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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

THOMAS A. KEAGY

A life of service. To help celebrate La Salle University’s 150th anniversary, a Lasallian Day of Service was organized last September for the entire University community to reach out to our immediate neighborhood and the region beyond. As our lead article in this issue attests, I was fortunate to join the faculty, students, alumni, and friends of our Social Work Department in canvassing our immediate neighborhood prior to this past year’s presidential election.

Those of us who participated in this and other projects conducted on this special day continue to look back on our experiences as among our most satisfying and enriching memories of the past year.

We here at La Salle have always valued service as a cornerstone of our institutional mission and fully recognize it is not something that occurs only one day every 150 years, or even one day a year, but rather is something that permeates all that we do and all that we are. Some Arts and Sciences majors, such as those in social work, have obvious connections to service. But others are just as focused on service: The chemistry professor and his students who study the causes of cancer; the psychology professor and her students who help our returning veterans adjust to life off the battlefield; the political science professor and his students who contribute to a just and fair government approach to poverty; the communication professor and her students who make certain we all understand the implications of the latest news event.

As you read the various stories and updates included in this edition of the Arts and Sciences Explorer newsletter, I hope it becomes clear to you that we take seriously the charge imbedded in our institutional mission to “have a positive impact on the social, political, professional, and moral challenges of contemporary society.”

(From left) Janine Mariscotti, assistant professor of social work, Bonni Zetick, Chair of the Department of Social Work, State Rep. Dwight Evans, ’75, Bill Durham, La Salle’s Community Liaison, and Thomas Keagy, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, at the Department of Social Work’s Lasallian Day of Service voter registration project at The Shoppes at La Salle.
Social work is synonymous with service, said Janine Mariscotti, assistant professor of social work. So as La Salle University organized its Lasallian Day of Service during the University’s 150th anniversary last fall, the Department of Social Work knew it had to step up.

“It was inevitable that our department would participate as a group in the Day of Service,” she said.

As La Salle alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends gathered in Philadelphia and around the nation to address the needs of schools, churches, senior centers, hospices, food banks, and shelters during the Day of Service, the Social Work Department hit the streets to tackle social injustice.

A major social justice issue last fall revolved around the proposed Voter ID law leading up to the 2012 general election. Since voting is a fundamental American right, Mariscotti spotted a perfect opportunity for a social work-based service project.

“As social work educators and students, we recognized that certain disenfranchised groups would be disproportionately affected by the (now defunct) Voter ID law, including people of color, people of lower socioeconomic status, people whose first language isn’t English, older adults, and people with disabilities,” she said. “We wanted to intervene in this issue of social injustice by informing people of the Voter ID law, by transporting voters to the PennDot Office to get their voter ID, and by registering people to vote.”

To manage the department’s efforts, Mariscotti relied on Emmanuella Theophile, a senior social work student and president of the Social Work Association. Feeling that the proposed law was a violation of people’s right to vote, Theophile quickly took up the cause and began organizing the project. “This was about getting the word out, not about Republican or Democrat,” she said. “It was about the right of voting.”

To Theophile, the voter ID and registration project was a perfect example of Social Work 101. “Social work, overall, is like a tree with several branches,” she said. “We have to get the word out, make changes, and advocate for those who cannot do it for themselves.”

According to Mariscotti, about 40 social work students, alumni, family, friends, and other members of the La Salle community, including Thomas Keagy, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, and Provost Joseph Marbach participated in the project. “The Lasallian Day of Service was a great opportunity for the Social Work Department to put what they learn into practice for a good cause,” Keagy said. “I was proud to work with our faculty and students as they addressed a real need in the neighboring community.”

Most of the participants canvassed the Olney neighborhood outside of La Salle, speaking with neighbors and encouraging them to register to vote.

Another group registered local residents outside of Fresh Grocer at The Shoppes of La Salle. For those who needed IDs, volunteers provided transportation to PennDot and helped people understand the laws and requirements.

Working in the community surrounding La Salle allowed volunteers to continue fostering a good relationship with their neighbors.

The project energized social work students as they met with neighbors, listened to their stories, and learned of the barriers they had to overcome in order to vote. “I think we all learned that we have to step up and reach out of our comfort zones to really ‘see’ how people just around the corner live, how they survive very challenging situations, and how they continue to be gracious and kind,” Mariscotti said.

By Election Day, Theophile was glad they were able to get the word out to so many people. “Regardless of how the election went, I was just glad we participated,” she said.

(Photos, above) Emmanuella Theophile, ‘13 (left), and Vanessa Exama, ‘12, participate in the Department of Social Work’s voter registration efforts during the Lasallian Day of Service. (Photo, left) Arlene Serrano, ‘13 (left), and Janine Mariscotti, assistant professor of social work, interact with neighbors at The Shoppes at La Salle.
His most recent research started by accident, but Brother Gerry Molyneaux, F.S.C., ‘58, said he was instantly hooked by the passion people have for the Peace Corps and its mission.

A few years ago, Br. Gerry was asked to choose a piece to write about for a three-volume set called Milestone Documents in American History. He happened to choose the Peace Corps. Around the same time, John Baky, Director of Connelly Library, tipped off Br. Gerry that West Chester University was hosting a conference about the Peace Corps with many of the organization’s biggest players in attendance.

Those presenting at the conference were so passionate about the Peace Corps and its mission that Br. Gerry wanted to do more. He began researching the start of the Peace Corps and the executive order that made it all happen. A second paper quickly followed, focusing on the way the Peace Corps advertised in the 1960s. He then investigated how the organization got approval by Congress to become an independent agency.

Currently on his fourth paper, Br. Gerry is researching the relationship the Peace Corps has with the University of Notre Dame, where, incidentally, Br Gerry earned his master’s degree.

“The West Chester conference pulled me in. These were really intensely loyal people to the Peace Corps,” he said. “You could pick up that energy and feed off of it.”

According to Br. Gerry, the Peace Corps is rather famous for not promoting itself. Yet, Notre Dame was one of the first institutions to have a group go abroad to Chile in 1961, and it continues to have great participation from its students. Father Theodore Hesburgh, president emeritus of Notre Dame, facilitated the first group and traveled with them for three weeks, becoming known as everyone’s priest, regardless of religious affiliation.

“That first group is an incredibly loyal group that still meets every five years at Notre Dame,” Br. Gerry said.

The next piece in his research will focus on the Wisconsin Plan, in which the Peace Corps saturated the University of Wisconsin for exposure in 1963. University of Wisconsin also is familiar territory to Br. Gerry, who earned his doctoral degree there.

Br. Gerry has presented and published his work and hopes to do more with his future research.

“It’s been an honor to work with people this dedicated to a cause,” he said.
GROWTH IN THE HONORS PROGRAM

For the better part of its 50-year history, La Salle’s Honors Program has been a model for other honors programs nationwide. Thanks in large part to the design of John Grady, the late longtime Director, the program has been known for its challenging, creative academics and its dedicated students.

Some creative marketing by current Director Rich Nigro, Ph.D., and La Salle’s Enrollment Services division has opened up that experience to an even larger class of Honors students this year. By revising how students are recruited, the Honors Program has seen a 25 percent enrollment increase in its freshman class.

“It occurred to me that every institution is looking for high-achieving students,” Nigro said. “We were going to have to do way more if we wanted the program to grow.”

Nigro put together a communication and events plan with Enrollment Services, which started by automatically accepting all students into the program who fit the criteria. The plan also included a targeted mailing that invited students to the program, a brochure for the program, and communication with the Director, faculty, and alumni. A preview day allowed visiting students and parents to shadow other Honors students and join a cultural class trip in Philadelphia to see how the program uses the city as a classroom.

“This is a communication plan that didn’t exist, with several points of contact along the line and several people from the University who spoke with students at different points,” Nigro said.

Scholarships are certainly available and promoted at La Salle for high-achieving, in-demand students, but Nigro said the students sell the program.

“La Salle really puts its best foot forward,” he said.

This year, the incoming Honors Program freshman class had 60 students, 15 more than the previous year, bringing total program enrollment to 200 students. Nigro is working toward increasing the incoming class to 75 Honors students within the next five years.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR NAMED DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

La Salle named John Baky, Director of Connelly Library, as the 2012 recipient of the Distinguished Lasallian Educator Award. The award honors outstanding members of the La Salle community who show commitment to Lasallian traditions.

Baky arrived at La Salle in 1980, when the University’s library resided in the Lawrence Administration Building. Prior to being named Director of Connelly Library in 1991, he served as Head of Acquisitions, adding 130,000 volumes to the library’s collection. He developed many of the library’s special collections, including The Imaginative Representations of the Vietnam War, The Imaginative Representations of the Holocaust, The Susan Dunleavy Collection of Biblical Literature, and The Life and Work of Bob Dylan.

SOVEN RECEIVES SERVICE AWARD

La Salle honored Margot Soven, professor of English, with the University’s Faculty Service Award last spring.

Soven joined La Salle’s faculty 31 years ago. She began a series of workshops at the University for faculty members to integrate the instruction of writing into the teaching of their subject matter and also implemented the teaching of doubles courses, which paired classes with faculty across disciplines.

Soven was instrumental in developing the University’s Writing Fellows program, in which students are trained to tutor other students on writing. She has authored two books and has co-edited six books on higher education.

MARISCOTTI HONORED FOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHING

Janine Mariscotti, ’81, assistant professor of social work, received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching during the 2012 undergraduate Commencement ceremony.

A member of the faculty for 23 years, Mariscotti said, “Social work’s philosophy has always been a good fit for me—considering the person in the environment, thinking and acting systemically, and focusing on people’s strengths and empowerment.”

While a social worker, Mariscotti began teaching at La Salle as an adjunct faculty member and eventually became full time. She maintains a practice as a grief and mourning counselor and incorporates what she learns from her professional experiences into her classes.
School Welcomes New Faculty

**SUSAN DIXON**  
Fine Arts  
The draw of La Salle's Art Museum and the exceptional achievements of the University's art history students pulled Susan Dixon a little closer to her hometown of Ambler, Pa., when she accepted a position as associate professor and Chair of the Fine Arts Department. After teaching across the country, including in Tulsa, Okla., for 10 years, Dixon said she looks forward to utilizing the La Salle Art Museum's collections and creating courses that provide students with skills in museum work and history. Dixon, an Italianist, concentrates on works from the 16th through 18th centuries and has published a book on an 18th-century garden in Rome as well as a teaching anthology for Italian Baroque art. Her research has focused on 18th-century printmaker Giovanni Battista Piranesi and Roldolfo Lanciani, a late 19th-, early 20th-century archaeologist.

**LAURA GAMBRÉL**  
Psychology  
To Laura Gambrel, La Salle’s emphasis on learning for the greater good was key when she decided to accept a position here as an assistant professor of psychology. She appreciated the University’s focus on the idea that what we do in the classroom benefits others. Gambrel, originally from Minnesota, received her doctorate in human development with an emphasis in marriage and family therapy from Virginia Tech. Her research focuses on relational mindfulness, which involves applying mindfulness-based interventions to enhance couple and family relationships. Since coming to Philadelphia, she’s been enjoying exploring the area’s art museums, restaurants, and historical sites.

**CARMEN LAMAS**  
Foreign Languages  
Carmen Lamas’ hope for her new role at La Salle is to enjoy the students and learn as much as possible, an experience she has already had in her Spanish language courses as she learned from her “marvelous” students. In addition to teaching, Lamas is Director of the Hispanic Institute, in which she manages the graduate programs and certificates offered. In this position, she works closely with the community and schools in the Philadelphia region. Lamas specializes in 19th-century Latin American literature, history, and culture, as well as U.S. Latina/o literature.

**PAMELA LANNUTTI, ’95**  
Communication  
Pamela Lannutti, ’95, has personally benefited from a La Salle education, so she happily accepted a position at her alma mater when the opportunity arose. Witnessing firsthand the dedication of the Communication Department faculty, she said she felt honored to become part of their strong teaching tradition. Coming to La Salle from Boston College, Lannutti focuses on interpersonal communication. Her research deals with communication in personal relationships and health communication, and she is currently examining the impact of legally recognized same-sex marriage on LGBT individuals, same-sex couples, and their social networks.

**GREGORY ROTH**  
Psychology  
After living in several urban areas, Gregory Roth realized that issues such as homelessness, mental illness, and poverty were not being addressed. He decided to further his education, becoming an assistant professor of communication and honorary Christian Brother, can honestly say he doesn’t recall many changes at La Salle.

Okay, well, when he started in the English Department in 1959, women were scarce on campus, there was no Communication Center, no one owned a video camera, and the Union was the newest building on campus. But when you’re living the change, MacLeod said, it’s much less noticeable.

“When an alum came to visit and we were on Main Campus, he said, ‘They cut down all the bushes.’ I hadn’t even noticed,” he said. “When you’re here, you don’t notice it as much.”

But things have certainly changed over his career here. MacLeod first started teaching speech and working with his friend and colleague, Dan Rodden, in The Masque. His life at La Salle changed in the 1970s, when Brother Richard Hawley, F.S.C., who ran audiovisual equipment in the Biology Department, asked if anyone was interested in using a newly purchased video camera.

MacLeod went from videotaping presentations to developing a portable video cart to creating a TV studio and control room in the basement of Olney Hall. After 54 YEARS AND COUNTING

Over the past 54 years, Sid MacLeod, A.F.S.C., assistant professor of communication and honorary Christian Brother,
in the Counseling and Family Therapy master’s program, to find a way to alleviate these problems. Having previously served as a case manager, crisis worker, and residential counselor for adults with mental illness, he was particularly impressed with La Salle’s emphasis on service as part of its educational experience. His research investigates medication adherence strategies for methadone users and those with HIV/AIDS, workplace discrimination for those with HIV/AIDS and mental illness, and treatment experiences for those with mental illness.

MEGAN SCHNOEN
English
La Salle’s mission appealed to Megan Schoen in both its focus on personal attention for students and its devotion to social justice. She particularly appreciated the University’s emphasis to foster students who see themselves as good global citizens. Schoen, originally from Toledo, Ohio, specializes in rhetoric and composition and is primarily interested in the teaching of writing. Her dissertation focused on traditional and contemporary communication practices in the nation-state of Botswana in southern Africa. Schoen serves on the Composition Committee and a committee to attract students to an English major or minor.

ANTHONY PAUL SMITH
Religion
When interviewing at La Salle, Anthony Paul Smith said he was impressed by the excitement of his colleagues when they talked about teaching. Instead of complaining about their students, the faculty spoke highly of their passion for learning. Having attended DePaul University in Chicago, he also was comfortable with the Catholic approach of educating the whole person. Smith’s expertise lies in an area called philosophical theology—working out theological problems through philosophical means. One area of his research involves environmental theory, which is our ethical relationship to the environment from theological and philosophical perspectives. Another focuses on the investigation of religion both as a conservative and revolutionary concept.

CAITLIN TAYLOR
Sociology and Criminal Justice
Caitlin Taylor grew up in Havertown, Pa., now lives in South Philadelphia, and loves Philly sports. She earned her Ph.D. in criminal justice from Temple University and has worked as a research consultant for the federal probation departments in Philadelphia and New Jersey. She has evaluated crime reduction initiatives by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Philadelphia Police Department. Her research focuses on ex-offender reentry and reintegration as well as the negative effects of mass incarceration on families and communities. Taylor was drawn to La Salle’s mission of social justice and appreciated its close-knit community environment.

DAVID ZUZGA
Biology
When considering working for La Salle, David Zuzga, assistant professor of biology, was impressed with the newly remodeled Holroyd Hall, featuring the Hugh and Nancy Devlin Center for Science and Technology, and the University’s dedication to the sciences. Zuzga completed his graduate work at the Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University and earned a Ph.D. in genetics. His areas of research focus on cell and molecular biology, specifically cytoskeletal and membrane dynamics, cell mobility, and cell-ECM interactions. He teaches genetics, molecular biology, and cancer biology and is involved in a committee working to increase collaborative research with faculty and students at La Salle.

THANKING RETIRING FACULTY
The School of Arts and Sciences has been fortunate to rely on the expertise of several longtime faculty members in various departments. Their service is greatly appreciated, and we wish them the best in retirement.

- Richard Goedkoop, associate professor of communication, 33 years
- John Seydow, professor of English, 45 years
- William Wine, associate professor of communication, 32 years
- Bonni Zetick, assistant professor of social work, 13 years

In his field, MacLeod also has certainly seen the format and medium of film change through the years. Video recorders have gone from awkwardly large boxes with open film reels to digital cameras the size of a deck of cards with internal memory. “That’s changed, but I still remind students that the screen is the bottom line,” he said. “With all that technology, it’s still the same stuff. A well-written movie is still a well-written movie. It’s not like actors are acting harder. ... You have to have a good story line.”

After 54 years, MacLeod is still eager to teach and to see what’s next. “I’ll keep doing what I’m doing as long as I’m healthy and happy,” he said. “The people in this department are incredible.”
Alumni, faculty, and administrators gathered for the 10th anniversary of the Leadership and Global Understanding (LGU) program this summer in Center City.

Developed by Marjorie Allen, associate professor of integrative studies, and Bob Vogel, professor of education, the LGU minor aims to mold students into civic leaders both in and out of the classroom. The program started small 10 years ago, Allen said, but has blossomed into numerous partnerships and interdisciplinary programs at La Salle, in the greater Philadelphia area, and internationally.

During the reunion, about 35 alumni gathered to reminisce and share their experiences from the program. “People were really excited,” Allen said “There are real changes, and alumni are wondering where they have an opportunity to participate.”

The program has grown tremendously in the past decade, and nearly 200 students have graduated from or participated in LGU. The reunion took place, in part, to inform alumni of the program’s progress and get them involved. “We’re hoping more alumni get engaged, and we’re looking at how to tap into them as resources,” said Tom Wingert, ‘12, an LGU alum.

The LGU travel/study component has expanded with trips to locations such as Brazil, Israel and Palestine, Turkey, and Cuba, involving students in critical world issues and encouraging them to be more engaged global citizens. LGU students also participate in Writers Matter. Locally, LGU students in the Philadelphia Writers Matter program work to motivate middle school students to become more engaged learners through their writing and storytelling. Abroad in Israel and Palestine, La Salle students partner with students from Bethlehem University in the West Bank, helping middle school students in a conflict zone connect and make their voices heard.

Out of the LGU travel/study, the Lasallian Leadership Conference emerged in 2012. Held in Beauvais, France, students and faculty from seven Lasallian universities spent two weeks collaborating and participating in leadership training. This year’s conference will be held at La Salle.

Most recently, LGU has helped initiate Exploring Nutrition, a project that focuses on fostering a relationship between the University, Fresh Grocer, and local organizations to have a positive effect on the health and nutrition of members of La Salle’s neighboring community.

“What we care about is making a certain kind of education available to students that is truly unique to La Salle,” Allen said. “That’s what drives us.”
Matthew Quick, ‘96, has skyrocketed from being a penniless novelist living in his in-laws’ basement to a regular on the red carpet, rubbing shoulders with the stars.

For those who have missed the hype, Quick authored The Silver Linings Playbook, which tells the story of Pat Peoples, who was recently released from a mental health facility and is intent on regaining the affection of his estranged wife. Despite a restraining order and other challenges, Pat is sure they’ll reconcile because he is working hard to improve himself, and, because he believes in silver linings. In the midst of this, he begins a friendship with Tiffany, a mentally unstable widow with her own problems.

Since its release date last November as a movie with The Weinstein Company, it’s been hard to miss the praise for both the book and movie. It’s safe to say the novel he wrote has been well received, and Quick admits he loved director David O. Russell’s version on the big screen.

“When you settle a movie deal, especially as an unpublished author, you have absolutely no control,” he said. “When I saw the film, I loved it. At first, my fists were clenched, my heart was beating, and then, about a half-hour into the film, I began really enjoying the film and laughed a couple times. It was a great adaptation of my work and a great David Russell film.”

And, he’s prepared to do it again. DreamWorks has purchased the film rights to Quick’s latest novel, The Good Luck of Right Now.

KURISH RECEIVES HARRY KALAS AWARD

Listening to the voice of legendary Phillies announcer Harry Kalas call the final out and declare the Phillies the National League East Division winners in 2007 made Daniel Kurish realize he wanted to be a broadcaster. Last spring, the senior communication major received the Harry Kalas Award, a scholarship for aspiring broadcasters, from Phillies broadcaster Gary Matthews at Citizens Bank Park.

“It was really an honor to be surrounded and congratulated by so many people that I have looked up to for so long,” Kurish said.

Kurish also interned with the Philadelphia Eagles in the team’s video department.

FULBRIGHT TAKES FISHER TO AZERBAIJAN

Claire Fisher, ‘12, has received a Fulbright Grant to teach English for a year in Azerbaijan.

Fisher, a double major in economics and international studies, was named the top economics graduate from La Salle last spring. “My academic interests are the economics and politics of transition and the current political and economic development that countries in the former Soviet Union are undergoing,” Fisher said.

Fisher taught in Azerbaijan, a former Soviet republic, from October through June. She is applying to master’s programs in Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies.

MUSE LANDS INTERIOR DEPARTMENT JOB

Shortly after completing her internship at the White House, communication major Queen Muse, ‘12, was hired by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Muse interned for the White House’s Office of Communications last spring. Her new position is Press Assistant for the Office of the Secretary, Office of Communications, where she will be assisting with responses to press inquiries and helping with press releases and media advisories.

“I never imagined I would end up interning at the White House, let alone working for a major department of the U.S. government,” said Muse. “But through my experiences at La Salle, I’ve learned that communication is an amazing transferrable skill.”

STUDENTS’ MOVIE WINS BEST STORY

The world’s largest student film fest greeted five La Salle communication majors warmly as they returned home with an award for Best Story from the CampusMovieFest International Grand Finale Awards in Los Angeles.

Catherine Zini, Sean Gubitosi, Mike McCoy, Andrew Groy, and Dave Gryzbowski collaborated to write, produce, and direct their film, Empty Pages. Zini and Gubitosi also starred in the five-minute movie.

This is the second year they won the regional competition and traveled to Los Angeles for the final international competition. Their movie also was one of 16 finalists nominated for best film out of nearly 1,000 entries.
The following list of scholarly faculty accomplishments is only a sample of the work completed over the past year, with each person limited to one entry. For a more complete listing, please visit the Faculty subheading on the School of Arts and Sciences Web page.


STEPHEN ANDRILLI, Mathematics and Computer Science, and a co-author, David Hecker, have written two additional Web sections to accompany their textbook, Elementary Linear Algebra, 4th edition.


MARY ELLEN BALCHUNIS, Political Science, was quoted in a Philadelphia Inquirer story about the use of social media in the presidential campaign.

JOHN BEATTY, English and Digital Arts and Multimedia Design, and HUNTLY COLLINS, Communication, published “Team Teaching Online Journalism by Focusing on the Great Migration” in Teaching Journalism and Mass Communication, an online publication.

JACOB BENNETT, English, published several poems in 2012. Among these is “Postcard from Washington, D.C., in 1963.”

MICHAEL BOYLE, English, lectured on the topic “World War II, the Atomic Bomb, Murder, and the Cornell Wordsworth Series” at the Jenkins Town Lyceum.

LEANN CARDACIOTTO, Psychology, and collaborators presented a poster, “Mindfulness and Sleep Quality: The importance of acceptance,” at the annual World Congress of the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science.

JORDAN COPELAND, Religion, published “Too Faced? Reconsidering Friendship in the Digital Age” as a chapter in Frontiers of Cyberspace, an edited volume.

CHARLES DESNOYERS, History, GEORGE STOW, History, and a co-author published a revised brief edition of their 2011 text, Patterns of World History.


BROTHER JOSEPH DOUGHERTY, F.S.C., Religion, presented “Increase our Faith: The English Translation of the Roman Missal” to the Campus Ministry of La Salle University, Ozamiz, Philippines.


KATIE NEARY DUNLEAVY, Communication, has been ranked in the top 1 percent of the most prolific scholars over the past five years in the communication discipline. This information was included in a study published in the October 2012 edition of Communication Education.


CHARLES GALLAGHER, Sociology and Criminal Justice, edited the 5th edition of Rethinking the Color Line: Readings in Race and Ethnicity.


EDIE GOLDBACHER, Psychology, C. la Grotte, a La Salle Psy.D student, and colleagues published “Factor Structure of the Emotional Eating Scale in Overweight and Obese Individuals Seeking Treatment” in Appetite.

PATRICIA HABERSTROH, Fine Arts, had her book, The Female Figure in Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin’s Poetry, published by Cork University Press in Ireland.

CHARLES JACOB, Psychology, and colleagues presented “Counselors as Transformational Leaders: Connecting Transformational Leadership and Counselor Education” at the 44th annual Pennsylvania Counseling Association Conference.


ELIZABETH LANGEMAK, English, published “Words Against Summer” in the Oxford journal Literary Imagination.


LING LIANG, Education, and co-authors published “Science Education Research in China: Challenges and Promises” in the special issues of International Journal of Science Education, which she also co-edited.

JANINE MARISCOTTI, Social Work, has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the Commission on Accreditation, Council on Social Work Education.

IN MEMORIAM: JOHN F. CONNORS

John F. Connors, professor of sociology for more than 50 years and former Chair of the Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice Department, died of an apparent asthma attack at his home in Merion, Pa., on Oct. 4, 2012. He was 85.

Born in Chester, Pa., Connors earned his bachelor’s degree from Mount Saint Mary’s College in Maryland and his master’s and doctoral degrees in sociology from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Connors was a full-time professor at La Salle from 1965 to 1993 and continued to teach on a part-time basis until retiring completely in 2010.

Connors was a man of great faith, which inspired him to become involved in the civil rights movement in the 1950s. He participated in the Martin Luther King-led March on Washington, D.C., in 1963.

Connors was survived by three daughters, two sons, 10 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. His wife, Anna, died in 1970.

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IN MEMORIAM: BERNHARDT ‘BERNIE’ BLUMENTHAL, ’59

Bernhardt “Bernie” Blumenthal, ’59, professor and former Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, died Sept. 24, 2012, after battling prostate cancer. He was 76.

A native of West Oak Lane, Blumenthal graduated from La Salle College High School and majored in German at then-La Salle College. He earned his master’s degree in German from Northwestern University and his Ph.D. from Princeton.

Blumenthal joined La Salle’s faculty in 1963 and became Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in 1969, a position he held until his death. He and Leo Rudnytzky, ’58, professor emeritus of foreign languages, founded the master’s program in Central and Eastern European Studies.

He is survived by his wife, Margie, three daughters, a son, a stepson, and two grandchildren.

RICHARD MSHOMBA, Economics, published “Africa and the Doha Round” in Trade, Poverty, Development: Getting beyond the WTOs Doha Deadlock.

GEORGE PERFECKY, Foreign Languages, published “A Note on the Sources Describing the Taking of Lviv by King Kazimierz of Poland in 1340 as Found in the Hustyn Chronicle” in The Ukrainian Quarterly.

WILLIAM PRICE, Chemistry, and students Alexander Aboud and Robert Dwyer presented a paper, “Finding NEMA’s vinyl protons: Unusual chemical shift variability in proton NMR Spectra at low concentrations,” at the 244th national meeting of the American Chemical Society.

JOHN ROONEY, Psychology, has published his book, Bleachers in the Bedroom: The Swampoodle Irish and Connie Mack, with The Educational Publisher.

FRANCIS RYAN, American Studies, served as session chair and commentator of “You Are What You Eat” at the Eastern American Studies Association Conference.

MEGAN SPOKAS, Psychology, co-authored “Characteristics of Individuals making Impulsive Suicide Attempts,” published in Journal of Affective Disorders.


GEORGE STOW, History, presented “The Calamitous Fourteenth Century: Crisis and Creativity in Medieval England” at the fall meeting of the Baronical Order of the Magna Charta.

JUDITH STULL, Sociology and Criminal Justice, and collaborators presented “The Ultimate Irony of Child Care Subsidies for Low-Income Families: No Job, No Support, No Child Care, No Job,” to the Work and Family Researchers Network.

MICHAEL SUDE, Psychology, presented “Ethical challenges with technology and digital communication” at the Pennsylvania Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Annual Membership Conference.


LYNNE TEXTER, Communication, presented “Strategic Communication Management: Moving Your Business Forward” for the Handskammer Beider Basel in Basel, Switzerland.

DONNA TONREY, Psychology, presented a workshop, “Attending to the Family System and Autism,” at the Annual Autism Conference held at La Salle University.

CORNELIA TSAKIRIDOU, Philosophy, has published Icons in Time, Persons in Eternity: Orthodox Theology and the Aesthetics of the Christian Image with Ashgate Publishing.

ROBERT VOGEL, Education, and DEBORAH YOST, Education, published “Writing Matters to Urban Middle School Students” in the Middle School Journal.

WILLIAM WEAVER, Integrated Science, Business, and Technology, has published a number of articles in Scientific Computing, including “Emergency!: Natural Language Processing and Clinical Decision Support for Patient Care.”

DAHRA WILLIAMS, Psychology, published “Where do Jamaican Adolescents Turn to for Psychological Help?” in Child Youth Care Forum.


IN MEMORIAM: STEVEN A. RANJO, ’95

Steven A. Ranjo, ’95, a La Salle University lab instructor, died on July 21, 2012, when his vehicle was hit while driving with his father in West Virginia. He was 40.

Ranjo was raised in Northeast Philadelphia and was a graduate of St. Joseph’s Prep High School. Ranjo earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from La Salle in 1995. He worked part time at a lab at Thomas Jefferson University. Two years later, he began working part time for La Salle’s Biology Department, and, in 1999, he was hired full time to be a laboratory coordinator and instructor at La Salle.

He also taught an introductory biology course for non-science majors in the summer.

Outside of La Salle, Ranjo’s true passion was scouting.

A white oak tree has been planted near La Salle’s tennis courts in Ranjo’s memory.
ILLITERACY is a major barrier to success for tens of thousands of people in the greater Philadelphia area, and Luis Gomez, associate professor and acting Chair of the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department, is doing his part to correct that.

Gomez serves on Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter’s Commission on Literacy. Established 20 years ago, the commission prepares adults with the literacy skills necessary to enter the workforce and communicate as contributing members of their community.

“It’s a battle,” Gomez said. “The commission fully recognizes we are not able to move the needle of illiteracy in Philadelphia. We would need millions of dollars to do that. But over time, we can have an impact on 4,000 to 5,000 people and help them.”

As one of 15 commission members, Gomez helped to form the group’s strategic plan, and he secures funding for literacy programs offered in the city. The process is tedious and involves marathon readings through grant proposals. “It’s not easy to sit down and look at four inches of paperwork, but you can’t fake your way through it because people are depending on the funding,” he said.

During his tenure, the commission has awarded 14 grants to established Philadelphia agencies that provide the community with programs on literacy, English as a second language, and GED preparation.

“The idea is to get a job,” Gomez said. “You can’t get a job if you can’t get your GED.”

Gomez, formerly the Director of La Salle’s Hispanic Institute, said reaching the immigrant community in Philadelphia is a big part of this equation. “The immigrant community, who are not English capable, are the ultimate definition of illiteracy. ESL has to be considered immediately, because you can’t aspire to get your GED if you’re not English literate,” he said. “We have to convince people that if you don’t get a high school diploma you’re dead in the water.”