



THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776  
The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT  
OF '76

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From The  
President's Desk

**THE SUMMER OF 2008:  
A MIXED BLESSING**

Happily, the school year ended with the ratification of a new three year contract for all of us in the Philadelphia Archdiocese. Teachers at Holy Cross High School in Delran, New Jersey, however, were not as fortunate. While the ACT Team worked very hard to get an early bird settlement there, we just ran out of time. Negotiations with the school administration should be resuming early in August.

At the Constriction Meeting on June 11th, of the 35 teachers whose names remained on the Constriction List, 26 left the meeting with permanent positions. Of the 9 remaining teachers, 3 selected long term substitute positions which they will fill until a permanent position opens, 4 were laid off and 2 were unable to select a position because they did not have 24 credits in any academic area.

Since June 11th, several teachers have returned to their home schools, a laid off teacher and one who selected a substitute position have been placed in permanent jobs. Hopefully, by September, all constricted and bumped teachers will be back to work.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

On June 14th some ACT members traveled to Wilkes Barre to attend a Labor Rally in support of the Catholic school teachers there who had been stripped of their union representation. The teachers are working with State legislators to amend the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Act so that the rights of elementary and secondary teachers in PA Catholic schools will be protected. Bishop Martino not only refused to recognize SDACT, the union that had represented teachers for some thirty years, he also established his own "company union" where he gets to make all the decisions.

It is unfortunate that the Scranton Catholic teachers are forced to seek justice in the civil arena because it was denied to them by their employer. Catholic teacher unions throughout Pennsylvania will be working hard to ensure that HR 2626 becomes law.

ACT is asking its members to contact their State Representatives to urge them to support HR 2626 and to vote for its passage. We will post on the ACT Website the names and addresses of the members of the PA House in the counties where our teachers live.

The ACT Office is open for business throughout July and August, and Irene, Ginny and I are there to answer any questions or handle any problems. Please give us a call if we can help.

Enjoy a well-deserved summer break.





# Behind Every Graduate

Since Drexel University initiated in 2006 the "Behind Every Graduate" Award for Excellence in Secondary Teaching, Father Judge High School has had the proud distinction of having two of its own being singled out for the award. The award was created to acknowledge outstanding teachers who have inspired a Drexel student to consider a certain major or career. The award winners attend pre-commencement activities and are honored at commencement by sitting on stage with their nominating student. Each honoree receives a cash award, and a cash award to the honoree's school.

Maureen Keppard-Pedlow, this year's honoree, was nominated by her former Calculus student Joseph Babiasz, an electrical engineering major. Maureen serves as the current math chair at Judge as well as a member of the President's board of directors and the FCC. The Drexel selection committee noted Maureen as "an outstanding teacher because she teaches all her students: those who master the content and those who struggle. Her students never rest on their successes. Instead, they are expected to achieve far more than they ever thought possible." In remarking about Maureen's passion for math, Joe wrote, "I assumed the passion was for math itself. Looking back, I realized that while she found beauty in math, her true passion was for teaching." Maureen's passion for teaching allows math to be accessible and inspires her students to reach their potentials. As a mentoring teacher she continues as one of the guiding forces of the Judge faculty.



Ed Mooney, an English teacher at Judge until his retirement in 2007 after 42 years, was nominated by former student Lawrence Katz last year. Larry, a computer science major, credited Ed for teaching him not only to appreciate literature but also to be "an honorable man." Ed encouraged Larry to put his energies into an after school tutoring program, and Larry credited Ed with having him learn the "the joy of helping others." With gentle humor, Ed encouraged his students to realize their potentials and not to settle for the mediocre. In his tenure at Judge, he moderated forensics and our Achieve program, starred in "Moon's Corner" on our TV station, and supervised the school tutoring program.

St. Francis de Sales, our patron saint, wrote, "Be who you are but be that well." Ed and Maureen have put that saying into practice with their dedication and, yes, passion for teaching. Joe Babiasz said it well when he remembered something Maureen had said in class: "Whenever I see former students, they always ask the same question: 'So are you still teaching at Judge?' The answer is YES! People, I'm not going anywhere... Teaching is what I do."

*John Cramutolo  
Father Judge High School*

*Paul Pedlow  
Northeast Area Vice President*



# Another Note Of Thanks !

From: A John J. Reilly  
Scholarship Award  
Winner

Each year, the Association's Executive Board awards a \$500 Scholarship to the 9th grader in each Diocesan high school and at Holy Cross who has the highest general average as of the end of the first semester. If that student is already on scholarship, it is given to the highest student not receiving financial assistance. The \$500 Scholarship is sent to each school to be applied to the student's 10th grade tuition.

Dear Association of Catholic Teachers,

I wanted to extend my sincere appreciation for the scholarship that you have granted me. The opportunity to continue my Catholic education is very important to my family and me. This scholarship helps to relieve some of the financial burden. Thank you for recognizing my hard work. I am honored and proud to accept this scholarship.

With much appreciation, I am

Respectfully yours,

Bridget E. Golato  
Archbishop Prendergast High School  
Class of 2011

## FULBRIGHT TEACHER EXCHANGE PROGRAM



Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program creates direct one-to-one exchanges. In each year, both teachers receive a leave of absence with pay from their home institutions and their hosts also receive for the school year. The program is open to educators from 112 countries, as well as from two-year and four-year colleges.

### REQUIREMENTS

U.S. Citizenship • Fluency in English • Have one full-time teaching experience • Bachelor's degree or higher • Current full-time teaching or administrative position • Must not participate in a Fulbright program longer than eight years in the past five years or an eight-year or shorter Fulbright program in the past ten years.

In addition to the general eligibility requirements, the individual host sites have specific, additional, and language requirements detailed in the application packet. Hosts are approved educators who have not been employed in each country for the last five years or the equivalent. The Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program is open to educators of the U.S. that will accept leave from their home sites. In the past five school years, U.S. host educators exchange programs. The U.S. also offers exchange programs. School administrators may participate in an exchange program in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and Taiwan. Designated schools receive a list of host sites for teachers of Latin or Greek. The application deadline for the 2009-2010 program year is October 15, 2009. All country programs are available, subject to availability of funds.

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FOR RECEIVING AN APPLICATION:  
Address: 4,200-102 2475, St. 109 204 2006  
www.fulbright.org/usa/teachers, or call 1-800-822-8686  
FULBRIGHT TEACHER EXCHANGE PROGRAM  
Attention: U.S. • 400 Woodland Avenue, St. • Suite 100  
Washington, DC • 20004-1800  
Application deadline for 2009-2010: October 15, 2009

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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