

2011

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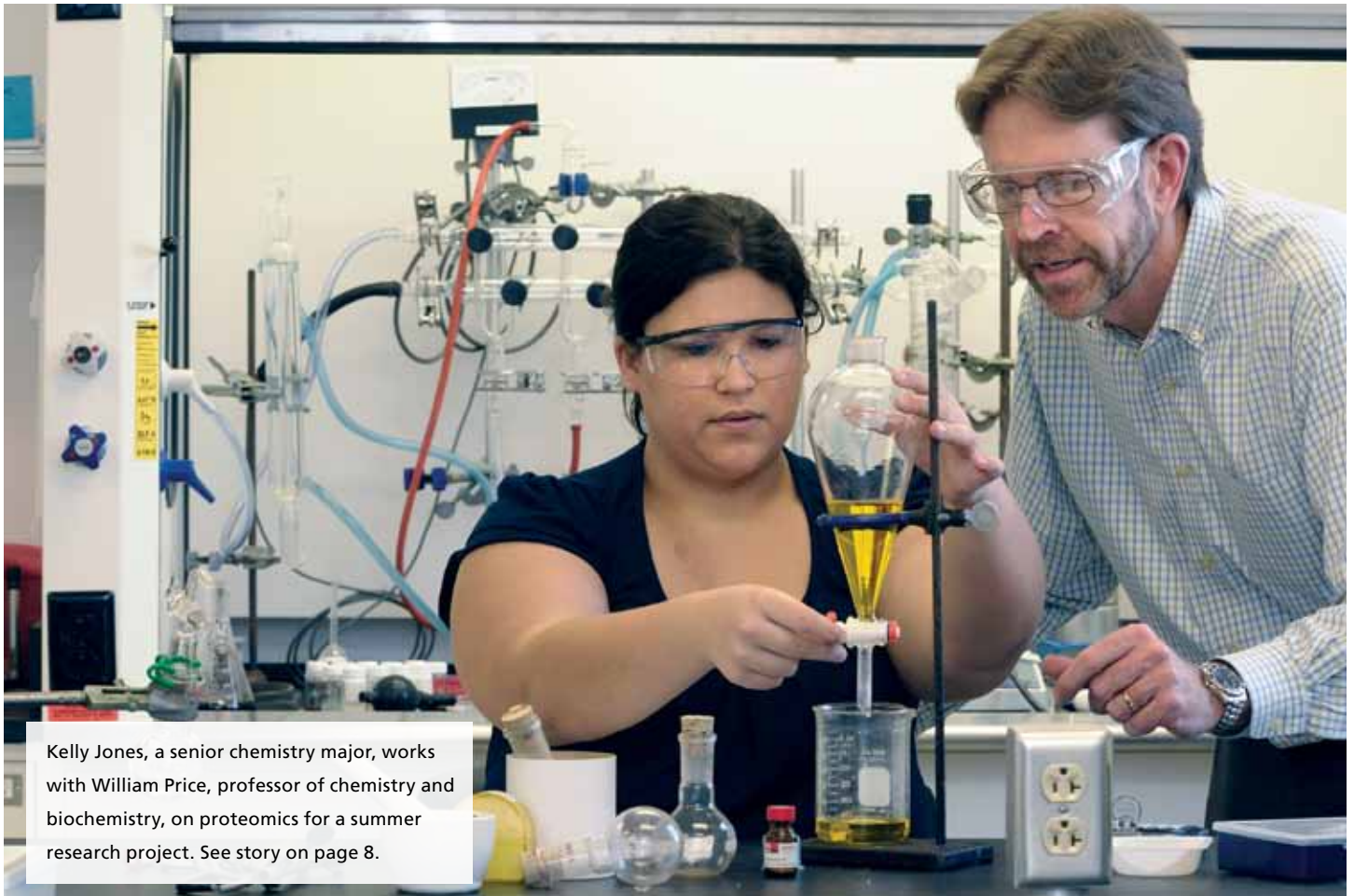
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ARTS AND SCIENCES

# EXPLORER

2011 EDITION



Kelly Jones, a senior chemistry major, works with William Price, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, on proteomics for a summer research project. See story on page 8.

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“Practice makes perfect.” I can still hear those words ringing in my ears from youthful ventures on the athletic field and in the classroom. While I cannot honestly say I ever approached perfection in either venue, I can report that I quickly learned to appreciate the difference between learning the theoretical foundation for something and putting that theory into practice. This issue of the *Explorer* is filled with examples of how we in the School of Arts and Sciences at La Salle University are committed to helping our students make the connection between theory and practice.

We are blessed to be located in a city and region that provides a rich array of opportunities for our students and faculty to experience the practical side of their discipline in partnership with some of the most respected corporations in the world. In addition, they can choose from govern-

ment, education, and the nonprofit sector, ranging from Acme Supermarkets to the Philadelphia Zoo.

Of course, this is really not news to many of you reading this edition because you



“We are blessed to be located in a city and region that provides a rich array of opportunities for our students and faculty.”

—Thomas A. Keagy

have already unselfishly volunteered to help us make these connections for our students, and for that we are deeply appreciative. You have supervised their student teaching, allowed them to shadow you in some professional setting, or helped facilitate an opportunity for them to utilize their newly acquired skill set in an environment that ignited, or perhaps fanned, a passion within them.

The types of practical experiences we feature in this edition of the *Explorer* help prepare our students to live productive and fulfilling lives with satisfying careers and a wide choice of outlets to serve others. I hope you enjoy learning more about our students and the dedicated members of our faculty whose passion is mentoring them. And if you have not already done so, I invite you to identify where your talents, experience, and assistance can complement the work of our faculty and help complete our students’ connections between theory and practice.

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# Developing a Practical and Professional Experience



In the classroom, students acquire a strong foundation through lecture, textbooks, and theory. When in the real world, they can put that theory into practice.

Countless students have applied the excellence in teaching and learning that they receive at La Salle to a variety of internships that provide them with professional experience. Students worked with the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the Philadelphia Eagles, Braithwaite Communications, NBC 10, the Washington, D.C., Chamber of Commerce, Democratic Rep. Joe Sestak's campaign for Senate, the Philadelphia District Attorney's office, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), among others.

"It gets our students into an office, and they learn how to connect themselves with professionals," said Brother Gerry Molyneux, F.S.C., '58, internship coordinator for the Communication Department. "It gives them experience and the opportunity to network."

In the spring semester alone, the Communication Department coordinated 40 internships with various media outlets, public relations firms, professional sports organizations, and local theater groups. Br. Gerry said it is essential to have these credentials when applying for most jobs.

Chip Gallagher, Chair of the Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Social Work Depart-

Jesse Cute, '99 (left), works with interns Stella Guan (center) and Kathryn Bergin at Terry Hines Associates, an advertising and marketing firm.

ment, has organized internships with law enforcement and government agencies. Some have worked with the Innocence Project through Temple University, which involves evidence that suggests a number of incarcerated people are actually innocent. Others have interned with agents in ICE on an international sex slavery case.

"What we're doing is linking the academic background in class with real world experience," Gallagher said. "They're learning what people actually do and applying book knowledge to a job. ... A practical education is very Lasallian."

Haylee Reese, a junior double majoring in criminal justice and sociology, interned in the Philadelphia District Attorney's office during the summer of 2011. She worked in the domestic violence courtroom, where she completed paperwork, spoke with police officers, victims, and witnesses prior to testimony, and organized cases.

"An internship is an opportunity to gain valuable experience about the field and learn skills that a student cannot learn by simply sitting in a classroom," Reese said.

Mike Dillon, Chair of the Political Science Department, said students often return from internships more motivated to work in the classroom. "They come back and recognize that they have to perform in a professional setting and get more done in the classroom. They have more self-confidence and motivation," he said.

Political science students have interned with elected officials, nonprofits, administrative offices, law firms, and political campaigns. T.J. McCarrick, a junior double majoring in political science and history, interned with the Honorable Chris R. Wogan, '72, a Common Pleas Court Judge, Trial Division in Philadelphia County.

"This internship has confirmed my love of the law and its critical importance to aiding those most in need in society," McCarrick said.

Wogan appreciated McCarrick's "fresh perspective" and knowledge of the criminal courtroom. "I would take on another La Salle intern without hesitation. It was a fantastic experience," he said.

Although the requirements for a student internship vary by department, students generally have to be in good academic standing. Most internships, which require 15 to 20 hours per week on the site, count as three credits.

The end result of each internship also varies. Communication students complete a project

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Brother Gerry Molyneux, F.S.C., '58 (fifth from left), poses with past and current interns with the Philadelphia Eagles. (From left) Tom Rossi, '10, Anthony Bonagura, '08, Kevin Dougherty, '02, John Smyrl, '08, Br. Gerry, Frank Faber, Esq., '88, Jay Bodman, '11, and Mike Trainor, Esq., '04.

# A Career Comes Full Circle



Life for Joe Marbach, '83, La Salle's Provost, feels like it's come full circle these days. It was during his undergraduate years as a political science major at La Salle that a passing comment in former professor Robert Courtney's state government course launched Marbach's career.

Marbach, a Philadelphia native and Northeast Catholic High School graduate, was introduced to La Salle at a young age through his twin uncles, both 1967 graduates, who took him to La Salle basketball games at the Palestra. In addition to La Salle being a familiar university, Marbach received a scholarship. "It was a natural choice for me to come here," he said.

As a political science major, he gained valuable experience while working at the Center City headquarters of underdog Democratic candidate Allen Ertel during the 1982 Pennsylvania race for governor. He also recalled organizing the on-campus appearances of the Republican candidates for the 1983 Philadelphia mayoral race, which included La Salle basketball great Tom Gola, '55. "This hadn't been done before. We were trying to awaken the political sensibility of the student body," Marbach said.

**"It was a natural choice for me to come here."**

**—Joe Marbach, '83**

Marbach also noted that La Salle faculty knew how to handle material in the classroom. Courtney, former Chair of the Political Science Department, introduced his students to a textbook by Daniel Elazar, a professor of political science at Temple University. "Bob Courtney said, 'This is an expert in our own backyard,'" Marbach recalled. "When I applied to Temple (for graduate school), I cited Elazar and my desire to work with him."

That comment in Courtney's class gave Marbach a chance to work with Elazar at Temple's former Center for the Study of Federalism, and Marbach's work did not go unnoticed.

"My whole career took a certain path," he said. "I was hired at Seton Hall University because of the work I did at Temple. I eventually was tenured, became Chair (of the Political Science Department) for six years, and was appointed the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. That experience put me in a position to return here (to La Salle). Coming back here brings my career full circle."

His journey back to 20th and Olney has been rather serendipitous. With 16 years under his belt, Marbach was happy at Seton Hall and was implementing a new strategic plan to reorganize the College of Arts and Sciences. But when he saw the rare opening for Provost at La Salle, he thought, "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Since returning to campus, Marbach said he has received a tremendously warm reception. "I think the La Salle community has been so receptive to me because there's a sense that, 'He's one of us.' I understand the Lasallian mission and have a familiarity with it," he said.

As Provost, Marbach understands what makes a La Salle education unique. "At La Salle, we provide a relevant Catholic, liberal arts-based education, and we've been doing it since 1863," he said. "Undergraduate students come out of La Salle ready for the next phase of their lives."

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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that represents their work through a presentation, portfolio, or video. Students in sociology, criminal justice, and social work must complete a 25-page research paper.

Integrated Science, Business, and Technology (ISBT) students complete a poster project that is shared with their classmates, said Nancy Jones, Chair of ISBT. Students have presented projects about biotechnology experiments with yeast at a local brewery, the carbon footprint of the Philadelphia Zoo, and different properties of metals while working at a metal shop. "It's all about the experience," Jones said.

"Internships are very different from classroom learning because it's not just scenario situations—you are really on a team with others trying to solve problems," said Theresa Cassidy, a senior double major in ISBT and history who interned at the Philadelphia Brewing Company.

For Br. Gerry, the most gratifying thing is that La Salle interns are treated as professionals. "What really impresses me is, you see these students at the end of their college years. They are anxious to get out there, and they don't go empty-handed. They have experience through La Salle."

## JONES RECEIVES LASALLIAN EDUCATOR AWARD

Inspired by a former professor to devote personal attention to her students, Nancy Jones, Ph.D., Chair of the Integrated Science, Business, and Technology Department, received the University's Distinguished



Lasallian Educator Award. The award recognizes faculty and staff who are committed to Lasallian priorities.

Jones has always appreciated La Salle's student-focused atmosphere. In 2000, she became founding Director of Integrated Science, Business, and Technology (ISBT). She continues teaching general chemistry and ISBT courses and advising students. She also works with the University's "Day One" summer program for new students and their families.



## GENEROUS GRANT HELPS LADDER FAMILY CENTER

A \$100,000 grant from the Widener Foundation in Aid to Handicapped Children has helped the La Salle Autism and Developmental Disabilities Education Resources (LADDER) Family Center open its doors on the University's West Campus this spring.

The Center is an interdisciplinary initiative that supports children in the community who have autism or other developmental disabilities, as well as their families.



Robert Mack

The Widener Foundation, led by President Edith R. Dixon, has supported the children and community of the Widener Memorial School in Philadelphia and other organizations that support disabled children for several decades, according to Robert Mack, Associate Director of the Center.

The grant will provide the Center with renovation costs, materials, equipment, supplies, and marketing support, Mack said. The completely renovated facilities on West Campus will include a children's center, counseling and therapy rooms, professional development center, and parent waiting area.

The Center already collaborates with Widener Memorial School, which has dedicated its services to children with special needs since 1906. By working with Sharon Glodek, Principal of Widener Memorial School, the LADDER partnership has developed workshops for families who have children with disabilities on issues such as sibling support, literacy and math development, self-advocacy, and respite care.

"Our goal is to take a look at what specific families need and provide solutions," said Mack, who was principal at Widener Memorial School for 20 years.

## BALLOUGH NAMED PALOPOLI PROFESSOR

Gerald Ballough, professor of biology, has been named the 2010 Palopoli Professor. The professorship, which is now in its third year, recognizes the scientific achievements of Frank C. Palopoli and honors La Salle faculty who embrace excellence in scientific research and education.

Ballough and his students will investigate a novel form of brain damage, known as apoptosis or "cell suicide," resulting from acute alcohol toxicity in rats. The three-year professorship will support the cost of Ballough's research at La Salle.



Gerald Ballough, professor of biology, and Tom Keagy, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences

"Gerry Ballough is an outstanding scholar who has a passion for his discipline that inspires and motivates his students," said Tom Keagy, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

In addition to teaching at La Salle, Ballough also is a research scientist and consultant for the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense. He and his colleague, Margaret Filbert, are credited with discovering a superior form of neuroprotection that reduces seizure-related brain damage caused by nerve gases.

The professorship is awarded to faculty who demonstrate the spirit of innovation, intellectual curiosity, passion, and commitment. Past recipients include Michael Prushan, '96, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, and Stephen Longo, '65, professor of physics and computer science.

## LA SALLE RECOGNIZED BY THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION

La Salle recently earned recognition from The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in its 2010 Community Engagement Classification.

The Carnegie Foundation is an independent policy and research center that supports needed transformations in American education through tighter connections between teaching practice, evidence of student learning, the communication and use of this evidence, and structured opportunities to build knowledge.



La Salle was selected due to its ability to demonstrate mission, culture, leadership, resources, and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement. La Salle is one of only 115 schools nationwide earning this distinction in 2010 and joins 196 additional schools awarded this distinction during the Foundation's 2006 and 2008 selection process.

"It is heartening to see this level of commitment and activity," said Carnegie Foundation President Anthony Bryk. "Clearly, higher education is making real strides in finding ways to engage with and contribute to important community agendas."

Last year, La Salle student volunteers contributed 50,000 hours to the local community, which equals more than \$1 million of in-kind support, according to the U.S. government.

# New Faculty Offer Range of Expertise

## **MICHAEL BOYLE** **Political Science**

Returning to La Salle after seven years in Europe and a year in Australia seemed like a natural choice for Michael Boyle, assistant professor of political science.



"Coming back to La Salle has been a kind of a homecoming for me," said Boyle, a Philadelphia native and valedictorian of the Class of 1998.

Boyle earned his master's degree in public policy from Harvard and his Ph.D. from the Wolfson College at the University of Cambridge. He taught at St. Andrew's University in Scotland for four years before returning to La Salle.

Boyle, who studies violence and terrorism in post-conflict states, is working on a book exploring the violence after civil wars in East Timor, Kosovo, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Iraq.



## **MIGUEL GLATZER** **Political Science**

Originally from Portugal, Miguel Glatzer came to the United States in 1985 to attend college. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago and

a Ph.D. from Harvard University. He taught political science at the Dartmouth campus of the University of Massachusetts and also was an adjunct professor at Bryant and Brown universities before joining La Salle.

"I'm very impressed by La Salle's mission—its devotion to education and social justice, commitment to quality education, and teaching for all," he said.

Glatzer, assistant professor of political science, specializes in the politics of inequality and the effects of economic globalization. He is researching Portugal's successes and challenges within the European Union as well as tax policy across wealthy nations.

## **EDIE GOLDBACHER** **Psychology**

Health experts encourage people to keep a balanced diet and exercise, but sometimes that's not enough. Edie Goldbacher, assistant professor of psychology, researched the psychological factors, personality characteristics, and environmental variables that lead to aberrant eating and weight difficulties.



"People don't necessarily talk in weight-loss groups about how their emotions contribute to their eating difficulties. They need more support," she said.

Goldbacher, of Montgomery County, Pa., completed her postdoctoral work with the Center for Obesity Research and Education at Temple University. She earned her bachelor's degree from the College of New Jersey and her Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh.

## **JAMIE JESSON** **English**

Born in San Francisco, Calif., Jamie Jesson has come to embrace Philadelphia and all it has to offer.

Jesson specializes in modern drama and the influence of radio on contemporary literature. He said both the Philadelphia theater scene and La Salle's interdisciplinary environment have proved to be a good fit for him. "I like to explore opportunities for interdisciplinary work. That's what attracted me to La Salle," he said.



Jesson, assistant professor of English, earned his bachelor's degree in English from the University of California at Berkeley. He completed his doctoral work in drama and British literature from the University of Texas, Austin, where he also was assistant director of the writing center.

## **KIM LEWINSKI** **Education**

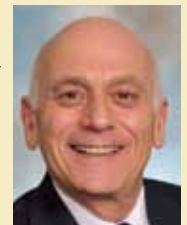
While teaching in elementary education, Kim Lewinski realized she had a lot more to learn and know about her profession. "I realized I wanted to work with future teachers instead of students because it would have a larger impact," she said.



Lewinski, of Bucks County, Pa., earned her bachelor's degree from Catholic University and completed her doctoral work at the University of Virginia. She is now assistant professor of education at La Salle with a focus on writing across the curriculum at the pre-college level. With the University's urban setting, she hopes to focus her research on at-risk urban students.

## **BROTHER LEONARD MARSH, F.S.C.** **Foreign Languages**

Having been a Christian Brother for 47 years, Brother Leonard Marsh, F.S.C., recently left a Jesuit school in Syracuse, N.Y., to become more explicitly involved in Lasallian education in Philadelphia. "I came to La Salle looking for that, and I have not been disappointed," he said.



## **GRADUATE EDUCATION OFFERS NEW CERTIFICATE: PARTNERS WITH PHILADELPHIA TEACHERS**

According to Harris Lewin, Director of Graduate Programs in Education, the new Certificate in Classroom Management emphasizes becoming a more reflective practitioner regarding classroom organization, discipline, and management.

The four-course certificate focuses on teacher behaviors, skills, and attitudes. Teachers will learn more effective ways to organize their instruction and help students to make better decisions, as well as to become more accountable for their actions.

The certificate is now available and courses are offered in the evening.

In addition, La Salle has partnered with the Philadelphia School District to help 20 teachers in empowerment schools earn their master's in special education with a Certificate in Autism, Lewin said.

The 12-credit certificate, which began in 2009, trains future educators how to work with child development issues and characteristics associated with autism. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has endorsed the certificate on the state license.

Br. Leonard, associate professor of foreign languages, specializes in 16th- and 17th-century French literature and is interested in works of literature ranging from the Middle Ages to the 19th century. He majored in French literature and minored in Spanish at Catholic University, earned his M.A. in French from Middlebury College, and earned his Ph.D. in French literature from Boston College.

Br. Leonard has published several articles, received six grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

## JIM PIERCE

### Biology

"La Salle had a big impact on me," said Jim Pierce, '83, Chair of the Biology Department. A Philadelphia native, Pierce was working full time as a respiratory therapist



at Albert Einstein Medical Center while finishing his bachelor's degree at La Salle. He earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Temple University School of Medicine, completed a three-year post-doctoral fellowship at E.I. DuPont Inc. working on the Human Genome Project,

and subsequently became a senior research scientist at a biotechnology company in Plymouth Meeting, Pa.

After years in industry, Pierce began thinking of his other love—teaching. He was a faculty member at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia for 15 years and then saw the position open up at his *alma mater*.

"To be in this position now is a real opportunity to influence La Salle students in the same positive way that I was mentored," he said.

## KELLY SHANNON

### History

Born and raised in Northeast Philadelphia, Kelly Shannon, visiting assistant professor of history, was pleased to find a full-time job in the area.



"I knew a lot about La Salle and was familiar with the background here," she said.

Shannon earned her bachelor's degree from Vassar College and recently completed her Ph.D. at Temple University. She specializes in U.S. history, U.S. foreign relations and international history, and modern Europe and the Mediterranean. Post-9/11, she also became

interested in U.S. relations in the Muslim world, particularly related to women's rights.

She is proposing her dissertation as a book, explaining the integration of the protection of women's rights into U.S. foreign policy toward the Islamic world.

## BRIAN WYANT

### Criminal Justice

Not many people choose convicted felons as playmates for their children. Many days, however, Brian Wyant spent some quality time with prisoners. His mother was the first female superintendent at a male prison in Virginia.



"I learned how to hit a softball there," Wyant said. "It got me interested in crime and responses to crime."

As an assistant professor of criminal justice at La Salle, he focuses on the spatial distribution of crime, fear of crime, and firearm violence. Wyant earned his bachelor's degree from McDaniel College, formerly Western Maryland College. He earned his master's degree from the University of Baltimore and his Ph.D. from Temple University.

## LEADING A NEW INITIATIVE



Julianna Gwyszcz, '08, has returned to her *alma mater* as Director of The Explorer Connection, a campus-wide program focused on increasing intellectual interaction between faculty, staff, and students.

"I've always wanted to do programming with young adults and wanted to do this through interdisciplinary work," she said. "So many exciting, interdisciplinary ventures have stemmed from this resourceful collaboration."

She also coordinated the University's first Sustainability Symposium. The Symposium followed a yearlong Sustainable Development Series through The Explorer Connection and explored sustainable development from a local, national, and global perspective.

Gwyszcz earned her bachelor's degrees in English and sociology from La Salle and went on to earn her master's degree in social work from Columbia University.

## ENGAGING WITH THE CITY



Director of La Salle's Philadelphia Center, Heather McGee is doing what she loves: "working closely with others to create meaningful educational experiences."

The Philadelphia Center, a subgroup of The Explorer Connection, was created to provide opportunities for La Salle students to directly engage with the city.

As Director, McGee establishes partnerships with more than 30 Philadelphia institutions. She works with faculty to incorporate cultural experiences into their coursework. She also leads the Urban Explorers residential learning community and the annual Philly Phind, a citywide scavenger hunt for freshmen.

Originally from Salisbury, Md., McGee earned her master's degree in counseling from Wake Forest University and a Ph.D. in philosophy from Loyola University Maryland.

## NEW FACE IN EDUCATION



A. Michele Fowler, a former teacher and elementary school principal, has joined La Salle as the new Administrative Director of Elementary Special and Early Childhood and Elementary Social Studies Middle Level.

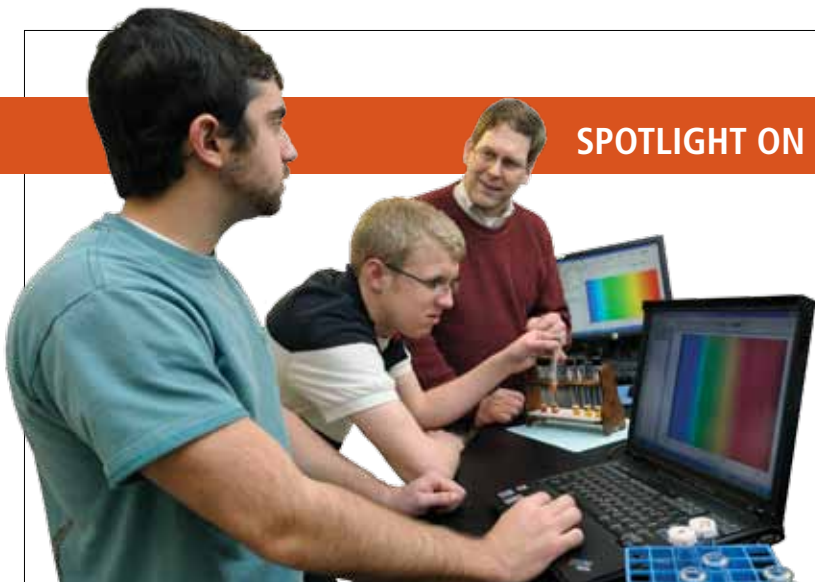
"I liked La Salle's mission, that it's a Catholic university, and that it's community driven," Fowler said.

Since August, she has coordinated field placements and student teaching for education majors.

Fowler also is the Director of Advanced Placement Programs, where she works with the College Board to offer courses that certify instructors to teach Advanced Placement classes in high school. This weeklong institute offers teachers 20 intense courses on La Salle's campus.

Fowler earned her B.S. in sociology and her M.S. in education from St. Joseph's University.





**“I wanted to get involved with the research because of the critical thinking skills that can be obtained through the process.”**

—Matt Mazzola, '11

**W**hat do proteomics, molecular magnets, and nanotechnology have in common? These cutting-edge areas were the focus of three student-faculty summer research projects in the Chemistry Department.

Proteomics—the study of the proteins in an organism, a tissue, or a cell—was the subject of research for Kelly Jones, a senior chemistry major, and William Price, professor of chemistry and biochemistry. Understanding the sequence of amino acids in one’s proteome can help researchers identify molecular patterns that are associated with specific disease predispositions, Price explained. Of particular interest are proteins in a variety of cancer cells.

In order to sequence proteins, small molecular “labels” need to be synthesized, and these compounds are not commercially available. For her research, Jones developed the syntheses of two new protein labels, which were then provided to colleagues at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, where collaborators used them in their studies.

“As synthetic organic chemists, we design and carry out preparations of the compounds that cannot be otherwise purchased,” Price said.

Alex Confer, a sophomore chemistry and mathematics major, completed a research project with Michael Prushan, '96, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, involving self-assembling molecular magnets.

Using simple starting materials, it is possible to produce complex structures that exhibit unusual and unique properties. According to Prushan, “these molecular magnets have the potential as a new form of computer data storage.”

Confer investigated making subtle changes to the structure of the building blocks, altering the resulting magnetic properties of the products.

“The fun part of my research is figuring out which organic molecules will keep the structure intact, and how to chemically alter them so as to ‘switch’ the magnet on and off at will,” Confer said.

Stuart Gentry, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, worked with Matt Mazzola and Shane Kendra, both seniors with dual majors in chemistry and biochemistry, on nanotechnology research. They researched the stability of very small particles of silver and the implications of having particles that small.

“As particles become smaller, we see unusual properties,” Gentry said. “These observations lead us to new research.”

Mazzola observed how other molecules attach to these small silver particles by using Surface Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy. Kendra looked at how the size of these systems can allow metal atoms to transfer from one particle to another.

“I wanted to get involved with the research because of the critical-thinking skills that can be obtained through the process,” Mazzola said.

This research often becomes the basis for papers and projects presented at conferences. This prepares students for post-graduate work and future jobs.

Kendra knows this first hand. “I recently went on an interview where the company was impressed with the research I had completed,” he said. “Through this program I obtained a full-time job at Dupont as a research chemist.”

### URBAN EXPLORERS EXPERIENCE CULTURE IN PHILADELPHIA

La Salle offers more than a quality education to students; it provides a gateway to countless cultural experiences with its location in one of the nation’s most vibrant cities.

Open to incoming freshmen who live on campus, the Urban Explorers residential learning community provides programs that connect students to Philadelphia’s world-class art museums, historic sites, and thriving theaters, according to Heather McGee, Director of the Philadelphia Center. Vince Kling, professor of foreign languages, is faculty adviser of the group and lives with the students in St. George Hall.

Students who live in the community receive discounted tickets to shows. Kling said they also get special treats, such as a private tour by a La Salle alum of a local theater.

“Through this community, people get a real sense of belonging to a city; people get a real sense of belonging to La Salle; and people get a real sense of belonging to each other,” he said. Already, students in the Urban Explorers community have joined other cultural groups at the University such as The Masque and the La Salle Singers.

In the near future, the program will be renamed and will be known as Urban Arts.



## A CITYWIDE SCIENCE FESTIVAL

As part of a citywide spotlight on science, La Salle hosted several community events on and off campus during the Philadelphia Science Festival in April.

The inaugural two-week event included dozens of mostly free programs throughout Philadelphia as a way to illustrate how science and technology play a part in our everyday lives. Presented by the Dow Chemical Company and organized by The Franklin Institute, more than 55 institutions collaborated to present a variety of science-related events and workshops for all ages. La Salle was one of the featured collaborators.

"This was a good opportunity to have our name connected with science," said Michael Prushan, '96, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry. "We're saying to the Philadelphia region, 'La Salle is a good place to attend and get a good science education.'"

La Salle, along with several other institutions, hosted a variety of science conversations on campus, featuring talks by science or technology faculty and award-winning scientists as well as hands-on projects, said Julianna Gwiszcz, '08, Director of The Explorer Connection. La Salle students visited Philadelphia libraries to complete hands-on experiments with students. The University also hosted a science day with an opportunity for high school students to tour La Salle's recently renovated science and technology facilities.

**"We're saying to the Philadelphia region, 'La Salle is a good place to attend and get a good science education.'"**

—Michael Prushan, '96

"We were proud to be a part of such a worthwhile effort to demonstrate the importance of science and make it more accessible to the wider community," Gwiszcz said. "We look forward to continuing our partnership in this festival for years to come."

## ART STUDIO RELOCATES TO WEST CAMPUS

La Salle's art studios have relocated from the Mary Francis Wister House to the Founder's Building on West Campus, according to Julie Valenti, Assistant Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and Acting Chair of the Fine Arts Department.

The newly renovated space includes several offices, about 10 small studios, and a large sunroom for class projects, said Jim Williams, longtime lecturer in the Fine Arts Department. "It really is a pleasant space," he said. "We're able to set up still lifes in each room. The space is excellent."

Williams said studio classes currently include painting, drawing, and sculpting. Valenti hopes the new space will allow them to offer additional studio courses in the future.

## BROTHER ACQUIRES CERAMICS SPACE

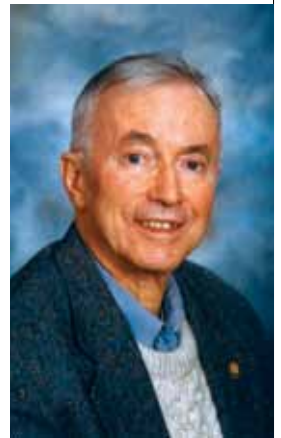
Brother Ralph Bucci, F.S.C., Assistant Director of University Ministry and Service, who recently moved to La Salle from Manhattan College, has set up a ceramics space in the new studios. He earned his MFA from George Washington University and has occasionally taught ceramics courses in the past.

Br. Ralph's clay sculpture involves four themes: abstracted angel forms ambiguously caught at the point of alighting or landing; the dolmen form—a prehistoric burial-cave stone entry—which simultaneously invites and inhibits the viewer's entrance; flattened, closed vessels on pyramidal or conical bases; and highly textured mountain-scapes.



## RETIRING BUT REMAINING CONNECTED TO LA SALLE

A lot has changed since Geff Kelly, '54, M.A. '55, professor of religion, strolled La Salle's campus as an energetic student and Christian Brother. Then known as Brother Geoffrey Benilde Kelly, F.S.C., he majored in modern languages, religion, and education.



Not only did Kelly win the Ryan Award for the highest GPA, he was the first student to graduate with a perfect 4.0 GPA. He also earned the Mooney Award for Language and Literature, the Carroll Award for Philosophy, and a full doctorate scholarship in modern languages from the University of Pennsylvania.

Kelly went on to earn his M.A. in theology from La Salle, a M.A. in modern languages from Villanova University, and a M.A. in catechetical theology from Lumen Vitae in Brussels, Belgium, among other degrees and accomplishments.

"Many of my accomplishments began during my undergraduate days at La Salle," Kelly said.

For the past nearly 40 years, he once again made La Salle home as a full-time professor of religion. During his lengthy career, he published a dozen books and countless articles. He also received three teaching awards and a Distinguished Faculty Scholar award from La Salle.

The campus has changed; the students have changed, but Kelly's love for La Salle remains. Although he will be retiring, he plans to stay connected with La Salle as an adjunct faculty member. He also plans to work on his latest book, *The Religious History of Ireland*.

## FACULTY NOTES

The accomplishments of the School of Arts and Sciences faculty are many and varied. The following are but a sampling of recent activities:

**MARJORIE ALLEN**, English and Integrative Studies, **HEATHER MCGEE**, Director of the Philadelphia Center, and **LOUISE GIUGLIANO**, Associate Director of University Ministry and Service, presented "Faculty Roles in High Impact Practices" at the Association of American Colleges and Universities Conference.



**VIVIENNE ANGELES**, Religion, published "Moros in the Media and Beyond: Representations of Philippine Muslims" in *Contemporary Islam*.

**SHARON LEE ARMSTRONG**, Psychology, and collaborators presented "Post-Chemotherapy Cognitive Functioning in Women with Breast Cancer: A Pilot Study using the Cognitive Stability Index" at the Association for Behavior and Cognitive Therapies meeting in November 2010.

**BROOKS AYLOR**, Communication, presented "Coming Full Circle in the Persuasion Course: Using Nonprofit Literature to Connect the Beginning and End" at the 96th annual National Communication Conference.

**MARY ELLEN BALCHUNIS**, Political Science, was elected to the Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee.

**PHYLLIS BETZ**, English, has published her third book, *The Lesbian Fantastic*, with publisher McFarland and Company.

**BERNHARDT BLUMENTHAL**, Foreign Languages and Literatures, published "The Ambiguity of Eros in Thomas Mann's Death in Venice and Other Writings" in *Confessions*

of *Love: The Ambiguities of Greek Eros and Latin Caritas*, a book he co-edited.

**MICHAEL BOYLE**, Political Science, published "Do Counterterrorism and Counterinsurgency Go Together?" in *International Affairs*.

**JAMES BUTLER**, English, co-edited *Farm Persevere*, a novel left in manuscript at the death of Eugene Chesnick, who lived in Peale House from the 1960s until La Salle purchased it.

**SANDRA CAMOMILE**, Digital Arts and Multimedia Design, published *Travel Through a Digital Lens, The Netherlands*.

**LEEANN CARDACIOTTO**, Psychology, and collaborators presented the poster session "The Utility of Mindful Eating in a Non-Eating Disordered Population" at the 2010 annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies.

**MARCO CEROCCHI**, Foreign Languages and Literatures, published "Funzioni semantiche e metatestuali della musica in Dante, Petrarca e Boccaccio" as part of the *Biblioteca dell'Archivum Romanicum* series.



**JORDAN COPELAND**, Religion, published "Shared Space: Seeking Real Insights from Virtual Friendships" in *Humanity in Cybernetic Environments*.

**BROTHER JOHN CRAWFORD, F.S.C.**, Religion, presented "Sharing Our Bread and Ourselves: New Possibilities for International Religious Education Assisted by Electronic Communications Technologies" at the annual convention of the Religious Education Association in November 2010.

**MARIANNE DANTON**, Communication, published "Linking Theoretical Explanations for the Use of Relationship Maintenance: Equity, Uncertainty, Attachment and Reciprocity" in *Psychological Research Records*.

**CHARLES DESNOYERS**, History, presented a paper on genocide during the Taiping Rebellion in China at the annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the Association of Asian Studies.



**BROTHER JOSEPH DOUGHERTY, F.S.C.**, Religion, published "From Altar-Throne to Table: The Campaign for Frequent Holy Communion in the Catholic Church" as part of the *ATLA Monograph* series.

**KATIE DUNLEAVY**, Communication, and collaborators published "The Instrumental use of Verbally Aggressive Messages" in *Arguments, Aggression, and Conflict: New Directions in Theory and Research*.

**PRESTON FEDEN**, Education, presented "Teaching American Studies: The Urban Landscape" at the Middle Atlantic American Studies Association's annual regional conference.

**STUART GENTRY**, Chemistry, co-published "Surface Plasmon Response for Anisotropic Silver Particles with Dimensions Below the Electrostatic Limit" in the *Journal of Physical Chemistry*.

**MIGUEL GLATZER**, Political Science, presented "Tax Reform, Income Inequality, and the Welfare State in Western Europe: The Case of Portugal" at the 2010 European Political Science Association Meeting.

**CONRAD GLEBER**, Digital Art and Multimedia Design, presented "China Video Stories: China as Subject, Scene, and Mind" at the 98th annual College Art Association (CAA) in 2010. He was elected by the CAA to the Services to Artists committee and appointed editor of the Centennial Catalog for the 2012 conference.



**RYAN HEDIGER**, English, presented "Home-sickness in the Garden of Eden: Lineage, Language, and Animality: Hemingway's Extreme Geographies" at the 14th International Hemingway Conference held in Lausanne, Switzerland.

**TIMOTHY HIGHLEY**, Mathematics and Computer Science, and collaborators published "Granularity of Weighted Averages and Use of Rate Statistics in AggPro" in the *Proceedings of Winter Simulation Conference, 2010*.

**LISA JARVINEN**, History, presented "Tomas Estrada Palma, Jose Marti, and the Central Valley School for Boys: Education, Nationalism,

## FRESHMAN WRITING PROGRAM REVISED

A new freshman writing program at La Salle will emphasize writing as a continual process across all four years.

Now refocused on rhetorical theory, the mandatory courses emphasize persuasion, argument, and research writing. "We've created a common writing core experience," said Stephen Smith, associate professor of English.

An interdisciplinary oversight committee looked at the first-year writing course themes and developed two new courses, 110 and 210, which will replace current courses, 107 and 108. According to Craig Franson, assistant professor of English, the committee considered the different high school writing experiences of students, best practices in composition, La Salle's mission, and how to develop a balance of theory and practice.

The biggest change for the freshman writing program is that it will now go throughout all four years of college by implementing different techniques in different disciplines. "We want to create a culture of writing," Franson said.

## FACULTY NOTES

and Imperialism” at the 2010 annual meeting of the History of Education Society.

**JAMES JESSON**, English, co-presented a panel, “Making Consultant Work Work for Consultants,” at the 2010 International Writing Centers Association conference.

**GEFFREY KELLY**, Religion, authored “Bonhoeffer’s Christ-Centered, Religionless Christianity and His Critique of Religio-Political Fundamentalism,” a chapter in *Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Theology Today: A Way between Fundamentalism and Secularism*.

**STUART LEIBIGER**, History, published “James Madison: Jack Rakove’s Republican Revolutionary” in the online version of *Extensions: A Journal of the Carl Albert Congressional Research Studies Center*.

**KELLY MCCLURE**, Psychology, and collaborators published “Social Problem Solving and Depression in Couples Coping with Cancer” in *Psycho-Oncology*.

**MARGARET MCMANUS**, Mathematics and Computer Science, served as a co-panelist and presented “Transforming Challenges into Opportunities: Or How to Make Lemonade out of Lemons” at the annual meeting of the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences.

**VIRGINIA MODLA**, Education, and collaborators published “She’s My Best Reader, She Just Can’t Comprehend” in *Essential Readings on Struggling Learners*.

**BROTHER GERRY MOLYNEAUX, F.S.C.**, Communication, presented “The City Lights of Charlie Chaplin and Woody Allen” at the Tredyffrin Public Library as part of the Pennsylvania Council’s Commonwealth Speakers Program.

**MYUNGHO MOON**, Psychology, co-presented “The Two Factor Model of Psychopathy in a Female Sample: Examining Divergent Associations with Cognitive Reappraisal and Executive Suppression” at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapy.

**LUISA OSSA**, Foreign Languages and Literatures, currently serves as President of the Afro Latin/American Research Association and was a co-organizer of the organization’s eighth biennial conference, *Transcultural Discourses: The African Diaspora in the Americas*. At this conference, a La Salle undergraduate student, Megan Weiss, presented her research, “The Effects of the 2007 Earthquake on Afro-Peruvian Populations,” mentored by Ossa.

**JAMES PIERCE**, Biology, was appointed to the Institutional Biosafety Committee at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

**MICHAEL SMITH**, Communication, co-authored the chapter “Activism 2.0,” which appears in the second edition of the *Sage Handbook of Public Relations*.



**MEGAN SPOKAS**, Psychology, collaborated with Psy.D. students to present “Emotional Non-Acceptance Among Adults Reporting Childhood Emotional Abuse” at the annual convention

of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies.

**GEORGE STOW**, History, presented “The Author of the Continuation of the Eulogium Historiarum” at the 17th Biennial Congress of the New Chaucer Society.

**JUDITH STULL**, Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice, and collaborators presented “Time Allocations in the Post NCLB Classroom” at the second International Conference on Science in Society held in Madrid, Spain.

**ROBERT VOGEL**, Education, presented “Writers Matter: Voices of Teens” at the National Middle School Association Conference.

**WILLIAM WEAVER**, Integrated Science, Business, and Technology, published “Drinking from the Fire Hose: Storage Algorithms for Genomic Data” in *HPC Source Supplement to Scientific Computing*.

**DEBORAH YOST**, Education, and collaborators **LING LIANG**, Education, and J. Ebenezer, published “Characteristics of Pre-Service Teachers’ Online Discourse: Study of Local Streams” in *Journal of Science Education and Technology*.

**NATALIYA ZELIKOVSKY**, Psychology, and Tracey Dobson, a La Salle Psy.D. student, published “Considerations for Using Virtual Communities as Psychosocial Support: An Editorial” in *Pediatric Transplantation*.



### URBAN WRITERS HELP STUDENTS FACE CHALLENGES

One of the keys to success for many disadvantaged city students is proficient writing, according to Cindee Crosby, a junior elementary and special education major who recently completed the new Urban Writers course at La Salle. “Education today is about more than just meeting the standards set by the school districts—students need to be shown that what they are learning has everyday and lifelong usefulness,” she said.

The Urban Writers course was launched by Marjorie Allen, Ph.D., Chair of Integrative Studies, and Bob Vogel, professor of education, as an offshoot of Writers Matters, a creative writing program developed by Vogel for Philadelphia middle school students. Students who take the Urban Writers course develop a sense of community by learning about urban life and working with middle school students in Philadelphia classrooms. These students learn to write creatively about the challenges they face every day.

“What our students are finding is that these kids have incredible potential and are learning to celebrate what they have to offer,” Vogel said.

The service-learning course attracts students from a variety of majors and prepares them to mentor middle school students for 12 weeks in a Philadelphia classroom, Allen said. La Salle students also participate in city programs designed for youth and aimed at, for example, ending violence or drug use. “We’re exposing them to the experiences of what it would be like to have violence as part of their everyday lives,” she said.

## HELPING OTHERS FIND SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

For Sister Suzanne Neisser, R.S.M., Director of Bilingual Undergraduate Studies for Collegiate Advancement (BUSCA), the mission of St. John Baptist de La Salle is not confined to the University campus. Sr. Suzanne has devoted her life to a greater sense of community by helping the poor and marginalized women of Philadelphia.

A Philadelphia native, Sr. Suzanne recently celebrated 45 years with the Sisters of Mercy. She has lived, worked, and served in North Philadelphia for the past 25 years and started a retreat center for poor African American and Hispanic women in 1993. Weekends at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, Pa., allow women in discouraging situations to take time for prayer and reflection with God. "It's an opportunity for spiritual renewal and time away," she said.

The women who attend the retreats often face the cold realities of children who are in prison or doing drugs. They may be raising grandchildren and struggling with health issues, Sr. Suzanne said. The retreat center acts as an extension of her mission with the Sisters of Mercy and as a member of the La Salle community. "I accompany the poor and am part of their growth and development," she said. "I'm helping people to be their best selves and to be true to Jesus."

For more than 15 years, Sr. Suzanne also has worked with the Action AIDS Network. Overwhelmed by the extent of the AIDS crisis, she



Sister Suzanne Neisser (first row, far left) meets with women on retreat.

chose to step up and help someone who had been affected. As a buddy with Action AIDS, Sr. Suzanne has been paired with a young adult who is HIV positive. Having met when the buddy was just a child, Sr. Suzanne provides her with support and friendship.

The experience has been an eye-opener as she has come to know her buddy's family and struggles through the years. "It's very enriching and keeps me grounded," she said. "We've become friends over time."

Sr. Suzanne received the Brother Scubillion Rousseau Justice Award in 2009 from La Salle for her dedication to educating and advocating for those marginalized in our society.