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Reconnecting with your Barrie Roots!

Welcome to the first of many-to-come Barrie Alumni e-newsletters! The Alumni Office, though small, has begun to actively reconnect with alumni, reestablish relationships and act as a conduit to network with each other. This newsletter, yet to be named, will be published on a quarterly schedule; it will bring you news of upcoming events and a wrap-up of those you might have missed. We will feature one alumni per issue and bring you news of their life and accomplishments since leaving Barrie. Remember, alumni are graduates, as well as students, faculty and staff who were a part of the school for any length of time. So if you're reading this, we want to hear from you!

In addition, we will be launching a new and improved website soon, bringing Barrie into the Web 2.0 age and making it easier for you, our alumni, to stay connected by signing up for our rss feeds, in addition to the newsletter.

We will also be venturing into the social networking world on Facebook next month, beginning our very own fan page! We hope you'll join the group and spread the word to other alumni.

We also want to let you know about some administrative changes this year. Tim Trautman made a decision to leave Barrie this fall, and we have hired Mike Kennedy to serve as Interim Head of School through the end of the 2009-2010 school year. This spring we'll begin the search for a new Head of School.

To read the announcement by Mike Fannon, Chair of the Board of Trustees, regarding Tim's departure, click [HERE!](#)

Though we were sad to see Tim go, we are delighted to have Mike Kennedy at the helm! To read Mike's letter to the community, click [HERE!](#)

"I had the pleasure of meeting a number of Barrie alumni at this year's Alumni Panel, and was impressed by just how warm and vivid their memories were of teachers, classmates, and friends. I hope their willingness to volunteer and stay connected to Barrie and this community inspires you to reconnect with and continue to spread the word about your experiences here. You are our best voice for spreading the word about this exceptional school."

Mike Kennedy,
Interim Head of School

'Name the Newsletter' Contest! Prize: Barrie Mustang Sports Jacket

This is the first issue of The Barrie Alumni Association Newsletter and we are having a contest to name the publication. Use your ingenuity and creativity to come up with an original and appropriate newsletter title.

Please send in your suggestions to alumni@barrie.org – by May 1, 2009!

The contest winner will be notified via telephone and email,

and receive a monogrammed Barrie Mustang sports jacket and our new 100% recycled thermal coffee mug.

Take the Alumni Survey!

A true measure of the quality of education at The Barrie School is the success of our graduates. By participating in this survey, you will assist us in developing our student programs and creating a Barrie Alumni Association (BAA) that reflects YOU!

Alumni are graduates, as well as students who attended the school for any length of time. Our goal in creating the BAA is to serve alumni, interested in connecting with students, faculty and fellow alumni.

This survey will also allow you to provide or update your contact information, comment about our program, and reflect on memories of your time here. Click [HERE](#) to begin!

If you have any questions, please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@barrie.org.

The Barrie Story—Alumni and their Memories



*The panelists: Jen, Kathy, Ian, Paul and Will
(Not photographed—Kyle Castelino)*

Life is like a book... with many chapters. One chapter ends and we begin to explore the next one, though every so often we're compelled to stop, turn back the pages, and remember... a moment, a place, a feeling or fragrance... a person whose impact on us changed the trajectory and, hence, the outcome of our present circumstance.

An enthusiastic group of Barrie community members gathered on a cold January evening in The Safer Theater as a group of alumni returned to take part in this year's Panel.

This annual event is held to foster ongoing connections between alumni and the school, and to aid in student retention efforts.

The group shared stories of their experience at Barrie, and the role it had played in helping them achieve their goals.

The evening's discussion was moderated by faculty and staff alumna Kathy Channick, whose legacy spans three decades. Ian Andrews '96, Kyle Castelino '02, William Smith '00, Paul Stagnitto '99 and Jennifer Treiber '05 completed the panel.

The panelists conjured up memories of certain teachers who, through sharing their passion for learning, helped reluctant teens find their own passion; their own talent.

We'll be having another such panel next year – please contact The Alumni Office at alumni@barrie.org, if you would like to participate.

A BIG 'Thank You!' to the alumni who participated on the panel this year! To view their contact information and bios, click [HERE](#).

Career Day in the Upper School

The most unfair question to ask a child is 'Who do you want to be when you grow up?'" – at least that's what Michelle Obama said in a speech to an auditorium full of Howard University students in early February. "I'm 45 years old and still don't know the answer to that question," she said.

Michelle Obama may be right, but this question, unfair as it may be, is asked of students and even if it's not asked, it's a question that weighs heavily on the minds of Seniors and Juniors... especially when they begin to think about college.

With that in mind, the Upper School hosted a 'Career Day' event and invited parent volunteers, representing career areas requested by students, to speak and answer questions about their respective professions. Students visited with a college professor, Navy Commander, corporate executive, journalist, novelist, public affairs and IT specialist, executive chef, and a physician! An impressive group, for sure! And one that managed to provide food for thought for our students.

Next year, in response to student requests for a greater range of career representation, we plan to reach out to our Barrie alumni as well.

If you're interested in more information about this program, or wish to volunteer to participate, please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@barrie.org.

Click [HERE](#) to download a copy of the Speaker bios.

Remembering Julian Brennan



Lance Cpl. Julian T. Brennan

Julian Brennan, a Lance Corporal in the US Marine Corps and Barrie Alum, was killed in Afghanistan on Saturday, January 24th, while supporting combat operations in Farah province, Afghanistan. He was 25 years old.

A student at Barrie until the 11th grade, Julian is remembered best by his Barrie family and friends for his acting and stage presence.

"His humor, quick-witted conversation, acting and uncanny ability of putting people at ease were amongst his strong suits," says one of Julian's former teachers.

After leaving Barrie, Julian attended and graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York, following his dream of some day becoming an actor.

According to a family friend, interviewed by the "Daily News," a local New York newspaper, "He [Julian] was in a couple of Off-Broadway shows and it looked like that was what he was going to do...but then he got the bug to join the Marines."

Julian is survived by his wife, Bettina Beard, his parents, Thya Merz, a long time art teacher at the Barrie School and Head of the Lower School until 2003, and Billy B. Brennan, a well-loved and respected singer/song writer, who spent many a summer teaching and entertaining children at the Barrie Camp with his environment-themed tunes. Julian also leaves behind his two siblings, Shannon and James Brennan.

The entire Barrie Community expresses its deepest condolences to the Brennan family, Julian's friends, teachers and colleagues.

Julian was laid to rest at [Arlington National Cemetery](#) on Thursday, February 5, 2009.

To access news stories on Julian Brennan and his life, click on one of the links below:

Afghanistan bomb blast kills Brooklyn Marine and aspiring actor, 25

Source: www.nydailynews.com

Slain Marine Lance Cpl. Julian Brennan's wedding secret

Source: www.nydailynews.com

Brooklyn native became Marine because of grandfather's influence

Source: www.nydailynews.com

WNYC - News - Fallen Brooklyn Marine was also Actor, Singer, Writer

Source: www.wnyc.org

News Videos - NY Daily News

Source: www.nydailynews.com

Parents of Deceased Marine Are Left With a Puzzle of Forgiveness

Source: [New York Times](#)

2 Who Honored Flag in Life Now Honored by It in Death

Source: [Washington Post](#)

Alumni Class Notes

Visit the "[Class Notes](#)" section of the Barrie School website and find out what's happening in the lives of your friends from days gone by. Publications, awards, marriages, retirements, moves, promotions, birth announcements—you'll be sure to come across news of someone you remember!

While you're there, don't forget to [submit a Class Note](#) and let old friends know what you've been up to. Don't be a stranger—we'd love to hear from you!

Class Notes will remain posted online for at least six months and will be published in the next alumni newsletter.

Reconnect and get involved!

Find out more about alumni volunteer opportunities at Barrie.

There are a number of different ways you can volunteer your time, your skills and your experience.

⇒ **Become an active member** of your alumni group, help out with student outreach and promotion of the school.

⇒ **Register** to participate in next year's [Alumni Panel] and/or the [Upper School Career Day].



⇒ **Give** : The Barrie School is the product of more than 75 years of philanthropy and volunteerism - from its founder, Frances Seldin, to you!

⇒ **Provide feedback**: We're always happy to hear from you, particularly when you have ideas or suggestions for how we can improve the alumni experience. Please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@barrie.org.



Bridgette, Alumna and sons, students.

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Upcoming Events

- **Winter Musical:** This year's winter production is the musical *Crazy for You!* Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students and senior citizens. Performance dates are:
 - March 6 and 7 at 7:00 p.m.
 - March 8 "Fill the Theater" matinee at 2:00 p.m. (all tickets \$5.00)
 - March 13 and 14 at 7:00 p.m.
 - March 15 Closing matinee at 2:00 p.m.To get your tickets, visit the Barrie School website at www.barrie.org.
- **Founder's Day:** Barrie will be celebrating 77 years since its founding on Friday, April 24! If you're in town and are up for a celebration, come on by! Festivities begin at 8 a.m. in the Barrie Center Gymnasium with a morning program packed full with student performances and an art exhibit followed by a campus tour and coffee and cake at the Frances Seldin House. RSVP to the Alumni Office at alumni@barrie.org by Monday, April 6.
- **Barrie Goes Bananas:** The BCA sponsored Spring Auction will be held on Saturday, April 25, from 7—11 p.m. Visit the Barrie School website at www.barrie.org for tickets, to donate an auction item and for more information.
- **Graduation:** Commencement exercises for the Class of 2009 will be held on Sunday, June 7, beginning at 2 p.m.
- **Summer Reunion Picnic! We Need You!** Volunteer to work on the event committee NOW and help us plan a fun-filled afternoon for alumni.



The
**Barrie
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Consistent with its Mission, The Barrie School supports green initiatives by using electronic media, where possible, to distribute information to its constituents.