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Lauren Taylor, '07, paints a mural at the corner of 20th and Coulter streets as one of the many ways the University strengthens its relationship with the community. (See full story on Page 3.)
Past, present, future.

This issue of the Explorer provides insight into the School of Arts and Sciences along a continuum that starts with the past contributions of two recently retired faculty members (Barbara Millard and John Rossi) and the announcement of the passing of another (Michael Kerlin). The official résumés of these three loyal faculty members go well beyond their combined 100-plus years of service to the institution. Their work has defined La Salle over the past 30 years, and, even today, their careers continue to serve as role models for finding the proper balance between teaching, scholarship, and service. Their leadership will be missed.

The present is represented in this issue through our cover story about student involvement in community service, a list of faculty awards and scholarly activities, and other programmatic updates. The mural project featured on the cover is just one of many examples of how our students are reaching out to the neighborhood and the region beyond. “Service learning” projects that connect community service with course content promote a deeper understanding of the importance of the service component and the roots of its connection to an academic discipline. These types of experiences help develop lifelong service commitments that continue to characterize La Salle graduates for the remainder of their lives.

The future for science and technology at La Salle is bright as we finalize plans for the expansion and renovation of our current science facility, Holroyd Hall. Our long tradition of offering excellent science education will only be enhanced by this new, state-of-the-art green building that is being designed to take advantage of the teaching style of our outstanding faculty.

Of course the large new group of faculty featured in this issue is the real key to our future. They were recruited on the basis of their commitment to the type of personal education La Salle has offered for generations. I hope you will find opportunities to meet them in person because I am confident you will find them worthy of carrying this great institution forward for the next 30 years and beyond!
Following the mission of La Salle’s founder, University faculty and students continue to promote practical education and strong community relationships. Working to serve others on campus and in the surrounding neighborhood has helped them foster a better understanding of the world and their role in it.

COLORFUL COLLABORATION
A celebration of community awareness has been permanently memorialized at the corner of 20th and Coulter streets, thanks to a group of talented students in La Salle’s Leadership and Global Understanding (LGU) minor.

Last spring, seniors in the LGU Capstone worked with local mural artist and adjunct professor Dave McShain, ’88, to devise a project that bridged the gap between La Salle students and neighboring residents.

Beyond its powers of artistic expression, the mural became a way for students to interact with the community.

“The idea is to teach students the responsibility of citizenship in every community to which they belong,” said Marjorie Allen, Ph.D., co-Director of LGU and Chair of the Integrative Studies Department.

Once McShain determined a proper location, students contacted neighbors to gain input on the mural’s subject matter and to improve their relationship with the community. They painted McShain’s final design, landscaped the area with donations from the Biology Department, and organized a dedication ceremony that drew more than 100 people.

“There was a real positive air of celebration and hope that night,” McShain said.

AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE
Last year, La Salle completed a one-of-a-kind dual enrollment program to provide Philadelphia high school students with a unique college experience.

Designed specifically by Paul Vallas, former CEO of the Philadelphia School District, with Bob Vogel, professor of education and co-Director of LGU, the program integrates local high school students in a college classroom for the majority of the school day.

Eligible high school students can take up to nine credits each semester in available courses at La Salle. Essentially, students can complete an entire year of college with funding from their school district.

“We’re the only University (in Philadelphia) with this program,” Vogel said.

La Salle also is the only University with a core group of LGU minors who are available to mentor the pre-college students, Allen said. Junior political science major Calvin Johnson volunteers as an in-class teacher’s assistant through his LGU minor.

“I see myself as their big brother. I know how much potential they have, and part of my role is to help unlock that excellence,” Johnson said. “I care deeply about their well-being and I want them to get an experience, not just an education, during their time at La Salle.”

Junior Leadership and Global Understanding minor Calvin Johnson (left) works with Central High School student James Bongart in one of La Salle’s dual enrollment classes.

“The idea is to teach students the responsibility of citizenship in every community to which they belong.”
—Marjorie Allen, Ph.D., co-Director of LGU and Chair of the Integrative Studies Department
Establishing an International Education

La Salle University has expanded upon its international reputation by “building bridges of understanding” within the Communication Department, according to Brother Gerry Molyneaux, F.S.C., Ph.D., ’58.

As Director of International Programs in the Communication Department, Br. Gerry has watched the Lasallian mission expand to students seeking a master’s in professional communication and public relations overseas. After its successful launch in Prague, Czech Republic, the department introduced the program in Athens, Greece, and graduated its first class last summer.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity to expand Lasallian education to parts of the world that never had it,” Br. Gerry said.

Since 1994, La Salle’s master’s program has provided the necessary resources to excel professionally. The accelerated master’s degree program in Prague and Athens enables students to complete 36 credits in one year, with additional time for a practicum. Professors present intense weekend instruction and assign projects during the week.

Br. Gerry began this international venture in 2001, when he delivered what appeared to professors as a grim proposal for the program in uncharted territory. But he said he “held in there and pulled it off.” About seven students registered for the first year in Prague—today, enrollment has nearly tripled. Br. Gerry said professors love the city and students prefer the hands-on American college education.

In Athens, energetic and determined students enrolled from more than a dozen countries, including Russia, Jordan, Albania, China, South Africa, Iran, Portugal, and Germany. Ten master’s degrees were awarded in 2007 and 20 new students have enrolled.

“No we have La Salle alumni in a lot of places in the world we didn’t have before. They are very enthusiastic alumni who worked hard for their degrees,” Br. Gerry said.

Both students and professors have learned from the international experience. Unlike traditional European education, students enjoyed the interactive projects and papers of American classes. Professors also learned innovative techniques that often influenced their classes at La Salle, Br. Gerry said.

“They’re teaching around the world and adapting to different cultures,” he said. “You can’t get any more Lasallian than that.”

PRICE RECEIVES JUSTICE AWARD

In recognition of his dedication to service, William A. Price, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, received La Salle University’s first Brother Scubillion Rousseau Justice Award.

Price mentors high school students, has participated in service trips, and has most recently developed a compound that could result in a breakthrough cancer treatment.

Named for Br. Rousseau, who dedicated 34 years to educating enslaved natives on the island of Reunion, the award honors University faculty or staff members who understand their role in creating a more just world.

KELLY HONORED AS DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR

La Salle bestowed its Faculty Distinguished Scholar Award on Geffrey Kelly, ’54, professor of religion, for his scholarly achievements and research.

“Knowledge of religion is essential in order to understand the root causes of so many conflicts in our troubled world today and the demands religious faith makes on our moral behavior, as well as the ethical conduct of our nation,” Kelly said.

For more than 30 years, Kelly has been a leading scholar on the life and theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer—a famous martyr of the German Resistance and Nazism.

PAULIN AWARDED FOR HER SERVICE

Associate Professor of Economics Beth Paulin, Ph.D., received the Faculty Distinguished Service Award for embracing La Salle’s mission.

Paulin said she experienced a true transformation during a two-week Lasallian Leadership Conference last summer in Rome, Italy, by working closely with Christian Brothers from other Lasallian colleges around the world.

“Service is part of our mission. It is who we are as educators and people,” Paulin said. “I believe this award is in recognition of fulfilling that mission.”
NEW COURSES TEACH CRITICAL LANGUAGES

Unique courses in critical languages at La Salle are preparing students for the future. New course offerings in Mandarin Chinese and Farsi, or modern Persian, began last fall.

It’s imperative to understand these languages as the United States increases its interaction with both countries, said Bernhardt Blumenthal, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and Director of the Master’s Program in Central and Eastern European Studies. China has the world’s largest market of manufactured goods, and Iran, where Farsi is spoken, is an important player in Middle Eastern politics.

“There are very good career opportunities (within the government),” Blumenthal said. “If a student indicates he or she studied Chinese or Farsi, they’ve got a foot in the door.”

SIFE WINS FIFTH REGIONAL COMPETITION

Last spring, a group of business-savvy La Salle students led by Marsha Timmerman, assistant professor of Integrated Science, Business, and Technology, found success for the fifth straight year at the regional Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) competition in Boston, Mass. Sponsored by major retailers and manufacturers, SIFE encourages college students to spread the word about free enterprise. In 2007, the team covered the ethics of patent laws, taught financial literacy to children, and partnered with a start-up company called Bu-Logics, among other projects. This year, they are focusing on the green movement and its economic impact.

MACLEOD EARNs TRIPLE HONORS

Communication Professor Sid MacLeod earned triple honors in 2007 as the recipient of the department’s Shining Star Award, the University’s Lasallian Distinguished Educator Award, and the similarly named award from the Baltimore Province of the Christian Brothers.

“I really enjoy trying to communicate and trying to find different ways to do it,” said MacLeod. “For me, teaching is a creative act—all communication is.”

MacLeod, who has taught at La Salle for 48 years, was named an Honorary Christian Brother in 2000. He received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1996.

Army Chooses Prushan for National Science Program

When the government unexpectedly tracked down Mike Prushan, Ph.D., ’96, last summer, it turned out to be a pleasant surprise. The U.S. Army chose La Salle’s assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry to participate in a nationwide science program because of his excellent reputation for research with undergraduate students.

“We want to give students a real research experience. Our students are all hands-on,” Prushan said.

The month-long summer program revolved around the U.S. Army-sponsored eCybermission Competition. Three home-educated high school students from Yardley, Pa., won with their project on E. coli—receiving savings bonds and an opportunity to research with someone from a local academic institution.

The young women worked with Prushan to determine how copper-containing enzymes perform. Their dedication was impressive, Prushan said, and they were quick learners. The data will be compiled and presented at a regional conference.

“They loved La Salle,” Prushan said. “If these three girls came to La Salle, it would be a great opportunity for us and for them.”

Prushan’s recognition by the Army stems from his extensive work with La Salle students, who prepare presentations each semester for a national conference. It’s been a great success, as a positive promotion for La Salle and as a way for students to network with other researchers, he said.
New Faculty Committed to Personal Education

HSIAO-PING BIEHL
Foreign Languages

Moving so far from her home, Hsiao-Ping Biehl, Ph.D., said she was pleased to discover a welcoming family at her new job as a foreign language professor at La Salle.

Born in Taiwan and raised in Ecuador, Biehl grew up multilingual. Specializing in sociolinguistics and dialectology, she earned a doctorate in Spanish from Temple University, as well as a certificate in Multilingual Business and Government Studies.

Currently, she is researching Spanish-Chinese bilingualism in Ecuador, which she plans to expand to Guatemala and other parts of Central America.

KATIE BOGLE
Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice

An early connection to the Christian Brothers turned Katie Bogle, Ph.D., on to La Salle’s strong teaching tradition. The new criminal justice and sociology professor’s family includes several alumni of the University over many decades.

Bogle, of Philadelphia, earned her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Delaware. She strives to connect her classes to real life and often plays brief film or TV clips that relate to the course.


LEEANN CARDACIOTTO ADAM
Psychology

Coming to La Salle was a perfect fit for Psychology Professor LeeAnn Cardaciotto Adam, Ph.D., who said she values the University’s balance between clinical work and research in the field of psychology.

A Trenton, N.J., native, Cardaciotto completed her graduate work at MCP Hahnemann University, which was acquired by Drexel before she graduated with her Ph.D. in clinical psychology. Cardaciotto researches topics in positive psychology, including mindfulness. Having a central role within Buddhist philosophy, she believes mindfulness stresses two components—acceptance and awareness.

DONNA CELANO
Communication

Donna Celano, Ph.D., always pictured herself teaching mass communication at the college level. After working in public relations, she shifted her skills to the classroom. The Philadelphia native taught at La Salle as an adjunct professor before joining the Communication Department full time.

Celano earned her Ph.D. from Temple University. She researches children’s use of media, particularly the different ways children from various income levels use media, like books and computers. Celano said she appreciates the resources available through the University that promote faculty research.

MARCO CEROCCHI
Foreign Languages

What better way to learn one of the Romance languages than through a native Italian? Marco Cerocchi, Ph.D., originally from Rome, is La Salle’s newest foreign language professor. As a former professional concert pianist, Cerocchi’s work stresses the relationship between literature and music during the Italian medieval and Renaissance periods.

Cerocchi earned his Ph.D. in Italian from Rutgers University. He said he was drawn to La Salle because of its personal atmosphere and strong Catholic backbone.

JORDAN COPELAND
Religion

Originally from Minneapolis, Minn., Jordan Copeland, Ph.D., came to La Salle because of its “foundation in Lasallian values, the urban setting of the University, and the commitment to community.”

Copeland graduated from the University of Iowa in 2007 and joined La Salle’s Religion Department. Copeland weaves community issues and service opportunities into his classes to highlight social justice and contemporary world events.

MICHAEL DILLON
Political Science

After a 22-year leave from La Salle to practice law, Michael Dillon, Ph.D., found the opportunity to return as Chair of the Political Science Department.
Although the University has changed, Dillon finds comfort in its small size. “Historically, there’s a really wonderful relationship between faculty and students at this school,” he said. Originally from Chicago, Ill., Dillon earned his Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame and first began teaching at La Salle in 1968. Dillon aims to energize students interested in law school by getting them involved in an extracurricular moot court system. He hopes to introduce an environmental law course next year.

KATIE DUNLEAVY
Communication

Once Katie Dunleavy, Ph.D., completed her doctorate in communication at West Virginia University, she sought out a much smaller, private university to begin her teaching career. “I wanted to know who my students were and that they weren’t a number,” said the Washington, D.C., native. Specializing in communication theory and intercultural and interpersonal communication, Dunleavy aims to get students involved. Her research focuses on relationships and classroom behavior issues of students and teachers.

CRAIG FRANSON
English

 Barely 24 hours after defending his dissertation in English literature at the University of Oregon, Craig Franson, Ph.D., packed his belongings and flew to Philadelphia. Raised in Idaho, he moved east as La Salle’s new English professor and composition coordinator. With a background in creative writing and theater, he spent three years in broadcast journalism, sparked by the opportunity to work on a Bruce Willis movie that had been filmed in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Franson specializes in British romantic literature, particularly that of Lord Byron and Percy Shelley.

LISA JARVINEN
History

It’s much easier to teach a subject when the textbook springs to life right outside the classroom. “I’m teaching about Ben Franklin, the Revolution, etc., and I’m thinking, this is ridiculous, I have to get downtown—everything involved Philadelphia,” History Professor Lisa Jarvinen, Ph.D., said. “For historians, it’s great.” Jarvinen, of Michigan, earned her master’s degree in film studies from New York University. She holds a Ph.D. in modern United States history from Syracuse University. Previously a professor at Colgate University in New York, Jarvinen specializes in modern and early American history, Latin American history, and film history and theory.

JEFFREY KRALIK
Education

La Salle’s new Assistant Chair of the Education Department, Jeffrey Kralik, is excited to help shape the department’s future. As he completes his doctoral work in education policy at the University of Pennsylvania, Kralik said it’s refreshing to refocus on teaching. "At La Salle, (teaching) is clearly the most important thing," he said. Kralik, who grew up near Detroit, Mich., is working with the Education Department to create a center for leadership in education.

BRYAN NARENDORF
English

La Salle University English Professor Bryan Narendorf, Ph.D., bounced from his hometown of Houston, Texas, to Ohio State for his Master of Fine Arts degree, to the University of Missouri for his Ph.D., before settling in Philadelphia. With previous teaching experience in a Catholic high school, Narendorf said he felt comfortable taking on his job at La Salle. Narendorf weaves poetry into his creative writing courses. He prefers the history and translation of American poetry over the more fractured style of modern language poetry.

ANDREA PAMPALONI
Communication

Andrea Pampaloni, Ph.D., felt she hit the jackpot when she became part of the Communication Department this year. “I like the whole package (at La Salle)—the communication program, service learning, and Lasallian values,” she said.

Pampaloni, of Avon by the Sea, N.J., had “lived the whole corporate life.” She returned to school and earned her Ph.D. from Rutgers University in 2006. As part of La Salle’s Communication Department, she specializes in organizational and interpersonal communication.
LA SALLE REMEMBERS AN ENTHUSIASTIC EDUCATOR

For more than four decades, Michael Kerlin, Ph.D., ’57, MBA ’88, enlightened students with his enthusiasm for lifelong learning.

Kerlin, of Lafayette Hill, Pa., lost a lengthy battle with leukemia on Nov. 23, 2007, at the age of 71.

Born in Northeast Philadelphia, Kerlin attended West Catholic High School and joined the Christian Brothers at age 16. He earned a bachelor’s degree in English from La Salle in 1957, received his doctorate in philosophy from Gregorian University in Rome, Italy, in 1967, received his doctorate in religion from Temple University in 1974, and earned his MBA from La Salle at age 52.

Kerlin began teaching at La Salle while serving as a Christian Brother. In 1970, he resigned as a Brother and subsequently married. He chaired the Philosophy Department for 28 years and received the 2006 Distinguished Lasallian Educator award.

Kerlin is survived by his wife, two children, and one grandchild.

STUDENTS AWARDED ANNENBERG SCHOLARSHIP

Freshmen Andrew Tyler Pierce of Hatfield, Pa., and Sean Thomas McMichael of Haddonfield, N.J., received the Annenberg Scholarship upon their admission to La Salle. Awarded each spring, the scholarship is presented to students who show a strong interest in math or science. Nearly a dozen students currently enrolled at La Salle have received the four-year scholarship.

RETired Rossi isn’t history at La Salle

Although he officially retired, John Rossi, Ph.D., ’58, can’t seem to give up his post as history professor at La Salle. Rossi, who joined the faculty full time in 1962, still teaches two courses a semester.

“I enjoy coming in here. It gives me a place to go,” he said.

Rossi attended La Salle College High School and graduated from La Salle College in 1958. During his 57-year stint at La Salle, Rossi concentrated on modern British history, but he also branched out to cover courses on George Orwell, Irish history, World War II, and his most-loved baseball.

“My wife had a phrase for it, ‘One of your avocations became your vocation,’ and it’s true,” he said.

One of Rossi’s courses revolved around his book, The National Game, and he authored several others, including A Whole New Game and The 1964 Phillies.

“As long as I enjoy it and the students enjoy me, I’ll enjoy teaching,” he said.

MILLARD RECALLS MILESTONES DURING HER TENURE

Barbara Millard, Ph.D., had many standout moments during her 35-year career as one of the first women professors at La Salle.

The Christian Brothers granted Millard special permission to join the English Department in 1972—only two years after the University began admitting women. Going co-ed had its “growing pains,” Millard noted. However, she took advantage of the situation by addressing women’s issues on campus.

Millard launched the Building Blocks Child Development Center and a women’s net-work on campus. She was the first woman voted to the Faculty Senate and to become Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

Millard specialized in the Renaissance period, Shakespeare, and English literature. She often scheduled members of the Royal Shakespeare Co. to perform on campus and also headed summer Shakespeare workshops for high school teachers.

Although Millard had been a part of the University’s rapidly changing history, she recognized that the presence of the Christian Brothers still sets the University apart.

“What’s been maintained is the important dedication to students,” she said. “It comes with the Brothers’ mission that is so wonderful.”
Students who participated in a unique summer course at La Salle University provided as many lessons to graduate students in the Education Department as the course itself.

Practicum II, the Inclusion Program, places special education students and their general education siblings in the same program, allowing students and teachers to learn from one another. The practicum focuses on coursework preparation and teaching experience, according to Frank Mosca, Ph.D., Chair of the Education Department.

Assistant Professor of Education Carole Patrylo, Ed.D., who directs the program, has been involved since 1995, when only 12 students were enrolled. Now, about 100 students participate from 14 local school districts. Supervised graduate students plan literacy and math lessons for students from ages 4 to 19.

“It can be very stressful and demanding,” Mosca said. “The graduate students are building and creating what they’ll actually implement.”

However, La Salle students repeatedly tell Patrylo that the practicum is a vital part of their teaching experience.

“They’re not just (learning from) content, but how we live with each other in society,” Patrylo said.

EXAMINING AN EPIDEMIC IN WESTERN CHINA

Junior Jeff Quiggly (left) and Assistant Professor of Communication Huntly Collins (right) meet with an official of the Chinese Center for Disease Control in Urumqi, the capital of the northwestern Xinjiang Province. Collins and Quiggly investigated the Chinese province’s growing AIDS epidemic last summer and returned with plans to publicize their research.

TESOL EXPANDS UPON ESL CERTIFICATION

Driven by the need to address the nation’s growing population of non-English-speaking residents, La Salle has designed a Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).

First offered this spring, the program includes and expands upon the English as a Second Language (ESL) certification. Courses focus on ESL methodologies, techniques, and critical-thinking teaching.

According to Luis Gomez, Ph.D., Director of the Hispanic Institute, La Salle’s program is unique because it zeroes in on the use of multimedia as an effective teaching tool.

CERTIFICATE ADDRESSES CHANGING WORLD

La Salle’s newly established Certificate in Intelligence and Security Studies reflects the changing political, economic, and cultural status of today’s world, according to Bernhardt Blumenthal, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and Director of the Master’s Program in Central and Eastern European Studies.

The certificate program focuses on Central and Eastern European Studies. Required courses enhance students’ geopolitical knowledge and increase their ability to gather and interpret intelligence.

WORKING HARMONIOUSLY

Profiled in the Harvard Business Review for their demonstrated teamwork, the Portland String Quartet performed for La Salle’s management classes during the University’s Arts Awareness Week last spring. Assistant Professor of Business Gregory Bruce said the group provided a visual example of collaboration while working through leadership and conflict.
SPOTLIGHT ON: BIOLOGY

STEFAN SAMUELOWICZ

Since science is much more applicable in the lab than through a textbook, Biology Professor Stefan Samulewicz, Ph.D. encourages his students to participate in hands-on activities.

“It makes it so much easier to get the idea across,” Samulewicz said. Some students have even had a sneak peak of the breakthrough research that Samulewicz has been working on at University of Pennsylvania’s Wistar Institute. About eight years ago, scientists discovered a mouse with an autoimmune disease that was able to regenerate its body parts like an amphibian.

“Mice are incredibly similar genetically to humans,” Samulewicz said. “Theoretically, we should be able to do it, too.”

Several students have participated in the research, providing them the opportunity to experience real lab work, he noted.

Samulewicz has also prepared a younger group of students for scientific research. As a local professor who participated in the Math and Science Partnership of Greater Philadelphia grant, Samulewicz worked closely with local high school teachers to refine their science curriculum.

“Everything you need to know you relearn (in college), but to greater depth,” he said. “What you need are good study skills and to be inquisitive.”

Samulewicz appreciates the close relationship he has with students at La Salle. He said it helps to keep students interested in what they are doing and helps them to see their professor as a real person with an interest in life outside the University.

GERALD BALLOUGH

Although Biology Professor Gerald Ballough, Ph.D., is humble about his breakthrough research, he continues to receive encouraging reviews from neurology panels and publications.

After two years at l’Université Louis Pasteur, Ballough left France in 1992 to work with the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, where his team discovered a superior form of neuroprotection.

A combination of treatments has proven to reduce seizure-related brain damage caused by nerve agents, or nerve gas, better than currently available antidotes alone. After Ballough presented his team’s definitive evidence in 1998, the U.S. Army launched its Neuroprotection Program.

Their research has been published in various technical journals, including Neurology Today (July 2007). Their findings also have been presented at international meetings, including NATO and the Society for Neuroscience and American Academy of Neurology—where it was honored as “Top 100 of 2007.” Ballough is the first author of the neuroprotection chapter of the upcoming edition of Textbooks of Military Medicine.

Ballough’s students have co-authored publications in neuroscience research and presented at various meetings, including the annual meeting of the Society of Neuroscience. All have contributed to independent discoveries resulting from nerve agent poisoning. He said he is “exceedingly proud” of each one of them.

Ballough only foresees greater accomplishments in the department as La Salle’s Holroyd Hall prepares for major renovations.
ANGELAS RESEARCHES ISLAM WITH FULBRIGHT

Fulbright scholar and Assistant Professor of Religion Vivienne Angeles, Ph.D., returned to La Salle this semester after a five-month trip to research Islam in Southeast Asia.

Angeles left for Malaysia in June to study the visual expressions of Islam by researching personal identification, clothing, community, and the changing forms of the mosque. She lectured on her research and related topics at the University of Malaya.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR FINDS NEW PASSION

When Lauren Clay, ’05, accepted a Fulbright Scholarship to study microfinance in Bangladesh, her travels stirred up a new interest in public health.

During her nine-month trip, she began researching maternal health, particularly births by c-section in the rising middle-class. Clay is completing her master’s in international affairs and plans to pursue a master’s in public health. She hopes her research improves maternal health in Bangladesh and leads to an expanded study.

GRAUKE AWARDED WRITING RESIDENCY

Assistant Professor of English Kevin Grauke, Ph.D., was one of six recipients of a prestigious residency through the Millay Colony for the Arts. Grauke was among more than 450 applicants nationwide to receive one of only 48 residencies between April and November.

This spring, the residency will provide Grauke with room and board to write for a month. Grauke, who writes fiction, is currently on research leave to complete Goodnighting, which is a novel-in-stories.
CREATING ‘A BETTER CHANCE’ FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

A child’s environment should not determine whether a promising student receives a quality education—yet countless children miss the opportunity to excel academically. Through the national organization “A Better Chance,” these gifted students can experience education in a more encouraging setting.

“Our mission is to give kids a better chance,” said Randy Fingerhut, Ph.D., an assistant professor of psychology at La Salle. “These are students who have come from academically challenged backgrounds who have academic promise.”

Fingerhut advocates excellence in education at work and at home. He became involved about seven years ago through his mother-in-law’s work with the organization in Lower Merion, Pa. Both he and his wife, Pamela, are board members.

The program is offered to high school students who have a bright future but do not have the resources to succeed. Those eligible complete the application process and, upon acceptance, leave their families to seek a stronger academic program. Students attend Upper Merion High School, live in a dormitory in Ardmore, Pa., and meet with a host family, who provides meals, entertainment, and, mostly importantly, mentorship.

Although students appear to have a disadvantage in a competitive school, about 98 percent of those in the Lower Merion chapter have continued on to four-year colleges and 40 percent pursue higher degrees. Fingerhut said the experience is very personal and rewarding.

“The more I’m at La Salle, the more I’m in touch with its values,” he said. “We’re making a difference and promoting higher education.”