



CREATING A LEGACY

Alumni parents pass advantages of a Bishop's education to future generations.

By Anita Palmer

When Lucy Kable Borsenberger '69 was a little girl, she would come to La Jolla to visit her grandmother, who lived in the La Valencia Hotel. The first time she saw the Bishop's tower and the walls of The Bishop's School, she told her mother, "I want to go to school there."

"I was just drawn to it. I didn't know why. But every time I passed by the School, I knew I wanted to go to school there," says Lucy, a retired tennis instructor.

That Lucy got her wish was the beginning of a family legacy.

"Bishop's holds a very special place in my heart," she says. "My sons grew up thinking that they would be going to Bishop's. It just became a priority. There was no question."

All parents and grandparents want their children and grandchildren to have the same advantages they had. Alumni of The Bishop's School are no different.

"The value of an independent school education becomes more apparent as alumni get older," notes Headmaster Michael Teitelman. "Alumni parents inevitably measure their educational experience against their hopes and dreams for their children."

Lucy agrees, recalling her father recognized the quality of the School from day one. "Bishop's was more than I ever dreamed. We were like one family. It wasn't unusual for my parents to have my teachers to our home for dinner. I thrived on it—the academics, the athletics, all of it."

That it almost didn't happen makes her destiny even more noteworthy. When Lucy's family applied for her to enter the seventh grade, they were told that admissions was closed but that Lucy could be tested anyway. "Somehow a spot [in the class] appeared," she says.

The door that opened for Lucy would eventually open up opportunities for Lucy's sons, Artie '94 and Chris '96 Means.

Lucy recalls when Artie, now a successful professional sailor, was preparing to enter seventh grade, that he felt unsure of himself. A Bishop's teacher called and spoke to him over the summer, creating a level of comfort for the boy that carried over to the start of school in the fall.



Artie Means '94, Lucy Kable Borsenberger '69, Chris Means '96

"That just made so much difference. The teachers at Bishop's are truly nurturing."

Both sons can point to pivotal events or relationships at Bishop's that set the direction of their adult lives.

"I think his math classes and Mrs. [Irasema] Triana's computer lab did have an impact," says Lucy. "Not only is Artie the navigator for many racing boats, but he has developed a business where he sells and sets up computer systems that he designs for these very technical boats."

Artie's brother, Chris, is now in post-graduate research at the University of California, San Diego, School of Pharmacology, working toward a Ph.D. and planning a career in research. He describes his time at Bishop's as "a great experience. I didn't really like biology class in high school. But biology lab—I really liked lab. That's what probably led me to being open to it as a career."

"Some alumni parents don't realize that, just because they aren't candidates for full scholarships, they may qualify for a smaller scholarship grant that could make it possible for their child to attend Bishop's."

Though the quality of the education sets The Bishop's School apart, it isn't the only thing, according to the Headmaster. "There is a genteel-ness about this campus that aids learning. The beauty of the campus communicates to students that they are special, and it becomes a place they are forever attached to. And present students, who are children of alumni parents, are enriched by the timeless traditions passed down."

Continuing the tradition of Bishop's can require some sacrifices, Mike knows. But he says that not all alumni, who are considering the educational options they have for their children, realize the extent

of resources available at the School. According to Mike, 20 percent of the student body receives some amount of scholarship assistance totalling \$2.1 million in 2006-2007.

Jillian Gronski, director of alumni relations, hopes that this knowledge encourages alumni parents to consider The Bishop's School regardless of their financial situations. "Some alumni parents don't realize that, just because they aren't candidates for full scholarships, they may qualify for a smaller scholarship grant that could make it possible for their child to attend Bishop's."

Lucy Borsenberger understands that the cost of an excellent education can be high, especially with more than one child enrolled at a time. "We just saved and spent very carefully so we could make Bishop's our priority."

For instance, Artie "never had his own car while at Bishop's, and Chris didn't have one until his last year." Since the family lives in Point Loma, it took quite a bit of involvement and travel planning to participate at Bishop's. The boys also had part-time jobs to help.

Philip Teyssier '82 knows first hand the sacrifice and planning that come from living far from campus. His daughter Elizabeth is a member of the Class of 2011.

"We live in Scripps Ranch," says Philip. "That makes attending Bishop's more of a commitment because of the distance. Her friends are from farther away, in La Jolla, Solana Beach... But Elizabeth loves it."

Philip has no doubt that the challenge is worthwhile. He remembers the value of his own experience at Bishop's and is happy Elizabeth is perpetuating the tradition.

"The teachers and the staff all have a sincere desire for kids to learn. And the real learning takes place outside the classroom," Philip says. "One of my deepest impressions was that we all had lunch together—teachers and students.

We sat and talked together. It was a great thing for me."

Community and caring are aspects of The Bishop's School experience that have stuck with Gretchen Terkel Sargeant '77 as well. She remembers being surrounded by teachers and staff who became surrogate parents and friends, shaping her character and preparing her for life. "It made me who I am today," she says.

Gretchen wanted the same for her children, Kristin, a junior, and Stephen, who is in the eighth grade. "I knew they would thrive."

The financial expense of sending two children to the School was "certainly a consideration," she says. But "we just do without some things for a while. The children's happiness is the most important thing."

Alison Fleming '80 has seen all sides of Bishop's: as a student, an alumna, a teacher, an administrator, and a parent. Her son, Bryce Rosenthal, is a seventh-grader.

She describes how dinnertime conversations are lively because of the richness of the teaching Bryce receives. "I'll ask, what went on in social studies today, and boy, it will spark a wide-ranging conversation on, for instance, the separation of powers."

Alison, who is associate head of school and head of the middle school, has no doubt that the faculty is the engine behind so much growth.

"Every time I sit in on a class, I'm amazed at the quality of our teachers," she says "I loved being a student at Bishop's, and in my heart, I knew Bryce would benefit from Bishop's too."



Stephen Sargeant '11 and Alison Fleming '80, associate head of school/head of middle school