

# THERESA & JOHN TIETJEN ESTABLISH A SPECIAL MEMORIAL

## **Theresa Martin Tietjen '54:**

*I returned to Aquinas High School after receiving an invitation to a reunion. I was so impressed with the young women I met that day that my husband and I decided to participate in the Support-an-Aquinas Student Program. We believe that the future of our young people lies in the quality of education they receive. We both know very well what the value of a good high school education can mean to success in college and life in general. The extraordinary quality of education received at Aquinas is evidenced by the scholarships and admission to select colleges earned by its graduates each year. We know that the monies received by Aquinas are well spent with one goal in mind: to continue to provide the best education possible to all of its students. We are continually pleased by what we see both in the classroom and in the extra-curricular activities at Aquinas. This is a school that we are proud to be associated with and we know that its high academic standards will ensure its success in the future. We were especially pleased with the recent creation of the Knueven Family Science Center and the Integration of Technology Program. Our confidence in Aquinas High School led us to establish the **Mary Elizabeth Tietjen Memorial Scholarship** to honor our daughter's memory. We feel certain that the educational and spiritual missions of Aquinas will be evident in the Aquinite women for decades to come.*



*Theresa Martin Tietjen '54 (center) and John Tietjen (back) with daughter Theresa Botwinick holding Morgan and son-in-law Jeffrey Botwinick holding Gavin.*



## **MARY ELIZABETH TIETJEN**

Mary Elizabeth Tietjen was 30 years old when she died suddenly on March 22, 2004. Born in Union Hospital in the Bronx, she lived in Leonia, New Jersey, from her childhood through her graduation from high school. Throughout her years in Leonia Mary was active academically and athletically. She took part in swimming, softball and tennis and graduated with Honor's from Leonia High School in 1992. In college (Trenton State College in New Jersey) she was in the Honor's Program in Biology and a member of Delta Phi Epsilon sorority. After graduation from college in 1996 she went on to the graduate program at the Bowman Gray Campus of Wake Forest University. Mary completed her graduate studies there and was working in the Biology Department at Wake Forest at the time of her death. She was a strong believer in the value of education and taught science in high school for a brief time in North Carolina.

Mary was honored at a memorial service in the Wake Chapel in April 2004. Mary will always be remembered for four outstanding characteristics: her bright, beautiful eyes; her long curly blond hair; her enthusiastic, exuberant personality and her gorgeous smile. She had many interests; among them were shopping (she loved bargains, especially at Marshall's), sports (especially ice hockey, college basketball, her New York Yankees and New Jersey Devils), dancing, giving parties and cooking (where she was always experimenting with new ideas). She was a self-acknowledged "book geek" who loved NASCAR.

Mary was a complete person who loved life, especially her godchildren Ryan and Morgan, her sister Theresa and her entire family. Mary was one of 24 first cousins who thoroughly enjoyed each other. She loved to travel, having been in Europe, Australia, Canada, Bermuda and many places in the United States. Her popularity among family and friends was evidenced by the more than 500 people who attended her Funeral Mass in New Jersey and the memorial service at Wake Forest. As she would have said:

"I'd like the tears of those who grieve to dry before the sun  
Of happy memories that I leave when my life is done."