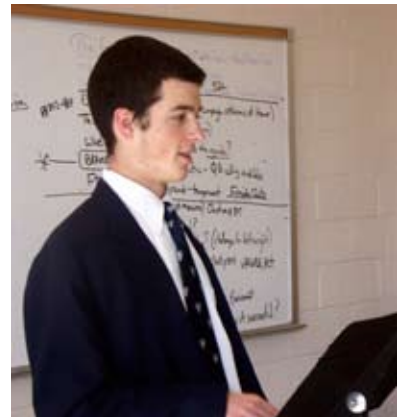




# notebook

WINTER 2009



Above: Seniors pose with the World Series Trophy won by the Red Sox in 2004. Mardi Fuller, Manager of Community Marketing and Fan Clubs for the Red Sox, spoke at Chapel on March 4 and brought along the trophy to illustrate one of the points of her talk. Top Right: Dr. Berkley Latimer of St. Paul's School in NH and Dr. Holly Coolman of Boston College question students on their theses at the Senior Symposium. Bottom right: Senior Noah Hodge's topic dealt with issues with the Large Hadron Collider which was built for high energy physics and nuclear research.

## Challenged & Defended

SENIOR THESES TAKE ON THE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES OF TODAY

**MOST STUDENTS HAVE** a love-hate relationship with their senior year of high school. Between college applications and AP courses, senior year is a stressful year of rites of passage. At BTA, Senior Synthesis and Symposium marks yet another such occasion. During this independent research and writing course, students develop a thesis pertaining to an ethical or social issue. Students write a 20-page exposition of the thesis and then defend it at a symposium before a panel of scholars that assesses the research and logic. Topics have included foreign intervention in genocide, approaches to poverty, embryonic stem cell research, disparity in education, technology's impact on society, religion in electoral politics, military spending, and plastic surgery.

According to Academic Dean Tracy Bennett, "This project serves as a culmination of what students are

taught across the disciplines. Students learn to research thoroughly, think critically, write persuasively, and present articulately."

Christopher Walker ('09) reflects, "Poverty is far more complex than I had originally thought. I also learned a great deal about defending my ideas with evidence, research, and logic and not with just my opinion."

The course also challenges students to understand the interplay between theology and ethical issues. "The Senior Symposium is an intellectual exercise that teaches students to critique a social issue through the lens of both logic and faith. Students realize that the social and academic realms are not wholly separate from theology but intertwined," according to Senior Symposium faculty, Sara Keller.

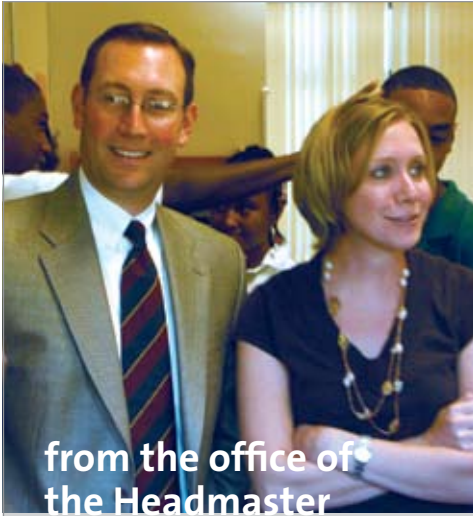
The Association of Christian Schools International named the course an "Exemplary School Program" in 2006.

### Keeping it personal

**P**atrick Fissler took a great risk by choosing adoption as his topic for the Senior Symposium.

Fissler, whose parents adopted him from Brazil, examined the practical, psychological, and moral challenges of adoption with a focus on the impact of age on adoption. Fissler notes, "Even before doing the research, I suspected that how old you are when you are adopted affects how you do. I was adopted as a young baby, but I know many adopted kids who were much older, and their lives seem much harder."

BTA faculty member Katie Wiens and Jack Leonard, a professor at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, acted as Fissler's examiners. Wiens, who completed her doctorate at Boston University last year, commented, "Patrick's presentation was exceptional. His research was comprehensive, his logic flawless, his answers precise and decisive, and his delivery articulate and commanding."



## from the office of the Headmaster

Despite an economic downturn, a divisive presidential race, and living in a city where Christianity is all but dismissed, I have great reason for hope. I have hope in the future because everyday BTA students of countless cultures, backgrounds, and neighborhoods in Boston arrive at school with students just as diverse from 29 other towns and 10 other countries united in a common goal. Our student body is so diverse that people would doubt its cohesion, but our students' common desire is steadfast. These 210 students come together not only to increase their knowledge but also to change the world around them for the better.

I have hope because, during the past six months, this sundry group of students has hosted a benefit concert for orphans in Nepal, started a debate team, worked on a community revitalization project, competed in interscholastic math competitions, organized service trips and excelled as students.

In a few weeks, our seniors will have all their college acceptances in hand. Some have already been admitted to schools such as Dartmouth College, Boston College, McGill University and Gordon College. Many of these young men and women will be the first in their families to go to college.

The students of Boston Trinity Academy are discovering that hard work, servant leadership, and civic and community involvement are ideals that are rooted in faith and are principles that can change the world. I have hope because our students are giving their limited time and their ever-increasing knowledge and talents to be culture makers, not social conformers. So I am not only hopeful; I am confident in the future.

—TIMOTHY P. WIENS, HEADMASTER



## City Councilor visits BTA



Boston City Councilor-at-large and recently named candidate for Mayor of Boston, Sam Yoon, spent time with the interns of the Trinity Institute for Leadership and Social Justice in December. Over lunch with BTA's 25 interns, Councilor Yoon encouraged the students to participate in local government and make a difference in their communities. Yoon, a former urban public school teacher, believes strongly in the value of public service and called on students to do their part. This past October, Yoon joined BTA volunteers beautifying the Codman Square burial ground in Dorchester by planting 3,000 tulip bulbs.

# The Arts: A Good Investment

## BTA STUDENTS EXCELLING IN VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

**W**ITH THE RECENT construction of the art studio, BTA's focus on visual arts has expanded and been well-rewarded. Competing against 3,500 aspiring young artists, BTA students won accolades at the 55<sup>th</sup> annual Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards.

We congratulate silver key winner Owen Kwon ('11) and bronze winners Hannah Strassner ('09), Siwon Kim ('14), and Elsie Kim ('11). Two seniors will be continuing their visual studies at art schools after graduation. Nikki Wood will attend Montserrat College, and Hannah Strasner will study photography at the New England Institute for Art.

BTA has also expanded the performing arts programs thanks to the determination of both students and faculty. In addition to the middle and upper school choirs and the chapel band, junior Michelle Lee and senior Stephanie Adjemian have created a chamber music ensemble. The students auditioned and assembled a group that practices weekly and performs



Stephanie Adjemian, a senior in her 7th year at BTA, performs the viola as a member of the student-led chamber music group.

throughout the year.

On the theatrical stage, seniors Dan Montagna and Stephanie Adjemian directed a student production of *Antigone* and the middle school produced *Oliver Twist*. In addition, BTA offers music lessons by partnering with Artisan Music Studios. At this point, more than a dozen students study guitar, saxophone, and piano.

IN HIS OWN WORDS

## Faculty profile: Wayne Sit

“An amazing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” is how Wayne Sit described joining BTA. “The experience of joining in the actual start-up of a rigorous middle and high school centered on the Christian faith and serving the city of Boston was very compelling,” says the current director of technology and faculty member. In 2002, Wayne became one of the founders of Boston Trinity Academy after 7 years on the faculty of the prestigious Buckingham, Browne and Nichols School in Cambridge. This spring, at the close of his seventh year at BTA, he is moving to Michigan with his wife, Wendy, and their three daughters.

Wayne first served as Assistant Head of School. BTA had 54 excited students and five passionate faculty members, including Becky Guerra who served as Acting Head of School. Wayne was the rock of organization, planning, and strategizing with wisdom and strength. While many have dreams inspired by idyllic visions of educational innovation, few have the ability and determination to transform those visions into a reality. Wayne is one of those few. He took the bold idea and courageous vision of the founding mission and implemented the action plan to help achieve the goal.



Wayne understands the importance of working well, without thought to glory or accolades and desiring only a successful result, an amazing school. The fact that he has played myriad roles at BTA—Assistant Head, Academic Dean, Technology Director—is evidence of his unselfish dedication. “I have loved the opportunity to be involved in pretty much every aspect of school life in some way. I’ve set up payroll, created wireless networks, written portions of the school handbooks, read admission applications, and taught classes. Yet, the saddest part of leaving is that my daughters won’t be able to attend BTA.” The students, faculty and board are also sad that the Sit family will be leaving, but they will remain part of the BTA family and are wished every blessing in their new home.

## Scholarship Fund

INVESTING IN BOSTON’S FUTURE

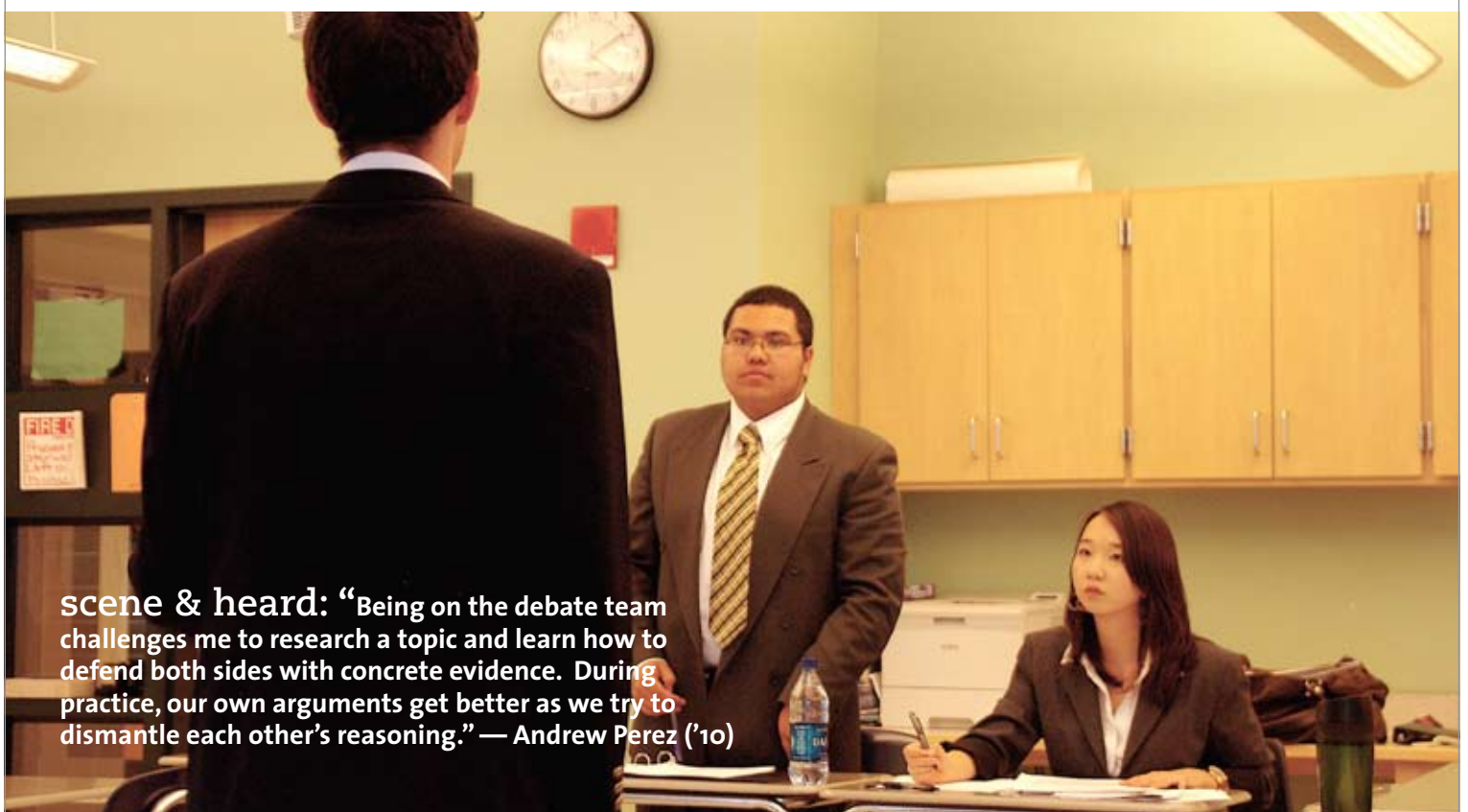
**B**TA GRANTED \$1 MILLION in financial aid to 63 percent of our 210 students this school year.

In order to provide this considerable level of aid to students who reflect the true diversity of the Boston area, the investment of the broader community is essential. The cost to educate each student has been kept low—currently \$12,500—by focusing on the area with proven results: highly educated, passionate teachers.

Please consider partnering with us. So far, our donations have held strong, but we need to raise an additional \$200,000 before the end of the school year. In this challenging time, we continue to take great care with our partners’ generosity and our budgeting.

The annual BTA Scholarship Fund Dinner will be held on Thursday, April 16. The goal is to raise \$100,000 towards much needed financial aid for an exceptional group of students. Please join us at the Scholarship Fund Dinner. Contact Susan Yem at [syem@bostontrinity.org](mailto:syem@bostontrinity.org) for more information.

Your commitment to our students does, quite simply, change lives. Now your sacrificial gift may also require courage and will be especially appreciated.



**scene & heard:** “Being on the debate team challenges me to research a topic and learn how to defend both sides with concrete evidence. During practice, our own arguments get better as we try to dismantle each other’s reasoning.” — Andrew Perez (’10)

ATHLETICS SPOTLIGHT

# Accolades and Awards!

**B**OSTON TRINITY ACADEMY'S boys and girls varsity basketball seasons both ended with much fanfare. The boys once again topped the league with a championship win advancing to the New England Private School Athletic Conference (NEPSAC) semi-finals. The girls valiantly competed against rival, The Learning Center, to earn the runners-up trophy in the league. "These games are the culmination of months of hard work, practice, and commitment," says

Director of Athletics, Karl Simon. The boys team's stellar season came to the attention of a Boston Globe reporter who profiled the team in a story in the City Weekly section in February. The article, written by Brendan Hall, highlighted the accomplishments of Kadeem Wint, Kai Niemisto, and Aaron Johnson. Johnson eclipsed the thousand-point mark this season making him BTA's all time leading scorer.



Top left: Aaron Johnson ('09) and his Mom, Anna Santos, carry the Mass Bay Independent League Division A Championship trophy after the varsity basketball team defeated Cambridge School of Weston (bottom). Co-captain, Kaitlyn Herman ('09) led the varsity girls to a 17-4 winning season (right).

**[mission]** THE MISSION OF THE BOSTON TRINITY ACADEMY is to educate students on the basis of a Christian worldview and to promote high academic achievement and character development founded on the love of Jesus Christ. Boston Trinity Academy actively recruits a student body that reflects Boston's richly diverse communities and is committed to the proposition that a strong faith culture and a demanding academic program can unite a student body with social, economic, and racial differences. In partnership with parents and the community, the Academy seeks to produce graduates distinguished by their intellect, integrity, service, and moral vision.

## Applications for 2009

Boston Trinity Academy continues to accept applications for a few open spots for the 2009-10 academic year. Please visit the Admission link at [www.bostontrinity.org/admission](http://www.bostontrinity.org/admission) where you may start an application online. Application requirements can be found under "how to apply." Contact Susan Yem at [syem@bostontrinity.org](mailto:syem@bostontrinity.org) or 617.364.3700 for more information.

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**BOSTON TRINITY ACADEMY**

# notebook



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