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Martin X. Moleski 1952-

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A Survey of Programs and Activities Related to Identity and Mission

*Canisius College
Buffalo, New York*

CAMPUS CONVERSATIONS

The first members of the Society of Jesus were drawn together by heart-to-heart conversations on the campus of the University of Paris. Ignatius and his friends found their sense of identity and mission by thinking and praying together in the academic milieu. The same dialogue continues today in varied forms at Canisius.

For fourteen years, faculty, staff, and the occasional student have gathered to read about and reflect upon Ignatius's vision for the Christian life. The Ignatian Seminar was initially founded to explore the history and philosophy of the Society of Jesus. Topics have ranged from the nature of spirituality to specific concerns



Members of the Canisius College chapter of Amnesty International.

about the Jesuit identity of the college. This year the Seminar focused on material drawn from the *Collegium* program and from the new catechism.

The Social Justice Resource Center of Campus Ministry

organizes a dozen "Soup with Substance" lunches to discuss contemporary issues of social concern. In the last semester, topics included the role of personality in jury selection, the AIDS Quilt (which was dis-

played on campus), social justice concerns in South Africa, affirmative action, the plight of the Bushmen, the economy of Latin America, child care, and student reflections on service in Appalachia. The atmosphere is

informal and friendly—a very hospitable environment for nourishing friendship. Both Campus Ministry and Alpha Sigma Nu invite students to make Ignatian retreats.

The distribution of *Conversations* on campus is usually followed up by some kind of opportunity for dialogue. The largest and most vigorous meeting was prompted by the article on “Women in Jesuit Higher Education” (Fall, 1993). Each edition has spread ripples of dialogue through the College community. Like Ignatius and his friends in Paris, we continue to wonder together about our purpose and identity. The College faces a number of challenges: vigorous competition from the State University of New York; tension with neighbors over the expansion and development of the campus; the problem of sustaining a Jesuit presence on campus as the Society grows smaller; the struggle to balance Catholic identity with both ecumenism and academic freedom.

FAITH THAT WORKS

Ignatian conversation is not an end in itself; it is meant to dispose us to give freely of ourselves in service to others. Campus Ministry coordinates service in a local soup kitchen, trips to Appalachia, work on housing, tutoring opportunities, peer counseling, and hospital visitation. Dan Sherman ('95) was an enthusiastic participant in these “out-of-classroom experiences that put us in touch with our world.” Almost thirty students assist each Sunday at the evening Mass, and hundreds of faculty and students come together in the fall for the Ignatian retreat. <http://publications.du.edu/conversations/vol8/iss1/6> related activities. Christina

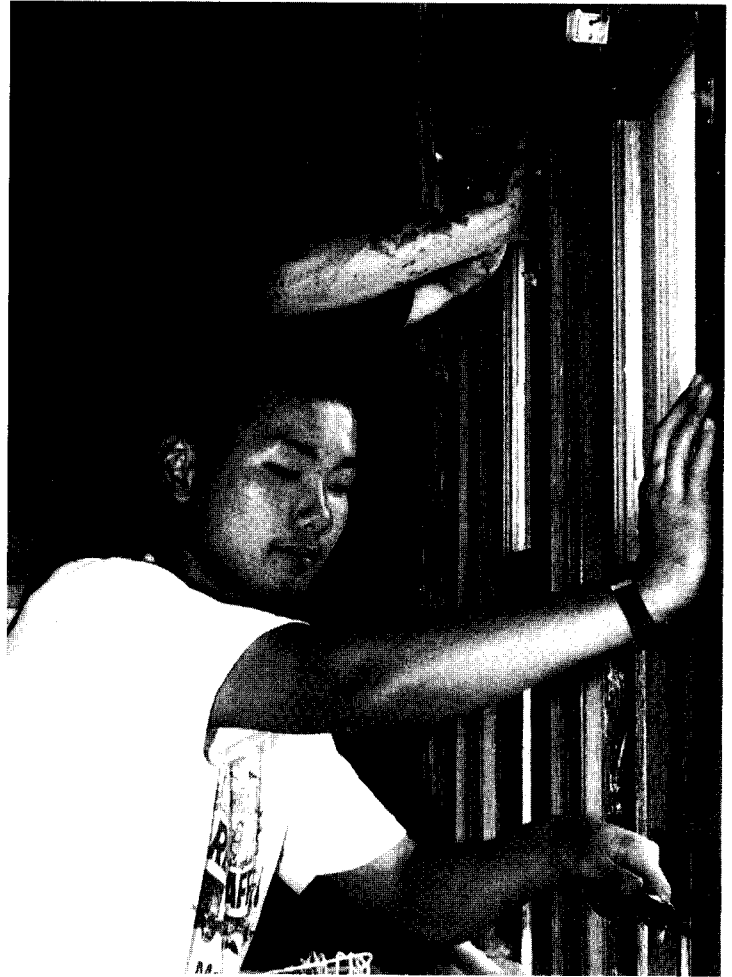
Martin ('96) remarks that “Campus Ministry sets the tone for Canisius. It has a warmth that creates a family.”

Deirdre Egan, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, publishes *Gaudeamus: A Journal of Service* to provide a forum for volunteers to reflect on the life of service:

Gaudeamus is a celebration of Canisius students and the ways in which they have chosen to flesh out their classroom knowledge in the community beyond Canisius. The writing in *Gaudeamus* shows how much students are affected by their service experiences. Whether they are questioning the justice of a society so divided between rich and poor, expressing gratitude at the gift of their lives, or describing a sense of connection generated by service, the articles express the vision, clarity, and—above all—the joy that issues from their work.

Campus Ministry also publishes *Network*, a newsletter dedicated to “deep relationships with people, Christian brothers and sisters here and now, as well as those from all cultures and times.” In the spring edition, Amy Hammond ('95) reflected on her experience of working for others:

The purpose of traveling to Appalachia was to build and refurbish homes for families who, without volunteer help, could not afford the costs of remodeling. But we soon realized that our purpose was much greater than construction. While our main objective at each work site was to build a ceiling, paint a house, or put up drywall, we realized that it was just as important to meet and learn from the people of West Virginia. . . . The people of the Appalachia region may not



Canisius volunteers in Appalachia.

have the economic advantages most of us have, but they are rich in a much more fundamental way. As our van pulled away and headed back to the city, we all realized that our journey was just beginning.

Although the Religious Studies Department has offered a practicum to allow majors to combine service with reflection, new ground is being broken next year by the English Department, which will offer a course designed by Mick Cochrane on “The Literature of Service.” Three credits will be awarded for the service component and three for the academic:

Through the study of literary texts and volunteer work in the community, this course will explore the

moral, cultural, psychological, and spiritual dimensions of service, its motives, hazards, and rewards. Every member of the class—including the instructor—will be engaged in a substantial service project. By reading texts which depict the lives of the disadvantaged, the elderly, the dying, and by discussing and writing about their work in the community, students will be invited to connect what they do with what they read, the people they serve and those they study, thus gaining a broader perspective on their own experience, and testing their literary insights against observed life.

The new syllabus for Religious Studies 101, “Introduction to



Each year some 1,200 Marquette students, faculty, and staff pitch in to raise money for local non-profits during Hunger Cleanup Day.

Religious Studies," also calls for each course to deal with the Jesuit tradition.

The Office of Multicultural Programs "promotes a pluralistically diverse campus that allows freedom of expression, tolerance, equality, mutual respect and understanding of all people." A main focus of the office is the annual celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The main speaker this year was Ossie Davis, who shared both the joys and sorrows of his long career in the Civil Rights movement. The celebration drew a standing-room-only crowd representing a full cross-section of the community. The College also sponsors an International Fest and supports organizations dedicated to French, Italian, Polish, and Spanish cultures.

The works discussed so far are relatively easy to trace because they are directly related to the College. There are many other forms taken by the faith of faculty and students: participation in pro-life activi-

port of the "Sunrise at the Western Door Pow Wow," just to name a few. Actions speak louder than words, and in these far-reaching acts of love, the Ignatian conversation finds its fulfillment.

Martin X. Moleski, SJ

Marquette University Milwaukee, Wisconsin

In 1665, Father Jacques Marquette, S.J., wrote to his Jesuit Superior: "Send me immediately where the first opportunity is presented for seeking out souls." In time, Father Marquette would search for those souls—and for the uncharted Mississippi River—in what is now America's Midwest.

Today Marquette University continues the legacy of Father Marquette, pursuing its mission of faith, service, and dis-

ulty participate in a number of projects that integrate their intellectual and professional pursuits with their personal and spiritual lives. The ways in which Marquette interacts with its urban setting testify to a mission in action.

INSTITUTE FOR URBAN LIFE

Established in 1993 by Marquette president Albert J. DiUlio, S.J., the Institute for Urban Life serves as a catalyst for Marquette's urban academic initiatives and emphasizes urban-oriented research.

This fall, the Institute will launch a master's degree program in public service, a degree designed to enhance the skills and broaden the perspective of current and future public administrators, including community group directors, attorneys, law enforcement officials, and hospital and school administrators. The program differs from more traditional public administration degrees in a number of ways,

such as requiring the study of public ethics and exploring dispute resolution and other alternative methodologies.

Also this fall, Marquette University and the city of Milwaukee will receive a \$700,000 special-purpose grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to fund seven neighborhood projects. Five of the programs will be administered by the Institute for Urban Life.

❖ The Parent Outreach Program teaches new parents the basics of child rearing and trains community agencies to teach parenting skills.

❖ The Family Literacy Project tutors local school children in reading skills.

❖ The Small Business Assistance Project will team up students and faculty from the Law School and the College of Business Administration to assist small-business clients, especially those from the inner city, with legal and business issues such as tax planning or developing a marketing plan.

❖ The PACE Project will pair mathematics faculty from Marquette and Grand Avenue Middle School better to prepare grade schoolers for high school math.

SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

The Service Learning Program is an integral part of the Institute for Urban Life. Service learning enables students to apply classroom lessons and academic skills in real-world settings and encourages students to draw on these experiences as a source of academic reflection. For example, an English major might help write grant proposals in a communi-³ty-based organization, then