

3-1994

Parents Newsletter

La Salle University

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La Salle University, "Parents Newsletter" (1994). *Parents' Newsletter*. 9.
https://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu/parents_newsletter/9

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PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

La Salle University
conducted by the
Brothers of the Christian Schools
since 1863

Published by the Parents' Association / La Salle University / Philadelphia PA 19141 * March 1994 * Vol. X No. 1

PRESIDENT STRESSES PROMOTING SCHOOL STRENGTHS

In a recent interview, Brother President Joseph Burke identified some of La Salle's assets already reported in the national press, which, if effectively communicated, should enhance the university's student recruitment efforts.

According to Brother Burke, the entire university community should be involved in promoting La Salle's excellence and in searching for ways to guarantee that present revenue support from tuition (80%) will not be diminished by declining enrollment.

Dear Parents:

"DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE!" This was La Salle University's invitation to visitors at last year's Open House so that they might get to know the true character of the university. We hope that through your contact with the University to date you have come to know, in some way, the students, the faculty, and the administrators who make a difference at La Salle. National publications consistently recognize its growing reputation for academic excellence and educational value.

As Chaircouple of the Parents' Association, we invite you to support the University, and all those people who make a difference at La Salle, through your participation in the annual fund. We are aware that you have just recently faced tuition bills, but please keep in mind that tuition covers only about 75% of the cost of a student's education. The remainder comes from other sources including the annual fund.

Your participation in the annual fund also provides a double benefit since foundations and other benefactors often look to the percentage of parent participation as a criteria for the level of their donations. They are looking for signs of interest and involvement on the part of the entire La Salle community. We are all an important part of that community.

We thank those who have already contributed. For those who have not, we ask you to consider all of the benefits of your participation. A return envelope is provided for your convenience. Thanks for your continuing support of La Salle.

Lee and Mary Kay Mullen
1993-1994 Chaircouple
La Salle Parents Committee

The President believes that by utilizing studies, including those revealing student perceptions of La Salle, the university will be able to target advertising and implement institutional changes--including budget cuts--necessitated by these challenging times.

In addition, he says, the university "is constantly considering new programs with the capability of attracting students as have the recently-instituted Nursing-Practitioners, Central and European Studies, and Computer Information Sciences courses."

PARENTS' GOAL - FOR 1994

La Salle's parents are more than half way to the goal of 750 parent donors by June 30th for this year's Annual Fund Drive. As of the end of February, we had 423 parents of current and former students contributing \$21,126 to the drive. The size of contributions has ranged from \$5,000 to \$10 and each gift plays an important role in the success of the drive. Last year, we received over \$11,000 in matching gifts from employers, this year we hope, with your help, to beat that record amount. Our sincere gratitude to those parents who have made contributions and we urge those who haven't contributed to do so as soon as possible.

WINTER WOES

The winter of '94 has brought with it an unprecedented series of snow and ice storms which resulted in a rarity: the cancellation by La Salle University of seven class days. It has also added to the school's maintenance expenses, necessitating both staff overtime and supplementary snow-removal efforts by independent contractors. Dr. Daniel Pantaleo, Provost, reluctant to provide make-up days during the spring break, has opted for doing away with the traditional examination week this semester.

WINTER HEALTH SERVICES

Laura McKenna, Director of Student Health Services, encountered increased problems during the recent assaults of winter. In a single ice-plagued week in late January, more than 30 students and staff members were treated for an assortment of injuries resulting from slips and falls. The near-arctic temperatures accounted for adversities including frost-bite and, according to McKenna, "the most prevalent ailment of all--cabin fever."



BROTHER MC GINNISS CHOSEN

Brother Michael McGinniss, Professor and Chair of the La Salle University Religion Department, has been selected as the new president of Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tennessee. A scholar who has served as consultant to the American Bishops' Commission, and who is widely respected as an excellent teacher, Brother McGinniss is scheduled to take office in early July. Colleagues and students alike, while congratulating Brother McGinniss on his assignment, have expressed regret that his vital presence will be lost to La Salle.

FRESHMAN YEAR EXPERIENCE

Dr. Maribel Molyneaux, full-time member of La Salle's English Department, has been appointed coordinator of the Freshman Year Experience (FYE) program of the university. Dr. Daniel Pantaleo, Provost, in announcing the appointment, commented on Dr. Molyneaux's "dedication to the program, the students, and La Salle." An outgrowth of a program originally intended as a support for students regarded as potential academic risks, FYE has been expanded to benefit all freshmen. Dr. Molyneaux, who succeeds Dr. Alice Hoersch as coordinator, hopes to add several components to the program, including more field trips "to utilize the City of Philadelphia as a resource."

BIKE PATROL

Robert La Ratta, Director of Security, announced in January that a bicycle patrol would be added to La Salle's comprehensive security program. Permitting at least two officers per shift, on a 24-hour basis, to patrol the entire campus, the bikes should increase mobility and allow security personnel to respond to calls for assistance with greater rapidity. "In a sense," Mr. La Ratta says, "the bikes will provide more extensive campus coverage, making it seem as if we have more officers in service."



SUGAR

La Salle's Masque recently gave six enthusiastically received performances of Sugar, a musical comedy based upon the film

"Some Like It Hot." Featuring a cast of more than 30, the show's central story line--two men who, to escape pursuing gangsters, join an all-girl's band--provided numerous humorous situations.

According to Matt Castrina, Producer of the Masque, extensive preparation and intensive rehearsals, accounted for Sugar's sweet success.

In the offing: an April production of Steel Magnolias, featuring an all-female cast.

CAMPUS FILM FEST

As a recreational weekend option, a **Friday Night Film Fest** has been held on campus since the fall semester. Initiated by students, the fest combines the viewing of an intellectually stimulating film with discussion. More than 10 faculty members have served as presenters or discussion leaders. The activity, held between 7 and 9 p.m., has grown in popularity because students perceive it as an enjoyable way to begin the weekend.

CONCERT AND LECTURE

La Salle's Concert and Lecture Series, operating on a reduced schedule for the last two years, will probably be gradually restored if a proposal being considered is adopted for the 1995-96 academic year. Developed by a committee chaired by Assistant Provost Gerald J. Johnson, the proposal would

provide three academic departments with the opportunity to host programs each semester and suggests potential funding sources. Intended to supplement the university's academic programs and expand its cultural offerings to the campus community, the Concert and Lecture Series has existed for more than thirty years.



†BROTHER GENE GRAHAM, F.S.C. SERVED LA SALLE SINCE 1977

Brother Gene Graham, 69, who had served La Salle since 1977 as teacher, administrator, and theatrical producer, died of cancer at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Los Angeles on January 2.

From 1977 until it closed in 1988, Brother Gene ran the La Salle Music Theatre, producing and often directing numerous shows. At La Salle he also taught English, ran the annual fund and, for the past 12 years, served as Director of the Brothers' De La Salle Community on campus.

A Christian Brother for 50 years, Brother Gene's theatrical career spanned more than 40 years, winning him national recognition and hundreds of friends. Many of the young people he directed went on to successful theatrical careers. A Mass of Resurrection was celebrated for him at St. Therese's Church, Mt. Airy; burial was in the Christian Brothers Cemetery, Ammendale, Maryland.



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JENNIFER COLE HONORED

Jen Cole, one of La Salle's all-time great female athletes, was honored for her outstanding career in basketball on January 12 at the Philadelphia Civic Center, when the university retired her number (23). The ceremony, held at halftime of the men's basketball game against St. Joseph's, was "an overwhelming experience," according to Cole.

A 3.62 Chemistry major (minoring in Business Administration), Cole was honored as the school's leader in points scored (1875), points per game (16.1) field goals (656) and free throw percentage (87.3).

Her most memorable athletic moments included scoring 39 points before her hometown family and friends in Valparaiso, Indiana, and playing in the NIT her junior year after a successful 25-5 season that year.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS RESIDENCE DAMAGED BY NEW YEAR'S FIRE

The eighteen Brothers who constitute the De La Salle Community experienced a major fire in their on-campus residence on New Year's Day. Although property damage exceeded \$300,000, no serious injuries were sustained; however, two Brothers were briefly hospitalized for smoke inhalation.

Fire inspectors believe the fire was electrical, probably originating in a defective television set. Smoke detectors alerted the Brothers in time to evacuate the building, although one Brother, trapped by dense smoke, had to be rescued by ladder from his third-floor room.

Major damage was confined to the residence's third floor, where six rooms require almost total reconstruction; smoke damage throughout the floor was extensive. Repairs should be completed by May 1.