga Casteleiro de Goizueta gives a speech during the opening of the Goizueta Athletic Center. Roberto Goizueta with students during the Coca Cola Campaign at Belen.
Q. What extracurricular activities/sports did you participate in during your school years?

I played JV and Varsity football as well as basketball, and I ran cross country. I was also involved in Student Council and I was class president multiple years. During my senior year, I was elected Vice President of the class of 1977.

Q. Is there one funny Belen moment that still makes you laugh?

Back in high school we had Mr. Eugenio Ferreiro as our math teacher. If you knew him well, you’d know he was left handed. I would sit in the back of the class and clown around. Mr. Ferreiro would throw the blackboard eraser and peg me in the back of the head with ‘tremenda punteria’. No one could see it coming. We both had a good laugh back then.

Q. What did someone say to you while at Belen that you’ll never forget?

Father Izquierdo once said to me ‘Lo que eres es tan alto que no oigo lo que gritas’ (You are so tall that I cannot hear what you are yelling). Father Izquierdo was a quiet influence who was calming and very deep. He was a spiritual leader to me and someone who taught me how to achieve inner peace. I remember him fondly.

Q. What is a typical day in your life?

I typically wake up and get on my knees and ask God for help and guidance. At the end of the day, I get back on my knees and thank God for the blessings of the day. The time in between is filled with family, work, and exercise. In addition to my daily job, I also have other ventures that I deal with on a day to day basis, for example, I am on the Board of Trustees at FIU. I do try to keep busy, but I always make time for God and family.

Q. What is the toughest part of your job?

The toughest part of my job is to be honest with my patients and their families. Many times I have had to tell my patients that their condition is terminal and there is nothing that they can do. I basically have to tell them that there is no hope. These are things that no one wants to hear, and I do not want to give anyone a false sense of hope. However, I am a man of faith and I do believe in the miracles of God, but I have to be careful with the person. It is a very fragile situation, and I work hard to be rigorous about being honest with my patients.
Q. Do you do pro bono work? If yes, where and why?

My family has always given under the premise of doing so in an anonymous manner. It is a family principle that we adhere to strongly. We mostly concentrate on giving back by providing scholarship money for children in different places. It is very important to be able to give kids an opportunity to be educated and improve their lives. I think that is very important. My family also sponsors an all-girls orphanage in Santiago de los Caballeros in the Dominican Republic. This community is very needy and we try to provide a good life for them. We give to other charities that are related to the church and to education. I have been to several Belen Youth Mission trips over the past years with both Father Willie and Father Eddie. I always find that the most impressive thing about mission work is that when you get to the poorest part of the world, where all seems hopeless, the joy of life the locals share is very moving. Often time, they don’t even know what they are lacking, and their gratitude is immense. Once you get back home to the United States, you see the complete opposite. As soon as you land, even in the airport, you see people complaining and taking the things they have for granted.

Q. What is your definition of morality and values?

To me morality and values means trying to live God’s will in my life every single day. I am not always sure what he would have me do, but it is always very clear what I should not do. It means being honest with myself about who I am, being unselfish, being loving and kind to myself and others, but mainly, to be of service to God and others. Try to feel the presence of Christ within others and myself. I also believe it is important to enjoy the times of silence to listen to God.

Q. What quality should every man possess?

The most important thing a man should possess is the knowledge and acceptance of his own character. A man needs to be honest with himself and live by the values and principles he believes in. He should not worry so much about what others think or his own reputation. At the end of the day, you should be happy looking at the man in the mirror. A man should finish his life content with what he has accomplished while trying to live God’s will.

Q. What is the most important thing in your life?

My family. My wife of 35 years Ada, my children Joey, Carolina and Anthony, and my grandkids Daniel, JJ ad Elina. When I am no longer here, I would like people to say that I was a family man, and that I dedicated my entire life to my family, my children and grandchildren. That’s the number one thing in my life.

Q. What advice would you give current students?

I would tell them to work hard and to be persistent, but ultimately, to leave the final outcome to God. To tackle everything, and give it all, but remember that the outcome is always up to God. Your job is to do the best you can with what you have, then move on to the next thing. You should not be concerned with the outcome. That is for God to decide.
Thomas “DQ” de Quesada finished his final year as Dean of Men at Belen Jesuit. This June, he will be heading to Fairfield Prep in Fairfield, Connecticut where he will be the new principal. Fairfield is a Jesuit all-boys high school with approximately 830 students enrolled. His departure signals a new era for both Belen and Fairfield as he undoubtedly leaves very large shoes to fill.

In 1987 de Quesada started his Belen journey as a sixth grader. He had heard about the school from his friends who had older siblings, and he showed an interest to attend.

“The more I learned about the school, the more I wanted to be here,” said de Quesada, who at the time was attending St. Theresa. He was always very involved in school whether it was basketball or peer ministry. As a senior, he was elected student body president, and he took this job very seriously. When he graduated in 1994, he continued to be involved in the Belen community as a class delegate. In 1998, four years later, he returned to his alma mater as a teacher. He chose to be an educator because of the positive impact he could have on people.

“Jesuit education challenges us to leave our very positive mark as Catholic leaders. I knew I wanted to be back at Belen as a faculty member because of my experiences there. I wanted to give back to the place that gave me so much,” said de Quesada.

He taught world history to freshmen and Latin American History to seniors that year, and he has continued to teach every year since. He was also the moderator of Model UN (1999 - 2007), co-moderator of OSP with Charles Cleveland and Patrick Collins (1999 - 2007), basketball coach (2003 – 2005), Student Council Moderator (2006 - 2013), Dean of Students (2009 – 2013), and Director of Advancement and Alumni Relations (2013 – 2016).

In 2016, for the second time, de Quesada took the position of Dean of Students, with the new title of Dean of Men when Jesuit Father Guillermo Garcia-Tuñon began his first full year as president of the school. As Dean, he managed everything that had to do with discipline and student activities. There were exciting moments such as traveling to Orlando for the football state championship in 2009 and he experienced difficult moments such as passing of then senior Tony Acosta in 2010. He had to be strict, but he always did this with a smile on his face. He did not take any decision lightly, because he knew that the job was not to discipline students but to form them into men.

“I want the students to appreciate that our goal was always to be fair. We genuinely care about the students, and all our decisions were about doing what was best for them. I also wanted them to have a great experience while you were here as I once did – to make it memorable and to make it a place that they could leave their mark on,” said de Quesada.

Andres de Angulo ‘93, will be stepping into big shoes next year, but DQ, as he is fondly referred to, has left him with a great team of people who back him up and help him to get acclimated.

“I wish Andy the very best. He is an incredibly great person whom I have great respect and admiration for, and he can count on my friendship and support in this process. I know that he is going to be extraordinary because of the type of person he is and his values and commitment to Jesuit Education,” said de Quesada.

De Quesada is the exact definition of what it is to be a Belen Lifer. He has been a teacher, a coach, a mentor, and a friend to many people throughout his 28 years at Belen. It is bittersweet to see him go, but the Belen community is confident that he will be successful in his new position. We wish DQ the best in his new endeavors, fully aware that he exemplifies what Vince Lombardi referred to when he said “the man on top of the mountain didn’t fall there.”
Belen Jesuit SUMMER 2018

Jesuit Father and President Guillermo García-Tuñón '87 announced April 9 that Andres de Angulo '93 would be coming home to Belen Jesuit to take over as the new Dean of Men. De Angulo has been working in the field of education for the last 19 years at Ransom Everglades School, the last three of which he was the Athletic Director. Belen has always held a special place in his heart, and he now looks forward to coming back home.

During his years at Belen, de Angulo dedicated much of his time to the pool. As a talented swimmer, he held the school record for the 50-meter freestyle for many years. After graduating, he went on to attend the University of Miami where he continued to flourish as a student-athlete pursuing a degree in International Finance and Marketing, while also swimming for the Hurricanes.

"A lot of the great experiences that I had growing up before Belen, while at Belen, and in college came thanks to the opportunities athletics gave to me," said de Angulo.

During his time at the University of Miami, he also coached swimming to middle and high school students to help pay for school. It was his time coaching that eventually led to his career in education.

"After working in the professional world of marketing for a short time, I decided to focus my efforts towards athletics. I remained as a swim coach with Miami Swimming, which eventually led me to become a Varsity Swim Coach at Ransom. Soon after, I became the Assistant Athletic Director and the rest is history," said de Angulo.

Aside from life as a swimmer and coach, de Angulo takes great pride in being a family man. He has been happily married to his wife Daniele for nine and a half years and has three children, Alec, Sofia and Lucas.

"Family, without a doubt, is the most important thing in my life," said de Angulo. "Undoubtedly, everything I do every single day is for my family, to properly represent my family and to let my children know that we care and love them."

With his family’s support, de Angulo now looks towards the future with excitement as he begins this new chapter in his life. He fondly recalls early memories of Belen as a student with many of the faculty and staff who are still here, and some who are no longer with us.

"One of the teachers who impacted my life greatly was Jesuit Father Jorge Sardiña '45. I hope to be able to use the Jesuit principles instilled by him to help guide me as Dean of Men," said de Angulo.

As de Angulo settles into his new office this summer, and the role of Dean of Men, he anxiously awaits the beginning of a new school year and all the excitement that comes with it. Students, on the other hand, may have some trepidation as to who their new Dean of Men will be.

"Students should expect me to be very fair, willing to listen, and willing to help. I am someone who wants to be there to help mold them, guide them and become better human beings. We proudly say we are Men for Others, and I want these young men to be able to live that mission and embrace that motto for the rest of their lives," said de Angulo.

On the lighter side of things, de Angulo ranks "Rudy" as one of his top favorite movies of all time, he is a big fan of Latin music artists such as Carlos Vives, Juan Luis Guerra and Juanes, and his favorite sports team, you guessed it, the University of Miami Hurricanes. His favorite vacation spot is the island of Hawaii, in his spare time he enjoys boating, and his favorite all time passtime is going to the beach with his family.

With much lying ahead in the upcoming school year, the Belen community opens its arms and welcomes one of its own back home to be the new Dean of Men.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vocation to Marriage

• Gisela Martin and Jorge Hernandez-Toraño ’75

• Carla Dueñas and Frankie Ruiz ’96 with Barbie Ruiz, Nicholas Ruiz ’11, Barbara Ruiz and Paco Ruiz ’76


• Virginia Soto and Eric Fernandez ’05

• Courtney Gay and Gabriel Bermudez ’06

• Carolina Sanchez and Kyle Aguilar ’07

• Rebecca Santos and Michael Cruz ’07

• Michelle Ducker and Asis Lopez ’07

• Michelle Hernandez and Daniel Silva ’07

• Celina Rodriguez and Matthew Jordan ’08

• Gabriel Alejandro, son of Alejandro Gravier ’88

• Alexander James Alvarez, grandson of Agustin ’Tinti’ De La Vega ’76

• Emilia Isabel, daughter of Louis Iglesias ’88

• Maxima Elena, daughter of Frank Ortega ’92

• Isabela Michelle, daughter of Eduardo Gomez ’95

• Francesca Arya, daughter of Paco Fernandez ’97

• Riley Katelyn, daughter of Daniel R. Rodriguez ’97

• Fernando Jose Garrido, son of Jose A. Garrido III ’99

• Siena Mari, daughter of Tab Verdeja ’99

• Julian Andres, son of JP Chavez ’01

• George Ryan, son of George Jalil ’02

• Theodore Xavier, son of Victor Leon ’02

• Eva Grace, daughter of Agustin De La Vega ’03, granddaughter of Agustin ’Tinti’ De La Vega ’76

• Derek Alexander, son of Alex Esteban ’03

• William Lambeth, son of George Metcalfe ’04

• Nicolas Eduardo, son of Eduardo Pizarro ’05

• Charlotte, daughter of Alexander Peraza ’06

• Lily James, daughter of Francisco Ponce de Leon ’06

• Juan Javier, son of Juan Carlos Diaz-Padron ’08

• Penelope Beatrix, daughter of Charles Melendez ’08

• Julia Therese Lopez, granddaughter of Joaquin Ruhi ’73
In loving memory of our alumni friends

• Dr. Antonio Visiola ’48
• Eloy Fernandez ’51
• Francisco Ruiz Beceña ’53
• René Pierra Sardiñas ’55
• Nicolas Aneiros ’56
• Carlos Valentin Perez ’56
• José Collazo Serracant ’57
  • Juan Febles ’60
• Juan Santalla Madruga ’61
  • Luis Vidal ’73
• Johnny Leyva Torralbas - Dolores

Family and Friends

• Madeline Fernandez-Raña, wife of Victoriano Fernandez-Raña ’54
• Graziella Espino, wife of Ramon ’Monchi’ Espino - Dolores
• Jose Ramon Santiago, son of José Maria Santiago and nephew of Ramon Barcia ’60
• Lucila Martinez Arango de Azcarate, mother of Eduardo Azcarate ’60
• Maria Antonia Larrinaga, mother of Gerardo Simms ’69 and grandmother of Daniel Simms ’15
• Mercy Arcay, mother of Jorge ’77 and Jose Arcay ’82 and former Belen Staff Member
• Carola Calderin, mother of Charlie ’90 and Johnny Calderin ’92, and former Belen Jesuit Administrator
• Irma Cartaya, mother of Belen Professor Maria Elena Cartaya
• Dr. Alberto Melchor Iglesias, father of Francisco ’81 and Luis Iglesias ’88
• Vicente Fernandez, father of Anthony Fernandez ’06 and Belen Jesuit’s Director of Basketball Operations
• Sergio Garcia Palacio, step-father of Augusto Venegas ’85 and step-grandfather of Augusto Venegas ’10
• Jose Orlando Padron, father of Jorge Padron ’86 and grandfather of Alfonso Martinez ’16 and Jorge Padron ’16
• Carmelina Manrara, grandmother of Andres ’04 and Carlos Manrara ’05
• Eneida Sancerni Machado, grandmother of Carlos Valdes-Lora ’06
• Hilda Guas Bustillo, grandmother of Oscar Bustillo ’86 and Belen Jesuit’s Director of College Counseling Lisa Peterson and great-grandmother of Nicholas Peterson ’15
1940s, 1950s, 1960s

Elena and Luis Maderal, Fifi and Mauro Hernandez, Magaly and Manuel Garcia Lavanigios, Jose Fernandez-Planas, Carmen Rosa and Roberto Borbolla, celebrated the 80th birthday of classmate Raul Villaverde.

Members of the Class of '56, celebrated the 80th birthday of classmate Raul Villaverde.

Elena and Luis Maderal, Fifi and Mauro Hernandez, Magaly and Manuel Garcia Lavanigios, Jose Fernandez-Planas, Carmen Rosa and Roberto Borbolla, celebrated the 80th birthday of classmate Raul Villaverde.

Members of the Class of '57 with Roberto Borbolla '56 and Alumni Executive Director Carlos Bravo '86 at an Alumni Luncheon.

Members of the Class of 1960, known as "Los Cadetes de la Reina", and their wives, celebrating their 58-year reunion aboard the Carnival Conquest.

Jorge Fernandez-Ceballos '61 and family celebrating Christmas.

Jorge A. Fernandez Ceballos '61, Fernando Mata '60, Julio Lago '60, and Eduardo Azcarate '60 at the Wall Of Martyrs display in the Administration building.

1970s

Class of '78 annual reunion at Carlos Allen's house.

1980s

Ronnie Ramos '81 was promoted to Executive Editor of the Indianapolis Star and supervises 5 newspapers in Indiana.

Class of '85 Danny Garrido, Alex Sueiro, Northern Trust Vice President Alex Adams, Erick Deeb, Carlos Muñiz, Emilio Marrero, and Raul Cardona at the Belen Alumni Luncheon hosted by Northern Trust.

Eddie and Zach Muñoz, Javier and Danny Mariscal, Greg and Gregory Viejo, Ralph and Danny Fernandez de Castro, Luis and Louis Vazquez, and Jorge and Javi Vasseur, members of the Class of 1986 and sons, for the 6th grade entrance exam.

David De Celis ‘89, begins his 3rd year as the Chairman of the City of Cambridge Public Art Commission.

Several members of the Class of 1989 enjoyed pre-game festivities outside Hard Rock Stadium at the Notre Dame-UM game.

1990s

Andres De Angulo '93 was named the new Dean of Men replacing Thomas de Quesada '94 who has been named the new Principal of Fairfield College Preparatory School in Connecticut.
Patrick Hidalgo ’97 and Steven Henriquez ’99 were featured in Brickell Magazine’s “The 2018 Top Professionals Under Forty”.

Tab Verdeja ’99 was nominated for the South Florida Business & Wealth “2018 Up and Comer Awards” in the category of Accounting.

2000s

The Class of ’00 Christmas Happy Hour at House Kitchen & Bar in Coral Gables.

Carlos Trujillo ’01, with his wife, Carmen, was sworn in by Vice President Mike Pence as U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States. (Picture courtesy of Ralf Ledesma).

Daniel J. Rodriguez ’03 was named partner at Lee Equity Partners in New York.

Roly Vicaria ’03, Victor Ruiz ’03 and Juan O’ Naghten ’03 at a Professional Sections networking happy hour. Special thanks to Mr. O’ Naghten and everyone at Nightlife Brewing Co.

Alberto Aran and Michael Ortiz ’04, and their company ‘JoJo Tea’ were recently featured in a Miami New Times Article.

Raul Moas ’06 joined the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation as its Miami program director.

Luis Rodriguez ’07, Network Producer at Univision, was the focus of an online profile on FIU News.

John Pistorino ’09 received the ‘2018 Young Engineer of the Year’ award by the Miami-Chapter of The Florida Engineering Society.

2010s

Belen Professors Luis Dulzaides, Charles Cleveland and Juan Vazquez ’92 gather with members of the Class of 2010 at Tank Brewery.

C.J. Vazquez ’17, playing Baseball for Fordham, was selected Atlantic 10 Conference Co-rookie of the week.

Please update the Alumni Office with any news about you and/or your family. Contact us by e-mail at alumni@belenjesuit.org or by phone at 786-621-4667
GALLERY OF REUNIONS

1977

Class of 1977

Robert Becerra, Javier Huerta, and Robert Cambo.

Jorge Mantilla, Robert Cambo, and Joaquin Macia.
Nicolas Novoa, Tomas Cacicedo, and Jose Vega.

Juan Carlos Hervis, Matthew Moro, Alejandro Lavandero, Jordan Esteban, Michael Espinel, Juan Luis Robledo, and Pedro Hernandez.

Class of 2012 at their five-year reunion enjoying a Caja China
GALLERY OF REUNIONS

Class of 1997 with their families

Members of the class of 1997
Balbino Vázquez and Dr. Orlando Galindez.

Jorge Riera and Tomás Tomás.

Dr. Jorge de la Pedraja, Dr. Mike Fernandez, Ben Fernandez, and Dr. Eduardo Fidalgo.

Balbino Vázquez, Jorge Riera, José Pañeda, Pedro Permuy, Frank Ponce de León, Guido Espinosa, and Hector Formoso-Murias.

Rick Miguez, Frank Ponce de León, and Jorge Castellanos.

Dr. Frank Mora, Richard Perez, Ricky Retamar, Luis Fernandez-Rocha, and Ernie Rodriguez.

José Arroyo, Dr. Jorge Díaz, and Ricky Retamar.

Members of the class of 1982 with their families.
GALLERY OF REUNIONS

Florentino Rodriguez, Juan Manuel Salvat, Alejandro Bienes, Henry Pujol, Carlos Gonzalez

Armando and Isolina Souto, Tirso and Zilia Morales, Maria Esther Iturralde, Manuel Ramirez, Margarita Barturen Ramirez and Marisel Rodriguez

Ana Diaz del Rio, Vivian and Enrique Canut, Carlos Peña, Felix and Luz Mons, Ramona and Alberto Perez-Ponce

Ivo and Magaly Horta, Julita and Oscar Isoba, Miriam Munio

Tirso and Zilia Morales, Maria Esther Iturralde, Manuel Ramirez, Margarita Barturen Ramirez, Marisel and Florentino Rodriguez, Armando and Isolina Soto

Miguel Echenique, Conchita Gil, Idalmy and Augusto Hernandez, Maria Elena Cartaya, Mariano Loret de Mola

Alumni from Sagua and their spouses
ALUMNI GATHERINGS

Alumni Director Carlos Bravo ’86, BALS Chairman Javier Perez-Abreu ’78, and BASH Chairman Dr. Orlando Puente ’71 with members of US Century Bank, including Senior VP Benny Carmona ’93 in a BALS/BASH cocktail sponsored by Century Bank.

Alumni Association Executive Director Carlos Bravo ’86 with several alumni at the Notre Dame-UM tailgate.

Basketball alumni Christmas Happy Hour at TAP42 in Coral Gables.

Holiday Multi-Sectional Happy Hour at Shula’s 347 in Coral Gables.

Alumni at Xavier High School in New York.

2018 Baseball Bash at Belen. Special thanks to Nelson Lorenzo, father of Adrian ’07 and Alexander Lorenzo ’13, for organizing this event.

Dallas area Alumni tour.

Attendees to the Washington DC Alumni Event at Gonzaga College High School.
ALUMNI GATHERINGS

Belen President Fr. Willie ’87 visits Jorge Padron ’86 and the Padron Cigar Factory in Estalí, Nicaragua along with Emilio Marrero ’85, Willy Pujals ’86, Lazaro Gonzalez, Alex Adams ’85, Charlie Salas ’85, Ricky Mayo ’85, Richard Perez ’83 and Mario Cobo

Delegates’ meeting and elections at Tombola

New Alumni Board members: L.J. Rodriguez ’93, Manny Garcia-Linares ’87, Thomas Pla ’00, Alberto Paradela ’11, Javier Mariscal ’86, Tico Gutierrez ’88 and Orlando Puente ’71

Belen Jesuit’s Dean of Men Dr. Thomas de Quesada ’94 with Eduardo Bello ’89 and Rolando Pantoja ’74 in Southport, Connecticut

Alumni at the Northern Trust luncheon

Fr. Ernesto Fernandez-Travesa conducted Spiritual Exercises for Belen alumni at Casa Manresa

Class of 1956 celebrate a yearly reunion in the Belen Chapel

Houston area Alumni tour
I recently sat with my grandfather for a few hours. A graduate from the class of 1940, he believes he is the last member of his class. He could be right. As he reminisced about his days at Belen, his life in Cuba, his wife and children, and beamed as he spoke about his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, he didn’t fail to mention how grateful he is. Grateful to God for the many blessings that he clearly has experienced throughout his 96 years of life, but also grateful for the challenges because he is aware that even in those, God is present.

It’s a good exercise. St. Ignatius would agree. Our founder calls it the Examen. He encourages every Jesuit and those associated to the Ignatian way of life to spend some time every day reflecting on the presence of God, to give thanks for where He is found and ask forgiveness for when He has been shut out. In large part, the exercise also helps us become aware of what we need to change, while becoming aware of what can stay the same. St. Ignatius was so keen on this exercise that he even recognized, that while a Jesuit may possibly miss a daily mass because of travel, schedule, or ill health, there is no excuse for missing the Examen.

This edition of the Belen Jesuit Alumni Magazine does exactly that. It steps back, examines, and gives thanks for two key members of our school community. Both Roberto Goizueta ’49 and Jorge Bosch have profoundly impacted the history of our school. With all the progress going around at Belen Jesuit in recent years, we cannot revel in it without recognizing those individuals who made so much of it possible. In the words of Sir Isaac Newton, “if we have reached great heights it is because we are standing on the shoulders of giants.”

Both Goizueta and Bosch have been giants for Belen Jesuit. After years of working to build up Coca-Cola to become one of the most recognizable brands in the world, Goizueta never forgot his alma mater. In a recent conversation with his son, Roberto mentioned that never a week went by without his father mentioning el Colegio de Belén. In life, Goizueta was very generous to our school making our gymnasium possible and establishing the Goizueta Scholars Program. But even in death, with The Goizueta Foundation, his commitment continues.

Jorge Bosch is much of the same. While not even an alumnus of the school, his passion for Ignatian spirituality and his commitment to the Society of Jesus brought him close to Belen Jesuit. Deepening a relationship with Fr. Marcelino García, SJ during his tenure as the school’s president, Bosch served as a financial advisor and chairman of the Board for over 25 years. Mr. Bosch gave to Belen Jesuit both of his time and treasure and helped steer our school through some of its most challenging years. It is clear we would not be here if not for his support.

Education is challenging and it doesn’t take a village. Villages are too small, its members too similar, its boundaries too near. No, it takes a city, one that is diverse and filled with the richness of experiences from people of all sorts of backgrounds and expertise. Men like Goizueta and Bosch are a testament to the fact that raising a child requires the support and encouragement of all those who are passionate about education, whether they are alumni or not. It does take a city. And yet, even in the midst of these varied experiences and realities, I confess that one thing does remain the same... a profound love for Belen Jesuit and a commitment to a great education.

Auspice Maria,

Fr. Guillermo García-Tuñón, SJ ’87
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

- July 6: Monthly alumni mass at Gesu (noon)
- July 13-15: Class of 1958 - 60 year reunion
- July 21: Colegio Dolores - Reunion annual
- July 27-29: Class of 1973 - 45 year reunion
- July 31: Feast of St. Ignatius Mass at Gesu

August

- Aug. 3: Monthly alumni mass at Gesu (noon)
- Aug. 4: Class of 2017 - 1 year reunion
- Aug. 17-19: Class of 1968 - 50 year reunion
- Aug. 25-26: Class of 1963 - 55 year reunion
- Aug. 31: Monthly alumni luncheon (Noon)

September

- Sep. 7: Monthly alumni mass at Gesu (noon)
- Sep. 14-16: Class of 2008 - 10 year reunion
- Sep. 21: Belen vs Columbus Tailgate/Football Game
- Sep. 28: Monthly alumni luncheon (Noon)

October

- Oct. 5: Monthly alumni mass at Gesu (noon)
- Oct. 12-14: Class of 1988 - 20 year reunion
- Oct. 19-21: Class of 1988 - 30 year reunion
- Oct. 26: Monthly alumni luncheon (Noon)
- Oct. 28: Colegio Sagua - Reunion annual

November

- Nov. 2: Monthly alumni mass at Gesu (noon)
- Nov. 3: Annual Belen Gala
- Nov. 16: Monthly alumni luncheon (Noon)

December

- Dec. 7: Monthly alumni mass at Gesu (noon)
- Dec. 14: Monthly alumni luncheon (Noon)

* All other activities will be announced in the weekly eNews bulletin.