Long-Time Dean To Step Down, Pursue Teaching and Research Interests

As of June 1, Robert Palestini, Ed.D., will be stepping down as dean of graduate and continuing studies, a post he has held with distinction since 1992. At that time, he will return to the education department to pursue his teaching and research interests.

Dr. Palestini has been a fixture on campus since the early 1990s. He has a long list of accomplishments that have benefited campus life and the well being of both students and faculty. As dean, Dr. Palestini oversaw the tripling of graduate enrollment in the arts and sciences, as well as the development of the Interdisciplinary Doctorate in Educational Leadership Program (IDELP), the purchase of the Learning Institute, and on-line courses and concentrations in instructional technology and special education. Additionally, graduate arts and sciences now offers master’s degrees in writing studies, biology, and organizational dynamics and leadership.

The work Dr. Palestini has done for Saint Joseph’s has played a major part in the school’s growth over recent years. He established eight off-campus locations and was instrumental in developing the Philadelphia School District/SJU partnership that spawned the Balanced Literacy Intern Program, Teach for America, and partnerships with Daroff and Bluftord elementary schools. Three international graduate programs, including master’s programs in China, India, and at Alberto Hurtado University in Santiago, Chile, began under his leadership. In the University College, he developed the accelerated business program, and the liberal and professional studies, professional communications and legal studies majors. Most recently, Dr. Palestini coordinated an agreement with Deltak Education to market three completely on-line education master’s degrees to a national audience.

“I’m very happy that Bob will be staying at his alma mater and devoting his considerable talents and passion for education to our students,” University Provost Brice Wachterhauser, Ph.D., said.

In addition to having served on the Governor’s Commission on Training America’s Teachers and as past president of the AJCU continuing education deans, Dr. Palestini has authored 11 books on educational leadership and education law. He was on the board of directors of the World Affairs Council and took part in the Catholic Philopatran Society, the Mayor’s Commission on Literacy, and Philadelphia Futures, and also chaired the Sesquicentennial Committee, which coordinated the 150th anniversary of the founding of Saint Joseph’s University.

In 1979, Dr. Palestini was chair of the Papal Visit Committee that coordinated Pope John Paul II’s visit to Philadelphia and was responsible for the logistical planning and organizing of the parade from Philadelphia Airport which was attended by over 500,000 people. He was also the deputy executive director of the 41st International Eucharistic Congress that attracted over one million visitors to Philadelphia in 1976.

Prior to his work at the University, Dr. Palestini had a distinguished career with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, where he served as the first lay superintendent of schools. At Cardinal O’Hara High School in Springfield, Pa., he was a teacher, basketball coach, and vice principal.

Upon his arrival at the University in 1990, Dr. Palestini was the director of program development in education and an associate professor of education.

“His warm and gracious presence and years of experience will be missed in administrative circles,” Dr. Wachterhauser added.

A 1963 (B.S.) and 1968 (M.A.) graduate of SJU, Dr. Palestini hopes to serve his beloved alma mater in this new capacity for many years to come. A search will be conducted during the 2007-2008 academic year for a new dean. A plan that will include an interim strategy for graduate arts and sciences will be developed in the coming months.

— Ryan O’Connell

Institute Celebrates 30 Years of Living Out University’s Mission

Saint Joseph’s celebrates the 30th anniversary of one of its most significant institutes this semester. Established in 1977 by Ed Brady, S.J., the Faith-Justice Institute promotes social analysis and critical thought around faith and justice issues. Rooted in the Jesuit spirit of the service of faith and the promotion of justice, the Institute offers opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to participate in education for social change.

“The Faith-Justice Institute has a rich history of developing engaged students who become actively involved in promoting social justice and civic responsibility,” said Frank Bernt, Ph.D., (continued on page 2)

Theologist to Present Lecture in Dean’s Colloquia Series

Bruce Wells, Ph.D., assistant professor of theology, will present the next College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Colloquium, “What Do the Gods Know? Courtroom Evidence in Ancient Israel and Mesopotamia,” in the Presidents’ Lounge of Campion Student Center this Thursday at 3 p.m.
director of the Institute and associate professor of health services. “Drawing from the central tenets of Jesuit pedagogy, the Institute focuses on cura personalis, the education of the entire person.” Fr. Brady recently addressed a letter to the “Brady Bunch,” a group of charter members of the Institute who were actively involved in its creation and early years. This group had gathered for the first of several reunions being held throughout the spring semester to celebrate the anniversary. In the letter, Fr. Brady reminded his friends that the spirit of the Faith-Justice Institute could be found in the words of Pedro Arrupe, S.J., former superior general of the Society of Jesus. The words summarized two addresses given at the Eucharistic Congress held in Philadelphia in 1976—words which remain at the heart of the Institute’s existence: “If there is hunger anywhere on the planet, the Eucharist is incomplete everywhere on the planet.”

To commemorate the anniversary a number of academic events focusing on justice in Philadelphia are being held, and a series of student-alumni reunions have been arranged to provide an opportunity for both alumni from Faith-Justice programs and current students to gather for celebration and reflection.

The final celebration will take place on Saturday, April 14, at 5 p.m., with a liturgy in the Chapel of St. Joseph-Michael J. Smith, S.J., Memorial, followed by a reception from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the Wollington Teletorium of Mandeville Hall. In between mass and the reception a poster session will be held, at which students, staff, and faculty will present the many different programs formerly and currently sponsored by the Institute. “It has been inspiring and reassuring to look back over the past 30 years of the Institute,” Dr. Bernt added. “With the generous and ongoing support of SJU Faculty and administration, we are pleased and proud to see how the Institute has grown and deepened in three decades, staying true to Fr. Brady’s vision while reading the signs of the times.”

—Lauren Taniguchi ’07

Graduate Students Win First-Ever Business Ethics Paper Competition

The Pedro Arrupe Center for Business Ethics sponsored its first business ethics paper competition last semester. Seven graduate students from the Erivan K. Haub School of Business won awards for their first- and second-place entries in the contest. Jessica Daniels, Claudia Gonzalez, Julie McNeila, Matt Pettit, and Chris Veneziani secured first place for their paper, “Pharmacist: Friend or Foe.” Debra Kennoy and Rose Maruca earned second place with their essay, “Pfizer’s Nigerian Experiments: Ethics in International Health Research.”

“The student paper competition is part of the Arrupe Center’s ongoing initiative to bring greater attention to the issues of ethics in business,” said John McCall, Ph.D., director of the Center. “We thought that opening a prize competition for student papers would encourage some students to pursue careful ethical reflection and provide the University with exemplars of student work.”

The participants were able to work individually or in groups and were encouraged to expand upon past assignments by incorporating new ethical perspectives. The central purpose of the competition was to raise students’ awareness of social and ethical responsibilities within current or past business cases or decisions. The call for papers also required the students to consider alternative courses of action for existing ethical conflicts.

Julie McNeila, graduate marketing student and one of the five first-place winners, explained, “Our essay addresses whether pharmacists are professionally obligated to fill prescriptions to which they are morally, religiously, and/or philosophically averse. This topic generated a lot of controversy in our classroom. Getting in front of our classmates, several of whom vehemently opposed our position, and defending our case with reasonable logic and poise was one of the biggest accomplishments for our team.”

The contest’s deadline was last December, and the first- and second-place students were notified in early February. All of the winners will be recognized in a ceremony during the Arrupe Center Achievement Day on Wednesday, April 25.

The Arrupe Center plans to hold another ethics paper competition this semester and is also sponsoring the Lockheed Martin Scholarship program, in which $5,000 scholarships will be awarded to one or two students for the 2007-08 academic year. For more information, visit http://www.sju.edu/arrupe or contact Lisa Nelson at 610-660-1142.

—Sarah Whelehon

A rally held Friday, March 2, sent off nearly 400 students for a week of service in Appalachia over the spring break.

Hundreds of Undergrads Rebuild Broken Lives with Habitat for Humanity

The phrase “spring break” will often conjure images of white sand and blue oceans, but nearly 400 students at Saint Joseph’s University passed on a week of parties and relaxation to participate in the Appalachian Experience, the University’s largest single community service program.

Students and group leaders gathered at the Chapel of St. Joseph-Michael J. Smith, S.J., Memorial, on Friday, March 2, for reflection and a send-off rally.

Formerly known as Project Appalachia, the program takes students to towns in the Appalachian regions of Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia, where they collaborate with Habitat for Humanity to repair, renovate, and rebuild flood-damaged homes and to raise new houses in the area. The Appalachian Experience has long been one of the University’s most popular community service programs, but this year’s participation nearly doubled expectations.

“It’s hard to believe that so much pain and so much waste could exist in such a naturally beautiful area,” said Emily Bates, a senior sociology major who is serving as a group leader. “The experience allows you to see and hear God in different ways. Once you return to campus, it’s easy to get caught up in the daily routine, but you still feel how you’ve grown spiritually.”

—Jeffrey Martin, ’04, ’05 (M.A.)
Concha Alborg, Ph.D., professor of foreign languages and literatures, was the moderator of a lecture by Josefina Aldecoa at the Madrid campus of Saint Louis University. Dr. Alborg is teaching in Madrid on an exchange with Dr. Alicia Ramos, who is visiting SJU. Josefina Aldecoa is a contemporary Spanish author who started writing during the post-Franco years and is still publishing. Dr. Alborg has written extensively on Aldecoa.

Lisa A. Baglione, Ph.D., associate professor of political science and director of the international relations program, gave a talk to the Department of Political Science at the University of Connecticut, Storrs entitled “Teaching Research-Paper Writing to Political Science Majors (or One Approach to Saving Your Sanity and Your Standards).”

Milicia Bookman, Ph.D., professor of economics, was quoted in the Miami Herald regarding medical tourism. “Medical tourism has the possibility of being the great health care equalizer in this country,” she said. “You’ve got highly trained, Western-trained physicians using state-of-the-art technology. What more do you want?” The article was syndicated by The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Nancy Childs, Ph.D., professor of food marketing, was quoted in the Philadelphia Inquirer about the growing interest in area wineries. She said, “It’s a very committed group that’s pursuing the vineyards in Chester County... When you talk about the wine trail, it’s about much more than the bottle.”

Amina Gautier, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, recently published a book review on progressive era African American actor Canada Lee in African American Review.

Robert Higgins, executive director of the Center for Food Marketing, was quoted in a Portland Press Herald story on the opening of a Whole Foods Market. He said that the competing natural markets “raise[s] the consciousness of consumers relative to whole, natural and organic foods and their place in the wellness and healthy-eating environment. I see [the competing stores] as being very complementary.”

Allen Kerkeslager, Ph.D., assistant professor of theology, discussed the viability that a tomb found in Jerusalem would contain the bones of Jesus and members of the Holy Family in a news story on 6ABC Action News.

David Lees, Ed.D., director of instructional technology and distributed learning, led a half-day pre-conference workshop at the Pennsylvania Education Technology Expo and Conference (PETE&C). The title of the workshop was “Transforming PowerPoint: Creating an Interactive Learning Environment.” Workshop participants were introduced to Visual Basic Applications (VBA) scripting and explored how VBA can turn PowerPoint into an interactive medium.

Richard Malloy, S.J., assistant professor of sociology, presented “Prayer is a Risk,” as part of Old Saint Joseph’s Church Bread and Soup lecture series. He also addressed the staff of Urban Promise in Camden, speaking on the challenges and consolations of cross-cultural ministry in Camden. Urban Promise is the organization highlighted in Diane Sawyer’s recent 2020 report on conditions in our sister city to the East. In addition, he was interviewed on the reported tomb of Jesus found in Jerusalem on NBC 10 and CBS 3.

Ruben A. Mendoza, Ph.D., assistant professor of decision & system sciences, had a paper published in the proceedings of the Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS), in Waikolaa, Hawaii. The paper was co-authored with T. Ravichandran of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and was nominated for the Best Paper Award for the Internet & The Digital Economy track.

Randall M. Miller, Ph.D., professor of history, presented “Seeing Slavery: Objects, Art, and Music by Slaves,” at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, as part of the “Lunchtime Lectures” series at the Academy. Speaking in an Associated Press story on the strength of the Democratic Party in Philadelphia over the past five decades, Dr. Miller said, “In some respects the Philadelphia Republican party has become more an abstraction than a reality.” The story was syndicated to several papers in the region, including the Centre Daily Times (State College, Pa.) and The Times Leader (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.).


Michael Solomon, Ph.D., visiting professor of marketing, won the National Textile Center’s director’s award for his project, “Masculine Style(s): Shifting Identities and Opportunities for the Apparel/Textile Industry.” Other universities included in the project are the University of Delaware, UC-Davis, Cornell, and Berry College.

Richard Warren, Ph.D., associate professor of history and director of Latin American studies, was an invited participant in a roundtable discussion on “Nation and State Formation Literature in Latin America and the Caribbean: Subaltern Actors and Master Narratives,” co-sponsored by the American Historical Association and the Conference on Latin American History. The event was part of the 121st Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, held last month in Atlanta, Ga.

Former members of the Negro League Philadelphia Stars Stanley “Doc” Glenn (pictured, right) and Mahlon Duckett (left) spoke on the topic “African-Americans in Baseball: 1860-2007 and Beyond” on February 28 in the Wolfington Teletorium. Clare Smith of the Philadelphia Inquirer, the first African-American female baseball writer, and Rob Holiday, Philadelphia Phillies assistant director of scouting, were also on hand to share their experiences.
Calendar March 12–19, 2007

13 Tuesday
- Internship Search Workshop, Overbrook Hall, 11:30 a.m.
- Distance Learning Meet and Greet, Sunroom 1, Campion Student Center, 11:30 a.m.

14 Wednesday
- Mid-term grades due.
- Choosing or Changing your Major Workshop, Overbrook Hall, noon.
- McGroddy Frontiers in Science presents Dr. Yale E. Goldman, “Manipulating and Interrogating Individual Molecular Motors, Nature’s Soft, Smart Nano-Machines,” Room 200, Science Center, 4 p.m.
- Screening of The Mission, Forum Theatre, Campion Student Center, 9 p.m.

15 Thursday
- Choosing or Changing your Major Workshop, Lounge, Sourin Residence Center, 11:30 a.m.
- CA&S Dean’s Colloquium presents Bruce Wells, Ph.D., “What Do the Gods Know? Courtroom Evidence in Ancient Israel and Mesopotamia,” Presidents’ Lounge, Campion Student Center, 3 p.m.
- Faith-Justice Minors and Certificate Holders Reunion, Carriage House, 6 p.m.
- S.T.O.P. hosts “Mocktail: A Celebration Of Finding Yourself In Others,” Hawk Rock, Campion Student Center, 9-11 p.m.
- Screening of Black Robe, Forum Theatre, Campion Student Center, 7:30 p.m.
- Chirsey Concerts and ELS Language Centers present a concert by Alexi Tartakovski, Chapel of St. Joseph-Michael J. Smith, S.J., Memorial, 7:30 p.m., free admission.

16 Friday
- American Marketing Association hosts volleyball tournament to benefit Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Alumni Memorial Fieldhouse, 8 p.m.

17 Saturday
- Otaku Festival featuring Japanese movies, Presidents’ Lounge, Campion Student Center, noon

19 Monday
- The Departments of Marketing and Athletics sponsor a visit by Vince Papale, Wolfington Teletorium, Mandeville Hall, noon.
- SJU Learns presents “Native American Rites of Passage,” featuring MacLean Chair Raymond Bucko, S.J., Chapel of St. Joseph-Michael J. Smith, S.J., Memorial, 4 p.m.
- Making the Most of the Career Fair, Overbrook Hall, 4 p.m.
- Caribbean Student Association presents, “The Perfect Woman,” Forum Theatre, Campion Student Center, 6 p.m.

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Editor: Kelly Welsh ’05 (M.A.), Associate Director of University Communications

Welcome to SJU

The following employees joined the University community in the month of February:

Kevin Kane Office of Facilities Management
Michael Brown Office of Security & Public Safety
Megan Foley Institute for Violence Research
Robert Spencer Office of Security & Public Safety
Widnir Francois Transportation Drivers
Teressa Price Psychology
Jillian Jlaidi Office of Human Resources
Rahsaan Boatright Office of Security & Public Safety
Terry Turner Office of Security & Public Safety
Joseph Buckalew Office of Security & Public Safety
Aleen Bobal Office of Security & Public Safety
Leo Alfonso Transportation Drivers
Eric Fisher Transportation Drivers
Timothy Boyce Early Responders Distance Learning Center
Sr. Linda Nadzan Office of Campus Ministry

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Editor: Kelly Welsh ’05 (M.A.), Associate Director of University Communications

Promotions

The following employees were promoted in the month of February:

Chris Coleman Office of Security & Public Safety
Nicole Ferretti Office of Financial Affairs

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