Brother Michael’s Legacy of Faith, Service, and Community

A NEIGHBOR, A BROTHER, A PRESIDENT

Brother Michael’s Legacy of Faith, Service, and Community
Our Lasallian Association

BY BROTHER MICHAEL J. MCGINNISS, F.S.C., PH.D., ’70, LA SALLE PRESIDENT

SINCE MY ANNOUNCEMENT LAST MAY THAT I WOULD RETIRE as La Salle’s President, I have been asked a lot of questions. The three most frequently asked have been: “What do you think is your legacy?”, “Of what are you most proud?”, and “What will you do next?”

The third question is the easiest, so I’ll start with that. I will be on a sabbatical for the coming academic year, and I plan to return to La Salle to teach for the fall semester of 2015. Now to the other two questions.

The obvious “legacy” achievements that come to my mind are tangible signs of growth and institutional strength: new buildings, the acquisition and development of West Campus, a new location like Plymouth Meeting, and The Shoppes at La Salle. Of course, history will be the real judge of what makes up the legacy of my tenure as President.

With regard to what has made me most proud, my thoughts and feelings move from things to people and their stories. The people I think of are La Salle’s current and future students, its living and deceased alumni, Christian Brothers, faculty, and staff. For 15 years, I have had the unique privilege of being a principal recipient of people’s stories about La Salle University, which is, at one and the same time: a place and people; a college and university; an experience that has profoundly shaped their lives, their professional activity, and often the lives of generations of their families.

Like many of the women and men who have shared their stories with me, I, too, have been profoundly affected by this place that I call alma mater. After many childhood rides on the 26 trolley to Germantown with my aunt, who would say that I would go to school at that big building on Olney Avenue, I entered La Salle as a freshman student-Brother in 1966. Almost half of my 66 years have been lived here. The convictions that drive me were nourished here: that individuals, each with hopes and dreams, are the first focus of all teachers; that building a community of older and younger adults strengthens us all; that religious faith and spirituality matter profoundly and can inspire the building of a more just and peaceful world.

So when I reflect about what makes me most proud, I think about all the women and men, past and present, who are bound together by virtue of their association with La Salle University. Some of those persons were my own professors, and many have been students in my classes, but all Lasallians have taught and inspired me by the quality of their lives, their faith, and their love of this place and its people. And, in the case of our current students of all ages, I am inspired by their hope for a future built upon their contributions to make a life for themselves and to better the lives of others.

My fellow Christian Brothers probably will not be surprised by my thoughts about our association through La Salle University. All Christian Brothers take a vow of association, and the meanings of that vow permeate our lives. Recent graduates and students also may not be surprised, hearing an echo in my words of “together we are La Salle,” the final words of the “Affirmation” that all incoming students are invited to make.

Two yearly events powerfully express this experience of association: Convocation during new student move-in and Commencement weekend. In August, new undergraduates and transfer students form lines and process into Convocation. In May, newly minted bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral alumni line up and process into Commencement. Watching those lines form and march evokes in my mind images of the long line of persons that stretches back to La Salle’s founding in 1863—and beyond that to the days of the founding of the Christian Brothers in 1680.

I feel great pride in knowing that I, too, have a place to walk in those long lines, and great gratitude for having had the privilege to lead them for the past 15 years.

Together, we are La Salle!
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A NEIGHBOR, A BROTHER, A PRESIDENT

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Known for his friendly rapport with students, Br. Mike meets with (clockwise from top right) junior Jillian Lucanie, sophomore Jes Smith, sophomore Joanna Lawler, and senior Kara Itaas in the Union Food Court.
Editor’s note: As Brother Michael McGinniss, F.S.C., Ph.D., ’70, ends his celebrated presidency, La Salle Magazine wanted to capture the person and his impact. We turned to his La Salle classmate, Tom Curley, ’70, to offer that perspective. When Br. Mike and Curley entered La Salle in September 1966, neither imagined that they would sit together 48 years later to reflect on La Salle and their era. Curley, a native of Easton, Pa., retired in 2012 as President and CEO of The Associated Press. He likes to point out that Br. Mike graduated maxima cum laude, and he did not.

Brother Michael McGinniss, F.S.C., Ph.D., ’70, reacted decisively to the idea of buying the Germantown Hospital property on the west side of the La Salle campus.

“Over my dead body are we going to buy all those old buildings,” he declared.

That La Salle owns a five-building, 500,000-square-foot complex and is about to give its School of Business a prominent new home on the now expansive West Campus says a great deal about the person who became La Salle’s President somewhat reluctantly in 1999 and led it for 15 years through a period of significant growth and transformation.

Br. Mike, as he is universally known, is a teacher who encourages debate. A self-described “gradualist to the core,” he laughs about how the biggest decision of his career evolved and how well La Salle managed the acquisition.

“Luckily, I was surrounded by a lot more smart people who said it was worth the risk,” Br. Mike reflected on a recent bitter cold morning in his office in the drafty Peale House.

“It’s also very clear to me in retrospect that to not have purchased it would have been stupid and even a bigger risk because we would not have seized an opportunity and also left ourselves vulnerable

As an undergraduate, Br. Mike was chosen to speak on behalf of the student body at the 1969 inauguration of President Brother Daniel Burke, F.S.C., Ph.D.

Share in the Memories

Br. Michael has touched many lives and made a lasting impact on the University. In the following pages, share in the memories of Br. Michael as a friend, a classmate, a teacher, and a leader.

Visit www.lasalle.edu/brothermichael to learn more about his Lasallian legacy, read additional tributes, or submit your own by using #BrMike on social media or e-mailing socialmedia@lasalle.edu.
La Salle University President Br. Michael McGinniss stands firmly committed to connecting with the neighborhood and making a significant change to how the campus displays itself to the world. "I'm a city boy. I wanted the neighborhood around La Salle to be strong," he shares.

In fact, La Salle now stretches along eight city blocks from Central High School west along Olney and Chew avenues to Church Lane. Germantown Hospital was one of four neighborhood investment projects during the McGinniss era. Two—a Presbyterian church and the Manna Bible Institute—were land deals made simultaneously with Germantown Hospital that together added 31 acres to La Salle's then 102-acre campus. The other project—The Shoppes at La Salle on the northwest corner of the campus—brought investor capital and the first supermarket in four decades on what had been a dangerous, crime-plagued stretch beyond where Olney becomes Chew Avenue.

Br. Mike made connecting with the neighborhood part of his first strategic plan, recalls Brother Joseph Willard, F.S.C., '64, who has managed the expansion. "He recognized that one of the best ways to engage the community was to do it economically, and, recognizing the lack of consumer services that existed in the neighborhood, he and the Board came up with the concept of building the shopping center."

The intensity of his feeling for the neighborhood and his impact on it defines the man and his legacy. Michael James McGinniss was born in 1947 and raised in St. Helena’s Parish, all of 15 blocks east of La Salle. His rise to lead one of Philadelphia’s most important institutions is a remarkable story of achievement, commitment, and serendipity.

"I'm a city boy. I wanted the neighborhood around La Salle to be strong," he says.

He leaves it much better than when he became President and very different from the mid-1960s, when he first moved west along Olney Avenue. Then, gang-dominated turfs marked very clear racial boundaries, with a de facto no-trespassing zone around a campus island. Over the years, La Salle invested nearly $40 million in purchasing land and refurbishing West Campus buildings even before the...
new School of Business and other projects were begun.

Br. Mike still becomes animated when talking about the Olney neighborhood that has been his life. His well-honed professorial diction slips into casual vernacular without any word-ending g’s as he recounts stories about growing up. He unrepentantly orders a Philly cheesesteak for lunch and seems to flaunt his Philly accent.

“We’re not tucking in; we’re branching out,” Br. Mike says of La Salle’s role in Northwest Philadelphia. It’s every bit a metaphor for his own remarkable journey—proud that he “never moved far from his roots”—and amused that he would spend 20 years as a successful university president despite “never having prepared to be one.”

A PATH TO THE BROTHERS

Br. Mike grew up across the street from St. Helena’s, where he attended school amid a large, extended Irish-American clan of uncles, aunts, and cousins. He escaped the family business. His grandfather, great-uncle, and uncle were dentists. His father received a dental degree before becoming an optometrist. His mother was a very active community volunteer.

His sister, Nellie McGinniss Kiesel, believes a special family dynamic may have shaped his path.

“Michael was always intellectual,” she said. “This is a God-given gift. ... After many dinners, Mike and dad would stay at the dining room table to debate. It did not matter what the subject was. Each was on opposing sides. They did not argue. It was sort of like watching a sporting event going back and forth.”

She describes other family values that left indelible marks on them. “Our parents were devout Catholics. They were very gracious to all kinds of people. We did not grow up with any prejudices about people.”

Nellie, who lives in Canton, Mich., and is seven years younger than her brother, also is a teacher. “What I have always admired the very most is how Michael managed to teach a class each year while being president of a major university. Many admins forget what it is like in the trenches.”

Br. Mike entered La Salle College High School in 1962 and within a year wanted to be a Christian Brother. “Actually, I made that decision at 15,” he said. “I wanted to leave La Salle High and go to our junior novitiate, and my parents, who really never said you can’t do something, wouldn’t hear of it because I would give up too much life. I always thought my mom and dad were very wise people.”

He looks back at his parents’ refusal to allow him to leave La Salle High as “terrific.” The good-looking teenager experienced very active high school days managing the swim team, editing the yearbook, serving on student council committees, and becoming a National Merit Scholar. He was one of the students chosen to give a graduation address.

While he was clear-headed about his desire to become a Christian Brother, others around him, including his date to the senior prom, didn’t see it coming and became upset when he announced it.

I got to know Brother Mike through the “Shoulder to Shoulder” campaign, which Carman Romeo and I chaired. This was La Salle’s first major fundraising effort and one he will long remember. I am sure he didn’t enter the Brothers to have to ask people for money, but, in fact, he was outstanding at it. He took to it like a duck to water. Whether somebody didn’t have anything to give, or wasn’t inclined, or was digging deep, he always treated them with respect and dignity—just the way he was raised and brought up with loving parents, and he always maintained a Christian Brothers spirit.

—Hugh Devlin, ’64
Br. Mike describes his path to the Brothers as a “kind of romantic decision about what it was to be in this community of teachers who were impressive men, who were dedicated to their students, and who seemed to be very happy. ... That has proven to be the case. My sense of Brothers is that they are very focused on their teaching and their work and their students, and yet there is a great deal of happiness in the group.”

He recalls his first year “in the formation” as a mix of uncertainty and fondness. “We went to bed by 8:50, which was weird. Of course, we were up by 5:20. ... I remember standing at the window near my bed in the dorm saying, ‘What am I doing here?’ No reasonable 18-year-old is in this position.

“But I grew up kind of an only child for a while, and I have a sister (Nellie) who was much younger, and I was fascinated by my cousins who had big families and lots of stuff going on and all of a sudden I had 40 brothers. It was a great kick, and they were terrific guys. We had a wonderful class, complex class, a lot of complex personalities, and a lot of bright guys.”

After a year, he returned to Olney Avenue, entering then-La Salle College during what would become a time of profound global, political, and cultural change. Some on campus and elsewhere with long memories believe the students of the 1960s were the most inspired they encountered. Br. Mike is more restrained. “I don’t think we were all that much fun. We were pretty aggressive. ... I’ve never found students at La Salle (of any era) not to be interesting and not to be challenging.”

As an undergraduate, he notes that the young Brothers were fully immersed in the times, including questioning authority and perhaps inhaling some of the distinctive incense associated with the times. His record, however, was one of serious dedication to academics—an English major who graduated maxima cum laude—with a deepening interest in theology.

“The thing that was most thrilling was the changes in the Church because whatever I had done I had thrown my lot in with the Church and it was unbelievably stimulating as a young person with growing interest in theology. ... It was a great time to be the age we were.”

“Mike has always had a prodigious memory for people’s names and faces. ... You meet Mike, shake his hand, and he’s got you. ... It’s not just that he knows your name. It’s that he cares about you.” —Brother Gerard Molyneaux, F.S.C., Ph.D., ‘58

After graduating from La Salle, Br. Mike taught English at South Hills Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, Pa. Each May, Br. Mike greets and congratulates hundreds of graduates as they walk across the stage to collect their degrees at Commencement.
they got lots of clinical experience,” he said. He became captivated by the approach but opted for a program at Notre Dame in pastoral theology. He would earn an M.A. in 1978 and a doctorate in 1981.

The path wasn’t straight. During his first semester in South Bend, Rev. Donald McNeill, a Holy Cross priest and son of the broadcast industry’s longest-serving program host, detected a note of unhappiness. “‘You think you want to be a psychologist,’” Br. Mike recalls him saying. “‘You were born to be a teacher. I can see it. You ought to go with that, and you ought to commit yourself to theology.’ I went with it. By the end of the year I had sort of given up the clinical part of my view of the future and thrown myself into theology.”


With his professional path clear, Br. Mike plunged into what would become his enduring and passionate interest—the study of the living church. His interest in personal and pastoral change in the context of religious experience deepened from 1979 to 1984, when he taught theology at the Washington Theological Union.

His return to La Salle was delayed—the Religion Department was fully staffed, and other Brothers remember him touting the values of Washington life over Philadelphia. When a job opened at La Salle in 1984, he quickly restored Philadelphia to its pedestal. By 1991, he became Chair of the Religion Department, and a full professor in 1993. In 1994, he moved to Memphis, Tenn., as President of Christian Brothers University (CBU) without any senior university management experience.

In a recent conversation with a trustee at CBU, Br. Mike said, “When you picked me, I didn’t understand what a risk you were taking. It was a huge risk.” It was the risk that paid off for all.

“I loved living in the South, and I thought Memphis was a great city. ... It was a great place for me, a great synergy. We had a good run—short. I didn’t want to leave.”

The Memphis time provided the novice administrator a couple of penetrating insights into himself. Confronted with unfamiliar people and settings, Br. Mike was jolted into seeing himself in new ways. He discovered “how important it is to know the names of the assistants and the secretaries of all the people you deal with and to not just give them a quick hello but to give them some space, some time in your life. ... As I think about myself as a president, that’s probably what my strongest suits are—that kind of personal interaction at many levels of the institution with people.”

Br. Mike, a onetime Chair of the Religion Department and recipient of the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, has continued to teach one Honors course per year throughout his presidency.

When I was “recruiting” candidates for the Christian Brothers, I visited their homes to meet the parents and discuss their sons’ intentions. Mike was a top student at La Salle College High School and came highly recommended by the Brothers who knew him. Brother Michael’s parents were fine people and supported his desire to enter. His father was a bit skeptical but appreciated that I would stay and have a drink and dinner. He thought that since Mike had worked the night desk at the Avalon Hotel during the summer that he had acquired a “worldly knowledge” of what was going on.

The family bond of love was apparent and strong. Mike was fortunate to have had such loving parents who taught him values and beliefs, which he has obviously treasured and inculcated as a committed religious. La Salle University has been fortunate to appreciate Mike’s intelligence and welcoming personality as a professor and president. Helen and I have been very pleased to see La Salle grow under his leadership.

Ad multos annos, Mike. Vive Jesu dans nos coeurs!

—Tom Wallace, ’53
An underlying element that weaves itself throughout Br. Michael’s wonderful journey is his sincere interest in each student as a person. I observed that freshman year at La Salle. It was spring semester, religion class on the top floor of Wister, as Michael quickly got to know each student and then challenged them in the class. That random class assignment was a gift to me, as we remained friends since then. I’ve realized that while his responsibilities grew from a classroom to a university, that his cars sped up and his exercise slowed down, indeed he stayed true to that sincere and genuine interest in each student.

—Joe McGirr, ’89

“And when I went to CBU, I had no philosophy about how to do what I was doing. I hadn’t prepared to be a college president. All I had was this global model of all the people (who had been mentors and teachers).”

Brother Gerard Molyneaux, F.S.C., Ph.D., ’58, a former Chair of La Salle’s Communication Department who has known Br. Mike for almost 50 years, says, “Mike has always had a prodigious memory for people’s names and faces. ... You meet Mike, shake his hand, and he’s got you. He will remember you the next time, and he’ll call you by name, and that is an asset that has served Mike very, very well forever. ... It’s not just that he knows your name. It’s that he cares about you.”

COMING HOME

After four years in Memphis, Br. Mike was asked by the La Salle Board of Trustees to come home as President. He agreed but won a concession that “managed to create stress” at both CBU and La Salle: that his return be delayed a year to advance important projects at CBU, including a fundraising campaign. He returned to La Salle in 1999 and was installed as its 28th President.

“And even though I never had any aspirations particularly that I would come back to La Salle when I went to Memphis, I did know I was home. It felt very clearly that I was at home,” he says.

Thinking back on the transition, Br. Mike says, “It was very challenging to bring stability, but I think what helped was my style was ideally suited to that. Plus, I say shamelessly, I love La Salle. It’s been most of my life.”

His style is one of access. He enjoys conversation, a talker who listens. His opinions are well-formed, often the result of research or reading. His style immediately resonated with students. Megan Barnett Bloomgren, ’01, was president of the Students’ Government Association (SGA) then and was concerned about getting a third President in three years.

“To be honest, I was just really impressed with him,” she remembers. “I thought right away that this was a leader. ... There was definitely a commitment I could tell not only to his faith but also to the La Salle community and helping it grow. ... When you meet him, there’s kind of an electricity to him. He’s very focused on what you’re saying, and you can tell that he really cares about what you’re saying. He’s inclusive, warm. It was clear he cared about people.”

Bloomgren met with him as the semester began and then, several days later, found him helping plate meals for students at a welcome-back-to-campus pig roast. “I was amazed at how quickly he became part of the community.”

Br. Mike has said that one of his favorite memories from his time as President has been watching graduates process into McCarthy Stadium for Commencement from a Union balcony.
Br. Mike still wears a class ring presented to him by Bloomgren on behalf of the SGA. Ironically, Bloomgren is the daughter of two La Salle grads and spent her first seven years in St. Helena’s Parish. She’s now a partner in a Washington, D.C., public affairs consulting group aimed at building grass-roots advocacy. She ranks bringing vibrancy to the alumni network as one of Br. Mike’s top achievements.

Kathleen Owens, Ph.D., President of Gwynedd Mercy University, has observed Br. Mike closely in national, state, and local higher education associations for a dozen years. She says, “It’s clear to me that he sees leadership as service.” Both La Salle and the larger group of Catholic college and university presidents have been blessed to have been touched by his leadership, she adds.

As he prepares to leave office, Br. Mike says he is justifiably proud of the stability that has been maintained “in the midst of an industry which is under revolutionary stress.”

Br. Mike knows “everything that’s been done has not easily been achieved. But the new president is going to come into a stable environment, not a self-satisfied one. La Salle knows how to scramble. ... The new president is going to face challenges. ... The good bones (the infrastructure and human strengths) will see La Salle through. ... This is an exciting place.”

I’ve been fortunate to be on staff for 11 of Brother Michael’s 15 years as President. Throughout that time, I’ve encountered a Brother who embodies the spirit of La Salle, both the Saint and the University—down to earth, humble, dedicated, an unmatched intellect, and a relatedness that engenders trust. His spirit and leadership are among his many virtues! I’m honored to have his signature on one of my two La Salle University degrees. I’ll treasure the memories and hope to be guided by his example!

—Peter W. Lafferty, M.S. ’92, MBA ’08, Community Coordinator for Leadership Development
He told the faculty at a January meeting, “You are the ones that are the strengths of this institution.” It’s an increasingly younger faculty with a stronger presence of women at all levels in the University. “It’s a generational change taking place now. It’s not just the faculty. We have great people on the staff, and we have great students.”

**INTO THE FUTURE**

Regardless of who becomes President, Br. Mike sees changes in how universities prepare students. “I think education is going to go in a competency-based direction,” he says. The undergraduate students in education are providing an example, with skill certification taking the place of some traditional exams, he explains.

“We’re going to have probably in 10 years a smaller undergraduate core just because the demographics are going that way. There are more older adults, not traditional students who really need the kinds of educational expertise that are available from a university faculty, but they may not need a full degree and so within both the professional and the academic side of things there could well be this different kind of access point to education.”

What he expects to be unchanged—as it has been since La Salle’s birth in 1863—will be face-to-face education. As La Salle recently developed a marketing campaign for its School of Business in an educational market cluttered with messages, it emphasized a Lasallian way of doing things.

“Ours is student-focused, students talking about their experience, and it’s coming down to this idea of mentoring, which is a very face-to-face human interaction that can now also be done via Skype with distance students, too. I see that for us 10 years into the future. It just reflects the way La Salle has evolved. It may sound like a better way of supporting the professional side than pure liberal arts, but I think it will inter-penetrate both.”

Given a magic wand, he would have three wishes for La Salle: (1) a major financial gift that would help ease day-to-day pressures; (2) other investors joining the neighborhood revitalization; “and—I never thought I’d ever say this—(3) back to the Sweet Sixteen.”

“It’s a kick,” he says of the men’s basketball team’s magical run last year. “It doesn’t have to be just basketball.
We’ve had proportionately more success with women’s soccer and other sports. Cross country has maintained an extraordinary level of success.”

After 20 years of running institutions, Br. Mike is at peace with moving from the limelight. He’s looking forward to fewer meetings and more exercise—golf instead of the racket sports he played as a younger man. He’s hoping to travel to places he hasn’t been, including China. And he will continue to join his sister, Nellie, and family and lifelong friends and neighbors in Avalon, N.J., during the summer.

He’s ready to re-engage with theological studies and energized by the doors being opened by Pope Francis.

“This pope is saying that we have to be the kind of church that engages the world and first of all engages it appreciatively,” Br. Mike says.

“I think Catholic higher education just got more important with the election of this new pope than it’s ever been,” he says. “These places are going to become more and more important to the vitality of Catholic life because of the intellectual changes that the kind of stance that I think Pope Francis demands, even though he does not present himself as an intellectual pope. He is a pastoral pope, but when you listen to him talk, he opens up provocative intellectual ideas all over the place. ... I think we have a great future ahead of us.”

On the future of vocations, Br. Mike thinks Pope Francis might set a climate for change that will enrich Catholicism going forward but was unwilling to predict how that would unfold. “God answers prayers like that.” He noted the rise of women in teaching theology and leading theological associations. “I think the church has to recognize that there are more people with vocations than in the church leadership.”

Br. Mike doesn’t have any worries that Lasallian institutions can stay connected to the Brothers’ traditions. He says the Brothers have been frustrated that they haven’t been able to recruit more young people to their lifestyle. “But it’s a tough choice in the world we live in today. ... I’m a Brother because I was influenced by Brothers, so you know how it works.”

As his life’s journey evolved and he was presented other opportunities, he remained attracted “to the true-north-type of work.” As he prepares to step aside from the La Salle presidency, he still is. After a sabbatical, he expects to teach and stay involved in Lasallian universities.

“It’s conceivable the Brothers may ask me to do something, so I can’t predict,” he says.

We can only hope. After all, he has forever found a home along Olney Avenue.

Brother Michael’s “Catholicism in the 21st Century” is one class that stayed with me long after graduation. When I took the class in the very early 1990s, the 21st century still seemed far away. I remember Brother Mike reminding us off the bat that we were the future of the Church, and that we would have to assume the responsibility to bring the Church into the new century. In my K–12 religious education, I was taught about the sacraments, the Bible, and morality, but I can’t recall ever being charged with a mission by a teacher who addressed me as an adult. He wasn’t telling us what to think; he was showing us how to think.

—Kathleen Hohenleitner Campbell, ’91

I’ve walked the campus with him and he’s always stopping to talk to students, knowing them by name, on top of what they’re doing, aware of whatever the initiative is and clearly delighting in that, and they just light up when he has done that. It’s really very impressive.

—Brother James Gaffney, F.S.C., president of Lewis University and a La Salle Trustee for more than 20 years

(From left) Rebecca Boudwin, ’05, Kathleen Boudwin, the late Bishop Joseph McFadden, Heather (Boudwin) Francisco, ’07, Joe Francisco, Br. Mike, James Coyne, teacher at Cardinal O’Hara High School, and Father John Flanagan, President of Roman Catholic High School.

My fondest memory of Brother Mike on a personal level is having him attend my wedding in November 2012. I was truly humbled to have the presence of such a remarkable man at my wedding.

—Heather (Boudwin) Francisco, ’07
cover story


West Campus
- Purchase of former Germantown Hospital from Albert Einstein Health Network and two adjoining properties in 2007 added 31 acres and 300,000 square feet of building space to campus

Fitness Center and Campus Store
- 10,000-square-foot complex scheduled to be completed in spring 2015

The Shoppes at La Salle
- 80,000-square-foot shopping center development resulted from a community partnership between La Salle, Moreland Development, and The Reinvestment Fund

School of Business
- 85,000-square-foot building slated to open in January 2016

Bucks County Center
- Expansion in 2006 added 20,000 square feet of classroom, lab, and gathering space

Montgomery County Center
- Opened in 2008 at Metroplex Corporate Center in Plymouth Meeting, Pa.
Blue and Gold Dining Commons
- 10,000-square-foot dining space renovated in summer 2013 through partnership with ARAMARK

20th Street
- One-way configuration made possible by Philadelphia City Council vote in 2005

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Holroyd Hall
- 38,000 square feet of classrooms, labs, and gathering spaces added in 2009 to existing 89,000-square-foot building, which features the Hugh and Nancy Devlin Center for Science and Technology

Union Food Court
- Renovated and upgraded in 2012 through partnership with ARAMARK

Athletic Fields
- Lights added and Frank Wetzler Track resurfaced in McCarthy Stadium and grass replaced with artificial turf on McCarthy Field and Hank DeVincent Field in 2006

St. Basil Court and Treetops Café
- 428-student residence hall and dining facility completed in 2005
LA SALLE UNIVERSITY LEGEND TOM Gola, ’55, a four-time All-American, 1955 National Player of the Year, and a member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, passed away on Jan. 26, 2014. He was 81.

He was the NCAA’s all-time leading rebounder with 2,201 in his four-year career, and he led the Explorers to the 1952 NIT Championship and 1954 NCAA Championship, earning the tournament’s Most Outstanding Player award in both years. The team also was the 1955 NCAA runner-up.

Gola was the first player in NCAA history to score 2,000 points and grab 2,000 rebounds and was one of only two players to ever achieve the feat. The 6-foot-6 forward was the third all-time scorer at La Salle, with 2,461 points in his career. La Salle compiled a 102–19 record during Gola’s playing career.

La Salle University’s basketball venue was dedicated as Tom Gola Arena on Nov. 21, 1998. A member of the inaugural class of the La Salle Hall of Athletes, his jersey is retired and hangs from the rafters.

“Tom was a Philadelphia icon whose name is synonymous with basketball,” said La Salle President Brother Michael J. McGinniss, F.S.C., Ph.D., ’70. “Most importantly, Tom was a great man who, in true Lasallian spirit, did great things for the University and for others. La Salle University was very lucky to have him as part of our family.”

Gola played 11 seasons in the NBA with the Philadelphia Warriors, San Francisco Warriors, and New York Knicks, winning the 1956 NBA Championship as a rookie with the Warriors. Gola was a five-time NBA all-star and is one of two players to win a NIT, NCAA, and NBA title.

He compiled a 37–13 record as head coach at La Salle from 1968–70, including a 23–1 mark during the 1968–69 season, considered by some to be the best team in Philadelphia Big 5 history.

Gola went on to a successful career of public service in the Pennsylvania State House representing Northeast Philadelphia and then became Philadelphia City Controller.

He is survived by his wife, Caroline; a son, Thomas Christopher; four sisters; two brothers; and two grandchildren.
A Tribute to Gola

Brother Joseph Grabenstein, F.S.C., ’73, La Salle’s Archivist and a longtime friend of Tom and Caroline Gola, delivered the eulogy at Tom Gola’s funeral at St. Albert the Great Catholic Church in Huntingdon Valley, Pa., on Jan. 30, 2014. The following is an excerpt of his remarks.

A wise person once said that “Gratitude is the memory of the heart.”

Well, every single person in this church today is so very thankful for one singular life, with lots and lots of memories of a man who touched countless lives and countless hearts.

Tom, you were a man of strength, tempered with an unassuming personality and blessed with a touch of humility. A man of great accomplishment, but so very approachable.

Winston Churchill once stated that we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. Today, we remember you as a man who gave … and gave … and kept giving. And you gave the utmost respect and assistance to everyone, to your classmates and teammates both at La Salle High School and at La Salle College; to your Army buddies; to your teammates on the Philadelphia Warriors and the New York Knicks; to your Explorer players and fans of the Blue and Gold at old Convention Hall and at the Palestra, and even—if anyone can remember—that old creaky court in Wister Hall; to your colleagues at City Hall and in Harrisburg; and countless constituents.

Tom, you were a real “people-person.” If one word comes close to summarizing your 81 years, it might be the word genuine.

How many times, Tom, did you dish off the ball to a teammate and let him drive to the basket, instead of yourself? You always were an unselfish ballplayer. In the NBA, the top salary you pulled during your 10 years was $25,000—how things have changed!

It’s no accident that your old coach, Ken Loeffler, called you “Mr. All-Around.” And not many people know that you were a coach in the NBA! Back in 1966, Coach Eddie Donovan of the New York Knicks missed two games, so you came off the bench and coached the team to two victories. So, yes, you are indeed the only undefeated coach in the history of the New York Knicks!

And how many times did you inspire a younger generation? One particular great basketball star said in an interview that when he was younger, the college player he most admired was you. The name of that star was Wilt Chamberlain.

And how many times did you mentor your own players with patience and act as a role model for them not just for skills on the court, but skills for life itself? Just ask Fran Dunphy, Larry Cannon, Fatty Taylor, and so many other Explorers.

How many times in both city and state government did you take the higher road of honesty and ethics? Tom, you walked with hall-of-famers, with mayors and governors, with college presidents, and with national presidents. But you never, never forgot where you came from—that modest rowhome near 3rd and Lindley. That’s a powerful message for all of us here to take home.

… When you entered eternity on Sunday afternoon, it wouldn’t surprise me if St. Peter himself sang out your arrival, in the style of announcer Dave Zinkoff at the old Warrior games, “Go-la Goal!” “Go-la Goal!”
On March 20, the University held its first-ever Lasallian Day of Giving to coincide with Charter Day—and it was a rousing success, raising more than $77,700 from nearly 900 donors in 24 hours. A full report on the community-wide effort will be included in the summer issue of La Salle Magazine.

Therese Zaccagnino Marmion, ’01 (with her husband, Michael, daughter, Emily, and son, Sam), contributes to The La Salle Fund and the Communication Department to thank La Salle for the positive impact the University has had on her life.

“The skills I learned and the friendships I made at La Salle have enriched my life. La Salle has proven again and again to be a wise investment. The campus has changed quite drastically since 2001. Every time I return, there is something new to see and celebrate. I have no doubt that La Salle will continue to thrive well beyond my kids’ college years, which makes me confident about lending my support.

“As a student, I felt like an important part of the University, because I was always treated as such. After I graduated and joined the massive La Salle alumni network, that’s when it really hit me how special this place is. There’s a level of personal connection among Lasallians, faculty, alumni, and students alike that continues to this day. Most of the important people in my life are Explorers. It’s much more than a network—it’s family.”

Springing La Salle Forward

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Why I Give Back: Stephen Rauscher, ’73

STEPHEN RAUSCHER, ’73, WAS SO COMMITTED TO GETTING a college education, he chose La Salle twice.

His first stint as a student came right after his 1965 La Salle College High School graduation. A chemistry major, he was on track to graduate in 1969 when he left to join the Army.

After two years with an artillery unit in Korea’s Demilitarized Zone, Rauscher returned to La Salle in early 1970 to a campus where the hairstyles and the culture were much changed from what he had known just a few years before. He found his community in the Chemistry Department and in a new social circle—his fellow veterans. A group of them, tied together by their shared experiences, lived in an off-campus house at Wissahickon and Chelten avenues.

“The Veterans Club was my refuge,” he said. “We banded together.”

Rauscher credits the Christian Brothers and his faculty mentors—Max Barth and Tom Straub in the Chemistry Department and Minna Weinstein in the History Department—for taking a personal interest in his success and keeping him dedicated to his studies.

“I loved La Salle—the atmosphere, the community,” he said. “It was large enough for a great education and small enough that you felt you were part of a community.”

While his chemistry classes gave him a technical grounding for his future career, he also, to this day, appreciates the value of the liberal arts courses he took.

“Courses like English, history, and art appreciation opened me up to the world,” he said. “They really made me open to broader experiences and made me a better manager and leader.”

After La Salle, Rauscher traded his summer job delivering diapers for the Dy-Dee Diaper Service for a full-time job with Philadelphia-based Rohm & Haas. Over his 35-year career at the chemical company, manufacturing and production, operations, and commercial roles took him around the country and overseas.

Since retiring in 2008, Rauscher, who serves on La Salle’s President’s Advisory Council, has become involved with Philadelphia Academies Inc., a nonprofit that supports the development of career-focused programming for students in Philadelphia’s public schools. Through the organization, Rauscher has worked with students to develop their interview and public speaking skills and helped them to secure internships.

As the first in his family to finish college, Rauscher knows firsthand the importance of mentors and role models to students who need an extra boost to achieve their goals. That’s a big part of why he’s devoted to lending financial support to his alma mater.

“For me, La Salle’s mission of educating students who are not afforded a lot of opportunities is important and laudable,” he said. “As successful people who got their start with a La Salle education, we owe it to help people much like us.”
MADE IN THE U.S.A.

BY JANINE MONICO, '07
American Manufacturing has been on the decline for decades, severely impacting local and national economies. In the late 1970s, 20 million Americans were employed directly in manufacturing. Today, that number is less than 12 million.

The tremendous decline in manufacturing jobs drastically increases job loss and has a direct effect on the middle class. No one knows this better than Don Rongione, '79, President and CEO of Bollman Hat Company. America’s oldest hat maker, Bollman employed 1,100 people at its peak and has been producing stylish and serviceable headwear at its factory in Adamstown, Pa., since 1868.

But, in 2005, the global trade policy shift allowed foreign factories to flood the market with low-cost headwear. Bollman lost major customers, like Walmart, an account that had brought in nearly $5 million annually. “We were severely impacted by the onslaught of cheap hats coming in from China,” Rongione said.

So much so that he was forced to make dramatic cutbacks over several years, including more than 100 factory workers on one day in 2007. “It was the most painful thing I’d ever done in business,” he said. “These people had been with us for 30, 40, 50 years, but we just didn’t have the orders to support the jobs.”

Determined to do whatever he could to prevent that from happening again, Rongione started American Made Matters, an organization dedicated to educating consumers on the importance of buying American-made products.

“Americans consume 28 percent of the world’s goods,” he said. “If we can use our economic clout as consumers and spend a larger portion of what we buy on American-made goods, we can help create a strong manufacturing base in the U.S. again, which is key to a strong middle class and to so many components of our economy and society as a whole.”

Representing industries from apparel to steel fabrication, 250 companies across 40 states belong to the organization. These member companies can display the American Made Matters logo on products that comply with the organization’s made-in-America standards—at least 50 percent of the cost (labor, materials, and overhead) is incurred in the United States and the final assembly takes place in the U.S.

From there, it’s up to consumers. “We know that today it’s not possible to buy everything made in the U.S.A.,” Rongione said. “But by making small efforts when possible, we have the ability to create jobs and better opportunities for our children and grandchildren.”

To generate awareness about the mission, he launched American Made Matters Day, encouraging all consumers to buy at least one American-made product. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognized American Made Matters Day as Nov. 19. Rongione selected that date to honor his late father, Nicholas, who was born on that day and was the first generation in his family to be born in the U.S. After returning from World War II, Nicholas Rongione worked at 12th and Vine streets in Philadelphia at a factory that produced overcoats—an industry that was decimated by foreign imports.

“He instilled in his children the importance of buying, wearing, and driving American-made products,” Rongione said. “My father and mother, Eleanor, embodied the American dream by working hard to send their three children to La Salle and become the first generation in our family to earn college degrees.”

Rongione not only earned his degree but also served as president of the Students’ Government Association while at La Salle. He credits the Christian Brothers for instilling in him the importance of giving something back for the greater good.

“We have the ability to change our economy and to strengthen our communities one purchase at a time,” he said. “American Made Matters’ mission is to educate consumers that buying U.S.-made products strengthens the American dream.”


What’s the Return on Investment?

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that every $1 spent on American-made goods invests an additional $1.35 in the U.S. economy.

One new manufacturing job creates 1.6 additional jobs in local service businesses, while jobs in high-tech manufacturing industries generate up to five local service jobs, according to the government’s Advanced Manufacturing Portal.

New jobs in manufacturing produce a ripple effect that leads to demand in other industries, like technology, supply chain management, and logistics.
WHETHER BY COURSE DESIGN OR by error, it’s not unusual for a golfer to be forced to take a blind shot on the green. For Mario Tobia, ’77, every round is an 18-hole blind shot. Tobia began losing his sight at age 25, but he never lost his fervor for the game.

Born in Italy and raised in Cinnaminson, N.J., Tobia described himself as competitive and athletic. He played several sports in high school and received a track scholarship to attend La Salle University.

Tobia graduated from La Salle with a marketing degree and became a computer consultant. Not long after graduating, he noticed a change in his vision. While playing a game of baseball in his mid-20s, he realized he couldn’t see the ball clearly. Something wasn’t right.

He began seeking answers. Up to this point, his vision had been slightly better than 20/20. He bounced around, seeking opinions from different doctors as his eyesight worsened. Finally, a retina specialist delivered a shocking diagnosis—Tobia had retinitis pigmentosa, a degenerative eye disorder.

The doctor told him that as the disorder progressed, he’d be night blind by 30 and need a cane to walk by 50. He couldn’t believe it. “It was really quite a shock,” he said. “I didn’t accept it. I thought I had been misdiagnosed.”

Around the same time, Tobia started dating the woman who became his wife, and his future in-laws introduced him to golf. As he improved his game and perfected his swing, his vision continued to deteriorate. “When I started to play, I could see everything around me,” he said. “Eventually, I couldn’t see the ball in flight.”

Tobia and his wife, Ann, started a family, and he continued his work as a consultant, which required frequent travel. As his condition worsened,
he was forced to take a job closer to home. In 1999, he started working for the New Jersey Commission for the Blind as a training consultant. In 2008, he got a contract with the Philadelphia Veterans Administration to service blind and visually impaired veterans in the South Jersey area. Two years later, he got a contract with the Wilmington Veterans Administration, expanding his service to all of South Jersey and north central Delaware.

In addition to making adjustments to his lifestyle and career, Tobia adapted his golf game as needed and continued playing with his brothers-in-law and two sons despite his loss of vision. He also joined the Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association, a nonprofit for blind and visually impaired golfers that holds 40 social golf outings a year in the Greater Philadelphia area.

As an offshoot of the organization, Tobia started a league that provides blind golfers with an opportunity to play at a more competitive level. He’s played in tournaments nationally and internationally and is currently ranked second in the country. This spring, he’ll travel to Australia for the International Blind Golf Championship.

Although golfing blind certainly makes the game more challenging, Tobia has learned to adapt and knows his standings during a tournament. “I know how to play, and I know how the field plays. I do the best I can do,” he said. “When I’m in a match and it’s me and someone else, the coach will tell me how they did. Typically, there are one to two players who have a shot at beating me.”

He has a strong tee shot and is working to improve his short game. At home, he rigged his sons’ old batting cage into more of a “golf cage” with a golf net and mat, allowing him to practice several times a week off the course. “It can sometimes be difficult to get feedback. If you practice poorly, you play poorly. If you practice effectively, you can make improvements,” he said.

Recognizing that drive and dedication, the Philadelphia Sports Writers Association named Tobia its Most Courageous Athlete last year—an award that puts him in the company of Giants linebacker Mark Herzlich and Dodgers catcher Roy Campanella. To Tobia, the decision to play and remain competitive is all about maintaining a positive, healthy lifestyle despite life’s challenges. “You have to find something you enjoy doing and get out there and do it. Socialize,” he said. “So many people with vision problems stay in, and it’s not a healthy situation. It doesn’t have to be a sport, but you need to get out for your mental health.”

“When I started to play, I could see everything around me. Eventually, I couldn’t see the ball in flight.”

—Mario Tobia, ’77
**Son of a Postman:**
Delivering Straight Talk on Managing Fluffers, Bullies and the Rest of the Team

KEVIN R. ALGER, ’81

CreateSpace, 2013; 256 pp.; $9.99 Kindle, $20.00 print

Down-to-earth advice, peppered with illustrative, often humorous anecdotes from all walks of life, makes this a remarkably practical guide to leading people. It describes six types of people you are likely to encounter in the workplace, or pretty much anywhere else, and gives guidance on how to manage them. It’s for anyone who wants, or needs, to lead—as a parent, teacher, coach, or manager, and is especially for everyone who delights in seeing others succeed.

Alger earned a B.S. in finance and management from La Salle and an MBA from Fordham University. He went on to spend three decades at JPMorgan, where he managed thousands of people worldwide as a senior executive.

**Fortunate Soul**

MICHAEL CANTWELL, ’80


Caeles Novo started his journey of seeking broken souls in Soul Intentions and then rose to leadership of his disciples in Soul Directive. He was put on earth to remove the souls of people who no longer can appreciate all they were given in life. In the third novel in this series, Fortunate Soul, Caeles has been removed as leader of the Council. Now he’s seeking revenge against those who have stolen his ability to remove souls and begins the fight to bring his disciples back to their original mission.

An author, commercial real estate agent, and published photographer in Florida, Cantwell has published five novels and is married to Anne Des Jardins, ’79. They have three children and one dog.

**Philadelphia: A Railroad History**

EDWARD W. DUFFY, ’68


Philadelphia: A Railroad History describes the remarkable development of the railroad industry in Philadelphia and the intense competition that pitted the Pennsylvania Railroad against the Reading Railroad, and those two titans against the formidable Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to dominate the regional market. The book details the impact of the rail industry in the region’s economy, the Philadelphia waterfront, and its port, and it also highlights the key roles of this colorful era’s industrial giants, including Steven Girard, Matthias Baldwin, William Sellers, Franklin Gowen, John W. Garrett, George Roberts, and Edward G. Budd.

Duffy, a graduate of La Salle and Temple universities, has worked for Philadelphia’s Department of Commerce, its Planning Commission, its Port Corporation, and the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation.

**A Murder at Rosamund’s Gate**

SUSANNA C. CALKINS, PH.D., ’93


When someone she loves faces hanging for the murder of a fellow servant, Lucy Campion—a 17th-century English chambermaid—must interpret the clues hidden in miniature portraits, popular ballads, and a corpse’s pointing finger to save his life, before the true murderer turns on her. Lucy finds herself venturing out of her expected station and into rauous printers’ shops, secretive gypsy camps, the foul streets of London, and even the bowels of Newgate prison on a trail that might lead her straight into the arms of the killer.

Calkins became fascinated with 17th-century England while pursuing her doctorate in British history, and she uses her fiction to explore this chaotic period. Calkins lives outside of Chicago with her husband and two sons, and she will soon publish the second book in this series—From the Charred Remains.

**The Foiled Knight**

JOHN C. STIPA, ’82

CreateSpace, 2013; 223 pp.; $2.99 Kindle, $9.95 print

Tanya Davis receives that dreaded late night phone call: Stan Palmer has been critically injured in a car accident. Stan and Tanya were once close—that is, until she broke his heart, an act of cowardice for which she’s never forgiven herself. Tanya investigates the facts surrounding Stan’s accident. What initially looks like icy road conditions turns into suspicion that someone wants Stan dead. To complicate matters, Tanya has medical power of attorney for Stan, causing friction with the Palmer family. With Stan’s lifeblood ebbing away, the legal system closing in, and danger lurking, can Tanya redeem herself and save her Foiled Knight?

Stipa, a marketing analyst with ExxonMobil Corp., is the author of adventure/mystery/romance novels, including No Greater Sacrifice. He has also published several short stories with his writing group, The Writers of Chantilly, and lives in Northern Virginia with his family.

*Book Notes* will be featured periodically in upcoming issues of this magazine. We invite you to let us know if there’s a book written by an alum that might be highlighted by e-mailing Colleen Mullarkey at mullarkey@lasalle.edu.
La Salle has announced plans to build an approximately 10,000-square-foot complex to house a new campus store and health and fitness center on its Main Campus. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer and is targeted to be completed in spring 2015. The project is expected to cost between $4 million and $5 million.

The two-story fitness center and one-story campus store will be housed in the same complex, with separate entrances. Plans currently call for an indoor café or market on the first floor that will be accessible from both the store and the fitness center. The fitness center will be open to students, faculty, and staff, and alumni memberships will also be available.

“This new complex will be a terrific enhancement to our campus,” said Brother Michael J. McGinniss, F.S.C., Ph.D., ’70, La Salle President. “The state-of-the-art facility will create another hub of student activity on Main Campus and will offer first-rate amenities and services for the entire La Salle community.”

The glass-front complex will be located on the south side of Olney Avenue between Connelly Library and the Hayman Center.

Some parking spots will be lost with the construction of the building, but there are plans for new spaces to be added to the campus to replace them.

The complex was designed by Baltimore firm Hord/Coplan/Macht.

The University’s current Independence Blue Cross Fitness Center, located on its South Campus, will remain open even after the new fitness center opens.

—Jon Caroulis
Brother Michael Receives Honorary Degree

Brother Michael McGinniss, F.S.C., Ph.D., ’70, receives his honorary degree from Brother President William Mann, F.S.C., of Saint Mary’s University (left) and the Saint Mary’s Board of Trustees Chairman Michael Gostomski (right).

La Salle President Brother Michael J. McGinniss, F.S.C., Ph.D., ’70, received an honorary degree from Saint Mary's University in Minnesota on Feb. 13. Also a past president of Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tenn., Br. Michael was recognized for his contributions to the Catholic Church, schools, and society.

Saint Mary's honored Br. Michael for his service, alongside four other Christian Brothers who are current or former presidents of Lasallian colleges. “It’s always gratifying to be recognized by your peers,” he said. “Being honored with four other Christian Brothers who have done so much for the mission of St. John Baptist de La Salle made the event even more special.”

Federal Reserve CEO Speaks at Economic Outlook

Charles I. Plosser, Ph.D., President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, delivered the keynote address at La Salle’s 13th Annual Economic Outlook Forum at The Union League of Philadelphia.

In his first economic outlook speech of the year, “Perspectives on the Economy and Monetary Policy,” Plosser discussed his forecast for growth, prospects for the labor market, and inflation expectations, as well as policy actions that the Federal Reserve has taken to support economic recovery. He also briefly discussed the history of the Fed, which celebrated its 100th anniversary on Dec. 23, 2013.

Having led the Fed since 2006, Plosser is also a voting member of the Federal Reserve System’s Federal Open Market Committee, which is responsible for conducting the nation’s monetary policy, including making key decisions about interest rates.

‘That’s Lasallian Business’ Campaign Launches

With TV spots, billboards, digital advertisements, and a brand-new Web site touting its unique features and record of success, the School of Business has been receiving a lot of attention since the launch of a multimedia marketing campaign this winter.

The result of a collaboration with Mangos, a Malvern, Pa.-based advertising agency, and Harmelin Media, the campaign officially launched on ESPN during College Game Day coverage of the La Salle/Temple men’s basketball game. TV spots continued to air through February on several networks, including on MSNBC, USA, NBC Sports, and CNBC during the Winter Olympics.

Beginning in March, the campaign messages were featured on billboards around the Philadelphia region. Digital advertising, including online videos and banner ads, has also been featured prominently on popular Web sites.

A new Web site for the School of Business, lasallianbusiness.com, has also launched, and all of the elements of the campaign feature real La Salle students, to underscore the personal approach that sets a Lasallian business education apart.
La Salle’s Washington, D.C., alumni chapter honored Tom Curley, ‘70, with the John J. McNally Service Award on March 7 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. (From left) Trey Ulrich, ‘99, MBA ‘02, La Salle’s Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations, Curley, and Alumni Association President Beth Harper Briglia, ‘80.

La Salle Trustee Steve Zarrilli, ’83, President and CEO of Safeguard Scientific, spoke about “Entrepreneurship and Team Development” at the Meet the Leaders of Business Speakers Series lecture hosted by La Salle on Feb. 11. La Salle’s School of Business was one of only five schools selected for the 2013–14 session by Beta Gamma Sigma, the honor society for business schools accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

Men’s Basketball Team Recognized as Daily News SportsPersons of the Year

The La Salle men’s basketball team was selected as the Philadelphia Daily News SportsPersons of the Year for 2013 based on their NCAA Tournament run to the Sweet Sixteen last March.

The Explorers completed an exciting regular season with 21 wins but were squarely on the bubble on Selection Sunday. Their name was called in the last region, leading to an unforgettable two weeks that included wins over Boise State, Kansas State, and Ole Miss, three wins in five days in two cities, and a ride that Explorer fans won’t soon forget.

“It is certainly an outstanding honor for our men’s basketball team to be selected as the Daily News SportsPersons of the Year. The Sweet Sixteen run was an experience that brought together the La Salle community of students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends to celebrate our great University,” said La Salle Athletics Director Thomas Brennan, Ed.D. “We also captured the attention of Philadelphia and its surrounding suburbs for two weeks, providing us with great exposure for La Salle.”
Elite Players Join Hall of Athletes

Five new inductees recently joined La Salle’s Hall of Athletes, earning a spot alongside some of the University’s most storied sports players.

A two-time All-American swimmer in the 500- and 1650-yard freestyle, James Abel, ’66, helped the Explorers finish third at the NCAA Championship in 1964 and fifth in 1965 and 1966. He won the 1966 Middle Atlantic Conference Championship in the 500-yard freestyle and set school records in the 200-, 500-, and 1650-yard freestyle.

The first African-American men’s basketball player at La Salle, Jack Moore, ’53, helped the team make it to the 1952 NIT Championship after averaging 9.2 points per game and 12.6 rebounds per game. Moore went on to play three seasons in the NBA, winning a league championship in 1956 with the Philadelphia Warriors.

Rachel Papin Knox, ’08, won 10 Atlantic 10 individual championships and was a six-time NCAA qualifier. Her three A-10 cross country titles set a conference record. Papin Knox, who was the A-10 Performer of the Meet six times, helped the Explorers make it to four straight A-10 Championships in cross country.

A decorated distance runner, Sean Quigley, ’08, earned five All-America citations in track and field and two in cross country. He was a NCAA qualifier 11 times and won nine A-10 individual championships. Quigley helped the Explorers to three A-10 cross country championships, was the A-10 Performer of the Meet three times, and was the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Student-Athlete of the Year twice. Quigley qualified for the 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials in the 10k and ran the fastest 10k time in NCAA Division I that season.

Mark Swiski, ’82, was a three-time All-East Coast Conference selection as an outfielder on the La Salle baseball team, graduating with the second highest batting average (.368)—which currently ranks eighth all-time. Swiski also graduated with the second highest batting average in a single season at .426, which was eighth best in the nation that season.

AASL Honors McClinton for Service

At the ninth annual Classic Black Dinner in January, La Salle’s African American Student League honored Joanna McClinton, Esq., ’03, for her continued service and dedication to the African American Alumni Association.

“She epitomizes what it means to be a servant for your community,” said junior Daniel Davis, AASL President. Since her graduation, McClinton joined La Salle’s Alumni Association Board of Directors, where she helped to initiate the Minority Alumni Advisory Group. Last fall, she was elected President of the La Salle African American Alumni Association.

McClinton, who has a law degree from Villanova University, was recently appointed Chief Counsel to State Sen. Anthony Hardy Williams of the Eighth Pennsylvania Senatorial District.

“To have a few minutes to formally address current students who encounter many challenges I faced as a student and young professional was an incredible honor,” said McClinton, who is also an ordained minister. “I encouraged them to pursue excellence and seek success.”

Marketing and Communication Projects Win Awards

Several staff members of La Salle’s Office of University Marketing and Communication have been honored with awards for recent projects.

Greg Fala, ’04, M.A. ’08, Director of Web Communications, and Kevin Schueller, Web and Media Designer and Developer, were awarded four 2013 MarCom Awards, two Gold Awards for the Nursing Program Web site and the Heritage Week 2013: Best Week Ever e-mail and two honorable mentions for the Commencement 2013 video (with assistance from Dan Nguyen) and the School of Nursing and Health Sciences Web site.

In the Educational Advertising Awards, sponsored by Higher Education Marketing Report, Joshua Ash, Creative Director, won merit awards for the 2014 Art Museum calendar and the La Salle Fund logo, and Amy Gardner Cranston, M.A. ’09, won a merit award for the Celebrate #LaSalle150 social media campaign.
Nearly 80 volunteers, many of them student-athletes, helped out with maintenance and cleanup at the nearby Piney Grove Baptist Church on Jan. 20 as part of the University’s MLK Day of Service. In all, 237 volunteers from the La Salle community came together to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., performing more than 700 hours of community service at 10 neighborhood sites that day.

Art Museum Showcases WPA Prints

The exhibition American Scenes: WPA Era Prints of the 1930s and 1940s will be on view at the La Salle University Art Museum through May 30, 2014.

This exhibition of fine art prints showcases some of the primary concerns of American printmakers during the 1930s and 1940s. Featuring works from the permanent collection of the La Salle University Art Museum and Works Progress Administration (WPA) prints borrowed from the Print and Picture Collection of the Free Library of Philadelphia, the exhibition tells the story of rural and urban life, of industrialization and hard times.

The WPA employed artists between 1935 and 1943 as part of a wider New Deal project to put people to work during the Great Depression. Artists were hired without regard for ethnicity, race, or gender, and this diversity is reflected in the range of artists included in this exhibition.

For more information on this exhibition and the Art Museum, visit lasalle.edu/museum.

FBI ‘Burglars’ Reflect on Government Surveillance

After decades of silence, John and Bonnie Raines (above, left and center) talked to an audience at Dan Rodden Theatre on Feb. 24 about the details of a burglary they committed more than 40 years ago. Along with six others, they broke into an FBI field office in Media, Pa., on March 8, 1971, and anonymously sent copies of files exposing the FBI’s surveillance of citizens to three national newspapers and a few members of Congress.

The members of the “Citizens Commission to Investigate the FBI” were never found, despite a five-year search and a dragnet of 200 agents. The Raineses went on to work at La Salle—John as a professor in the Graduate Religion program and Bonnie with the campus child-care center.

They returned to La Salle with reporter and author Betty Medsger (above, right) to reflect on the legacy of government surveillance and to discuss her recent book, The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover’s Secret FBI. Medsger’s unprecedented reporting of the content of the stolen files in the Washington Post led to the first congressional investigation of all intelligence agencies and to the establishment of congressional oversight of such agencies.
notes


1957  Thomas J. Chadwick, F.S.C. (B.A.) of Wyndmoor, Pa., celebrated his 60th Jubilee as a De La Salle Christian Brother with a Mass of Thanksgiving and a reception at La Salle College High School in Wyndmoor, Pa.

1959  ★ REUNION YEAR

1962  Owen L. Green III (B.S.) of Christiansburg, Va., celebrated his 43rd wedding anniversary with his wife, Cheryl Lynn, on Jan. 2, 2014.

Anthony C. Murdocca (B.A.) of Shiremanstown, Pa., and his wife, Lorraine, attended a private Mass and audience with Pope Francis I at the Vatican. The Pope autographed a copy of his book, In Him Alone There is Hope, and gave the Murdoccas a handwritten Apostolic Blessing for their 50th wedding anniversary.

1964  ★ REUNION YEAR

1965  Joseph E. Markert (B.S.) of North Plainfield, N.J., spoke on operational justice and employee reviews at the 2013 Society for Human Resources Management Conference in Atlantic City.

1967  Thomas M. O’Keefe (B.A.) of Abington, Pa., was elected to serve a three-year term on the La Salle University Alumni Board.

1969  ★ REUNION YEAR

1971  Richard E. Kreipe, M.D. (B.S.) of Rush, N.Y., was elected to the board of directors of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine as the past president’s council representative.

1972  Michael L. Duffy, J.D. (B.A.) of San Francisco, Calif., represented La Salle University at the installation of James A. Donahue, the 29th President of St. Mary’s College in Moraga, Calif.

Brother John J. McDonnell Jr., F.S.C. (B.A.) of Philadelphia, Pa., was inducted into the Hall of Fame at West Catholic Preparatory High School for success in his professional career and for being a positive ambassador of West Catholic. He was the first Principal and President of the merged boys’ and girls’ school.


Robert I. Lewis, D.D. (B.S.) of Plain City, Ohio, was awarded the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Safety Team Representative of the Year award by the state of Ohio. He is a U.S. FAA-designated senior aviation medical examiner.

1974  ★ REUNION YEAR Louis A. Lombardo III (B.A.) of Maple Glen, Pa., was inducted into the Pennsylvania American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame in July 2012.

1975  Sam C. Canone (B.S.) of Allentown, Pa., received the Northampton Community College (NCC) Distinguished Service award in October 2013. He was the assistant baseball coach and was inducted into the NCC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009. While a member of the 1965 baseball team, he was inducted into the NCC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009.

La Salle Magazine welcomes notes from our alumni on all of your achievements and other news. Please use the form at the end of our Notes section, “We Want to Hear About You!,” to submit your news. Or, to post and view class notes in real time, log into La Salle Alumni Online at www.lasalle.edu/alumni using the seven-digit La Salle ID found on the mailing label of this magazine. Please allow up to six months for your information to appear in the magazine due to space limitations and our publication schedule. We accept photos as well and print them as space permits. Please mail original photos to the Office of Alumni Relations, La Salle University, Box 850, 1900 W. Olney Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19141, or e-mail digital photos that are at least 300 dpi and approximately 4 by 6 inches to butcher@lasalle.edu. The University reserves the right to edit submissions for content, accuracy, and length.

Erin Carroll, ’12, of Oreland, Pa., was crowned the 2014 Miss Mayo, making her the 50th winner of the heritage competition held by the Mayo Association of Philadelphia. The association promotes Irish culture and arts and supports charitable endeavors in Philadelphia and in Ireland, particularly in County Mayo.
As a two-time All-American, charter member of the La Salle Hall of Athletes, Olympic competitor, and world-record holder, Al Cantello has received countless awards and accolades since he graduated in 1955. However, his most recent induction into the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) Coaches Hall of Fame still resonates as a huge honor for the storied coach.

“For me to be wide-eyed at my age is a big deal,” Cantello said. “I felt humbled—it exceeded all my expectations. I was able to share the night with my family and grandson, and it was a wonderful time in my life to do it.”

Along with five other U.S. coaches, Cantello was inducted into the Hall of Fame's Class of 2013 at a gala awards dinner at the USTFCCCA's annual convention on Dec. 16. Athletic Development Director Jim Gulick, ’89, represented La Salle before the audience of more than 1,100.

Since Cantello began coaching at the U.S. Naval Academy in 1963, the Midshipmen have had one of the most consistent men’s cross country programs, regionally and nationally. During his tenure, he has coached three cross country All-Americans and four indoor/outdoor track and field All-Americans and has been named the Mid-Atlantic Regional Coach of the Year three times. He has also been named Patriot League Coach of the Year four times, earning the honor four straight years from 2008 to 2011 as the Midshipmen claimed four consecutive conference titles.

In 45 seasons at the helm of the cross country program, Cantello boasts a 242-69-1 career record.

Cantello counts hosting the 1989 NCAA cross country championships as one of his biggest accomplishments at the Naval Academy, which he says is the cross country equivalent to hosting a bowl game. His natural charisma, which parlayed into his great success as a coach, made hosting a “euphoric” experience for him.

Now in his 51st season at the Naval Academy, Cantello continues to coach the men's long-distance running program. He credits his sustained passion for coaching to the integrity of the Naval Academy, which reminds him of his time as a college student at La Salle.

“It’s what everyone would like their college to be. No drugs, no booze during the week, summer work, and every kid who graduates gets a job,” he said. “Nobody burns out on the extraneous things. People compete here for the sole purpose to compete, and that has certainly played into my longevity.”

His loyalty to the institution that provided him such an education is evident in Cantello’s continued support of La Salle. Over the years, he has remained a dedicated advocate of the cross country program—most notably, for his integral role in raising funds and overseeing the development of an all-weather track. Since its installation in 1989, the eight-lane rubberized all-weather track has provided a strong training ground for the Explorers’ nationally recognized track and field and cross country program.

― Nicole Woods, ’06
It all started because her brother’s shirt didn’t fit.

A little over a year ago, Amanda Rondon, ’04, had never heard of Team Red, White & Blue, a national nonprofit focused on enriching the lives of veterans by connecting them to their communities through physical and social activities. Now, she moonlights as the Social Director for the organization’s Philadelphia community.

“My brother, a two-time Iraq war veteran, is a West Point grad, and a classmate of his actually founded the organization,” said Rondon, a business analyst for Towers Watson. “I was at his house for Christmas back in 2012, and he gave me a Team RWB shirt that didn’t fit him. I had been looking for a volunteer opportunity, and this just seemed perfect for me.”

Team RWB was created in 2010 by Mike Erwin to provide a network of support for veterans struggling to transition from active duty to civilian life. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 26 percent of returning combat veterans may have mental health conditions and more than twice that number do not return to their hometown upon completion of service.

“It’s our turn to do what we can to provide our veterans with the support they need,” Rondon said. “Sometimes that’s as simple as spending time with them, and the great thing about Team RWB is that it’s focused around fitness and being a member of a productive team. In addition to the mental health benefits of being physically active, sharing a hardship like a tough workout helps develop bonds between members that are organic and genuine.”

Having played on La Salle’s softball team as an undergraduate, the former team captain and Atlantic 10 rookie of the year easily related to Team RWB’s mission. Her passion for the group led to her role as Social Director, which involves coordinating a variety of programs that range from weekly workout sessions and marathon teams to sporting events and tailgate parties.

So far the organization has expanded to more than 90 communities throughout the globe, amassing nearly 27,000 members in the process. “Every day I see photos and read articles about Team RWB athletes across the world that are facing unimaginable struggles, whether they are visible like some of our single, double, even triple amputees, or of the invisible nature, like those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and traumatic brain injuries,” Rondon said. “It is the true heroes, our veterans, who make this 100 percent volunteer organization one that I am so incredibly proud to be a part of.”

The Philadelphia community experienced a significant spike in membership in 2013—jumping from 30 registered members all the way up to 600. Although veterans make up 70 percent of Team RWB, all are welcome. La Salle classmates like Stacey Lang, Gina Marchiondo, and Rachel O’Neil have joined Rondon as civilian members. “The point of RWB is to help veterans transition to civilian life, and who knows more about that than civilians?” Rondon said. “You don’t need to know a veteran or open your checkbook or be able to run a full marathon. You just need a willingness to be part of a community that does many of the activities people want to be doing anyway.”

Visit www.teamrwb.org for more information on Team RWB, and check out their Facebook page, Team RWB Philadelphia, for specifics on the Philadelphia community and its events.

—Frank Visco, ’08, ’14
student at the college, he was a tri-captain of the Spartan baseball team before he transferred to La Salle University.

David T. Johnson (B.A.) of Warminster, Pa., was appointed Health Services Director for Pennswood Village, a continuing care retirement community. He holds a Nursing Home Administrator’s license in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

1976 The Rev. John Bohrer (M.A.) of Collingswood, N.J., is the administrator for Blessed Teresa of Calcutta parish in Collingswood, N.J. He is the co-author of *Placemat Prayers, Mealtime Blessings, Especially for the Sick*.

1979 **REUNION YEAR** Dennis M. McGrath (B.S.) of Medford, N.J., joined the board of directors of LabStyle Innovations Corp., the developer of Dario, a cloud-based, mobile health platform for diabetes and related blood glucose monitoring.

1981 Ellen Meriwether, Esq. (B.A.) of Swarthmore, Pa., was elected to the board of directors of the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia. She is included in the *U.S. News & World Report* publication of *Best Lawyers in America* in the field of antitrust law and was named a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer in each of the past eight years. She chaired the Federal Courts Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association and is a member of both the advisory board of the American Antitrust Institute and the editorial board of *ANTITRUST* magazine.

Edward A. Turzanski (B.A.) of Philadelphia, Pa., was honored with the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia Polonaise Ball Achievement Award for his contribution to the national and international community. La Salle President Brother Michael J. McGinniss, F.S.C., Ph.D., ’70, delivered the invocation at the event.

1982 William J. Mellon (B.S.) of Morrisville, Pa., was promoted to equity partner for WeiserMazars LLP, a New York accounting, tax, and advisory firm. He is assigned to the Fort Washington, Pa., office.

1984 **REUNION YEAR** Christopher J. Lamb, Esq. (B.A.) of Wilmington, Del., was listed as one of the Best Lawyers in America and was named Best Lawyers Real Estate Law Firm for Wilmington, Del., for 2013. He was recognized as a leading practitioner in real estate in Delaware in the 2007–13 editions of *Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business*.

1986 Michael P. Bradley (B.A.) of Somerset, N.J., accepted a position with Bayer Pharmaceuticals in Whippany, N.J., supporting the development of products to treat hemophilia.


1989 **REUNION YEAR** Maya K. VanRossum (B.S.) of Bryn Mawr, Pa., is protecting the drinking water for the people of New Jersey as she leads the Delaware Riverkeeper Network team to monitor the river and all of its tributaries for threats and challenges. She examines this information and advocates, educates, and litigates for protection, restoration, and change.

1991 James J. McBride III (B.S.) of Moorestown, N.J., is a partner with client service/business development for Cooke & Bieler LP, an independent professional organization that provides investment counseling services to institutions and families.

1992 Rita A. (Seeger) Jablonski (MSN) of Philipsburg, Pa., was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing Class of 2013 Fellows.

1993 Victoria E. Coleman (BSN) of Abington, Pa., welcomed her sixth grandchild, Liam Q. Riley, in July 2013.

1994 **REUNION YEAR**

1997 Jean C. Dolan (B.A., M.A. ’07) of Newtown, Pa., was elected to the board of directors of the Newtown Library Company.

1998 Edward A. Chiioso (B.S.) of Chalfont, Pa., was named audit partner for KPMG Philadelphia.

Margaret Mary Markmann, Ph.D. (B.A.) of Huntingdon Valley, Pa., was inducted into the West Catholic Preparatory High School Hall of Fame for Service in recognition for her active membership in the alumni...
In Memoriam


1952  Carmen V. Carano (B.A.) of Philadelphia, Pa., on June 18, 2013.


1962  John J. Gain (B.S.) of Kennett Square, Pa., on Sept. 20, 2013.

1963  Ralph C. Dages Jr. (B.S.) of Fishers, Ind., on July 24, 2013.


1971  Gary L. Crawford, Esq. (B.A.) of Fort Worth, Texas, on April 19, 2013.


2003  Patrick G. Hackett (B.A.) of West Haven, Conn., was a contestant on *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*. While a student at La Salle, he was a cheerleader and would perform as the Explorer mascot at halftime.

James J. Keller (B.S.) of Philadelphia, Pa., is the Founder and Principal of Context, a Philadelphia Web design and development company. Context was honored as one of the 100 fastest-growing privately held entrepreneurial companies in the Greater Philadelphia region by the *Philadelphia Business Journal*.

2004  Sean M. Breckenridge (B.S.) married Wendy Chandler.

Fanta Waterman Purayidathil, Ph.D. (B.S.) of Danbury, Conn., completed her Ph.D. in public health policy at Temple University and defended her dissertation, which included a retrospective study of multiple merged databases investigating outcomes associated with foodborne disease outbreak, as well as characteristics of state health departments that might influence reporting of these incidences to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She presented her research at the National Coordinating Center’s annual conference for Public Health Services and Systems Research. She works as a manager of health economics and outcomes research at Boehringer Ingelheim in Danbury.

Michael C. McIlhenny (MBA) of Philadelphia, Pa., accepted a position as account manager for Burns Mechanical, Inc., a Philadelphia-area mechanical construction and energy services firm.

2005  Colleen A. Bolger (B.A., M.A. ’08) married Brian Bingaman.

2006  Keith G. Higgins (B.A.) and Dyani (Rodriguez) Higgins (B.A. ’07), have a new daughter, Harper Rose.

Steven P. Humiston (B.S.) married Katherine E. Missimer, Esq. (B.A.).

Erinleigh McNulty (B.S.) married John McCarthy.

2007  Dyani (Rodriguez) Higgins (B.A.) and Keith G. Higgins (B.A. ’06), have a new daughter, Harper Rose.

Candace Cannon (B.A.) and Frank Visco (B.A. ’08, B.S. ’14) have a new daughter, Cassandra.
2008 \[\text{Kevin E. Crockett (B.A.)}\] of Sicklerville, N.J., was recognized as the Country Music Association (CMA) Major Market Broadcast Personality of the Year, along with his colleagues on \textit{The Doc and Andie Show}, for their popular morning show on Philadelphia’s country radio station, 92.5 WXTU.

Paul M. Flanagan IV (B.A.) married Lauren Welte (B.A.).

Frank Visco (B.A., B.S. '14) and Candace Cannon (B.A., '07) have a new daughter, Cassandra.

2009 \[\text{Reunion Year}\] Sean W. Hand (B.A.) of Philadelphia, Pa., received the Chairman’s Award for high performance from KPMG.

Stephanie Wieslawa Turzanski (B.S.) of Philadelphia, Pa., joined the award-winning team at ParleeStumf as a solutions consultant for the Doylestown-based marketing agency.

2011 Annmarie (Costanzo) Biase (MBA) of Souderton, Pa., accepted the position of health and welfare benefit consultant for Charon Planning, a Warrington employee benefit consulting firm.

2013 Samuel A. Pickard IV (B.A.) of Broomall, Pa., is working on an archaeological excavation along I-95 in the Port Richmond, Kensington, Fishtown, and Northern Liberties sections of Philadelphia as a researcher for URS Corp. The excavations are accessible to the public at digging95.com.

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Love was in the air in College Hall in December, when Gianno Saiter, '11, surprised Gina Massaro, '10, with a marriage proposal in front of an accounting class taught by Brother Gerry Fitzgerald, F.S.C., '70, MBA '83. The proposal brought the couple back to where it all began—when Massaro was a sophomore and Saiter was a freshman, they met in Br. Gerry’s class in College Hall 306, and he teased them about dating because of their similar first names. When it came time to propose, Saiter arranged for Br. Gerry to invite Massaro to speak to his students about her work at Johnson & Johnson. As she began her presentation, Saiter appeared with the ring. She said yes, and they’ve set a date: June 6, 2015.

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