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## Faculty, Staff and Trustee Immersion Programs



**USF delegation visits Nicaragua.** Back Row: Left to right- Gerardo Marin (Associate Provost), Charles Cross (Vice President, Business & Finance), Mike Duffy (Dean, School of Business and Management), Judith Karshmer (Dean, School of Nursing), Walter Gmelch (Dean, School of Education), Margaret Higgins (Vice President, University Life), Salvador Aceves (Associate Provost, Academic Affairs) Front Row: Left to right- Stephen A. Privett, S.J. (President), Mario Prieto, S.J. (Rector of the Jesuit Community), B.J. Johnson (Dean, Academic and Enrollment Service, & Associate Provost), Tracy Schroeder (Vice President for Information Technology Services), group guide from Nicaragua.

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**AJCU CONFERENCES**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**Conference of International Education Directors**  
 February 7–8, 2008  
 Universidad Iberoamericana, Puebla, Mexico

**Conference of Criminal Justice Educators**  
 March 12–15, 2008  
 Cincinnati, OH

**Conference of Deans of Adult and Continuing Education (DACE)**  
 March 13–14, 2008  
 Universidad Centroamericana (UCA), San Salvador, El Salvador

**Conference of Registrars (CORE)**  
 March 27–28, 2008  
 Orlando, Florida

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

Melissa Collins Di Leonardo

The new year, 2008, brought new leadership to the Society of Jesus with the election of Rev. Adolfo Nicolas, SJ, as Superior General, and the 29th successor to Saint Ignatius Loyola, on January 19. A native of Spain, Fr. Nicolas spent many years in Asia, specifically in the Philippines, Korea and Japan, and served as the moderator of the Jesuit Conference for Eastern Asia and Oceania. Following his recent election, Fr. Nicolas emphasized, in a Mass of Thanksgiving, the need for Jesuits around the world to serve “other nations, not geographical, but human, who ask our help: the poor, the marginalized and the excluded.” This is an ever-challenging plea as the poor in our world continue to grow in number while the number of Jesuits shrink in size.

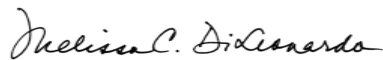
There are several Ignatian initiatives underway that are helping both Jesuits and lay individuals pursue their commitment to those on the margins of society; a good example is the *Messina Commons*, a global project which will use technology to provide education and information resources to those around the world that are in most need. And perhaps there is no better way to educate individuals for solidarity with the poor than through immersion programs.

Immersion trips seek to engage individuals academically and spiritually, and invite them to challenge their pre-existing notions about poverty, economic justice and human relationships. Virtually everyone knows poverty is a “bad” thing, but until one interacts with families living in cardboard huts with no clean water or surviving on garbage at a waste site, poverty is something that is often far away and not in plain view. It’s easy to forget that it really exists.

That is why coming into contact with this reality is so life-changing and so fundamentally important not only for our students to witness, but for our faculty, administrators and trustees to experience as well. One could say that immersion programs put individuals in touch with the very core of a Jesuit education.

The immersion programs profiled in this issue give you a glimpse of their profound impact on participants. It is our hope that these stories will encourage other faculty members, administrators or trustees to take part in their own institution’s offerings or invite them to create a program of their own.

Happy reading, and best wishes for a wonderful 2008.



Melissa Collins Di Leonardo

“There are several Ignatian initiatives underway that are helping both Jesuits and lay individuals pursue their commitment to those on the margins of society.”

## FEDERAL RELATIONS: 2008—A Critical Year for Higher Education

By Cyndy Littlefield, Director of Federal Relations AJCU

This year will consist of an historic election year and will mark the final months of the Bush Administration. Because of the election cycle, Members of Congress will be in session fewer days, resulting in longer hours to complete their agendas. One thing is for certain, higher education will be front and center.

**HEA:** This year also marks the fifth year that the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) will be in process. The Senate completed their HEA Bill, S.1642, last year, and in mid-November, the House Education and Labor Committee passed H.R. 4137, a second House HEA bill. The first HEA bill passed the House over two years ago in a Republican controlled Congress.

Many HEA issues have evolved over time. College costs, which were originally more punitive and a form of price controls, now focus more on transparency, albeit too much transparency. In the House bill, college costs are tied to an incentive for institutions to receive additional Pell grants if they maintain minimal tuition increases.

**Updates on Other Issues:** The AJCU-initiated Education Disaster Loan provision, which would allow institutions to borrow funds at a low interest rate for faculty, loss of revenue, or construction costs, was included in the House bill, but it is yet to be accepted by the Senate. Accreditation has been of critical concern to the Department of Education, which wants to adopt stricter controls over learning outcomes and setting standards. AJCU was successful at preserving the current campus-based aid formula, an arduous task.

It is expected that the House will send H.R. 4137, with additional language offered by Chairman Miller, known as the Manager's package, in February. Following House passage, conference will begin to consolidate the House and Senate versions of HEA

into one unified conference report. AJCU will be working hard to ensure that the final language is appropriate and supportive of our Jesuit institutions and our students.

**Taxes:** AJCU and the higher education community were extremely disappointed that the Charitable IRA Rollover, which allows individuals to transfer donations from an IRA to a charity without tax consequences, and the Tuition Tax Deduction, which allows parents or students to write off up to \$4,000 in tuition expenses, expired at the end of 2007. There were differences between the House and the Senate over having offsets so these tax extenders were struck from the AMT Tax bill, which will assist save many Americans from being caught in this alternative tax provision. As it stands now, no college development office may solicit IRA donations. Parents and students can use the tuition tax deduction

has been proposed.

**Budget and Appropriations:** The final Bush budget will be released on February 4. It is expected that SEOG, Perkins Loan, and LEAP will once again be zeroed out. Because of the Reconciliation bill, there will be an additional \$490 for mandatory Pell grants in FY09, and it will be of interest to the higher education community to see what the administration proposes for Pell grant discretionary funding.

Last year, there was considerable tension between the White House and Congress over the Labor, H&HS bill, which was vetoed. Attempts to override that veto were five votes shy, ending in a consolidation of the remaining bills to resolve FY08 funding. Given the penchant by the Bush administration to be veto-heavy, it would not be improbable to assume a close stand-off again on funding for FY09. AJCU will

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**In the House bill, college costs are tied to an incentive for institutions to receive additional Pell grants if they maintain minimal tuition increases.**

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for filing the 2007 1040 form, but it cannot be used for tax year 2008. Getting these two provisions extended will be an important priority for AJCU this year.

It remains to be seen if there will be an overhaul of the education tax credits and deduction. Senate Finance Chairman Baucus' (D-MT) staff has reiterated the desire to combine the Hope credit and tuition tax deduction into one credit or deduction. Ranking Finance Senator Grassley (R-IA) continues to talk about the need to force university endowments, over \$500 million, to spend 5% of the endowment fund annually for student aid. Thus far, no legislation

be there every step of the way from the beginning of the budget process, until the final Labor, H&HS bill for FY09 is signed into law to protect student aid programs.

**Negotiated Rulemaking:** Higher education is unique because we have a rule-making requirement to negotiate with the Department of Education over regulatory language. Because of the Reconciliation Act, the Department of Education has already begun two negotiating panels in January: Teach Grants and Loans. AJCU nominees Bernard Pekala from Boston College and Cyndy Littlefield from AJCU were selected as negotiators, in addition to Scott Fleming

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## Following in the footsteps of St. Ignatius: Pilgrimage Immerses Faculty in Jesuit Tradition

By: Thomas M. Landy, Associate Director, Center for Religion, Ethics and Culture; Director, Collegium; Director, Lilly Vocation Discernment Initiative Lecturer; Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology

*“A visitor passes through a place, the place passes through the pilgrim.”*

- Cynthia Ozick, *Art and Ardor*

*“There is no better way to fix an event or person in the mind than to visit the actual place where the event occurred or where the person lived. In a mysterious way tangible things have the capacity to stir the inner eye, as though there exists a kind of mystic harmony between things of the spirit and objects of sense.”*

- Robert Louis Wilken

Though I’ve been involved in faculty formation in many ways since 1993, I marvel even more lately at how much it takes to form faculty, given the number of things they have to learn and figure out. Faculty have to adapt to new roles in the classroom, as advisors, as members of departments and disciplinary academies, as collegiate citizens. Holy Cross faculty acclimate to Catholic, liberal arts and Jesuit values. All that while they are trying to figure out where to get bluebooks or how to use Moodle. How can this be done adequately in a finite number of on-campus meetings?

Five years ago, given the opportunity by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation, Holy Cross decided to see if we could make a major leap in terms of faculty formation to Jesuit identity. We developed a 10-day faculty Ignatian pilgrimage to Spain and Rome, inviting faculty from three other Jesuit schools to join us. It was so successful that we found a way to continue it through Lilly Endowment Vocation funding. 2008 marks our fifth pilgrimage. To date, more than 40 faculty and administrators from Holy Cross, and as many from other Jesuit colleges and universities, have participated.



*A delegation of faculty and administrators from the College of the Holy Cross met with Rev. Peter Hans-Kolvenbach, SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, in June 2007.*

Last summer, our president, Rev. Michael C. McFarland, S.J., decided to invite the administrative cabinet and other key administrators to be pilgrims.

Loyola College, Saint Joseph’s, and Xavier have been our steady partners through the last several years, but each fall we send out invitations to all U.S. Jesuit colleges and universities to join us.

The pilgrimage has always included a religiously diverse group of faculty, along with a Jesuit who leads us at prayer and shares his vocation with us. I’ve led the trip each year since inception.

Each pilgrimage is preceded by three half-day seminars on Ignatius and the early Jesuits. Pilgrims read and discuss Ignatius’ “Autobiography,” John O’Malley’s *The First Jesuits*, and the *Spiritual Exercises*. The seminars give us a chance to digest in advance some of what makes Ignatius compelling and/or strange to contemporary faculty

at first encounter, and ensures that the pilgrimage itself is more experience than seminar.

Our pilgrimage begins in the Basque region of Spain, and includes:

- Loyola Castle, the place of St. Ignatius’ birth and conversion. The Castle—a fortress tower that housed animals and ammunition on the ground floor—is tucked amid breathtaking hills. The site makes it easy to grasp who the Loyola family was, and how thoroughly military and agrarian Ignatius’ life was. We celebrate Mass in the room of his recuperation and conversion. Many of us climb nearby hills to look out on pastures and bluffs that look as if they had changed little from Ignatius’ time. Looking up to the mountains he traveled by foot and by donkey, we get a new appreciation for the difficulty of his own pilgrimages.

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## JESUIT DISTANCE EDUCATION NETWORK: AJCU-Florida Online Nursing Program Articulation Agreement

By Kathleen Snyder, Director of Curriculum Development (JesuitNET)

To promote high-quality Jesuit nursing education to the large and growing Registered Nurse (RN) community in Florida, JesuitNET has coordinated the development and approval of an articulation agreement between the 28-campus Florida Community College System and a number of AJCU online nursing programs. Six Jesuit universities—Creighton University, Gonzaga University, Loyola University New Orleans, Regis University, Spring Hill College, and Wheeling Jesuit University—offering fourteen online RN to BSN, RN to MSN and BSN/MSN degrees are the initial signatories to the agreement.

Articulation is especially critical to

who transfer with an associate of applied science degree in nursing and are a licensed Registered Nurse may enter a participating AJCU online RN to BSN or RN to MSN program with junior standing. All Florida transfer students must meet and fulfill the same standards and program requirements as current AJCU students. This includes admissions requirements (i.e., standard high school diploma, high school equivalency diploma, or other credential as authorized by Florida Statutes), college placement testing, and prior successful completion of all college preparatory coursework as mandated by state approved assessments and standards.

- Publicize the agreement among FCCS faculty, staff, and students via JesuitNET's online course and program catalog. The catalog shall maintain updated descriptions of each participating AJCU online degree or certificate program, as well as updated descriptions of each AJCU online course offered by the online degree or certificate programs.

- Develop course equivalency tables, specifically for program prerequisites and course requirements, insofar as it is reasonable and necessary to do so. Courses that are designated as equivalent in objectives, content, and credit hours must be treated as equivalent for all community colleges.

JesuitNET has coordinated the development and approval of an articulation agreement between the 28-campus Florida Community College System and a number of AJCU online nursing programs.

- Provide data to the Florida Division of Community Colleges on the number of community college graduates by academic term who enroll in AJCU online programs under the provisions of the agreement and graduate with a nursing certificate or degree.

the success of Florida's postsecondary education system, which is based on the two-plus-two concept with the first two years of undergraduate work in a community college and the final two in a university. The Florida community colleges enroll 20,000 nursing students and annually award 4,000 associate's degrees in nursing. Due to faculty and space limitations, however, the Florida State University System is unable to admit over 3,100 applicants annually into its bachelor's programs in nursing. This large number of unserved nursing students represents the market opportunity for the AJCU online nursing programs.

Under the terms of the agreement, Florida community college students

JesuitNET will work with the participating AJCU nursing programs to facilitate the promotion of and admissions into their programs for Florida's associate's degree in nursing students. Specifically, JesuitNET will:

- Publish an Articulation Manual that specifies the articulated programs, including the course requirements and related prerequisite courses for each program. This Articulation Manual will be made available to students, faculty, and advisors through the Florida FACTS.org website and be updated on an annual basis.

*Dr. Kathleen Snyder is the AJCU Liaison officer for the agreement and she may be contacted at [ksnyder@usfca.edu](mailto:ksnyder@usfca.edu) for more information about it.*

## Eight Days In El Salvador

By Margaret Taylor, Member, Board of Regents, Santa Clara University

*Writing about my visit to El Salvador in September 2007 has been a daunting, yet exhilarating task. The memories of my eight-day immersion experience are fresh and vivid. I find myself mulling over what I learned, my impressions, and my emotional responses. I want to find a way in which I might make a difference. Through this brief article, I hope others will better understand the power and value of Jesuit immersion programs, especially in our borderless world, and why Jesuit involvement in this remarkable Central American country is so inspirational.*

After many years working in public health administration in underserved communities and traveling in developing countries, I thought I understood the roots of poverty and deprivation. I went to El Salvador last year to see how students at Santa Clara University were being exposed to Third World conditions, to concepts like social justice and solidarity, and how their sense of social consciousness was being fostered. But it was my own social awareness that was transformed by the experience.

Nothing fully prepared me for what I would experience during the eight days I spent immersed in El Salvador. Our first day, our group of 12 found ourselves walking in “La Chacra,” an infamous barrio in the middle of San Salvador, where poverty, gangs, drug dealing, hovels, pollution, and single parent families are a way of life. The daily reality of living amidst violence and a crumbling social structure was never more clearly seen than in the fresh bullet holes in a woman’s door in La Chacra.

Here gang activity is exploding and drugs are pervasive – shattering families already strained by poverty and migration. Many young men and women come to the United States to find work and send back “subsidies” to support families in El Salvador. Increasingly these remittances have become a way of life and a major source of revenue. Although the U.S. dollar goes a long way toward alleviating poverty, it does not promote self-sufficiency among those left behind.

And fear is a constant presence. We were told many times, “In El Salvador, there are always eyes.” After years of war and op-

pression, the country’s poor fear extremist government policies and police protection. It was not unusual to see officers stripping someone by the side of the road in a public search. Shortly before I arrived, a new law was enacted that labeled protesters—for example, those protesting the privatization of water—as terrorists who can be sentenced to prison for 7 to 15 years.

The impact of this pervasive fear makes teaching the children of La Chacra human values an enormous challenge. Teaching even the most basic subjects is a tremendous undertaking. We heard from Sister Marcos, the Irish nun who serves as the principal of Fe y Alegria School in La Chacra. Children come to school lacking basic health care. They have been witness to abusive situations and families and need psychological intervention and counseling. I was shocked to learn that governmental support for education totals 4 cents per child a day!

At the same time, we heard this quote from an unidentified politician: “If you teach them to read, they will demand to be heard.” This view from a half day spent in La Chacra is one aspect of life in El Salvador and a segment of the complex political, economic, legal, educational, and health care situation in the country. In addition to visiting La Chacra, we visited a cross section of people – a politician, a businessman, a Jesuit priest, students at the University of Central America (UCA), an advocate for migrant labor, to name just a few. People who showed us another side of the country – people who have devoted their lives to empowering citizens of El Salvador and working for change.

What bolstered me through the trip was the pervasive spirit of courage, bravery, human kindness, and humor among the citizens of El Salvador. The people I met had a deep devotion to the values of peace and freedom. The resilience and faith of the business, political, religious, nonprofit, community, and health care leaders with whom we met was inspiring.

We met peasants who had lived through the agony of war; a justice of the supreme court who had risked her life and family to stand up for democracy; and volunteers who assisted migrant workers as they made the dangerous journey to the U.S. I heard personal stories of survival and dedication to the cause of freedom that was nothing short of phenomenal. The amazing work being done by the Jesuits and other religious personnel in the country clearly offers hope for so many in El Salvador.

My understanding of our borderless world was deepened by my visit to El Salvador. Nothing made that realization clearer than the stories of the young Salvadoran scholarship students supported by the Jesuits, and the testimony of students from Santa Clara University and Jesuit universities around the country who are enrolled in *Casa de la Solidaridad* - an academic study abroad program that immerses them in the political, social and economic realities of El Salvador, Central America, and the globalizing world.

Their awareness of a world without borders, their sense of responsibility to serve as agents of change in a developing country, and their understanding of social justice and solidarity developed

*(Continued on page 12)*

## A Lesson in Poverty for USF Leaders

Featured in *USF News*

On day five of their week-long retreat focusing on poverty in Nicaragua, deans and vice presidents from the University of San Francisco (USF) waded into the municipal dump in the capital city of Managua, stepping around stagnant water and rotting food. From that vantage point, they glimpsed the life of the 1,500 people who live in the dump and survive by eating discarded scraps of food and collecting recyclables.

“It was a heartbreaking experience,” said Tracy Schroeder, vice president for information technology. “Steam and toxic gasses such as methane rise from the heaps of trash, and cows whose milk will later be sold at the market graze on the garbage. Children and adults alike search through the garbage for items of any value.”

USF President Stephen A. Privett, S.J. said the experience was intended to help guide his leadership team in making decisions that are in line with the university’s mission of educating students who will create a more humane and just world.

“This is how two-thirds of the world lives,” he said, referring to the impoverished conditions they witnessed in Nicaragua, the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. “If we are truly educating with a global perspective, then students need to know what the globe looks like. The best place to see the world’s inhumanity is in a dump where people live on garbage. These are the kinds of inequalities we hope our students will address.”

The trip to Nicaragua in June 2007 marked the third such retreat for university executives. Previously, the group has traveled to El Salvador and Tijuana. The trips are similar to undergraduate immersion experiences currently offered by University Ministry in Mexico and El Salvador, among other locations. The leadership retreat is not intended to be a time for detailed university planning, but rather an opportunity

for leaders to deepen their understanding of the USF mission.

Fr. Privett said it is his hope that the experience “cultivates a shared set of sensitivities that might allow the leadership team to see opportunities for students where others might not.”

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“My hope is that this trip will provide a catalytic experience for USF trustees and alumni to promote fresh thinking and moral reflection on how well our University serves the community and the world that we hope to change.”

-USF President Steve Privett, S.J.

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To that end, Fr. Privett signed a formal agreement with the *Universidad Centroamericana* (UCA), the Jesuit university in Managua, to explore future collaboration in student programs.

The group met with their counterparts at the UCA and learned about the university’s social outreach projects. One afternoon was spent with local artisans, including a leather craftsman and ceramic artist, who are being assisted by UCA students in exporting their wares. USF leaders are now

investigating the possibility of having the university’s leather diploma covers and ceramic coffee mugs made by the artisans they met that day.

The group also met with Fernando Cardenal, who runs grammar and high schools for the poor and served as ministry of education under the Sandinista government, and other social, economic, and government leaders working to alleviate the plight of the poor in Nicaragua.

“I don’t know of any other university that does anything like this with its leadership team,” said School of Nursing Dean Judith Karshmer, who joined USF last year. “It impacted me at every level, from the personal to the professional, in terms of bringing back ideas for giving more students the opportunity to have a similar immersion experience.”

This June 2008, President Privett and International Partners in Mission will lead USF alumni/ae and members of the board of trustees on a one-week trip to El Salvador, where they will learn firsthand how the people of El Salvador and their struggle for justice informs the mission of USF.

“My hope is that this trip will provide a catalytic experience for USF trustees and alumni to promote fresh thinking and moral reflection on how well our University serves the community and the world that we hope to change,” said Fr. Privett.

## CAMPUS NEWS CLIPS

By Deanna I. Howes, Manager of Information Services, AJCU

### Endowed Professorships Established at Gonzaga

As part of a \$133 million investment to further educational opportunities at **Gonzaga University**, a plan to endow several new professorships has been announced by university president, Rev. Robert J. Spitzer, S.J. A gift of \$1.5 million was given by the Mark Pigott family to create the first of what is intended to be \$20 million worth of endowed positions.

Pigott (the chair of the technology company, PACCAR Inc.) is a supporter of higher education; his name will be used for the Pigott Professor of Entrepreneurship. Gonzaga's investment will be used to create new classrooms and buildings for the benefit of students and as a means of attracting new professors to the university.

Of Pigott's donation, Fr. Spitzer said, "PACCAR has been supporting Gonzaga since 1960, through gifts that have modernized and expanded our library, engineering, arts and sciences facilities...Endowing key professorships will ensure that our students will be taught by the very highest quality faculty, now and in perpetuity."

### Saint Peter's Hosts Rally for Senator Barack Obama

On January 9, Senator Barack Obama came to speak at a rally attended by 2,000 people at **Saint Peter's College**. Held at the Yanitelli Recreational Life Center, Obama's speech occurred after his loss in the New Hampshire caucus. While in New Jersey, he spoke of the challenges being met while in the early stages of running for U.S. president: "My voice is a little hoarse, my eyes are a little bleary, my back is a little sore, but my spirit is strong."

In addition to the vast crowds inside, hundreds of supporters gathered outside the gym and onto surrounding streets in order to greet and support Obama, who spoke at the rally for 45 minutes. Of the

senator's appearance at the college, Saint Peter's president, Dr. Eugene J. Cornacchia, said, "We welcome him as we would welcome any presidential candidate who wishes to discuss and debate the ideas and events that are shaping our history."

### Washington's Inaugural State Poet Laureate is Seattle University Professor

In April 2007, a law was enacted to establish Washington State's Poet Laureate; eight months later, an English professor at **Seattle University** was selected to be the first person to hold the title: Samuel Green.

Green has been a member of Seattle University's English department for six years. He has published ten books of poetry, and has also served as the university's writer-in-residence.

In her statement regarding the selection of Green, Washington Governor Chris Gregoire said, "his appointment to this position will honor the important role that poetry and poets have played in Washington's creative culture." In his new role, Green will serve as Laureate for two years; he will visit schools and other educational facilities across Washington in order to demonstrate to the public the appeal and relevance of poetry.

### Detroit Mercy Students' Crib Design Helps Disabled Mother

In December 2007, four students from the **University of Detroit Mercy's** engineering program constructed a crib based on their own unique design for a disabled mother in Kalamazoo, MI. Katie Vandermeer's cerebral palsy proved to be a challenge for her when trying to find a crib for her young son that would accommodate her wheelchair.

After learning about her case, UDM mechanical engineering professor, Nassif Rayes, began to work with four of his students on constructing the crib as an outreach to one in need. Rayes was inspired to do so by his sister, who also has cerebral palsy and had experienced struggles to those of Vandermeer.

Vandermeer's crib was delivered to her house by Rayes and his students on December 21st. Her story was covered by the local Kalamazoo TV news station and press. In reaction to her new crib, Vandermeer said, "It's like the biggest Christmas present I could've ever gotten for me and my son."

### Costa Rica Research Facility Launched by Xavier Students and Faculty

During **Xavier University's** recent winter break, a team of 16 students and their professors traveled to Costa Rica to further their studies from Xavier's first class on rain forest biodiversity, held last fall. On the Osa Peninsula, they set up a facility to study the environment and various animals found in Central American rainforests.

By conducting experiments and performing tests, the team hopes to inspire more students to come to the country and learn about its ecology and ways of preserving the Osa Peninsula. In his remarks on the trip, Professor Brent Blair said, "This is a hands-on research experience for students, looking at tropical ecology in the tropics, doing experiments they would normally only read about."

The team's partnership with Morgan's Canoe & Outdoor Center, Inc. (the site of their facility) is also intended to be a catalyst for other companies and businesses from Xavier's city of Cincinnati to come to Costa Rica and learn about how issues, such as conservation, also affect their lives in America.

## Standing in Solidarity: Burmese Monks Honored at USF Graduation

By Deanna I. Howes, AJCU Manager of Information Services

The past year was filled with challenges by the Buddhist monks of Myanmar. The nation, which used to be known as Burma, has been ruled by the same military government since 1988. In September 2007, after the government attempted to create a new constitution without allowing pro-democracy officials to participate in its enactment, the monks began non-violent protests in the city of Rangoon. Throughout Rangoon and other cities of Myanmar (a name given to the nation by the new government), these protests were led by monks and other peace-seeking citizens. They wanted to see improvements made to the country's socio-economic system, in addition to the establishment of a democratic government.

As a response to the protests, the government officials attacked the monks and their fellow supporters. Through beating and killing innocent citizens, the Burmese government attempted to stop any opposing threats to their rule. In the fall of 2007, images of the violence could be found in newspapers and television screens around the world, alerting others to the increasingly dangerous political situation. Despite their struggle, which has continued into 2008, the monks have publically continued to demonstrate their faith and beliefs while working to see peace and justice manifested in their nation.

In recognition of the courage shown by the Burmese monks, the University of San Francisco bestowed an honorary degree to them at its December 14th commencement ceremony. According to university president, Fr. Stephen Privett, S.J., the institution had been seeking to give an award of recognition to the Buddhist monks of Burma over the past decade.

Attempts to recognize Aung San Suu Kyi (the leader of Burma's opposition party: the National League for Democracy) have not yet been successful, due to her being

under house arrest. This condition was forced upon her by the current Burmese government. However, in 2003, the university was able to award an honorary doctorate to another leader of the Buddhist faith: the Dalai Lama.

Upon receiving word that a representative of the monks would be speaking at the graduation, the student body expressed their satisfaction with the institution's selection. Fr. Privett described their response as "fabulously positive and hugely enthusiastic." A small number of Burmese students attend USF, and Buddhism is practiced by a small percentage of the student population. A course on the faith was taught at USF during the 2007-2008 school year; it incorporated community service at local Buddhist-related sites, such as temples and soup kitchens.

At the USF ceremony, Sayadaw U Kovidabhivamsa received a doctoral degree and spoke on behalf of all Buddhist monks fighting in Burma. Currently residing in New York, Sayadaw U Kovida participated in demonstrations against the Burmese government in 1988, (the year of its inception) which led to his temporary imprisonment. As he spoke to the graduates, the speech was simultaneously broadcast to the monks in Burma, enabling them to hear Sayadaw U Kovida's words and immediately share with him the reception of his graduate degree.

In his speech, (which was given in his native language) Sayadaw U Kovida congratulated the graduates and praised the university community for its humanitarian efforts. He said, "On behalf of the monks of Burma, I would like to congratulate you for completing graduate studies from USF, which is known not only for its excellent academic and extracurricular programs, but also for its mantra: "educating minds and hearts to change the world"...May you be able to use the University mantra,

the education provided by the University and the faculty, and words of wisdom provided by the monks and other religious practitioners to lead good lives and to help work for the benefit of your families, your organizations, your nation, and the world. May you have the courage to make sacrifices – if and when needed – to help bring peace on earth."

As the protests continue in Burma, Sayadaw U Kovida's words serve as a reminder that challenges may arise in life, but efforts are continuously made to face and overcome them. Fr. Privett noted that by honoring the monks, he hoped to be able to raise more awareness by the USF community of this particular plight. In his speech given at the ceremony, he said, "We celebrate and support their courageous, nonviolent demonstrations, their continuing struggle for a fair and representative government, and the selfless leadership that is giving an entire nation a taste of freedom. These are the kind of people we hope our graduates will be."

USF's decision to honor the work done by the Buddhist monks to protest peacefully can be considered one way to stand in solidarity with people facing oppression across the world.

(College of Holy Cross, page 5)

- Xavier Castle, birthplace of St. Francis Xavier, the early Jesuit and Missionary to India, the East Indies and Japan. Again we get a sense of the power and prestige that was part of another important Jesuit's upbringing. The Indies seem incomprehensibly far from Xavier's castle, church, fields and hills.
- Manresa, where Ignatius lived in a cave above the river Cardoner and wrote the *Spiritual Exercises*. In the tiny neoclassical chapel built inside that cave, one can see the spot where Ignatius carved a cross into the stone.
- Montserrat, the Benedictine Monastery perched in an astonishing spot in the mountains nearby—home to the Black Madonna, before whom Ignatius surrendered his sword and nobleman's clothes to take up a new life.
- Barcelona, where Ignatius begged in the streets.
- Rome. We focus especially on 17th- and 18th-century Ignatian sites like the Church of the Gesù, the Collegio Romano, the original novitiate at Sant' Andrea al Quirinale, the Church of St. Ignacio and the apartments of Ignatius, where we celebrate Mass. We visit the Gregorian University, and met last year at the Jesuit Curia with Superior General, Most Reverend Peter Hans-Kolvenbach, S.J.

Former pilgrims tell us that the pilgrimage is effective because it is time and space apart from their usual lives, in good company, out of their usual roles. Not one faculty member I've encountered treated the event simply as tourism.

Whether in Rome or Spain, the pilgrims have repeatedly been drawn not so much to the Baroque splendors that usually make the best tourist sites, but to the simpler places that were important in Ignatius' life.

how to link the Ignatian experience to a variety of courses in the program.

In many of the attempts I've witnessed before to communicate the Ignatian charisma to faculty, it seemed that interest-

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Former pilgrims tell us that the pilgrimage is effective because it is time and space apart from their usual lives, in good company, out of their usual roles.

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They may be amazed by the grand sites in Rome, but what strikes them most of all is the contrasting simplicity of Ignatius' rooms there and the long route he traveled to discern his own future.

Faculty from diverse backgrounds and whose scholarship and teaching represent a range of disciplines have remarked about the impact of the pilgrimage. A remarkable number not only now have a deep knowledge and affective tie to Ignatius, they also talk about the deep emotional experience. Recently three Holy Cross colleagues—two Jews and a Catholic—recounted a profoundly moving shared experience in front of the Black Madonna of Montserrat.

The most recent pilgrimage—and those shared experiences at Montserrat—helped shape Holy Cross' decision that our most important academic initiative in years, a first-year program designed to enhance the academic, co-curricular and residential experiences of first-year students is to be named Montserrat. The program combines small, full-year seminars with co-curricular programs, organized into five "clusters," each of which will explore broad themes. Faculty who teach in its various clusters are working on creative ways about

ing as that story may be, many faculty or staff experienced it primarily as someone else's story (the Jesuits') not their own to share in. In contrast, what we hoped for the pilgrimage has more than proven true: pilgrimage makes Ignatius and the early Jesuits' stories a part of the life experience of the faculty. His progression from courtier-soldier to itinerant beggar to student, spiritual director, and head of the Society is something the participants learn about not only cognitively, but in ways that become intertwined with their own histories. A remarkable number tell us that they went originally to learn information, but came home somehow transformed in the process.

*(Federal Relations, page 4)*

from Georgetown University, for the Teach Panel.

Teach grants will award a \$4,000 grant to a student who wants to teach, with a cap of \$16,000 for undergraduate, and \$8,000 for graduate education. A future teacher must keep a 3.25 GPA, and teach in the following areas: math, science, foreign language, bilingual education, reading specialist, special education or other high need areas. In addition, students must teach in an LEA (low economic area) school district for at least four years. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the total amount of the teach grant con-

verted to an unsubsidized student loan. It is the conversion from grant aid to student loans that will need careful attention in the coming weeks. Another Jesuit representative, Karen Koch from Seattle University Law School, will be on the loan panel, which just started their negotiations.

Once the Teach grant and Loan panels are finished negotiating, that will be just in time when HEA should be finished, and the Department will begin another set of negotiations to determine HEA regulatory language. By the end of 2008, it may well be deemed the year of Negotiated Rule-making.

*(El Salvador, page 7)*

and blossomed during their stay in El Salvador. From these brave citizens and students I learned countless lessons. I am newly committed to finding ways in which I might make a difference. I will be there to support them.

*Margaret Taylor has BA, 1965, hist/pol sci; MA, 1976, in counseling psych and an MBA 1986 in finance.*

## THIS ISSUE'S SUGGESTED READINGS

- *Education for a Globalized World.* Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, Washington, DC, 2007.
- *Internationalization in U.S. Higher Education: The Student Perspective.* American Council on Education, Washington, DC, 2005.
- *Internationalization of U.S. Jesuit Colleges and Universities: A Preliminary Analysis.* Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, Washington, DC, 2007.
- Olson, Christa L., Green, Madeleine F., and Hill, Barbara A. *A Handbook for Advancing Comprehensive Internationalization: What Institutions Can Do and What Students Should Learn.* Washington, DC: American Council on Education, 2006.