Sr. Francis Joseph, RA Outreach Lecture

The Faith–Justice Outreach Lecture is going to be very special this spring. Not only will it be the 30th anniversary of the lecture series started by Sister Francis Joseph R.A., but it is also going to be renamed in her honor to celebrate her commitment and contribution to our Saint Joseph’s University community and the greater Philadelphia area.

Sister Francis Joseph started the Outreach Lectures as a way to bring students and the public to campus for a free lecture that addressed issues of faith and justice. Sister Francis then challenged her audience to take this knowledge and bring it back to their communities and act on it. She would encourage her listeners saying, “Now that you know about this problem, what are you going to do about it?”

When told about the renaming of the series she was very surprised and honored. In typical Francis fashion she insisted that the topic of this lecture not highlight her own accomplishments but that it address the current needs of and support for the children of Philadelphia.

The lecture will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 14th in the Mandeville Teletorium. The speaker will be Dr. Joan Goodman, Professor in UPENN’s Graduate School of Education. Dr. Goodman combines psychology with teaching and has written the book “Moral Education”. Her lecture is titled “I Know It’s Wrong But So What”: Examining Society’s Responsibility In Shaping Youth’s Moral Values.

It is our hope that as we examine and discuss issues facing today’s children, we will follow Francis’s example and answer the call to act within our own society to guide and support the children of Philadelphia. Sister Francis is the ultimate example of someone working with and for others.

-Elizabeth Norberg, Special Projects Assistant

University Consortium for Catholic Education accepts ACESJU’s application for membership

The Alliance for Catholic Education at Saint Joseph’s University (ACESJU), a two-year graduate education experience with the aim of training quality educators to serve Catholic schools, was recently accepted into the University Consortium for Catholic Education (UCCE). UCCE is a national partnership of university programs joined by this common mission of recruiting and training faith-filled, energetic teachers. ACESJU, which is modeled after The University of Notre Dame’s Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program, joins 15 other universities in the UCCE, including five other Jesuit institutions, and is the first in Pennsylvania.

UCCE schools must meet requirements in the three pillars of teaching, community, and spirituality, the same pillars ACESJU was built upon. Fellows receive full tuition, community housing, and a stipend, and work toward the completion of course work in a master’s degree in education over two years. In turn, candidates teach full-time at one of nine Philadelphia urban Catholic elementary schools that are partnered with ACESJU. The schools realize a tremendous cost savings in teacher salaries and add an enthusiastic and talented new teacher to their already vibrant school and local community.

ACESJU is housed in the Faith–Justice Institute and is led by Virginia Goulding Johnson, Ph.D., Director of the Faith–Justice Institute and Senior Program Director of ACESJU.

-Michael O’Connor, ACESJU Assistant Director of Programming

Spring 2011 Dates:

- 3/4, Community Engaged Scholarship Work Session, 9:10:30 am, Wolfington Conference Room
- 3/15, FJS Seniors Catholic Social Teaching Discussion, 11:30 am. Wolfington Conference Room
- 3/11-3/19, Fe y Alegría: Bolivia visit
- 3/15, Fe y Alegría:Bolivia and SJU Partnership: Current Research, 11:30 am, Mandeville 313
- 3/19, FJI External Board Meeting, 9am. Haub Executive Center, McShain Hall
- 3/28, FJI Internal Board Meeting, 8:30am, Mandeville Hall Room 292
- 4/1, Community Based Scholarship Talk, 9-10:30 am, Wolfington Conference Room
- 4/13, FJI Awards Ceremony, 3 pm, Presidents Lounge
- 4/14, FJS Minors Dinner, 5 pm, Faculty Dining Room Mandeville Hall
- 4/14, Sister Francis Joseph RA Outreach Lecture “I Know It’s Wrong But So What”: Examining Society’s Responsibility In Shaping Youth’s Moral Values, Joan Goodman UPENN, 7 pm, Wolfington Teletorium, Mandeville Hall
- 4/28, FJS Senior Exit Interviews, 11:30am and 5:00 pm
- 5/10, Community-Engaged Scholarship Mini-Conference, 9am. Room TBA
Guatemala Study Tour

Over winter break, our Fall semester Just Health Care in Developing Nations class culminated in a nine-day study tour to Guatemala. The course seeks to develop a comprehensive view of global health care rooted in the principles of Catholic medical ethics - principles that serve as the foundation of social justice for the underserved populations. In Guatemala, the team saw first-hand the health care system and its effects on various communities. The last day included a visit to a hospice for HIV/AIDS children. There was some apprehension about entering the clinic as the condition of the patients was unknown and a fear that the atmosphere would be extremely depressing considering the nature of the disease. However, upon entering, all stigmatization of the disease and those afflicted by it vanished. Dozens of children were waiting, all of whom were infected with HIV. Once outside playing, the children sprung to life in a remarkable way that words cannot truly capture. For that time, the worry of disease faded from our minds, but more importantly, it faded from the minds of the kids as they were permitted to play outside and act like kids. We picked them up on our shoulders and raced through a labyrinth of slides and swings, granting them the freedom to be the incredible kids that they are. In the end, we may have offered them the opportunity to play on a warm afternoon, but they in return taught us much more. This trip was an eye-opening view into the diversity that exists throughout the world.

“IF WE HAVE NO PEACE, IT IS BECAUSE WE HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER.”

-Mother Teresa

It was an unforgettable experience that not only benefitted those looking to enter the health care field but more broadly impacted our perception of people throughout the world. The Guatemalan people were full of compassion and hope for their people and country. These lessons were at the root of our study throughout the course in the Fall, but seeing the people, hearing their stories and walking with them each day, enabled us to live out being the men and women with and for others Saint Joseph’s University calls us to become.

- Joseph Harrison, ’10, Maria Selde, ’11, Matthew Fadus, ’11 Cameron Fick, ’10

Finding A Missing Peace

A recent collaboration of two Faith-Justice Institute programs (Service-Learning, ACESJU) and the SJU Institute for Violence Research and Prevention will provide non-violent conflict resolution and violence prevention programs to a number of the ACESJU Catholic Elementary School partners. Resources include The Peacemaker Curriculum (Johnson, 1999) which will allow teachers and students to explore basic strategies and best practices in nonviolent conflict resolution through short classroom-based lessons. The IVRP website (www.pysp.org) will provide technology-based opportunities for students to communicate with others on the impact of violence and the need for peaceful approaches. Peace involvement beyond the class-rooms and into the larger communities will also be explored.

- Dr. Virginia Johnson
**Interim House**

Interim House is a residential home that provides both in-house treatment and outpatient care for women addicted to drugs and alcohol. Service-Learning students volunteer in both the tutoring program and the knitting group run by Interim House.

-Carrie Hutnick, Placement Coordinator

The clients always enjoy having the St. Joe's students come to the weekly knitting group at Interim House. During this past fall semester, however, the clients were surprised to meet the first male student to join our knitting group. Some of the ladies never saw a guy knit before, but that didn't faze Charlie in the least. Charlie had an open mind and an interest in learning, so the clients set out to teach both him and Nicole how to knit. The clients were touched as he immediately decided to make a scarf for his mother. One of the clients reflected, "It was fun having Charlie here, he was always polite and interesting. Plus, he made a scarf for his mother...that was sweet, I'm a mom, and I would love that." Another client commented that it was especially "nice to see a man participating in something that I always thought was just for girls--now I know it isn't." Charlie watched and learned and listened as the clients talked about how knitting has become a coping skill for them when they are stressed. In fact, as he became a more skillful knitter, Charlie explained that this was helpful for him as well. Always willing to share and open up, Charlie really connected with the group. As one client put it, "I was never a teacher before so it was such a pleasure to help teach him and hear about what he is doing." And thanks to his participation, all of the women now have a much broader and more inclusive image when they hear the term "knitter."

-Kathy Duffy, Founder of Interim House Knitting Group

**Interim House—Student Perspective**

I wanted to do something new from my previous community service experience, and so chose to work at Interim House, knitting with women recovering from substance abuse. I learned a lot about knitting from these women, and learned a lot about the different obstacles life can throw at you. Each session we talked about how knitting has helped each person in their rehabilitation process. These sessions helped me grow to understand what the women were going through, and to do my own soul searching as to how knitting can help me overcome problems I face. The women liked when I shared how knitting helped me because it showed them that not everyone is perfect, even the people outside of Interim House.

I feel my presence also helped the organization as a man who truly bought into the knitting process. Though it took time, I became an expert knitter and showed them my devotion to learning to knit. My dedication and openness allowed the women to open up to me and made my experience gratifying. I still visit Interim House to let the women that I am still a part of their knitting group even though my service is over.

-Charlie Gorman, 2010

**Interim House’s Placement Liaison**

Through my work with Interim House, I have been witness to the mutual benefits that result when service and academics are intertwined, as it serves as a model for innovative substance abuse treatment for women while providing the Service-Learning students at Saint Joseph's University the opportunity to incorporate and connect the academic learning in the class into the surrounding community. The recent addition of the knitting group at the Interim House enables the students to gain new skills and build relationships with the women there.

- Maria Selde, Placement Liaison
Community-Engaged Scholarship (CES) differs from traditional research in that: its primary purpose is to contribute to the betterment of the community; the researcher is a collaborator, partner, and learner alongside the community members; and its measure of value is its usefulness to the community and its contributions to social change.

Thus far, the institute has sponsored community-engaged scholarship faculty conversations and a mini conference, conducted a faculty survey, and sought to expand the university’s awareness and support for faculty work in this area of study. Future activities include examining the impact of this research on community partners, and the university procedures for rank and tenure. A semi-annual e-newsletter will contain updates on the Faith-Justice Institute’s community-engaged scholarship efforts. To find out more or to become involved contact Dr. Virginia Johnson, at vjohnson@sju.edu

Faith-Justice Institute Staff

Dr. Virginia Goulding Johnson, Director
Ms. Ann Marie Keffer, MSW, Assistant Director
Ms. Jill Amitrani-Welsh, MSW, Student Development Specialist
Ms. Carrie Hutnick, MEd, Placement Coordinator
Ms. Patricia Esnouf, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Elizabeth Norberg, Special Projects Assistant
Sr. Francis Joseph, RA, Emeritus
Ms. Elizabeth Kane Gallagher, MS, ACESJU Associate Director of Academics
Mr. Michael O’Connor, Med, ACESJU Assistant Director of Programming

Advancing Community-Engaged Scholarship

The 34th General Congregation stated “If we are to be true to our Ignatian heritage, research in our universities. . . is always research that is aimed at making a difference in people’s lives”. (Nicholas, S. J.) The Faith-Justice Institute recently began an initiative to develop such a research program around the methods of community-engaged scholarship. The National Community-Based Research Networking Institute defines such research as that which “seeks to be linked to the community where data are collected and analyzed with the purpose of taking action or affecting social change”.

Community-Engaged Scholarship (CES) differs from traditional research in that: its primary purpose is to contribute to the betterment of the community; the researcher is a collaborator, partner, and learner alongside the community members; and its measure of value is its usefulness to the community and its contributions to social change.

Thus far, the institute has sponsored community-engaged scholarship faculty conversations and a mini conference, conducted a faculty survey, and sought to expand the university’s awareness and support for faculty work in this area of study. Future activities include examining the impact of this research on community partners, and the university procedures for rank and tenure. A semi-annual e-newsletter will contain updates on the Faith-Justice Institute’s community-engaged scholarship efforts. To find out more or to become involved contact Dr. Virginia Johnson, at vjohnson@sju.edu

CES Journals:
Education, Citizenship and Social Justice
Gateways: International Journal of Community Research and Engagement
Journal for Civic Commitment
Journal for Peace and Justice Studies
Journal of Community Engagement and Higher Education
Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship
Journal of Community Practice
Journal of Conflictology
Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement
Journal of Social Change
Reflections
The International Journal of Volunteer Administration