

CONNECTIONS

In this issue:
*Engaging
 Students
 in the
 Political Process*



Photo credit: Xavier University

Philosophy, Politics and the Public

Above: Vernon Parker, former under secretary for civil rights in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, speaks with students from Xavier University's Philosophy, Politics and the Public honors program at a Congressional Hearing on the Black Farmers discrimination lawsuit held in Cincinnati in February 2005. For more information on the Xavier honors program, see pages 5-6.

CONTENTS

<i>Letter from the President</i>	3
<i>Federal Relations</i>	4
<i>Philosophy, Politics and the Public at Xavier</i>	5-6
<i>Announcement: Voting for the Common Good</i>	6
<i>Distance Education</i>	7
<i>Marquette's Les Aspin Center</i>	8-9
<i>Campus News Clips</i>	10-11
<i>"Eurosism" at Canisius</i>	11
<i>Supporting an Educated Dialogue at Regis</i>	12
<i>Suggested Readings</i>	13

From the Editor

Around the country, political candidates are working tirelessly on the last days of their 2006 campaigns, hoping to secure a victory on election day next month. Many citizens have already made up their minds about the candidates, but how can we be sure that prospective voters will actually get to the polls to vote?

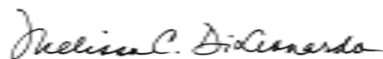
One way is through education.

In the mid-1990s, three notable professors of political science, Sidney Verba, Kay Lehman Scholozman and Henry E. Brady, produced compelling empirical evidence indicating that the more education individuals have the more likely it is that they will participate in civic affairs. They surveyed roughly 15,000 individuals and conducted 2,500 personal interviews for their book, *Voice and Equality: Civic Voluntarism in American Politics*, that presented a profile of Americans who are engaged in political affairs and their involvement in civic activities.

This issue of *Connections* focuses on the ways Jesuit colleges and universities are helping students understand the political process and encouraging them to play an active role in that process by voting, or through other types of civic engagement including campaign work, advocacy, informal community work, or affiliation with a political organization. Three years ago, Xavier University established a one-of-a-kind honors program, "Politics, Philosophy and the Public," that explores the idea of the public as experience. Students in the program are required to combine an interdisciplinary examination of the history and present state of civic culture in the United States with practical applications in electoral and legislative politics.

As our country searches for solutions to war, poverty, healthcare concerns, education and ever-increasing partisanship, now more than ever we need to elect the best candidates to deal with these complex issues, and it starts with an informed and educated republic. We commend AJCU institutions for doing their part to raise civic awareness.

See you at the polls.



Melissa C. Di Leonardo

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Association of Jesuit Colleges & Universities

One Dupont Circle
Suite 405
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 862-9893
Fax: (202) 862-8523
www.ajcunet.edu

President:
Rev. Charles L. Currie, SJ

Executive Director of
Distance Education:
Dr. Richard Vigilante

Director of Federal
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Cynthia A. Littlefield

Director of
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Channeling Our Concern for Justice

Being scheduled to speak to students at Kent State University next week has brought back many memories of the student activism of the late sixties when I was teaching at Georgetown. Kent State, with the tragic student shootings that occurred there, has been an ugly reminder of that activism gone bad. Fortunately, there were no casualties at Georgetown, but the scene was intense with passionate idealism directed toward the Vietnam war, civil rights, and the beginnings of the environmental and women's movement.

I remember the sense of urgency and community shared at the time and how it all too quickly disappeared. The anti-war protest died when there was no longer any war to protest and the draft ended. Questions raised by the other causes were difficult to formulate, and the answers demanded a price that we hesitated to pay.

More than thirty years later, we have another war, this time in Iraq, human rights being grossly violated in Darfur and throughout the world with refugees, the plight of immigrants, a growing gap between rich and poor, and a host of life issues. But campuses are relatively quiet, except for small interest groups. Some ask, where is the passion among students? I'd like to think that the sixties have taught us all that issues are too complex to solve with protest marches and bumper sticker slogans. They demand serious study, thoughtful debate and longer term answers.

One of the most constructive responses to the issues of our time is exercising our right to vote in an intelligent way. Interestingly, the 26th amendment, granting 18-year olds the right to vote, was ratified in 1971, in the midst of those tumultuous times, as a very effective form of civic involvement. Currently, 70% of 18- to 24-year-old college students register and 60% vote, both significantly higher than the general population, but not good enough. Convinced that we can do better, the nation's colleges and universities have joined in a national voter registration effort, *Your Vote, Your Voice*, a non-partisan effort to get out the student vote.

Just this past year, we have been encouraged by the efforts of a nonpartisan group called Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good that is working to promote responsible voting among Catholics. The Alliance is committed to the fullness of Catholic social teaching, and has produced a voting guide, *Voting for the Common Good*, that applies that teaching to ballot issues.

Two other initiatives come to mind as positive influences for civic responsibility, the annual Ignatian Family Teach-in for Justice at Ft. Benning, GA, and the Ignatian Solidarity Network, which has sprung from the teach-in. The Network now sponsors the teach-in as well as a number of other ways to bring students and other members of the Ignatian family together around important issues of social justice. On our campuses, there is also the student group, J.U.S.T.I.C.E., which invites students to turn their passion for social justice into action.

There are many ways we can come together to share our commitment to justice, but in many ways, that commitment starts at the ballot box. Hence this issue of *Connections*.

God's special blessings to all,



Charles L. Currie, S.J.
President

AJCU CONGRESSIONAL BREAKFAST

On September 20, AJCU Federal Relations Network held a Congressional Breakfast in the U.S. Capitol for Members of Congress, Congressional Staff, and AJCU Federal Relations Network. Rev. Charles L. Currie, President of AJCU, moderated the breakfast, and Rev. Jeffrey von Arx, President of Fairfield University gave the invocation.

The speakers for the event included Dominique Cauley, sophomore at Georgetown University, who talked about the value of federal student aid in attending Georgetown; and Representative Timothy Bishop (D-NY), Holy Cross alum, and Senator David Vitter (R-LA), who discussed the Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization and the importance of AJCU's Hurricane Katrina efforts. Other Members of Congress stopped by to express good wishes.

Fr. Currie led a discussion covering the many public policy issues that AJCU focuses on such as the rising cost of tuition, accountability and access, and international education. One of the pressing issues, limited federal funding, continues to increase institutional aid to make up for the federal losses.

AJCU periodically organizes Congressional Breakfasts on Capitol Hill to continue our outreach to Members of Congress.

AJCU FEDERAL RELATIONS NETWORK CONFERENCE

Following the Congressional Breakfast, the AJCU Federal Relations Network met for their annual meeting. The conference provides an opportunity for fellow federal relations representatives to network

with each other and to talk about best practices. In addition, it provides another opportunity for AJCU to continue our lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill that address critical issues of concern to Jesuit campuses.

One of the conference speakers was James Manning, Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, who shared information regarding efforts by the Department of Education on Negotiated Rulemaking and the release of the Final Report on the Commission on Higher Education. Jesuit representatives expressed their concerns about some of the current regulatory issues, particularly, the student unit record data system.

Scott Fleming from Chairman Enzi's office, Carmel Martin and J.D. Larch representing Ranking Member Kennedy's office, and Gabrielle Gomez and Julie Radicchio representing Ranking Minority Miller's office in the House Education and Workforce Committee, led a lively discussion on negotiated rulemaking. All of the staffers expressed concern with the Department on proceeding ahead in addition to talking about the future of HEA reauthorization.

On the appropriations front, Terry Sauvain, Staff Director, Minority Senate Appropriations Committee and Mark Laisch representing Chairman Specter, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, H&HS and Education, gave separate presentations on appropriations and announced that the Department of Defense took back \$5 billion from domestic programs. The Specter-Harkin budget amendment added \$5 billion from the Department of Defense, until the White House threatened a veto, and that funding was redirected back to Defense recently.

Representative John Tierney (D-MA) was thanked by AJCU for his leadership in assisting AJCU's efforts to keep the current campus-based aid formula in the HEA.

COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Secretary Spellings released the Final Report on the Commission on Higher Education on September 26. Some provisions are commendable such as increasing need-based aid, particularly the Pell grant program, while other provisions, such as calling for a total restructure of financial aid programs, are very problematic.

The Commission has suggested outcomes measures to be part of the accreditation process, and suggested a system such as the Student Unit Record Data system, which would be extremely challenging for Jesuit institutions. In addition, the Commission suggested that colleges and universities are not as innovative as we should be to compete in the global economy. (Commission priorities were discussed in the September *Connections* article.)

AJCU will continue to be a part of this national dialogue created by the Commission to affect higher education policy in the days and months ahead.

HEA AND APPROPRIATIONS EXTENDED

Before Congress adjourned for the Election recess, an Extension to the Higher Education Act (HEA) passed which extended HEA until June 30, 2007. The hope is that HEA can be finished by that time, but that remains to be seen.

A Continuing Resolution (CR) was also passed before adjournment that extends funding for FY07 at FY06 levels until November 17. When Congress returns for a Lame-Duck session on November 9, they will take up the remaining 11 appropriations bills, including the Labor, H&HS and Education appropriations bill.

Honors' Program at Xavier focuses on Philosophy, Politics and the Public

Only course of study of its kind in the country

E. Paul Colella, Ph.D., Director, Philosophy, Politics & the Public
Eugene Beaupre, Ph.D., Director, Government Relations
John Fairfield, Ph.D., History Department Chair
Xavier University

It is election night. A few dozen Xavier University students gather at local NPR radio station WVXU as the results start to pour in. They are not just casual observers. These students have actually worked on local, state and national campaigns, analyzed issues, formulated political strategies and investigated voting patterns. And that was just part of their assignments as students in Xavier's Philosophy, Politics & the Public (PPP) Honors Program.

Established in 2003, PPP brings together many of Xavier's traditional curricular strengths in an innovative and rigorous undergraduate honors program of study focusing on the unifying concept of "the public."

Oxford University's program in Philosophy, Politics & Economics served as the original model for Xavier's program. The Oxford template has been duplicated at such American universities as Stanford and Yale.

"What makes Xavier's program unique and the only one like it in the country is the development of 'the public' as a concept and as an experience," says

E. Paul Colella, PPP program director. "Rather than simply distributing requirements over several disciplines, let's say, over philosophy, political science and economics, we viewed PPP as a chance to take advantage of Xavier's core curriculum and do something more integrative and multi-disciplinary."

Not only is the coursework multi-disciplinary, it also centers on a particular disciplinary concentration. One PPP track places the primary emphasis upon "the public as experience"; specifically, it unites an interdisciplinary investigation of the history and current state of civic culture in the United States with practical exercises in electoral and legislative politics.

The second track option emphasizes "the public sphere as a concept"; that is, as a cultural phenomenon and places primary emphasis on philosophical, cultural, and literary approaches to public experience.

When it comes to selecting a track, students are encouraged to follow their own interests and passions in the theoretical engagement of the public in its many embodiments and meanings.

Such passions led senior Joe Moorman and several of his classmates all the way to Washington, DC. In February 2005 as part of their Legislative Politics class, the group embarked on an investigation of the civil rights lawsuit and settlement between black farmers and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"I thought there was an opportunity there to make some real changes, to really have an effect on the political environment surrounding the issue," says Moorman.

The class attended a regional congressional hearing on the lawsuit and also traveled to the nation's capital to meet one-on-one with Congressional staffers, black farming organizational leaders, and others.

Moorman and fellow students, Mary Rose Miller and Courtney Hansman, became so engrossed in the topic that they continued working on the issue through a summer internship. They continued talks with Congressional leaders and made several trips to DC, North Carolina and Alabama to conduct interviews. The result was a documentary which tells the story of the discrimination against the

black farmers, the complications of the lawsuit and the future of black farming.

"The students progressed from a study of the public policy process to active participation in the various forms of the public debate," says Eugene Beaupre, Xavier's director of government relations.

Each fall, as part of the Mass Media and Politics course PPP students actively campaign for candidates or ballot issues. They do everything from making phone calls to handing out literature to working on field reports. Based on their experiences, they prepare and present a campaign strategy and produce a campaign commercial.

Several PPP students have also served as political interns at the local, state and national level. Senior Erin McDermott spent this past summer interning in the office of House Majority Leader John Boehner. Boehner is a 1977 Xavier graduate.

Junior Brian Cantwell was also busy this summer working at two different Congressional offices. He spent the first part of the summer at Ohio Senator Mike DeWine's (R) office and



the second half at the office of Ohio U.S. Representative Steve Chabot (R).

"I had to research very minute details of the Social Security Act for a Medicare program that was the subject of a pending Senate bill," says Cantwell. "My education in the Philosophy, Politics and the Public program taught me how to think about the complexities of an issue and how they relate to one another. The nature of the interdisciplinary program allowed me to realize one cannot know everything."

Next spring junior Katherine Holley will participate in the Hansard Scholars Programme in London. This program gives undergraduates an invaluable opportunity to get at the heart of the British political system. Her internship will come just as Prime Minister Tony Blair will be preparing for his succession.

"As a student of political science, it is very important to me to thoroughly study different types of government," says Holley. "By participating in the inner workings of the British political system, I can carefully compare and evaluate both Britain and the U.S.'s strengths and weaknesses in an effort to try to understand and possibly improve the political process." While in London, Holley will also take courses at the London School of Economics.

"The combination of scholarly and practical investigations of democracy is designed to create citizens who are reflective and effective, equipped with vision and capable of exercising power responsibly," says History Professor John Fairfield.

PPP students are also encouraged to study in Europe during a summer. They can select from programs in Rome, London, Paris or Ireland. Or they may take part in one of Xavier's Academic Service Learning Semesters where students have an opportunity to travel to Ghana, India, or Nicaragua.

PPP graduates will go on to careers in law, diplomacy, public life, business or the academy. Regardless of vocation, they will be distinctive for the depth and breadth of their comprehension of the complex constellation of issues that constitute the public, and the breadth of knowledge that they can bring to bear on its problems. What is more, they will engage these issues as citizen leaders in a manner that embodies the Jesuit ideal of being men and women for others.

For more information, please log on to http://www.xuedu/honors/ppp_overview.cfm.



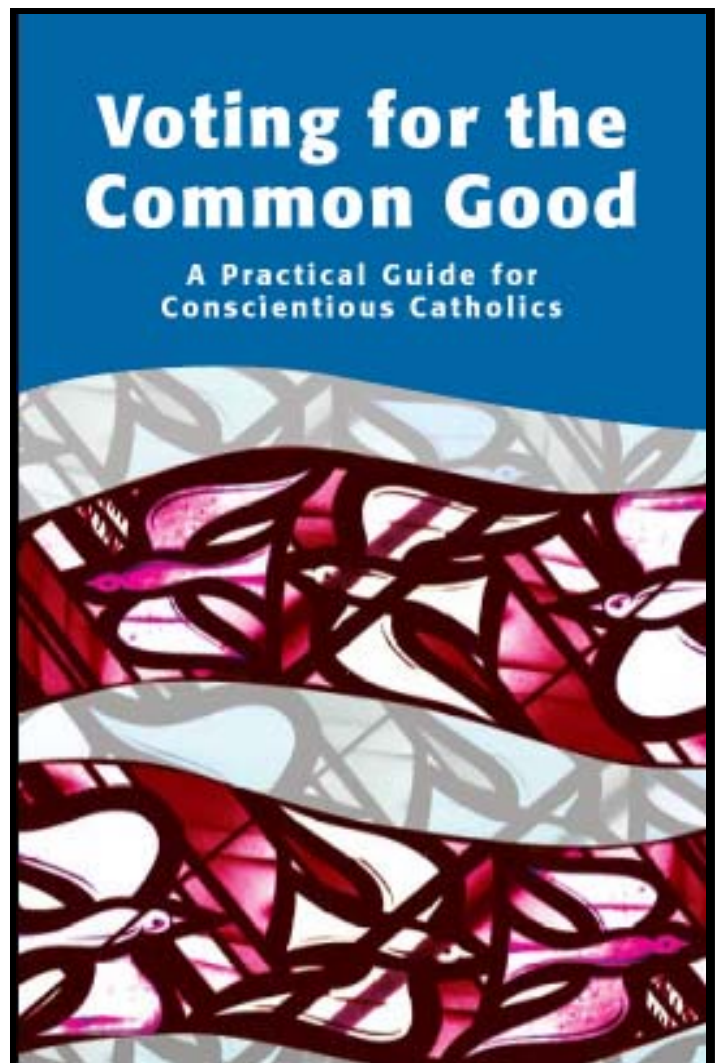
Voting for the Common Good: A Practical Guide for Conscientious Catholics

Voting for the Common Good: A Practical Guide for Conscientious Catholics provides students with a comprehensive view of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, three principles of Catholic voting, and an election day checklist.

The Guide was produced by Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the fullness of the Catholic Social Tradition in the public square.

The *Your Vote, Your Voice* Project sponsored by the Washington Higher Education Secretariat, of which the AJCU is a member, encourages students to vote as an exercise in responsible citizenship. *Voting for the Common Good* complements that effort with special reference to responsible citizenship for young Catholics.

To access the Guide, please see <http://thecatholicalliance.org/new/voting-guide/guide.html>



Tri-Lingual Online Course/Program Catalog Launches

**Dr. Richard Vigilante, Executive Director
Jesuit Distance Education Network (JesuitNET)**

JesuitNET is launching a new online course and program catalog that will add the growing list of online courses and programs offered by the 29 Jesuit universities in Latin America. The tri-lingual catalog will include new search fields for “Country” and “Language”, incorporate English-Spanish-Portuguese user interfaces and provide course/program descriptions in the language of instruction (English, Spanish or Portuguese).

The catalog’s opening page (below) asks users to select English, Spanish or Portuguese as their preferred display languages, before they search for courses or programs. This is common practice in most commercial websites and something that users have come to expect from multi-lingual websites. The new catalog will accommodate additional course information describing individual course sessions, assignments and to facilitate student and faculty advisor enrollment decision-making.

The catalog may be accessed from the [JesuitNET](#) and [AUSJAL](#) websites beginning November 2006.

Susana Di Trolio, Executive Secretary of AUSJAL—the association of the 29 Jesuit universities in Latin America—sees the new catalog as a first step in creating a real network of Jesuit distance education in the Americas.

“AUSJAL is very interested in discussing the possibility of creating a memorandum of understanding among AJCU and AUSJAL universities,” she said. At Secretary Di Trolio’s initiative,

a session at the Nov. 1-3 [Worldwide Jesuit Education Conference on Adult and Distance Learning](#) will propose expanding the AJCU-AUSJAL online catalog to include Jesuit universities from other regions.

Since 2003, the JesuitNET course/program catalog has provided detailed and searchable descriptions of over 400 online courses and 50 online degree and certificate programs offered by AJCU colleges and universities. Following the Katrina tragedy, Loyola New Orleans students were directed to the catalog for online course options during the fall 2005 semester, and forty Loyola New Orleans students registered for online courses offered by Jesuit institutions. Some AJCU institutions added over 20 new courses and many additional sections of current courses to the catalog to accommodate displaced Loyola students.



MARQUETTE'S GOVERNMENT CENTER TRAINS STUDENTS FOR GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

By Brigid O'Brien Miller, director of university communication
and alumna of Les Aspin Center for Government

Ask Conor Sweeney, a Marquette senior majoring in economics, if his classmates are engaged in the political process, and he'll give you a thoughtful answer.

"I see a lot of students with energy, passion, conviction and interest, but many are frustrated with how to express it productively. That's how I felt before I found the Aspin Center. Now I understand the process – both policy and politics– and how I can actually participate. I'm a different citizen because of it."

For nearly two decades, Marquette has provided future leaders with a foundation in ethical public service and the fundamentals of the democratic process through hands-on internship experience coupled with rigorous academic preparation. Today, it is known as the Les Aspin Center for Government, and with headquarters in Washington, DC and on Marquette's Milwaukee campus, as well as a program in Africa, it is making an impact on a global scale.

Student interest drives the creation of a Washington program

At the center of it all is Rev. Timothy J. O'Brien, Ph.D., a member of Marquette's Department of Political Science. As far back as the mid-1980s, Fr. O'Brien coordinated political internships for interested students.

The first official summer program took place in 1988 when 27 students joined Fr. O'Brien in Washington. Over the next several years, Fr. O'Brien would bring roughly 35 students each summer for coursework and internships on Capitol Hill. In those early years, the efforts of the Wisconsin Congressional delegation and alumni in

in key staff positions were instrumental in building the program's foundation.

By 1993, Marquette University's Washington Program was expanded, and the first semester program was conducted.

The Aspin legacy

The program forever changed when Marquette hired former Wisconsin Congressman and Secretary of Defense Les Aspin in 1994.

Aspin worked closely with Fr. O'Brien to expand the university's presence in Washington and fully develop the internship program. A property was soon identified to provide classroom, office and meeting space. The Center is now located on East Capitol Street in Washington, just five blocks from the U.S. Capitol. "You could not ask for a better location for an internship program in Washington," says Sweeney.

After Aspin's death in 1995, it was announced that the Washington Program would be renamed in his honor: the Marquette University Les Aspin Center for Government.

Fostering democratic leadership abroad

In 1995, the Aspin Center became involved in the training of future leaders on a global scale when Fr. O'Brien took a group of Marquette students to Africa as part of a course on comparative democracies.

A successful outgrowth of this first trip was the development



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of an ongoing effort to educate activists in African politics. With the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Aspin Center began a series of democracy training programs for African leaders, targeting individuals who are active in their communities and dedicated to positive change.

The Aspin Center currently operates two programs per year, one with participants from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, and the other with participants of Ghana, Mali and Nigeria. Nearly 300 African leaders have received training at the Aspin Center. They study in Washington, visit Congress and other government institutions and travel to Wisconsin for training about state and local political structures. They also learn about the role of the media and outside interest groups. According to Dr. Cephas Lerewonu, coordinator of the Aspin Center's Africa program, a number of participants have since been elected to office in their home countries.

Local and state internships

In 2004, the Kleczka Internship Program was developed as a result of a gift from retired Milwaukee area Congressman Jerry Kleczka to provide internships for those students unable to spend a semester in Washington.

Housed on the Marquette campus in Milwaukee, the program places intern in city, county and state legislative offices. Like the Aspin Center's Washington program, the Kleczka Internship Program combines hands-on internship experiences with classroom instruction to maximize the learning opportunity for students.

One of those students is Nadialisse Gonzalez, a Marquette senior majoring in political science and international affairs. Originally from Puerto Rico and raised in Milwaukee, Gonzalez participated in the Kleczka Internship Program in summer 2006, working for a member of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. She now plans to pursue a career in government. "It is one thing to learn about these structures in a classroom, but now I was in an office, working side-by-side with the people who shape our government," she says.

Alumni in Action

When Nadialisse graduates and joins the workforce, she will become one of more than 1,500 Aspin Center alumni, many of whom are working in government or public service. According to Fr. O'Brien, at any given time approximately 50 Aspin alumni are working on Capitol Hill – including two current chiefs of staff to U.S. Senators. The program has earned a popular following and now enjoys a significant number of participants from other colleges and universities.

"Not all of our students go on to work in government. Many enjoy successful careers in business, engineering, journalism or other fields," Fr. O'Brien reflected. "But they all have been molded, I hope, into citizens with a commitment to the greater good of serving others. They are change-agents. They have influence, and it is infused with the Jesuit, Catholic values of Marquette. If we have done this for our students through the Aspin Center, we have succeeded."

CAMPUS NEWS CLIPS

BOSTON COLLEGE RANKS THIRD AMONG FITTEST COLLEGES

BOSTON COLLEGE showed its strength this year, and ranked third among America's Fittest Colleges in 2006, according to *Men's Fitness* magazine. BC improved from 11th in last year's rankings.

Men's Fitness surveyed over 10,000 students from top colleges across the country to find the top 25 fittest schools. Students were asked to answer 17 questions about campus life ranging from their weekly physical activity, alcohol consumption, the number of fast-food chains on campus and the gym hours.

125,000 MEALS AND COUNTING: CAMPUS KITCHEN AT SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY MARKS MILESTONE, CELEBRATES FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF HUNGER RELIEF

During the month of September 2006, the Campus Kitchen at SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY (CKSLU) served up its 125,000th meal as the innovative outreach program celebrated its fifth anniversary.

In the nation's first Campus Kitchen, SLU students cook safe, unused food from campus dining facilities and deliver approximately 2,000 meals a month to low-income individuals and local community organizations.

During the recent storms that cut power to some 700,000 people, CKSLU stepped up its efforts, delivering extra meals, emergency food boxes and bags of ice to clients who were without air conditioning.

To celebrate its fifth anniversary, the Campus Kitchen at SLU is throwing a two-day party that includes an outdoor birthday bash, kitchen tour and recognition of partners who have made the project a pioneer in student outreach and hunger relief. The project also will unveil a new program that aims to form partnerships with local restaurants.

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY WELCOMES STEVE NASH FOR CONVOCATION 2006

Steve Nash, professional basketball player and two-time NBA MVP for the Phoenix Suns delivered the key note address on Sept. 18 at SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY'S 2006 convocation. Nash's jersey was also retired at the convocation.

"Steve lives the Jesuit educational ideal of being a person for others. Not only is he an MVP on the court, but a model leader who generously contributes to the well being of community with a special concern for the needy," said SCU President Paul Locatelli S.J. "This models the values of competence, conscience and compassion, the vision for a Santa Clara alum. We are honored that he will return to Santa Clara to reflect on the meaning of his education and the value of this community to his life."

Nash, recently named one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people, is known for giving back to the community. He founded the Jim Jennings Memorial Endowment Fund, a memorial established in honor of a volunteer staff member at SCU who served the Broncos basketball team for more than 20 years. In 2001, he founded The Steve Nash Foundation "to aid underprivileged children in their health, personal development, education, and enjoyment of life" as well.

NEW YORK TIMES WRITER LAUNCHES SAINT JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC INTELLECTUAL SERIES SERIES TO EXAMINE DIVERSE VIEWPOINTS ON CRITICAL ISSUES FACING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

On Tuesday, September 26, SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY welcomed Peter Steinfels, Ph.D., author, columnist for *The New York Times*, and co-director of The Fordham Center on Religion and Culture, who delivered a lecture titled "The Catholic Conscience, the Pluralist Culture, and the Common Good."

The Catholic Intellectual Series, sponsored by the Office of Mission and the Academic Council on Mission and Identity, aims to promote the history of Catholic intellectual thought and highlight the latest and best developments within its tradition by featuring the thoughts and writings of prominent Catholic thinkers. The theme is "Catholics in the Public Square."

Upcoming lectures for the year include:

(October 24, 2006) – "Engaging the Public Square: The Work of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J., and Friedrich Spee, S.J.," presented by Ronald Modras, Ph.D., author, and professor of theology at Saint Louis University.

(February 21, 2007) – "Taking Faith Seriously in Politics and Policy" presented by Mary Jo Bane, Ed.D. author, Thornton Bradshaw Professor of Public Policy and Management, John F. Kennedy School of Government, and Harvard University.

(March 20, 2007) – "Ecclesia Virtualis: Catholics in the Blogosphere," a panel discussion with Amy Welborn, author of the blog "Open Book;" Rocco Palmo, author of the blog "Whispers in the Loggia;" Grant Gallicho, associate editor of *Commonweal*; and panel host William McGarvey of "BustedHalo.com."

(April 19, 2007) – "Searching for God in the Universe: A Scientist's Quest in Today's America," presented by George V. Coyne, S.J., former director of the Vatican Observatory.



W.VA. SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS MEETS AT WHEELING JESUIT UNIVERSITY

At 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 19 history will be made as the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals meets at **WHEELING JESUIT UNIVERSITY** for the first time.

Though the courts regularly go to colleges and universities as sites and hold sessions outside of Charleston, this is the inaugural visit to the Cardinal campus for the chief justices.

"The court for several years has held sessions out of Charleston to give West Virginians who live in other cities the opportunity to see first-hand how the state's highest court administers justice," said court spokesperson Jennifer Bundy.

"The Court's goal is to promote a greater understanding of its work and the justice system in general," continued Bundy. "The Court travels to West Virginia University's College of Law every spring, recently made its second trip to Marshall University to participate in that school's commemoration of Constitution Week and is pleased to accept the invitation to hold court at Wheeling Jesuit University. The Court likes to travel to all geographic areas of the state."

XAVIER UNIVERSITY'S "ROAD TO XAVIER" WEBSITE HONORED AS BEST UNIVERSITY WEBSITE IN NATION

XAVIER UNIVERSITY'S accepted student website titled 'Road to Xavier' was honored as the Best University Website in the nation by the Web Marketing Association's Web Awards.

'Road to Xavier' is a unique Xavier web site for high school seniors accepted to the University. The web site allows accepted students to email and IM each other and even upload photos of themselves in the Your Space section of the site.

In addition, 20 current Xavier student ambassadors are available via instant messaging to answer accepted students' questions, uncensored by the University. Current students also write daily blogs on the site about various aspects of life as a Xavier student.

The colorful web site also includes personalized information about each student's financial aid package and provides contact information for the student's personal admission and financial aid counselors. Other features include Top X lists, student submitted photos of 'behind the scenes' life at Xavier, and highlights of Greater Cincinnati. There is also a parents' version of the site.

"We wanted students to connect with each other and become a part of the Xavier community even before they set foot on Xavier's campus," says Marianne Borgmann, Interim Co-Director for Admission. "It allowed them to learn more about Xavier by connecting with the current students and seeing many more faces of Xavier through the eyes of a student. It also helped us to get a better sense of which students were seriously considering Xavier as their college choice. More than 74% of the students who eventually chose Xavier, had created a profile on the site. This is one more piece of information that helps us in our planning."

"EuroSim" at Canisius supports multicultural learning environment

By John D. Occhipinti, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Political Science and Director of European Studies

Each year, approximately 15 Canisius College students take part in "EuroSim," an annual international, intercollegiate simulation of the European Union (EU).

This conference takes place over four days, and brings together over 200 students from 25 colleges and universities in the United States and Europe, offering students a unique opportunity to work and learn in an exciting multicultural environment. Each simulation has a specific policy theme, helping students to deepen their knowledge of the EU and hone their negotiating and public speaking skills. Preparation and funding for Canisius students' participation is facilitated by a student club, for which John D. Occhipinti, Professor of Political Science, serves as advisor.

The site of Eurosim rotates among host institutions in Europe and North America. In 2004, Eurosim was held in Tilburg, Netherlands. Afterward, Canisius students experienced ten days of travel and touring guided by Dr. Occhipinti in Amsterdam, Brussels, Antwerp, Lille, and Paris.

In 2006, Eurosim was in Prague, and the Canisius travel program included stops in Munich, Innsbruck, and Vienna.

To qualify for the trip to Europe, club members must take Dr. Occhipinti course on the EU, offered each fall. Dr. Occhipinti is also the American Director of the international consortium that plans and runs EuroSim.

In April 2007, Canisius College will play host to EuroSim for the first time. EuroSim will return to Europe in 2008, taking place during the January inter-session break. For more information about the Eurosim program, contact Dr. Occhipinti occhipij@canisius.edu



Above: Canisius College students gather at the top of the steps of Prague Castle, which was built around 850 AD and is situated atop a large hill on the left bank of the Vltava River, which runs through old town Prague.

Educated dialogue helps engage students in the political process

By Kelli Berhost, Assistant Director of Media Relations
Regis University

As centers of higher education and learning, college campuses are the foundation for public discussion and debate. And in the Jesuit tradition, the role of dialogue and the exchange of ideas is a fundamental aspect in understanding other points of view. These concepts lead to healthy and respectful conversations among students, and informed, well-rounded individuals ready to contribute and open to sharing viewpoints on important political issues.

Over the last decade, the trend of youthful activism in voting and political education has moved to the forefront of student awareness. Popular culture movements such as MTV's "Vote or Die" campaign targeted the 18- to 24-year-old year old demographic, using strong visuals to spark emotion. Events such as clashing cultures in war and the terror attacks on 9/11 were the starting point for many students to feel the urgency to be a part of the U.S. political system.

But many students don't understand the voting process, what each candidate stands for and the differences between political parties. The College Republicans are just one of the student political groups on the Regis University campus aimed at bringing awareness to their peers.

A new tactic that is expected to fulfill their goal of 250 absentee ballots by October is dorm storms. During the "storms," student representatives knock on doors to hand out absentee ballots or register student voters. By having face-to-face interaction, students find it easier to open up and talk. By bringing the information to them, the College Republicans hope to inform students which candidates are running, provide information about each and support a vote for any party.

The Regis University Young Democrats say it is the issues that will drive students to the polls. Concerns about not enough jobs available after graduation as well as friends being deployed in Iraq are issues that affect students on both sides. Topics such as immigration, employment rates and financial aid also make students want to express themselves, they say.

During a survey given by Regis' student body vice-president at the beginning of the year, undergraduates responded that social issues, education and healthcare also were very high on their list of importance.

"The only way to have a voice heard is to go to the ballot," urges Young Democrat member Matt Zavala, who interned with Congressman John Salazar last year. "There is no room to talk until you act."

During national political action week, October 2-6, the Regis University student government association had a large push for discussion of pressing issues among students. Student de-

bates, political activism slide shows and voter registration tables were set up during the week.

"The key is respect. It's easy to let emotions run wild, but you need to be respectful by facilitating communication," said Tori Leone, a Regis College student and College Republican organizer.

To get more students out of dorm rooms and into polling places, both groups are using the tools of technology that appeal to students. Blogs, e-mails and internet sites like facebook.com help get the message out as well as remind students of voting day.

A large focus of the work for both student political groups at Regis is devoted to informing students about how absentee voting can make a difference in the polls for either side.

Students might assume that being so far away from their registered voting center they cannot vote or their vote won't really make a difference. In reality, absentee ballots make up a large percentage of ballots cast and can even sway the polls before voting day.

Both parties emphasize taking the effort to get out and vote. Respectful dialogue and the exchange of ideas among students is a key principle and will continue to thrive at Regis and in Jesuit higher education.

With service projects planned with local congressional and gubernatorial candidates, as well as serving at local phone banks and doing state-wide walks around neighborhoods, students feel a sense of making a difference and are embodying the Regis Jesuit mission of "How ought we to live?"

Callings: Fostering Vocation Through Community-based Learning - A national conference sponsored by the Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education at Santa Clara University

An Invitation to participate in our web-based conversation

The Ignatian Center at Santa Clara University is pleased to announce the launch of the web-based conversation that sets the stage for our March 2007 conference.

We invite you to visit the conference website at www.scu.edu/ignatiancenter/cblconf. It features essays and responses on specific themes such as international community-based learning and student formation, by a variety of scholars and practitioners in the field including: Paul Locatelli, S.J., President of Santa Clara University; Anne Colby - Carnegie Foundation; Nadine Cruz - Haas Center, Stanford University, emerita; Richard Wood - University Of New Mexico; and, John Eby - Messiah College.



Suggested Readings

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Wallis, Jim. Living God's Politics: A Guide to Putting Your Faith into Action. San Francisco, CA: Harper Collins Publishers, 2006.