Philadelphia Service Immersion Program Exposes Students to SJU Ideals, Urban Exploration

By Dan Wisniewski '08

Forty-eight incoming freshmen waved goodbye to their families and moved to campus early to participate in the Philadelphia Service Immersion Program (PSIP), a five-day learning and experiential program, which ran from Aug. 27-31.

PSIP is an optional pre-orientation program that introduces students to the city of Philadelphia, from the zoo to the soup kitchens to the Ben Franklin Bridge, accompanied by their 10 student leaders and assorted faculty members. Incoming freshmen were exposed to the service, cultural and intellectual components of Saint Joseph’s University through urban exploration, community service and scholarly discovery.

“PSIP introduces students to our Jesuit mission in an intense way,” said Nancy Fox, Ph.D., associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and one of the program’s founders. “It immediately creates a community of students, which for an incoming freshman is an excellent introduction not only to college life, but to the principles that are the essence of Saint Joseph’s University.”

The program saw an immense leap in popularity between its first and second years, said Fox, thanks mainly to word-of-mouth about the first year’s program. Applications nearly tripled from 2007 to 2008, with 170 students applying to take part in the program, up from 60 in 2007, its inaugural year. Student selection is random; incoming freshmen simply state that they wish to participate in the program. Financial aid is available for the $125 participation fee, and no student is turned away for lack of finances. Students participated in three days of service activities at a number of different locations, including Inglis House, where they visited people with physical disabilities, and Saint Columba’s Project H.O.M.E., where they served lunch to “hard-to-reach” homeless men and talked with them one-on-one.

Students were also immersed in the culture of Philadelphia, accompanied by a number of participating Saint Joseph’s faculty. The program included trips to the birthplace of the Hawks at Old St. Joseph’s and the Gesu, with Phil Florio, S.J., special assistant to the vice president for student life, and Dan Joyce, S.J., assistant to the vice president for mission, a trip exploring the African-American culture and history in Philadelphia, with Susan Clampet-Lundquist, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology, and a Mural Arts Program Walking Tour in Center City, hosted personally by Elaine Shenk, Ph.D., assistant professor of Spanish.

Liz Morgan ’09, one of the PSIP coordinators along with Kara Ann Sullivan ’11, stressed the importance and educational benefits of the immersion activities. “While half of PSIP consists of service activities, the other half consists of immersion activity,” said Morgan. “When these students go to their Philadelphia destinations and do things around the city, they’re learning about another culture, they’re learning something different, which I think is what the Jesuit spirit embodies.”

For Fox, the program is the perfect introduction to the Saint Joseph’s experience. “PSIP has an additional meaning; it can be interpreted as ‘pre-’ SIP: pre-Spirit|Intellect|Purpose; that is, a ‘preview’ of what it means to be at Saint Joseph’s University,” she said.

As many as 11 classrooms on SJU’s new James J. Maguire ’58 campus will be used during the fall semester, all of them located in Cynwyd Hall (formerly the Science Center of what had been Episcopal Academy). The building is easily accessible from the Lower Merion side of the main campus behind McShain Hall. (See map at right, with walkways) In addition to the record size of the incoming Class of 2012—some 1,492 freshmen have enrolled—the University is also welcoming 80 transfer students. Classes start today. Some athletics facilities on the Maguire Campus will open after September 15.

Navigating SJU’s New Campus
The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded a $413,000 grant to Saint Joseph’s University to fund the purchase of a laser scanning confocal microscope and live cell observation chamber. The microscope will be used for faculty research and the research training of biology master’s students, and undergraduate students in biology and physics. “Saint Joseph’s has offered exceptionally good microscopy training for many years, and this equipment will build on that tradition,” said Chair and Professor of Biology Karen Snetselaar, Ph.D., who is principal investigator of the grant.

“It will also strengthen our focus on inter-disciplinary research and teaching efficiencies between the biology, chemistry, and physics departments, which is especially significant to Saint Joseph’s, given our current initiative to develop a biophysics emphasis,” she added.

Confocal microscopy increases the ability to visualize thick specimens by eliminating out-of-focus or blurry information that is a by-product of standard wide-field fluorescence microscopes, which flood the entire specimen in light. This “floodlight” illumination creates a large amount of visual “static” that can obscure important information. A confocal microscope uses a pinhole and precise point illumination laser (that removes the extraneous information, and then digitally scans the specimen to reveal a much sharper, higher-focused image of the molecular material. A computer then creates a 3-D image of the specimen.

“Essentially, the confocal technology will enable us to actually locate the ‘needle-in-the-haystack’ without disturbing the haystack, whereas our wide-field fluorescence microscopes require us to take apart the haystack in order to find the needle,” explained Snetselaar. “This is especially useful in studies that require us to look at living cells. The faculty members in biology and physics whose research will benefit from the NSF award are addressing a wide range of topics, including, among others, properties of glass-forming liquids – Piotr Habdas, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics and co-principal investigator; the role of cytoskeletal proteins in intracellular motility and cell shape – Christina King Smith, Ph.D., professor of biology and co-principal investigator; and the mechanism of plant-fungal interactions – Snetselaar.

According to William Madges, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the acquisition of the new microscope complements initiatives of the $1 million Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) grant awarded to SJU in April 2008, which provided funding for a tenure-track faculty position in biology.

“Our goal is to integrate biology and physics education, so that students with an interest in inter-disciplinary biological research will benefit from the deepening collaboration of the two departments,” said Madges. “We anticipate that the confocal microscope will attract high-quality applicants for the approved biophysics faculty position, which will provide the means to develop new courses with an emphasis in biophysics and biomechanics.”

Madges added that because Saint Joseph’s is committed to the faculty-student research model, the NSF grant will create more opportunities for students to do meaningful, collaborative research with faculty in this burgeoning scientific field.

Snetselaar also noted that the enhancement of imaging technology in the natural sciences supports the University’s mission. “As a Jesuit university, Saint Joseph’s seeks to instill an understanding of social justice issues that promotes constructive action on the part of our students,” she said. “Each year, talented research students bring hands-on science to underserved children through NSF GK-12 funded activities, like our GeoKids LINKS program. The confocal microscope will help us train our student-scientists in current techniques, and it will give them experience in how to share this knowledge with as wide and deserving – an audience as possible.”

NSF Grant Lends Greater Focus to Science at SJU

By Patricia Allen

Saint Joseph’s Again Ranked in Top 10 Best Colleges by ‘U.S. News’

The “America’s Best Colleges” 2009 edition of U.S. News & World Report has ranked Saint Joseph’s University among the top 10 master’s universities in the nation. The rankings, released on August 22, placed Saint Joseph’s at eighth in its category, Best Universities-Master’s (North). This ranking marks the sixth time in the past eight years that SJU has attained top 10 status in its U.S. News cohort. Highlights of the college rankings are published in the September 1 issue of the magazine, available on newsstands August 25. The 2009 America’s Best Colleges guidebook was available the following day.

After trying for eighth last year, Saint Joseph’s solidly laid claim to ranking eighth among the 173 institutions in its regional category.

“Saint Joseph’s continued strong performance in these rankings affirms the exceptional academic experience of a Saint Joseph’s education,” said University President Timothy R. Lannon, S.J. “Our place in the top 10 of the nation’s most competitive region has become an annual occurrence. It reflects the excellence of our teaching, research and service and a University community dedicated to student success.”

Paintings Celebrate the Human Condition at SJU Gallery

By Dan Winternitz / ‘08

Award-winning painter Brian Kreydatus opens the first exhibit of the academic year at Saint Joseph’s University Gallery. Entitled “Recent Work,” the exhibit runs from Sept. 3-30. A reception for the artist will be held Friday, Sept. 26 from 6-8 p.m.

Kreydatus portrays the human beings at their most real, seeking the polar opposite of heroic idealization found throughout art history, from the Greeks’ Apollo to modern day advertisements. “I am a recorder of the human figure, or more accurately, the human condition,” said Kreydatus. “I am obsessed with the skin’s moody physicality, its vulnerability, and how these pignanously beautiful imperfections challenge and refute accepted canons of beauty.”

Kreydatus deftly captures the human figure,” said Jeanne Bracy, associate gallery director. “He uses both warm and cool colors to capture the depth of his subject’s fleshiness, and his varied brush strokes help create the undulations of the human form. At the same time, his oil portraits are uncomfortably realistic. He places his subjects in seated positions where they should be at ease, but their perturbed facial expressions suggest their inner experience is otherwise.”

Citing Rembrandt, Courbet and the School of London Painters as his artistic lineage, Kreydatus works primarily on two bodies of prints and paintings: observational figures and portraits, and works that are narrative in content.

“In my purely observational works, I want to make the familiar unfamiliar through the intense scrutiny of looking. I want my narrative works to have the heightened intensity of a fever dream. Each approach strengthens and nourishes the other,” said Kreydatus. Kreydatus is an associate professor of drawing and printmaking at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., and has taught and lectured at Haverford College, Lehigh University, the Washington Studio School and the University of Pennsylvania. He has held artist residencies in Paris, Dublin and China, and has won numerous international and national juried exhibitions. Kreydatus received his M.F.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.

The Saint Joseph’s University Gallery is located in Boland Hall on Lapsley Lane, off of City Avenue between 54th Street and Cardinal Avenue in Lower Merion. Hours are Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 610-660-1840, or access http://www.sju.edu/gallery.
Joseph DiAngelo, Ed.D., ’70, Erivan K. Haub School of Business Dean, was interviewed by Marketplace about the job market for M.B.A. graduates in a sluggish economy. Mike Yuengling ’08 (M.B.A.) was also interviewed for the story.

Joseph J. Fenecy, S.J., professor of English, gave a lecture on July 24 to the Gerard Manley Hopkins International Summer School in Monasterboice, Co. Louth, Ireland. His topic was “Hopkins, Magical Metaphor-Maker.”

Jeffrey Hyson, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, was quoted in the Monterey County Herald about the absence of protest songs and lyrics from popular culture over recent decades.

George Dowdall, Ph.D., professor of sociology, spoke with KYW Newswradio 1060AM about a study by the Kaiser Family Foundation that says couples are getting hitched for health insurance because of its hefty price tag.

Katherine Sibley, Ph.D., chair and professor of history, spoke with KYW Newswradio 1060AM about the 1950’s Rosenberg spy case.

Michael Solomon, Ph.D., professor of marketing and director of the University’s Center for Consumer Research, warned that parents who “friend” their kids on Facebook.com without being invited to can send the teens a message that they don’t trust them. “It can backfire,” said Solomon in a number of outlets, including the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, the Arizona Republic, the Texarkana Gazette, the Daily Journal in Texas, and Canoe in California.

John Stanton, Ph.D., chair and professor of food marketing, was quoted in The Plain Dealer in Cleveland about the latest crop report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which showed an abundance of corn, soybeans and other crops. Stanton says that, unfortunately, researchers speculate that consumers won’t reap the benefits of the harvest with lower prices at the supermarket.


Jack Newhouse, Ph.D., chair and professor of health services, spoke with KYW Newswradio 1060AM about a study by the Kaiser Family Foundation that says couples are getting hitched for health insurance because of its hefty price tag.

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Why I chose Saint Joseph’s: Saint Joseph’s is the ideal place for me to incorporate the great traditions of Catholic life and culture into the social responsibility of marketers.

What’s surprised me about SJU: The enormous investment in education.

What I’m still getting used to: Traffic jams

Spare time activities/hobbies: I work out a lot.

Favorite/current leisure reading: Chinese fiction

Quotation that influences my life: “Where there is a will there is a way.”

What’s in my cd player/iPod: Garth Brooks (to name a few)

What I like about Philadelphia: Top media market

MEET SJU’S NEW FACULTY

Feng Shen, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Marketing

Degrees/credentials, where earned:
Ph.D. in Mass Communication, University of Florida

Courses taught:
Advertising Research, Media Planning

Last stop before SJU:
University of Florida

Lucy R. Ford, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Management

Degrees/credentials, where earned:
Ph.D. in Business, Virginia Commonwealth University

Courses taught:
Human Resources, Organizational Behavior, Organizations in Perspective, Leadership

Last stop before SJU:
Rutgers University - Camden

Why I chose Saint Joseph’s:
It’s a really good fit – in terms of the requirements of the job, the people I will be working with, and the students I will be teaching.

What’s surprised me about SJU:
How incredibly helpful everyone has been.

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**Calendar**

**September 3 - 15, 2008**

**3 Wednesday**
- First day of classes, all traditional offerings
- "Recent Work" – Brian Kreydatus Art Exhibit, University Gallery, Ryan Hall

**5 Friday**
- Welcome Party for International Students, North Lounge, Campus Student Center, 5-7 p.m.

**6 Saturday**
- Philadelphia Alumni Chapter Red Bull Soap Box Race, The Wall, Manayunk, 1 p.m.
- First day of weekend classes

**7 Sunday**
- Shield of Loyola Presentation to Andrew von Eschenbach, Park Hyatt Hotel at the Bellevue

**10 Wednesday**
- Senior BBQ, Gest Lawn, 5-7 p.m.

**12 Friday**
- Add/Drop Deadline
- Deadline to register for Flag Football League, Racquetball Challenge Tournament, Alumni Memorial Fieldhouse

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**SJU to Offer The ‘Spiritual Exercises’**

The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola will be offered on campus this semester in two formats to those who feel called to this special experience: The 19th Annotated version of the Spiritual Exercises (a 24-week experience) and the 18th Annotated version of the Spiritual Exercises called “In Good Company,” a retreat in daily life in a five-week experience.

Both formats will begin with a special dinner for participants on Tuesday, September 16, at 4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Helen Stewart (610-660-3123, hstewart@sju.edu) or Dan Joyce S.J. (610-660-3291, dbarcy@sju.edu).

In addition, two brief information sessions will be offered on Monday, September 8, at Woffington Hall explaining the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola. Session one will take place at 11:15 a.m. and session two at 12:45 p.m.

**Russian Musicians Perform Concert**

Crissey Concerts in conjunction with the Russian Americans United Arts Council, SJU’s English Language Centers, and Composer Services, Inc. present “Russian Potpourri,” a concert of classical music performed by Russian immigrant musicians and their spouses. The concert will take place on Friday, September 12, at 7:30 p.m., in the Chapel of St. Joseph-Michael J. Smith, S.J., Memorial. The concert is free. No tickets are required.

**SJU Welcomes New Faculty, Names New Department Chairs**

The following tenure track faculty members have joined the University:

**College of Arts & Sciences**
- Jose Cerda, Ph.D., Chemistry
- Philip Cunningham, Ph.D., Philosophy
- Kazuya Fukuoka, Ph.D., Political Science
- Peter Graham, Ph.D., Chemistry
- Emily Hage, Ph.D., Fine/Performing Arts
- Nina Nilsson, Ph.D., Education
- Paul Patterson, Ph.D., English
- Meredith Rossner, Sociology
- Kristopher Tapp, Ph.D., Math/Computer Science

**Haub School of Business**
- Hwan Chung, Ph.D., Food Marketing
- Lucy Ford, Marketing
- Feng Shen, Ph.D., Management
- Timothy Swift, Ph.D., Management
- John Yi, Ph.D., Decision and System Sciences
- Ferdinand Wirth, Ph.D., Food Marketing

The following new department chairs and directors have been appointed:
- Air Force ROTC: Lt. Colonel Joan Fournier, director
- Biology: Karen Sneselast, Ph.D., chair
- Environmental Science: Jean Smolen, Ph.D., director
- Fine/Performing Arts: Renee Dobson, interim chair
- Food Marketing: John Stanton, Ph.D., chair
- Gender Studies: Catherine Murray, Ph.D., director
- Graduate Biology: James Warrous, Ph.D., director
- Graduate Writing Studies: Anna Green, Ph.D., director
- Honors: Maria Marsallo, Ph.D., director
- International Relations: Wes Widmayer, Ph.D., interim director
- Political Science: Lisa Baglione, Ph.D., chair
- Sociology: Raquel Bergen, Ph.D., chair

**In Memory**

Maria Moreno, mother-in-law of Daniel Walsh of University Press, passed away. Funeral services were held August 16 at St. Timothy’s Church in Philadelphia.

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**Class of 2012 Arrives on Campus**

David McKissimming, with help from his father, was one of the nearly 1,500 freshmen to move in to their new homes on campus. The Class of 2012 is the largest in school history.