

2005

Arts and Sciences Explorer 2005

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ARTS AND SCIENCES

EXPLORER

2005 EDITION



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(Pictured above) La Salle University Associate Professor of Mathematics Jon Knappenberger, Ph.D., led workshops on chaos and fractals and cryptography for area high school students at La Salle last summer as part of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Summer Workshops. "We wanted students to see that we do things here at La Salle that are exciting, fresh, and innovative."

(See full story on page 3.)



The contents of this first issue of the La Salle University School of Arts and Sciences *Explorer* is similar in format to previous editions of our former newsletter, *Keynotes*. The name has been changed in an effort to establish a common brand with the other school newsletters within our University community—a step that makes sense in an environment where cross-disciplinary work

is encouraged, even across arbitrary administrative lines.

In the School of Arts and Sciences, we have many stories to tell, since we go well beyond preparing students for meaningful careers and successful graduate study. A Lasallian education prepares our graduates to make a positive impact on the social, political, professional, and moral aspects of the world in

which we live. The \$12.5 million National Science Foundation Grant featured in our cover story provides just one example of how we seek to extend our service to the greater community beyond the borders of our campus.

People remain at the heart of Arts and Sciences at La Salle, and the ones featured in this issue provide excellent examples of how we continue to live our mission:

Brother Patrick Duffy is a Christian Brother who directs our BUSCA program, one means for us to serve as a dutiful neighbor in our community. Michael Gallen is a student who has thrived in our small-class environment. Kevin Harty is an outstanding teacher with an international reputation as a scholar. The accomplishments of our faculty are many and varied, and those highlighted in the “Faculty Notes” section give you but a glimpse into some of them.

I hope this issue of the *Explorer* will give you a true sense of the excitement we feel throughout all disciplines in the Arts and Sciences at La Salle University. Your support is critical as we strive to touch our students’ hearts and spirits as well as their minds. I look forward to deepening our ties with you as we reach out through our teaching, scholarship, and service, and through our communication with you in the ever-evolving *Explorer*.

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MARGARET MCMANUS, Associate Professor, Mathematics and Computer Science, coordinated and participated in panel discussions on "Education and the Transitional Worker" and "Globalization and the Workforce," at the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on Technology Summit.

MARIE MELE, Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice, presented "Violence in the Home: Addressing an Old Problem in a New Way," at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting.

DIANE MONTAGUE, Assistant Professor, Psychology, received a grant from the National Institutes of Health for "Infants' Responsiveness to Emotions of Their Parents: A Longitudinal Study," a study in which she served as co-principal investigator.

ERIN O'HEA, Assistant Professor, Psychology, co-authored "Predicting medical regimen adherence: The interaction of health locus of control beliefs" in the *Journal of Health Psychology*.

MICHAEL PRUSHAN, Assistant Professor, Chemistry/Biochemistry, co-authored "Synthesis and Characterization of Equilateral Nickel (II) Triangular Complexes" for the 228th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society.

GAIL RAMSHAW, Professor, Religion, published *A Three-Year Banquet: The Lectionary for the Assembly and the Three Day Feast: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Augsburg Fortress*.

KEVIN RILEY, Assistant Professor, Psychology, presented "Functions of the Cortex and Neuropsychological Assessment," at Temple University School of Medicine.

JOHN ROONEY, Professor, Psychology, received an award from Northwestern Human Services for the outstanding performance of La Salle University student interns.

JOHN ROSSI, Professor, History, reviewed *Grant and Twain: The Story of a Friendship* by Mark Perry for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

FRANCIS RYAN, Professor, American Studies, chaired and participated in a panel discussion on "Gender in Contemporary Film," at the Mid-Atlantic American Studies Association Conference at Lehigh University.



ARTS AND SCIENCES HIGHLIGHTS

(clockwise, from top left) **JOSEPH VOLPE, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY**, shown here at last year's Commencement ceremony walking to the podium to accept the 2004 Lindback Award for Teaching Excellence, recently expanded his course, "Contesting Narratives: Versions of the Vietnam War," into a full-length Travel Study course. Volpe, a Vietnam veteran, and his students expanded their examination of film and book versions of the war by visiting landmark sites such as My Lai and Khe Sanh. **JASON AGER, '04**, La Salle's most recent Fulbright scholar, is currently enrolled in a graduate seminar at the University of Vienna in Austria and is teaching English to high school students. **RENEE CHENAULT FATTAH**, NBC 10 evening news anchor, is shown here addressing the crowd at the Communication Department's 10th anniversary celebration of the Communication Center this past fall after she accepted the department's annual Shining Star Award. **EDUCATION PROFESSORS DEBORAH YOST AND ROBERT VOGEL** are the coordinators of Project Achieve, a new partnership between La Salle and the School District of Philadelphia. It is a yearlong program that pairs La Salle faculty with a dozen teachers at Grover Washington Jr. Middle School to develop new teaching and assessment strategies. Their work will complement the school district's newly implemented core curriculum in math, literacy, science, and social studies. Pictured with them is Chris Linso, '95 (front), a teacher at the school and a 2001 alumna of La Salle's graduate program in education.

MICHAEL SMITH, Associate Professor, Communication, received the Distinguished Service Award, Peace and Conflict Communication Division, from the National Communication Association.

MARGARET SOVEN, Professor, English, published *Tutoring for Real: A Guide for Writing Tutors*, Thomson Publishers.

JUDITH STULL, Associate Professor, Sociology, presented "Roots of Democracy: Dynamics of Bias in Public Schools," at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada.

LYNNE TEXTER, Associate Professor, Communication, presented "Do You Have Research to Support That? The Effects of Labyrinth Walking," at the annual meeting of the Labyrinth Society.

CORNELIA TSAKIRIDOU, Associate Professor, Philosophy, authored "Vera Icona: Reflections on the Mystical Aesthetics of Jacques Maritain and the Byzantine Icon," in *Truth Matters: Essays in Honor of Jacques Maritain*.

CYNTHIA TURK, Assistant Professor, Psychology, co-authored "Emotion dysregulation generalized anxiety disorder: A comparison with social anxiety disorder" in *Cognitive Therapy and Research*.

DONNA WAKE, Instructor, Education, presented "Modeling Active Engagement and Technology Integration for College Students as they Learn to Teach Literacy Skills and Strategies" at the Annual Lilly Conference on College Teaching.

WILLIAM WINE, Associate Professor, Communication, authored "Cholestero-Rollover," in *Health and You*.

ELAINE ZELLEY, Assistant Professor, Communication, co-authored *Applying Communication Theory for Professional Life: A Practical Introduction*.

LA SALLE PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR EARNS ACCOLADES



The Association for Women in Psychology (AWP) recently presented La Salle Associate Professor of Psychology Lynn Collins with the 2005 Christine Ladd-Franklin Award, given annually to an individual who has made significant contributions to the Association and to feminist psychology.

The award's purpose is to recognize the service and scholarship of the awardee and to acknowledge the contributions of women in psychology. Its namesake, an early logician, mathematician, physicist, and psychologist, is best known for her work on vision, most notably her theories of color vision.

Collins received the award for her feminist scholarship, which includes articles, chapters, and edited books on the psychology of women and women in academe, as well as for her numerous contributions to the AWP.

The accomplishments of the School of Arts and Sciences faculty are many and varied. Following is a sampling of recent activities.

BARBARA ALLEN, Assistant Professor, History, authored "Alexander Shiliapnikov and the Origins of the Workers' Opposition, March 1919-April 1920," *Jahrbucher fur Geschichte Osteuropas*.

JOHN BEATTY, Assistant Professor, English, authored a book review of *The Politics of Internet Communication in Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*.

FATHER FRANCIS BERNA facilitated a workshop for the Catholic Campus Ministry Association entitled "Seeing from the Sidelines," which explored the role of the campus minister in the world of collegiate athletics.

JAMES BUTLER, Professor, English, authored "Home (at Grasmere and 'On the Range'): Wordsworth and Owen Wister's *The Virginian*," in *Wordsworth in American Literary Culture, 1802-1902*.

SANDRA CAMOMILE, Assistant Professor, DArt, presented "Wings to the Future" at the Teaching and Learning Consortium, Pennsylvania State University.

JOSEPH CATANIO, Assistant Professor, Mathematics and Computer Science, authored "Relationship Analysis in Requirements Engineering" in *Requirements Engineering Journal*.

SIOBHAN CONATY, Assistant Professor, Fine Arts/Art History, presented "Memory and Modernism in Benedetta's Monument to Futurism and Fascism: Crossroads in Humanities and Technology," at the Second International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities,

in Prato, Italy.

MARIANNE DANTON, Associate Professor, Communication, co-authored "Biological sex and psychological gender as predictors of routine and strategic relational maintenance," in *Sex Roles*.

CHARLES DESNOYERS, Associate Professor, History, published *A Journey to the East: Li Gui's 'A New Account of a Trip Around the Globe,'* University of Michigan Press.

BROTHER JOSEPH DOUGHERTY, Assistant Professor, Religion, authored "No Flower Shall Wither; or, Horticulture in the Kingdom of the Frogs," in *Educational Horizons*.

FRANK GARDNER, Associate Professor, Psychology, authored "A Mindfulness-Acceptance-Commitment (MAC) based approach to performance enhancement: Theoretical considerations" in *Behavior Therapy*.

LUIS A. GOMEZ, Assistant Professor, Spanish, delivered a paper at Villanova University entitled "La verosimilitud en la Galatea de Cervantes" at a symposium commemorating the 400th anniversary of the *Quijote*.

GEFFREY KELLY, Professor, Religion, received the Bishop McCort Award for Distinguished Lifetime Achievement at the Annual Meeting of the West Catholic Alumni Association.

MICHAEL KERLIN, Professor, Philosophy, authored "Maurice Blondel and Pragmatism: Truth is the Adequation of Mind and Life" for *Papers of the 19th Century Group*, American Academy of Religion.

VINCENT KLING, Associate Professor, English, presented "Labels as Libels: The Distorted Reception of Heimito von Doderer's Novels in the United States, 1961-1966" at the German Studies Association Conference in Washington, D.C.

DOLORES LEHR, Assistant Professor, English, presented "Inspiration for Scrooge: Dickens' 1842 Visit to Eastern State Penitentiary" on KYW News Radio during an interview with John Ostapkovich.

STUART LEIBIGER, Associate Professor, History, presented "James Madison: Republican Revolutionary," and "George Washington and the Constitution," at the Origins and Arguments: Shaping the Bill of Rights, Bill of Rights Institute Teacher Workshop, Harvard University.

JANINE MARISCOTTI, Assistant Professor, Social Work, presented "Introduction to American Social Work" at Katholische Stiftungsfachhochschule (Catholic University of Applied Sciences) in Benediktbeuern, Germany.

ROSEANNE MCDUGALL, Assistant Professor, Religion, served as convener for the 14th gathering of the International Seminar on Religious Education and Values, a group of 100 researchers from four continents and three major faith traditions, who met at Villanova University.

SPOTLIGHT ON: ECONOMICS

DAVID GEORGE



David George, Chair of La Salle's Economics Department, recently added one more credential to his already impressive vita. In January 2005, he assumed the

presidency of the Association of Social Economics (ASE). Established in 1941, ASE's mission is to advance scholarly research and writing about some of the great, though not always obvious, issues of economics such as human dignity, ethics, and philosophy. The membership, nearly one-third of which is from outside the United States, seeks to shape economic policy that is consistent with the integral values of the person and of a humane community.

As a "social economist," George, like the ASE membership at large, has spent much of his professional life "exploring the ethical foundations and implications of economic analysis, along with the individual and social dimensions of economic problems." He is a regular contributor to, and serves on the editorial board of, *The Review of Social Economy* and the *Journal of Socio-Economics*. The tenets of his book, *Preference Pollution: How Markets Create the Desire We Dislike* (University of Michigan Press, 2001), form the basis for much of his current research and writing.

RICHARD MSHOMBA



Imagine Richard Mshomba's surprise when he received a phone call from Voice of America (VOA) at his La Salle University office. The U.S. Government-run international broadcasting service called to ask the economics professor if he would be a guest analyst on a radio show—in the next five minutes!

Now, Mshomba is a frequent guest analyst on various topics for VOA. Though he's uncertain how VOA learned about him, he imagines that its Swahili division from Tanzania and Kenya must have heard about his research in international and developmental economics, with a focus on Africa. Mshomba, whose native language is Swahili, is the author of a well-regarded book, *Africa in the Global Economy*, which is one of the most requested economics books by college libraries around the country.

ITL AWARD ESTABLISHED



John C. Carrow, Chief Information Officer of the Unisys Corporation (center), received La Salle's first Information Technology Leadership Award this past fall, established to recognize those who have positively impacted business, government, or education through the advancement of information technology. Carrow, lauded for his work as the city of Philadelphia's CIO, also served as the first chair of La Salle's Computer Science Advisory Board when the University began its program in 1995. Pictured with him are (from left): Thomas Keagy, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences; Margaret McManus, Associate Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences; Richard Nigro, La Salle Provost; and Thomas Blum, Director of La Salle's Information Technology Leadership Program.



Summer Workshops Encourage High School Students to Explore Careers in Math and Science

by Marian Morton

One look at the syllabus for La Salle's summer biology and mathematics workshops tells you that these aren't your typical courses for high school students. Participants in last year's workshops examined pet hairs under a microscope, analyzed DNA samples, cracked codes, and animated fractals.

The workshops were funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation's Math and Science Partnership of Greater Philadelphia (MSPGP). The grant, which totals \$12.5 million, is helping to provide resources to school districts in south-eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey to improve math and science curriculum and instruction and to encourage more students to consider careers in math and science education. La Salle is the lead institution in the partnership, which includes more than 40 school districts and 13 area colleges and universities.

"The purpose of the grant is threefold: to increase student learning in math and science; to increase the quality, number, diversity, and retention of math and science teachers; and to learn how to do the first two," said F. Joseph Merlino, MSPGP's Project Director.

Students from several area school districts came to campus last summer for one-week workshops, two in biology and two in math, designed to get them excited about these subject areas. Both courses emphasized hands-on work with the equipment and software college students and professionals use in their research.

"Young students don't have a true idea of what science is or what any field is without getting in there and doing it," said Norbert Belzer, Ph.D., Chair of La Salle's Biology Department and instructor for the biology workshop last summer, which focused on forensics.

The workshops are free of charge, and students receive one college credit in math or biology for each one-week session they attended. The content for this summer's workshops has not been officially determined yet, but two subjects, chemistry and geology, will be added to the program. Workshops in math and biology will be offered from July 5 to 8, and chemistry and geology courses will take place the following week.

"The course gives them an exposure to math that is very recent, very relevant, as opposed to math that's hundreds of years old and static."

In the biology workshops, Belzer, joined by Ann Mickle, Ph.D., and Stefan Samulewicz, Ph.D., also biology professors at La Salle, teaches forensics from a molecular approach and on a microscopic level. Projects include lessons in blood typing, DNA replication and fingerprint analysis, and how to use online databases for scientific research. Students extract DNA from a cow thymus and proteins from eggs. They also compare their own hair to

pet hair and carpet fibers using both light and scanning electron microscopy.

"We're trying to teach real science, but we're also trying to put a hook in it that makes it interesting from the beginning," Belzer said. "They are thrilled by the equipment, since the majority of what we're using here they don't have in their high schools."

Knappenberger takes a similar approach in his workshops. Instead of giving students material they are used to, like algebra and calculus, he focuses on more dynamic topics.

"The course gives them an exposure to math that is very recent, very relevant, as opposed to math that's hundreds of years old and static," Knappenberger said.

In cryptography, students study the history of codes, from the Romans to the present day, and try their hand at methods of encoding and decoding messages. For the lesson in chaos and fractals, they learn about some famous fractals, create and animate fractals, and play the Chaos Game in the computer lab to practice finding patterns using math.

"Hopefully, they learn to explore more in math instead of sitting back and letting everything be taught to them," Knappenberger said.

The workshop's organizers say they hope giving high school students access to La Salle's science and computer labs will not only encourage them to study science, math, or teaching, but it will also tempt them to apply to La Salle to pursue those careers.



“I see in Mr. Gallen a tremendous potential for scholarship in the humanities, an untapped well of talent that cries out for an environment conducive to the nourishing of this gift.”

John Grady, Director of the Honors Program

STUDENT’S PASSION FOR HISTORY PAYS OFF

by Marian Morton

A La Salle University senior with a passion for American colonial history has been selected for a highly competitive full scholarship to Cambridge University in England.

Michael Gallen, a senior in La Salle’s Honors Program, will study history at Cambridge’s St. John’s College on a Davies-Jackson Scholarship valued at nearly \$50,000. The two-year program will begin in the fall and culminate for Gallen with a Cambridge B.A. degree, the equivalent of a master’s degree from an American university.

“I’ll have the opportunity to work with top scholars in history, and it will give me a change of scenery,” said Gallen, who lives in the Kensington section of Philadelphia and has never traveled outside of the United States.

More than 40 students from colleges around the country applied for the scholarship this year, but that doesn’t begin to describe how competitive this award is. The Davies-Jackson is so prestigious that it is only granted when the committee feels

it has found a worthy candidate. Since the scholarship’s inception in 1990, the committee has elected not to give a scholarship six times. Gallen is the first La Salle student to receive the honor.

The Davies-Jackson Scholarship is intended for students who, in addition to having stellar academic records, attend liberal arts colleges, often in urban areas, and are among the first in their families to attend college.

The award, which is supported by an anonymous benefactor, covers tuition, room, and board for two academic years, plus living expenses during the summer. Travel to and from England is also included.

Gallen, who will become the first college graduate in his family when he leaves La Salle in May, is an alumnus of Northeast Catholic High School. It was in high school that his passion for American colonial history was kindled, and he chose La Salle for the opportunity to further explore that interest .

“I was attracted by the Honors Program and the courses offered here,” Gallen said.

While maintaining high grades, Gallen has been editor of *Histories*, La Salle’s student-produced history magazine, written for

Politicus, the political science magazine, and *The Collegian*, the campus newspaper, and has been active in the Diplomat-in-Residence Program. He credits the Honors Program with expanding his mind, and his student work-study job in the University’s Archives with expanding his research skills.

Gallen hopes to apply those skills in the historical sites of Europe and the libraries of Cambridge. He’s particularly eager to comb the records of Sir Robert Walpole, a colonial-era British prime minister who played a key role in relations with the American colonies in the decades leading up to the American Revolution.

While this will be Gallen’s first time away from Philadelphia and his family, John Grady, Director of the University Honors Program and Gallen’s academic and career adviser, said he suggested the Davies-Jackson Scholarship because he believes Gallen is up to the challenge.

“I see in Mr. Gallen a tremendous potential for scholarship in the humanities, an untapped well of talent that cries out for an environment conducive to the nourishing of this gift, and a person who has overcome enormous odds to achieve the considerable success he has,” Grady said.



CHEMISTRY MAJORS ENGAGE IN PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH

(Top, from left) Chemistry majors Patricia Mangel and Lou Mattioli, who participated in student-faculty research with Assistant Professor of Chemistry/Biochemistry Michael Prushan, Ph.D. (right), presented their research poster, “Synthesis and Characterization of Equilateral Nickel(II) Triangular Complexes,” at the 228th National Meeting of the American Chemistry Society (ACS). (Bottom, from left) Mangel and Mattioli are shown working in the lab as they prepared for their research presentation.

Also presenting at the conference was Lyn Blahovec, sophomore chemistry major. As part of the symposium “Taking Chemistry to the Streets,” she shared her experiences working with children and other La Salle student volunteers for Chemistry for Kids, a program at St. Christopher’s Hospital sponsored by The Chymian Society, an ACS affiliate.



Middle Ages on Film: Subject of Scholar's Research

by Matthew Posivak, '05

Robin Hood, Joan of Arc, and King Arthur are famous characters from medieval literature that have been depicted in cinema time and time again. While few would compare 1940s movie star Errol Flynn's performance as Robin Hood to that of Cary Elwes in the farcical *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*, for Kevin Harty, Ph.D., Chair of the English Department, all films adapted from medieval literature are equally interesting.

"It's a testimony to the fascination we have with all things medieval," Harty says about the Middle Ages on film, a subject in which he is considered an international expert.

When asked about his successes, Harty credits the start of his study of "medieval" film to a phone call he received in the mid-1980s from Brother James Muldoon, F.S.C., then-Dean of Arts and Sciences. He offered Harty funds to conduct computer database research. Seeing his opportunity,

Harty began to compile information on movies depicting the Arthurian legend.

His *Cinema Arthuriana* (1991), a collection of essays regarding film depictions of the Arthurian Legend, was the first book written in English on the subject. In 1999, Harty published *The Reel Middle Ages*, which described nearly 600 films about medieval Europe, from the 1974 Russian film *Abu Reikhan Biruni* to the 1984 American made-for-television *Zany Adventures of Robin Hood*.

"There are a lot of connections between the modern world and medieval world," Harty says of his interest in how film conveys centuries-old literature and culture to a modern audience. "There are themes there we keep coming back to."

Harty is also interested in how these medieval texts are manipulated when reshaped for cinema. He is currently writing a book that evaluates the variations in film productions of the Joan of Arc and Robin Hood stories.



TRAVEL STUDY IN GUATEMALA RAISES STUDENT AWARENESS

by Jon Caroulis

For a quarter of a century, Brother Patrick Duffy, F.S.C., welcomed American students and teachers to Latin America, where he taught, administered schools, and trained new Christian Brothers. This year, he switched roles and took a group of La Salle students to Guatemala for a Travel Study course—Hispanic Catholics: Issues and Concerns.

In Guatemala, students visited Christian Brothers-run schools, including the Instituto Centroamericano de Ciencias Religiosas. They also participated in liturgies, popular religious festivals, and reflected on the Guatemalan Catholic experience.

"The course was designed so students could experience how Catholic Spanish-speaking people in one part of the world express their faith. The students will hopefully be welcoming Spanish-speaking people in their home parishes. That's basically the point of the course," says Br. Patrick, who also directs La Salle's Bilingual Undergraduate Studies for Collegiate Advancement (BUSCA) Program.

Br. Patrick lived and worked throughout Central and South America for 25 years before coming to La Salle in 2001. In Bolivia, he founded a Christian Brothers school in a remote corner of the Amazon jungle.

"I always treat these [visits] as awareness raising experiences. I want the students to become aware of other people and cultures, and the fact that most people who co-inhabit the Earth with us are very poor."

DID YOU KNOW...

...the **HISTORY DEPARTMENT** has successfully launched its new graduate degree program? This fall, students enrolled in one of two tracks: an M.A. in History or an M.A. in History for Educators. La Salle's newest graduate curriculum includes unique core requirements, such as oral history and archival analysis, in addition to traditional readings courses. The program offers concentrations in American, European, or World History.

...the **COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT** has inaugurated a graduate program that has produced the first six students ever to complete a La Salle degree outside of the United States? The department's M.A. in Professional Communication and Public Relations Program in Prague, the Czech Republic, has attracted students from diverse educational and ethnic backgrounds from around the world.

Lindback Foundation Grants Funds for Professor's Timely Research

Vivienne Angeles, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Religion, was recently awarded a Minority Junior Faculty Award grant by the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation. The grant will fund her project, "Constructing Identity: Visual Expressions of Islam in Predominantly Catholic Philippines," which proposes to examine Muslim interaction with the Philippine government from 1969 to the present.

"It feels good to be able to pursue one's academic interest and to have the support of the Lindback Foundation and the University," said Angeles, a native of the Philippines and a member of La Salle's faculty since 2000.

In addition to classes in the Religion Department's core curriculum, Angeles teaches specialized courses in Judaism and Islam and Women in Islam.

(At right) Angeles (second from right) is shown during a recent research trip to the Philippines in which she traveled to Simunul, a remote island in the southernmost region of the country. She poses with friends during a visit to the first mosque ever built in the Philippines, which was constructed in 1380.

