

Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education

Volume 3

Article 2

4-1-1993

For Openers: Preparing for Service: Professional Education in Jesuit Colleges and Universities

John W. Padberg, S.J.

Follow this and additional works at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/conversations>

Recommended Citation

Padberg, S.J., John W. (1993) "For Openers: Preparing for Service: Professional Education in Jesuit Colleges and Universities," *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*: Vol. 3, Article 2.

Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/conversations/vol3/iss1/2>

Preparing for Service: Professional Education in Jesuit Colleges and Universities

Good news and bad news! The good news is that we have received many, many requests from colleges and universities across the country for the previous (Fall, 1992) issue of *Conversations* which featured the article "Helping College Students Make Moral Decisions" and the three responses to it. The bad news is that the number of requests have forced us to limit the number of copies sent to each recipient, and still we have just about exhausted our supply of that issue.

This present issue focuses on professional education in Jesuit colleges and universities. So broad is the range of and so varied are the particular professions included in that education that it would have been impossible to write about each of them individually or about all of them collectively. Instead, our feature article focuses on a particular profession, law, and our responses come from educators in two other particular professions, nursing and business administration/management.

Two questions immediately come to mind. Why these choices? After all, the 1992-93 Directory of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities lists twenty-one fields at "Major Professional Schools at Jesuit Colleges and Universities." What then about these professions for which United States Jesuit colleges and universities educate, professions such as engineering or social work or medicine or education or architecture or journalism or ... down to the very newest of Jesuit professional schools, public health?

Why these choices? Our feature article by Dr. Steven Barkan, "Jesuit Law Schools: Challenging the Mainstream," itself provides the first set of reasons. The article deals with a field of professional education which comes after the undergraduate degree and which, with thirteen schools of law, is widespread in Jesuit institutions. More importantly, the article not only clearly and intelligently advances very provocative ideas about what should distinguish professional legal education in a Jesuit

school, but it does so in a way to stimulate and further conversation on the positions it sets forth.

The respondent's articles—Dr. Allan Service's, "Mainstream, Distinctive and Even Counter-Cultural?" and Dr. Joan Hrubetz's, "The Art and Science of Caring"—give the second set of reasons. Those articles fill in further areas of professional education, business administration/management and nursing, both of which exist on the undergraduate and graduate level. We wanted to acknowledge both that reality and also, through Dr. Hrubetz's article, the presence and importance of at least one of the several other areas of professional health care education such as dentistry and pharmacy and medicine and allied health.

Now to the second question: What, then, about all those other major professional programs or schools? As I said earlier, we could not have treated them all specifically, nor written a general essay that would have applied similarly to all. Members of the National Seminar on Jesuit Higher Education chose the present major article because a good number of the positions taken in that article are transferable to the other fields of professional education at Jesuit colleges and universities. We hope that your imagination, your interest, your agreement or disagreement, even perhaps your indignation, will move you to take to your own program or school the positions advanced in that article and to use them for equally intelligent and provocative conversation.

But do not let it just start or stop there. Please write to *Conversations* and share your views with its readers. If you do so, one last piece of good news will be even better. That good news is that we have received an increasing number of thoughtful and differing letters to the editor, as you can see in this issue. The even better news will be to receive such letters from you for our next issue.

—John W. Padberg SJ
Editor
Conversations