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Funded by a $2 million grant from the PA Dept. of Education, La Salle Education Department faculty members Deborah Yost, Greer Richardson, and Mary Williams have been integral in developing an innovative instructional coaching model for K-8 educators. See story, p. 3.
Teach, mentor, coach. These three small words epitomize the educational tradition that St. John Baptist de La Salle entrusted to us centuries ago—an approach that promotes collaboration and relationship-building through teaching and learning. These same three words encapsulate a new instructional coaching model pioneered by our faculty in the Department of Education to create more meaningful clinical experiences for student teachers and to improve the quality of teaching in the field.

In the cover story of this issue of the Arts and Sciences Explorer newsletter, you can read about the multimillion-dollar grant La Salle has received from the Pennsylvania Department of Education to develop collaborative learning communities using this model. We are especially proud that the grant impacts teacher education at three other Catholic institutions of higher education and, in turn, in a number of school districts throughout our region. As their preliminary results suggest, a higher quality of teaching leads to a higher level of student learning and achievement.

That’s certainly been true in our own collaborative learning community in the School of Arts and Sciences. You’ll read about innovative faculty research that involves students in an effort to encourage and explore their academic pursuits beyond the classroom. You’ll also learn about a new initiative through the Arts and Sciences Explorer newsletter, you can read about the multimillion-dollar grant to improve the quality of teaching in the field.

Honors Program that is helping students prepare for prestigious post-graduate scholarships and fellowships.

Our faculty members continue to enhance La Salle University’s reputation through major grant awards and scholarly contributions. But their commitment to teach, mentor, and coach is the true mark of achievement and the heart of the Lasallian educational experience.

We hope you will enjoy reading this issue of the Explorer and that it will remind you of a special connection you made with a faculty or staff member here. While some of the faces and places around campus have changed over the years, the tradition of teaching, mentoring, and coaching remains the hallmark of an education at La Salle.
As the lead institution on a $2 million grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), La Salle is creating a model that will establish collaborative learning communities and high-quality clinical experiences for student teachers in Philadelphia schools.

The Greater Philadelphia Instructional Coaching Program (GPIC) is funded through a three-year grant that began in 2013. Its goal is to develop and implement professional learning communities that create positive clinical school-based experiences for preservice teachers.

“Research shows that student teachers with a higher-quality teaching experience in urban schools are more likely to stay in the field,” said Program Chair Mary Williams, professor and Chair of the Department of Education.

La Salle University, Chestnut Hill College, and Eastern University have partnered through the GPIC grant to implement La Salle’s instructional coaching model for K-8 educators. And, in March, Cabrini College officially joined that list. The model develops coaching and teaching capacity in Philadelphia-area elementary and middle schools.

Each partnering institution is working with four schools to establish a network of instructional coaches/mentors for student teachers. These student teachers are supported by cooperating teachers trained as instructional coaches as well as university supervisors and school principals, according to Greer Richardson, associate professor of education and project director.

The instructional coaches take four graduate courses taught by university instructors leading to a PDE Instructional Coach endorsement and partner with school principals to establish the learning community. The coaches, in turn, mentor new cooperating teachers in each school building, who support student teachers placed in that school.

“We’re creating a professional community where we all come together to address the needs (of both schools and teacher education programs) that should be addressed,” Richardson said. “We’re building partnerships.”

According to the GPIC Web site, the program will impact 12 school principals, 12 university supervisors, 72 instructional coaches, 72 cooperating teachers, and 144 student teachers over its three-year span.

The result is that student teachers will be better prepared and there will be greater alignment between the schools and universities, Williams said. “The benefit is that our partner schools get better trained teachers, there is greater collaboration, and we have better coordination,” she said.

In fall 2014, when student teachers were placed for the very first time with teachers who had been trained as instructional coaches, those results were immediately evident.

“They had cooperating teachers who were talking with them, giving them feedback, listening to them, and identifying goals with them as collaborators,” said Deborah Yost, professor of education, lead faculty on the grant, and a member of the project management team. “It’s really about getting the cooperating teachers to work with the student teachers as colleagues, which is a very unusual model.”

But, as the preliminary data shows, it’s a very successful one. The team’s findings show this model positively influenced the quality of the relationship between student teachers and cooperating teachers.

Now halfway through the duration of the grant, the team is already considering ways to sustain their current partnerships and expand.

According to Richardson, they are considering implementing the program in secondary schools. They also plan to maintain a relationship with the current elementary and middle schools and monitor participating student teachers as they enter the field to see how this experience will impact their teaching ability and the students they teach.

“The whole notion of this grant is all about enhancing teacher quality at all levels,” Yost said. “The underlying premise is that when you have quality teachers, student learning and achievement naturally follow.”

—Liz (Vargo) Kemmery, M.A. ’10
New Initiative to Promote Post-Graduate Scholarship

Named by The Chronicle of Higher Education as one of the nation’s top producers of U.S. Fulbright scholars during the 2013–14 awards cycle, La Salle University has graduated 67 Fulbright Fellows in its history and continues to build upon this success.

A new initiative through the Honors Program will aid this effort in helping La Salle students prepare for a host of prestigious post-graduate scholarships.

The largest U.S. exchange program enabling students and young professionals to study, research, and teach abroad, the Fulbright program is just one of many scholarship opportunities students can pursue after graduation.

“The application process is very complicated,” said Honors Program Director Rich Nigro. “We’re doing this not just on behalf of the Honors Program, but on behalf of the University, to start an initiative that encourages and educates students to apply for post-graduate scholarships.”

Preston Feden, professor of education and Assistant Director of the Honors Program, is heading the initiative and coordinating resources for interested students. “We want to make students more aware of what’s out there and help them apply,” he said.

Feden will be stepping down from his role as Assistant Director of the Honors Program to focus on grants and scholarships. Through this initiative, in addition to scholarships for graduating seniors, he will promote scholarships to second-semester freshmen, sophomores, and juniors in an effort to identify interested students earlier and support them as they apply for various nationally competitive scholarships.

Educational meetings will provide information and review the background of scholarship recipients as a way to help students build a successful résumé, Nigro said. Students will receive guidance throughout the application process, such as essay critiques and résumé feedback.

During the spring 2015 semester, Feden assisted several first- and second-year students in applying to the Fulbright Summer Institutes program. These institutes give U.S. students an opportunity to travel to the U.K. for a three- to six-week academic and cultural program and offer another way for interested students to prepare for the Fulbright scholarship program.

The scholarship initiative for graduating seniors also will expand to promote and coordinate information on other prominent scholarships, such as Marshall, Rhodes, and Woodrow Wilson.

“We’re trying to educate people and help them with their success,” Nigro said. “Many students who have gone through the process, even if they haven’t been accepted, tell us how valuable the application process was.”

“Several students have said the process is worth it, because it’s a great learning experience,” Feden added.

—Liz (Vargo) Kemmery, M.A. ‘10

FREEDOM SUMMER IN PHILADELPHIA

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act and Freedom Summer, La Salle invited Joan and Matthew Countryman to campus on Sept. 16 to share their experience and perspective on the historical impact that summer had on Philadelphia.

A former leader with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Joan Countryman spoke about her experience during the summer of 1964, both in Mississippi as well as in local Germantown. Her son, Matthew Countryman, author of Up South: Civil Rights and Black Power in Philadelphia and associate professor of history at the University of Michigan, shared his perspective on the historical implications of that summer.

“It was particularly interesting for attendees to see the connections between the La Salle campus in the 1960s and how the students and faculty were responding to and talking about civil rights issues and how we continue to wrestle with similar issues regarding race today,” said event coordinator Tara Carr-Lemke, Director of The Explorer Connection. “It felt very timely that our campus continues to be involved in the conversation as it continues and evolves.”
NEW MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

La Salle launched two new interdisciplinary majors and a minor over the past year:

• The Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (PPE) program was initially proposed by a group of students, who saw an opportunity to integrate the three disciplines and create a unified major that will help them to understand and analyze global political, social, economic, and ethical issues. The coursework can help students prepare for law school or graduate studies in public policy, or for careers in international business or with internationally focused nonprofit organizations.

• The International Relations program, housed in the Political Science Department, aims to prepare students for informed and engaged service in their own communities and around the world by broadening their understanding of political and policy issues. In addition to the courses within the major, students must take four courses in the same foreign language and can choose from electives in political science, economics, history, and international business.

• A new minor in Latin American Studies enables students to develop a broad perspective on the Americas through comparative and interdisciplinary study that also lends itself to professional preparation for many fields. The minor requires students to take two semesters of Spanish language and four other courses that focus on Latin American history, culture, politics, economics, literature, art, music, or travel/study to Latin American destinations.

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH IN FULL FLIGHT

“Cool” is a word that professor Bill Weaver uses a lot to describe what he does with students in the Integrated Science, Business, and Technology Department (ISBT). A self-described “geek,” Weaver thrives, personally and professionally, at the intersection of learning and fun.

“Projects that excite the students probably excite me even more,” he said. “Not only does it give us the opportunity to play with cool toys, but we are able to fold it back into the curriculum.”

Weaver was a recipient of the Frank P. Palopoli Professorship in 2012, which helps to fund science professors’ research in collaboration with undergraduate students. In fall 2013, he was an adviser for an Honors project that incorporated one of his key research interests—inserting intelligence into technology and creating computer and electronic systems that increasingly do more tasks on their own.

He and the students have a fleet of six quad-copters, miniature robotic helicopters flown remotely via controllers from the Xbox 360 video game system. With funding from a School of Arts and Sciences Faculty/Student Summer Research Grant, the team began working in summer 2014 to develop sensors and software that would allow the drones to navigate Holroyd Hall on their own. This foundational work is serving as the basis for additional follow-on Senior Capstone research projects and course projects within the ISBT curriculum.

“We are reprogramming them to add intelligence so they can communicate with a home computer to fly in formation and to swarm,” he said. “The vision is to have them flying in formation and to give them new objectives.”
Welcome New Faculty and Staff Members

ROSEMARY BARBERA
Social Work
A La Salle alum on both the undergraduate and graduate level, Rosemary Barbera also previously served as an adjunct instructor and the University’s Director of Community Learning. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College with an M.S.S. and Ph.D. in social work and most recently served on the faculty at Monmouth University in New Jersey. Given her interest in human rights and social justice, Barbera felt drawn back to La Salle when she noticed a good deal of new programming related to social justice issues. She is excited to work with students as they learn how to advance human rights and become effective agents for social change.

GEORGE BOUDREAU
History
A scholar of 18th-century America, George Boudreau is particularly interested in the cultural history of early Pennsylvania. His research explores the intersections of history, art, material culture, and literature, specifically looking at what these topics tell us about the transformations that took place during the American Enlightenment. His current projects range from studies of portraits and poems to club behavior and the way people formed memories. In addition to his work in teaching and research, Boudreau is also an active public historian with specializations in American colonial, revolutionary, and early national history, working with museums and historic sites to tell the story of America’s heritage. Boudreau earned his bachelor’s degree from Manchester College and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Indiana University in Bloomington.

LAUREL BYRNE
Education
As Laurel Byrne settled into the La Salle community this past fall, she felt an immediate connection between La Salle’s mission and her own beliefs about teaching and learning—particularly the value of creating a community of learners. The South Jersey native completed her bachelor’s degree in political science at The College of New Jersey prior to earning her M.A. in education from Richard Stockton College and her Ed.D. from Widener University. Her specialization field is educational leadership with a concentration in curriculum, instruction, and staff development. With her prior experience and interest in early childhood education, Byrne is excited to share her passion and commitment for empowering the youngest learners and their families.

KELLY MADDEn DAILY
Communication
Originally from Lock Haven, Pa., Kelly Madden Daily had heard wonderful things about La Salle from friends and family members who loved the small class sizes and connections they made with faculty as students here. The Communication Department’s excellent reputation also attracted Daily, who earned her M.A. in communication from Villanova and Ph.D. in communication (persuasion and social influence) from the University of Maryland. In addition to teaching at the University of Maryland and The College of New Jersey, she has served as a sports copy editor at The News Journal in Wilmington, Del.

BROTHER JOSEPH BURKE HONORED AT 35TH GRIMES LECTURE EVENT

More than 40 years ago, the late Brother John Dondero, F.S.C., offered Brother Joseph Burke, F.S.C., ’68, a teaching position in the Psychology Department at La Salle. So receiving this year’s Dondero Award was a special honor for Br. Joseph, who is now the Chair of the Psychology Department and President Emeritus of the University.

A licensed psychologist who has authored a graduate-level textbook on psychotherapy in addition to an extensive list of articles and book chapters, Br. Joseph has been a role model, a mentor, and a mainstay in La Salle’s Psychology Department.

BROTHER DANIEL AND BROTHER EMERY CELEBRATE 70TH JUBILEE

On Aug. 2, President Emeritus Brother Daniel Burke, F.S.C., and Brother Emery Molleenhauer, F.S.C., associate professor emeritus of English, renewed their perpetual vows after 70 years of commitment to the Christian Brothers.

Several Christian Brothers from La Salle, including Br. Emery, made the trip to St. Mary’s Church in Colts Neck, N.J., for a Mass of initiation, renewal, and reaffirmation, celebrated by La Salle faculty member Rev. Frank Bena, O.F.M.
WHITNEY HOWELL
Philosophy
The opportunity to teach philosophy in an urban setting at a university that includes philosophy courses in its core curriculum really excited Whitney Howell. She enjoys teaching in the core curriculum program because it allows her to meet students with a variety of different academic interests and professional aspirations, and to show them the relevance of philosophy to their lives. Originally hailing from Nashville, Tenn., Howell earned her B.A. from Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn., and her Ph.D. from Stony Brook University in New York, where she received the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. Her primary areas of specialization include 20th-century continental philosophy (especially phenomenology), philosophical psychology, and the philosophy of art.

CAROL PATE
Education
Carol Pate’s educational and professional career has been a true journey—one that has taken her from coast to coast. After earning her B.A. in special education at the University of Arizona, the Tucson native went on to pursue her M.A. at Eastern New Mexico University and her Ed.D. at Indiana University in Bloomington. After serving as the Director of Easter Seals Centers/Programs in Chicago, Ill., Pate settled in Philadelphia in 1991 and completed a post-doctoral program at the University of Pennsylvania. Her career in higher education began at Chestnut Hill College, where she served as an associate professor and Chair of Teacher Education and Leadership and most recently as Senior Director of Corporations, Foundations, and Government Relations. She looks forward to getting to know faculty and programs in other disciplines to identify possible areas of collaboration.

NATHANIEL SIMMONS
Communication
When Nathaniel Simmons read La Salle’s mission statement, he immediately knew it was the place he wanted to be. The blend of theoretical and practical knowledge meshed well with his own approach to education, and he felt at home right away. An Oklahoma native, Simmons is definitely an explorer—he earned his B.A. at Southwest Baptist University in Missouri, his M.A. from Missouri State University, and his Ph.D. from Ohio University, and he spent two years teaching in Shimoichicho, a town of 8,000 people in Nara-ken, Japan. One of his favorite memories is hiking Yoshino Mountain during the annual cherry blossom festival, which thousands attend because nowhere else in Japan compares in terms of the volume and color of cherry blossoms.

FACULTY AWARDS RECOGNIZE TEXTER AND VAN FLETEREN

Two longtime Arts and Sciences faculty members were honored last spring for their achievement in service and scholarship. Frederick Van Fleteren, professor of philosophy, received the Faculty Distinguished Scholarship Award, and Lynne Texter, Chair of the Communication Department, accepted the Faculty Distinguished Service Award.

A widely regarded scholar on the life and writings of St. Augustine, Van Fleteren has produced an impressive body of work in publishing and academia during his 26 years at La Salle. He’s lectured at universities and conferences throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. Texter, who started at La Salle in 1989, has developed the Communication Department’s adjunct-training program and piloted a program where she meets with faculty each summer to assist them in developing and achieving their professional goals. Texter also received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1996.

FAREWELL TO FACULTY RETIREEES

Last spring, professor emeritus David George retired as a longstanding faculty member in the Department of Economics.

This year, we bid a fond farewell to associate professor of English Brother Emery Mollenhauer, F.S.C., who gave the University 55 years of service, and associate professor Annette O’Connor, who served 34 years in the Department of Biology.

We appreciate their many decades of exceptional service to the School of Arts and Sciences and wish them the best in retirement.
NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN BLOSSOMING

Since its groundbreaking on West Campus in spring 2014, La Salle’s new community garden has not only yielded its first harvest—it’s also been fruitful in building relationships and sharing knowledge with the local community.

"With this garden, we hope to pragmatize the Lasallian values of service, increase environmental and nutritional awareness and education, and foster a connection with our neighborhood through an organically and sustainably grown and harvested community garden," said Erika Schellinger, ’14, who founded the Environmental Community of Olney (ECO) and was integral in launching the garden.

A service organization of student, staff, and faculty volunteers, ECO manages the garden, hosts educational events, and nurtures those connections with the community. In September, ECO donated some produce to Face to Face, a local organization serving homeless and low-income families, and this summer, a few student organizations and local families will tend their own plots with guidance from ECO coordinators.

SCIENTIST RECEIVES HOLROYD AWARD

Rebecca Efroymson, Ph.D., ’87, was honored with the 2014 Holroyd Award for her professional and scholarly contributions in environmental science. Efroymson is a senior scientist in the Environmental Sciences Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

MARKMANN HONORED WITH FINLEY AWARD

The 2014 Finley Award recipient, William Markmann, M.D., ’70, is also a past recipient of the Holroyd Award and the Leadership Award, and he has been a member of La Salle’s Board of Trustees since 2005. “The influence of the Christian Brothers and their mission has played a major role in my development,” Markmann said. “I have seen how they have affected my life and the lives of so many other students.”

A practicing orthopaedic surgeon, he is President of Orthopaedic Surgery & Rehabilitation Associates, P.C., and is also affiliated with Holy Redeemer Hospital and Jeanes Hospital.

“La Salle has been part of my family since before I was born,” said Markmann, whose father was a professor in La Salle’s Accounting Department for more than 40 years. He and his wife, Margaret Mary “Candy” Markmann, ’98, an adjunct faculty member in the History Department, have five children—three of whom also graduated from La Salle.

ROSE RECEIVES IT LEADERSHIP AWARD

During Homecoming Week, La Salle presented its 11th annual Information Technology Leadership Award to Michael Rose, ’77, a Vice President with Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems Inc.

A biology major at La Salle, Rose’s interest in technology grew through several electives he took in physics and math.

“...Mike’s student days and his tutoring of math students—I was one—along with his participation and membership in the Computer Science Advisory Board,” said Margaret McCoey, ’79, Director of La Salle’s Graduate Programs in Computer Information Science and IT Leadership. "Whenever we have asked Mike for help, either on curriculum reviews, classroom visits, or panel discussions, the answer is always the same."

CURLEY RECEIVES McNALLY SERVICE AWARD

La Salle’s Washington D.C. alumni chapter honored Tom Curley, ’70, with the John J. McNally Service Award at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

The former President and CEO of The Associated Press was recognized for his continuing commitment to service and work that reflects Lasallian values.
The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Affiliated Student Advancement Programs named senior Rachel Christie as one of just three outstanding student leaders in a district of more than 50 colleges and universities. A native of Des Moines, Iowa, Christie is a dual major in art history and communication at La Salle.

Recognized for significantly improving her student advancement organization through leadership by inspiring growth, collaborations, and meaningful connections, Christie serves as President of the Explorer Ambassador Program, President of Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society, President of Students for La Salle, and Vice President of the La Salle chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

This Easter holiday, more than 800 families had fresh fruit and produce on the table, thanks to La Salle’s fifth annual Easter Food Drive. With the help of community partner The Fresh Grocer, the University gathered and distributed more than 4,000 pounds of food to 11 faith-based institutions in the local community.

“This is the fifth year we have supplied fresh produce to our neighborhood faith-based institutions,” said Marjorie Allen, coordinator of the Easter Food Drive and Chair of the Integrative Studies Department. “But it is the first where our students have interned with some of these churches and mosques on projects beyond the food drive. Everyone worked hard, but we all learned that, when the community works together, we all benefit.”

Christopher Mayers, M.A. ’14, who earned a master’s in Central and Eastern European Studies, began working in Bulgaria as an English teaching assistant in September.

Mayers, who is fluent in Russian, has a working knowledge of spoken and written Bulgarian and is teaching ninth- and 10th-graders in Pernik, just outside of Bulgaria’s capital.

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La Salle students, faculty, and staff teamed up with several other community partners for the drive, which was sponsored by the Community Building Team and run by students from the Leadership and Global Understanding (LGU) Capstone course. The Fresh Grocer generously supplied funds for half of the food, and students from the LGU program and the Ethics and Leadership class in the Management and Leadership Department raised additional money.

All of these groups helped to pack the fresh produce, along with members of the 35th District Town Watch and 10 students from Wagner Middle School and their principal.
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, served as a referee for both Mathematics Magazine and for The Pentagon (magazine of the Kappa Mu Epsilon mathematics honor society).


MARY ELLEN BALCHUNIS, Political Science, was a candidate for U.S. Congress in Pennsylvania’s 7th Congressional District.


JOHN BEATTY, English, with Jonathan Matos, ‘14, presented “Post-Television News: Perceptions of Three Forms of Online Video Production” at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Conference.

KATHLEEN A. BOGLE, Sociology and Criminal Justice, and a co-author published Kids Gone Wild: From Rainbow Parties to Sexting, Understanding the Hype Over Teen Sex with New York University Press.


HUNTYL COLLINS, Communication, moderated “Up South,” a panel discussion at Dan Rodden Theatre commemorating the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer and passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

BROTHER JOHN M. CRAWFORD, F.S.C., Religion, served as one of three presenters for the inaugural sessions of the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice, a three-year program of study for people working in Lasallian ministries in the United States and Canada.

MARIANNE DAINTON, Communication, received the top paper award for “Spirituality, Religiosity, and Relationship Maintenance in African-American Couples,” which was presented to the Eastern Communication Association.


LAURA GAMBREL, Psychology, and a colleague published “Mindfulness-Based Relationship Education for Couples Expecting Their First Child” (Parts 1 and 2) in the Journal of Marital and Family Therapy.


EDIE GOLDBACHER, Psychology, and students presented a poster session, “Distress Intolerance: The Relationship Between Emotional Eating and Components of Distress Tolerance,” at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies.

RAYMOND P. KIRCH, Mathematics and Computer Science, presented Using the Flipped Classroom Model at the Faculty Development Summer Institute: Powerful Technology Tools Series Session at La Salle University.

CARMEN E. LAMAS, Foreign Languages and Literatures, presented “Raimundo Cabrera’s New York Rendition of the Cuban War Memoir” at the International Latino/a Studies Conference in Chicago.

ELIZABETH LANGEMAK, English, published her poem, “Je Ne Sais Qua,” in Day One, Amazon.com’s weekly literary journal of work by emerging writers.

PAMELA LANNUTTI, Communication, published Experiencing Same-Sex Marriage: Individuals, Couples, and Social Networks with Peter Lang Publishing.

MARK C. LASHLEY, Communication, presented “Renovating, Spoofing, Shattering the Talk Show Form: Late Night Talkers...” at the Faculty Development Summer Institute: Powerful Technology Tools Series Session at La Salle University.

Here are just a few highlights of the federal/state funding, foundational grants, and travel grants that so many of our faculty members have received to further their innovative research here on campus and beyond:

- Miguel Glatzer, Political Science, is a member of a team of scholars from Spain, Italy, Greece, and Portugal who were awarded a €25,000 multi-year grant from the government of Spain to study the effects of the financial and economic crisis in the Eurozone and ensuing austerity on the social welfare and labor market policies of the Southern European countries.

- Greer Richardson, Education, is co-principal investigator on a $300,000 Philadelphia Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program grant, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, to strengthen all aspects of the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics teacher career pipeline and help to create a systemic change in teacher quality and retention in the Philadelphia area.

- David Zuzga, Biology, is co-principal investigator on a $180,000 Transforming Undergraduate Education in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics grant from the National Science Foundation to support the development, implementation, and assessment of a novel year-long research-based curriculum that emphasizes experimental design and execution, interpretation of data, and dissemination both at La Salle and at Pace University in New York City.

FACULTY NOTES
Hanes founded the Fine Arts Department in 1965 and served as an artist-in-residence and art instructor at La Salle for more than 30 years before retiring in 1992. He was also instrumental in founding La Salle’s Art Museum, along with colleague Thomas Ridington and then-University President Brother Daniel Burke, F.S.C., and he served as an acquisitions adviser to the Art Museum.

A number of Hanes’ paintings, including a portrait of Br. Daniel and a landscape of Belfield farm (right), are part of La Salle’s Art Museum collection. His works have been shown at many prestigious national and international venues, including the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Palazzo dei Papi in Orvieto, Italy, and the National Academy of Design in New York.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Teresa; his children, Paul, Nicole, and Jamie; and his grandchildren, Mark-Daniel Schwartz, Peter Schwartz, William Fisher, Lillibelle Hanes, and Leila Hanes. A sampling of his work can be seen at Jamesahanes.com.

IN MEMORIAM: JAMES A. HANES

Prominent Philadelphia painter James A. Hanes, founder of La Salle’s Fine Arts Department, died on Feb. 27 at the age of 91. A longtime resident of the Germantown section of Philadelphia, Hanes received his formal training with Roy Nuse at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.
MUSIC THAT HEALS

During one of his many performances at World Café Live, Dave Falcone spotted two familiar faces in the audience. He’d played for the mother and her young son many times before—in quite a different venue. An accomplished acoustic guitarist, Falcone had played at the young boy’s bedside for several months while he recovered from a four-story fall.

It’s just one of many special connections the psychology professor made as a volunteer with WXPN Musicians On Call. Since its launch in 2004, the program has touched the lives of more than 70,000 patients and their families by bringing live music to health care facilities throughout the region each week.

“There’s something magical that happens when this all comes together,” Falcone said. “I’ve never been involved in anything that creates this special kind of shared intimacy. It’s not really performing—it’s sharing a moment, a connection.”

For the past 11 years, he’s been making those connections three to four evenings a month at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center in Camden, N.J.

Invisible to his potential audience, Falcone waits in the hallway while a trained volunteer guide enters the room to ask if the patient would like to hear a song. Some leave the musical selection up to him while others make requests, which can run the gamut from “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” to a James Taylor favorite to an unassuming Irish air.

Rather than singing, Falcone prefers to let instrumental music take his listeners where they want to go. “It’s about letting music happen in the room in a way that heals everybody—the musician, the guide, the family, the patient,” he said. “Some amazing things happen. But it’s really about the music—I’m just the conduit.”