SJU Celebrates 157th Commencement Ceremonies

By Carolyn Steigleman and Harriet Goodheart

SJU Campus Minister Takes the Lead on National Level

By Jeffrey Martin ’04, ’05 (M.A.)

For the first time in its 10-year history, the Campus Ministry Leadership Institute (CMLI) will be hosted at Saint Joseph’s University from May 31-June 6, thanks to the influence of its new head, Tom Sheibley, SJU’s director of campus ministry.

CMLI is a six-day training and working institute for student leaders and campus ministers from across the country who attend together as campus teams. Sponsored by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, the institute is designed to produce dynamic leaders who work collaboratively to develop and implement successful Catholic Campus Ministry programs. Sheibley was named director at the end of last year’s conference, which was held at the University of Notre Dame.

“Unlike other conferences, CMLI doesn’t just provide information, inspiration, and networking with other leaders in campus ministry,” Sheibley said. “It’s also a chance for teams of students and campus ministers to work together on developing a program that they can actually implement on their campuses in the upcoming academic year. I’m happy to serve as the director of CMLI this year because it’s a program that I believe makes a real difference in college campus ministry.

“We have campus teams coming from California, New Mexico, Texas, the East Coast and Midwest, so this is a wonderful opportunity for Saint Joseph’s to be of service to the Church on a national level,” he said.

Faculty Honored for Teaching, Service and Research

By David King ’08

Two of Saint Joseph’s University’s finest professors were honored at the 157th commencement ceremony for their outstanding teaching and research with the presentation of two annual awards. Virginia Johnson, Ph.D., assistant professor of education, received the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, and the Tenglemann Distinguished Research and Teaching Award was presented to Concha Alborg, Ph.D., professor of foreign languages.

Johnson, who has a doctorate in educational psychology, was recognized for her work educating the students of SJU.

“I’m a teacher. It’s what I did for 30 years,” said Johnson. “I like teaching teachers.” Invoking Jesus’ words to his disciples, he said, “Be concerned for the better good of man, serve the needs of others and care for those the world’s forgotten. The instructions are simple—go, disciple, baptize, teach; they are embodied in everything you’ve been taught here at Saint Joseph’s.”

In her address to her classmates, Molly Sullivan, graduating with a degree in sociology, reflected on her Saint Joseph’s experience. “My professors continually challenged the way I see the world…As graduates of Saint Joseph’s University, we have an obligation; we all have been called to be our best selves.”

The graduate commencement ceremony was celebrated with remarks from graduates Peter O’Neill, M.S., an online pharmaceutical marketing

Saint Joseph’s 157th Commencement ceremonies were held Saturday, May 9, on Gest Lawn. Speaking to undergraduates receiving their degrees, Brian Duperreault ’69, president and CEO of Marsh & McLennan Co., Inc., urged the Class of 2008 to “live a life that reflects your faith.” Invoking Jesus’ words to his disciples, he said, “Be concerned for the better good of man, serve the needs of others and care for those the world’s forgotten. The instructions are simple—go, disciple, baptize, teach; they are embodied in everything you’ve been taught here at Saint Joseph’s.”

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“I’m a teacher. It’s what I did before I came to St. Joe’s and it’s what I’ve done for 30 years,” said Johnson. “So this is a huge honor for me.”

After 15 years of teaching fifth and sixth graders in elementary schools in New York and Western Pennsylvania, Johnson decided to share her experience by preparing another generation of educators. She works to teach her students how in turn to help their students develop cognitive skills as well as values.

“I like to make an impact on students. And if your students themselves go on to become teachers, it has the promise of an even greater impact,” Johnson said. “I like teaching teachers.”

Alborg was recognized for excellence in teaching and research. Her primary research focuses on contemporary Spanish film. In her classes, Alborg focuses on these same topics.

“My research and teaching are very closely related,” she said. “I’m fortunate to teach the same films and authors and screenwriters that she researches.”

Through conferences and seminars, Alborg has had the opportunity to meet and talk with many of the same authors and screenwriters that she teaches in her courses.

In addition to her three academic books, Alborg has penned three works of fiction, one in Spanish, one in English and one that replicated the experience of an immigrant in both languages.
Psychology Chair Honored by Department of Defense

Second Lieutenant Michael O'Neill (left), adjunct professor of psychology and member of the HHC 304th Civil Affairs Brigade, presented Psychology Chair Donald Leitner, Ph.D. (right), with the U.S. Department of Defense Patriotic Employer Award. Dr. Leitner was nominated and named a recipient of the award because of his flexibility with O’Neill’s teaching schedule during his tours in Iraq and his support of the U.S. troops.

Student Team Wins Business Ethics Competition

Business graduate student team members: Kay Yoon, Kristen McGrath, Christopher Stufl, with faculty advisor Jim Baetor, Ph.D., assistant professor of philosophy (miss- ing: Joseph Manning), were recognized with the Kerrigan Award at the Loyola Marymount Business Ethics Competition held April 10-13 in Los Angeles. The team fin-
ished as one of two divisional champions from the graduate division for their

Alborg also received one of five Bene Merenti medals in honor of 25 years of
service to the University. Also receiving Bene Merenti medals were Mary Applegate, Ph.D., professor of education; Patrick Kirschling, Ph.D., associate professor of food marketing; Todd Moody, Ph.D., professor of philosophy; and Paul Tefft, Ph.D., associate professor of biology.

Faculty Honored at Commencement

Juniors received one of five Bene Merenti medals in honor of 25 years of
service to the University. Also receiving Bene Merenti medals were Mary Applegate, Ph.D., professor of education; Patrick Kirschling, Ph.D., associate professor of food marketing; Todd Moody, Ph.D., professor of philosophy; and Paul Tefft, Ph.D., associate professor of biology.

Alborg said that some of her fondest memories are of trips abroad with
professor of food marketing; Todd Moody, Ph.D., professor of philosophy; and
Paul Tefft, Ph.D., associate professor of biology.

To receive the Tengelmann Award and the Bene Merenti medal on the same
day was very meaningful to me because it recognizes all the work I have done over
the last 25 years teaching and researching,” Alborg said. “As I was sitting on stage,
I was trying to think what the most meaningful things were to me. The trips to
Cuba and Spain with students were great. This was such a wonderful way to tie up
all my experiences at Saint Joseph’s University.”