



notebook

FALL/WINTER 2009



Seniors feel the stress as they prepare for the college application process. Cicily Shaw, Director of College Counseling, holds morning college prep sessions for the seniors on late start days to provide extra support during this stressful time.

Collaborating for College

HOW BTA PREPARES STUDENTS FOR HIGHER LEARNING

A P's, SAT's, ACT's, TOEFL's. . . As this year's 34 seniors digest an alphabet soup of tests, financial aid forms and applications, they can be confident that this menu is being well prepared by a master chef. Director of College Counseling Cicily Shaw began working with the Class of '10 while middle school students. Back then, she equipped them with a vision for higher education and an excitement for their future. Today, she is coaching them through selecting the best schools for their talents and interests.

While the process of applying to a selective university is not an easy one, seniors are able to navigate the rigors of testing, essay writing, and time management supported by Mrs. Shaw's guidance. "This is an incredibly busy time of year as our students meet with college representatives in the college counseling center, take SAT's, request faculty recommendations, write essays,

and prepare applications," says Mrs. Shaw. "But by staying on task and meeting deadlines, they should not feel too much stress and worry."

The preparation has certainly paid off. Every student who has graduated from Boston Trinity Academy has been accepted into four-year colleges. Of the 96 graduates, 94 remain enrolled in college, working toward completing their degrees. This June, BTA's first graduating class, the Class of 2006, will graduate from college. In fact, two students accelerated their college careers and will be graduating in December.

"BTA students have been accepted into over 350 colleges and universities," Mrs. Shaw comments. "Our graduates receive over \$1 million in university scholarship assistance annually. I have every confidence that this year's seniors will find the schools that are a perfect fit and the financial aid to make the dream a reality."

Cicily Shaw: Director of College Counseling

After working in the Boston College admission office, I realized that I could have a greater impact on young people at the high school level by helping them choose the right college. I joined the faculty of Boston Trinity Academy in 2004 and have been blessed to work with every student who has graduated

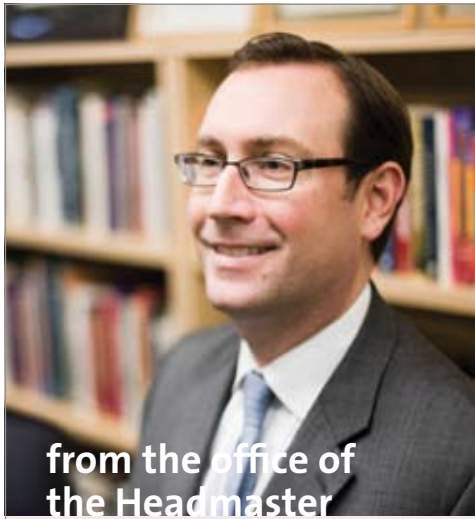


Cicily Shaw

from BTA—all 96 of them! I have loved getting to know each student. I am especially looking forward to celebrating with our first group of alumni, BTA's class

of 2006, as they complete their college education this spring.

My goal is to match each student with the perfect college choice. The perfect choice is less about the name of the school than about making sure the student and the school fit together well. —Cicily Shaw, Director of College Counseling



from the office of the Headmaster

BTA welcomed families and guests at our September 16 convocation service to invoke God's blessing on the new school year.

Board member Kevin Parke addressed the group, stressing that the purpose of education is to stretch the mind and to infuse a dedication to learning. He told his story of choosing an easy high school English course so that he would not have to work too hard. The following year, he chose a much more challenging class. The second teacher continually pushed him to think more deeply and to write with clarity and depth. To this day, that demanding teacher remains a favorite of Mr. Parke. He remembers that teacher's expressions and passion as well as every book he read in that class, but does not even remember the name of the easy teacher. Mr. Parke explained that school is hard and should be hard.

If education is not hard, then BTA is not preparing our young people for this world. We seek to help our students find out who they are, who they are to become, and how to get there. Being and becoming are important aspects of identity—our theme for the 2009-10 year. Again this year, I have challenged the faculty to stretch our students, to encourage them to develop their minds, to reach beyond their wildest expectations, and to grow further than they may have imagined possible. As they seek knowledge and understanding, our students grapple with the distinctive purpose of a liberal arts education founded on God's truth. It is essential that they see themselves as a part of a larger story rooted in service to God, not themselves.

—TIMOTHY P. WIENS, HEADMASTER

Continental Shift

SHAPING IDENTITY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

BTA FACULTY AND STUDENTS traveled overseas again this summer, engaged in educational and service-oriented experiences abroad. Eight students, accompanied by Trinity Institute Director and faculty member Mike Chen, returned to Nepal to work at Hope House, the orphanage BTA students continue to support. Faculty members Ben Carter and Anna Adjemian led another team of eight students to South Africa to actively participate in the rebuilding of the country in the aftermath of apartheid.



“Going to South Africa allowed me to consider certain aspects of life that I had never thought to pay attention to – such as helping out in the world. Now I want to be able to say I made a difference.”

—NYCHOL STEPHENS '12

An Honorable Legacy

IN MEMORIAM: JOANNE JURASCHEK

THIS SUMMER, THE BTA FAMILY lost a valuable member with the passing of Joanne Juraschek after a two-year battle with cancer. Mrs.

Juraschek, mother of four including BTA graduate, Andrew ('07) and former faculty member, Anna Juraschek Harris, played a significant role in the life of the school. As our librarian, Mrs. Juraschek thoughtfully built up our library collection, even making a trip to the Library of Congress to collect critical volumes for our stacks. In fact, Joanne went the extra mile by completing a master's in Library Science while recovering from surgery and undergoing chemotherapy so that BTA could reap the benefits of having a certified librarian on staff.

Mrs. Juraschek's impact reached

beyond the walls of the library to touch the lives of BTA's students directly. She began by directing BTA's choir, leading drama, and connecting the school with

talented individuals who have since joined our staff. Most important, she took the time to work personally with any student who needed her help. Sophomore Yaritza Gomez recalls Mrs. Juraschek's support and care. “Last year I was stressed about writing a five-page research paper to the point

where I wanted to give up. Thankfully, God sent Mrs. Juraschek and she helped me so much. I could not stop thanking her because she was the reason I did not give up.”

Joanne Juraschek will be missed by BTA's faculty, staff and students, and never forgotten.



Joanne Juraschek

FACULTY PROFILE

[In His Own Words]

Tim Belk has joined the faculty as Dean of Academics and is also teaching AP European History. Belk graduated from Scotland's University of St. Andrews with master's degrees in Art History and International Security Studies. Along with his wife, Sara, and four children, he moved to Boston this summer. Son, Samuel is enrolled in BTA's grade 6 while his three sisters attend Park Street Kids and Park Street School where Sara is teaching.



Tim Belk

Tim Belk: Having spent ten years working at the Stony Brook School, a Christian boarding school on Long Island, I am delighted to have the opportunity to join Boston Trinity Academy. Christians have a responsibility to respond to the questions of the age. At the heart of our age is a challenge to traditional Judeo-Christian and Classical views of human nature and society.

In such a time educating the whole person, physically, intellectually, socially and spiritually, is both necessary and difficult. BTA is an extraordinary institution because it is engaging students head-on at all levels, seeking practical ways to develop a distinctive

high quality education for our time based on enduring insights about reality.

I am enjoying working with my new colleagues at Boston Trinity Academy to strengthen an integrated curriculum within which students can receive an outstanding education. I meet weekly with a newly established Academic Council, in which representatives from relevant administrative departments examine ways to build on the strong foundations already established at the school. It is a great

honor to be working with such dedicated teachers and administrators both in the Council and throughout the school.

BTA is an inspiring place because it aims to help young men and women develop a great vision for their lives. Already I have seen how much the rigorous yet intimate culture of the school can accomplish. The level of care for each student is impressive. I am especially looking forward to getting to know better the students and their families, who are at the heart of the school community.

“Why I Give”

INVESTING IN BTA'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

AS AN ACADEMIC, I understand the importance of educational institutions committed to imparting a hunger for learning. A successful school understands that learning is contagious and begins with quality faculty and eager students. Such a culture is particularly important during the crucial, foundation-building adolescent years.

I support BTA because of the clear vision and tested strategy for realizing these goals. The term “academic excellence” is applied all too easily in secondary education today, but I have seen that rare kind of excellence to be a genuine reality at BTA.

The BTA Scholarship Fund is a worthy cause because it is precisely where educational ideals meet the practical realities of the greater Boston area. My gifts contribute to BTA's vision in preparing one student at a time for a life marked by intellectual curiosity and a hunger for wisdom and knowledge.

—RYAN GLOMSRUD,
POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW AT
HARVARD COLLEGE, HISTORY DEPARTMENT

scene & heard:

“Boston Trinity Academy is so much more than just a school for our kids to attend. We have found a supportive network of faculty and staff that nurture and encourage Luke ('16) and Jessie ('14) to grow based on their individual needs. As parents, we also feel a connection to the BTA community—it's a place for our entire family to belong. We look forward to sending our younger children to Boston Trinity Academy.”

—MICHELLE ROGERS
BTA parent



ATHLETICS SPOTLIGHT

Identity on the Soccer Field

DENZEL JONES ('15) was born in Vienna, Austria and arrived in the United States just three years ago. Since then he has proven himself as a champion soccer player who in spite of his young age, was recruited for competitive club teams. Denzel has big dreams of going to a college with challenging academics and soccer, but in the meantime, he is making quite a name for himself as a member of BTA's boys' middle school

soccer team. "Denzel's talent and leadership on the soccer field are priceless," Says Coach Ben Carter.

Paired with teammate, French native Telly Bah ('14), Denzel is leading a stronger, better squad that has already had some significant victories this season.

BTA vs. Harvard...be there!

Cheer our BTA boys varsity basketball team as they take on Harvard College's



Telly Bah ('14) and Denzel Jones ('15) playing soccer

JV team once again! **Sunday, November 22nd, 8:00 pm** at Lavietes Pavillion, Harvard Athletic Complex, 65 North Harvard Street, Cambridge, MA. For more information, please call 617-364-3700.

[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.

2010-2011 Admission Season

Boston Trinity Academy's admission season for the 2010-2011 academic year is underway. Our next Open House is Tuesday, November 17 at 6pm. Start applications online at www.bostontrinity.org/admission. Click on FAQ's for more information. Please contact Susan Yem, syem@bostontrinity.org, with questions.

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