

Institute for Administrators in Catholic Higher Education

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Letter from the Editors

Dear Alumni, Faculty, Advisors, and Friends of the Institute,

Our 7th annual Institute will take place July 16-20, 2007. Again, we have admitted a highly talented and committed group of academic leaders. We had more applicants than spaces, so some names are already on top of the list for 2008.

We had a fine response from last year's newsletter so we hope this will have the same effect—sharing ideas about programs or projects that have been prompted by your Institute experience. Thanks to those of you who submitted information.

Prayers go with you as well as the

invitation to stay in touch---with us and with each other. And let us know how we can be of assistance to you and your work in Catholic higher education.

Blessings,

Michael James & Tracy Schier



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Addressing Catholic and Lasallian Identity: Saint Mary's University

From: Bob Smith, Vice President for Mission

During the 2006-07 academic year we developed three things that address the Catholic and Lasallian nature and mission of Saint Mary's, parts of which are the result of conversations during my participation in the Institute.

1. As Vice President for Mission, I am part of the interview process of all professional positions on the campus;
2. the university's Lasallian Core Traditions program (Gen.Ed/ Core Curriculum) is built around four courses (one per year), each of which has a dis-

tinctive and explicit Catholic and Lasallian focus and goals;

3. in October our Theology Department organized and presented a four week luncheon series on what it means to be part of a Catholic university community, the role of a theologian, and the place of theology in a university curriculum.

50-plus people will gather for lectures, reading, discussion, etc. around the theme of Catholic and Lasallian higher education in the 21st century.

Bob also tells us the following: I (as VP for Mission) along with John Wilcox (VP for Mission at Manhattan College and also an Institute alumnus) are co-directing a two week program in and for folks in Catholic and Lasallian higher education around the world. We have about 60 such institutions on four continents. This June, at the Generate in Rome, 50-plus people will gather for lectures, reading, discussion, etc. around the theme of Catholic and Lasallian higher education in the 21st century. We plan to do this for at least the next three summers, inviting each institution to send 1-3 representatives.

Integrating Mission at Niagara University

From: Tom Sheeran, Professor of Education

Following the involvement of Dr. Bonnie Rose, our Executive Vice President, and me at the 2004 Institute, the position of Executive Director for Mission and Ministry was established. That position was filled by Sr. Nora Gatto, D.C., who then attended the Institute in 2005. This summer Dr. Marilyn Fleckenstein, Associate VP for Academic Affairs, will attend the Institute.

The new Executive Director for Mission and Ministry sits on the administrative council and works with the Board of Trustees. In 2004, a sub-committee on Mission of the Board of Trustees was formed to more closely focus efforts on the integration of mission and board activities.

Niagara has had a required freshman seminar that addressed our mission; up to now the efforts were uneven at best. In the summer of 2005, a unit plan with associated

lesson plans and related activities were developed and distributed. Seminar instructors attended a workshop that reviewed ways that various lessons could be integrated into their classes. In addition, a new video, designed to engage first year students, was produced and distributed with associated materials to seminar instructors.

All new staff are given a two hour orientation to the mission and history of Niagara and to our focus on "customer service."

Last year, Niagara initiated the second of a three phase plan to engage the campus more widely in awareness of our mission and history. Part of the effort is coordinated with our 150th anniversary celebration. All new staff are given a two hour orientation to the mission and history of Niagara and to our focus on "customer service." This two hour program is followed by lunch with the President.

Last spring we initiated a program entitled the Vincentian Inspiration Program (VIP) that identifies the quinquennial members of the faculty, administration and staff for a two-hour workshop on mission and history, followed by lunch with the President. This workshop's purpose is to review, remind, and request their continued involvement with advancing the mission. And this year we extended the workshops by engaging new faculty in a more intensive examination of mission.

An ongoing event, the Vincentian Convocation, continues to be a highlight of the year. The event focuses campus attention on individuals who both live and promote the mission of St. Vincent DePaul.

Finally, plans were initiated in fall 2004 to bring the three U.S. Vincentian universities (Niagara, St. John's and DePaul) together for an Institute on Mission. This initiative, called the Vincentian Higher Education Mission Institute, will begin programming in fall 2007.

Access, Excellence, and Catholic Identity: University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

From: Gene Scapanski, Vice President for Mission

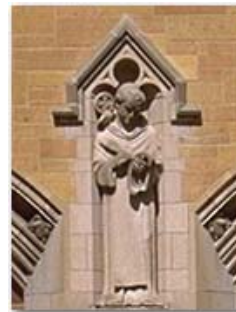
We are engaged in implementing a newly revised mission statement which states that, as a Catholic university, St. Thomas "educates students to be morally responsible leaders who think critically, act wisely, and work skillfully to ad-

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vance the common good." One of the key ways the mission is being implanted is through a new round of strategic planning that has three emphases: ACCESS, EXCELLENCE, and CATHOLIC IDENTITY.

There are a number of initiatives that have emerged as a result of this planning. One of them, responding to "Catholic identity," is from our School of Social Work which is a joint program with the College of St. Catherine.

In response to the mission and Catholic nature of the University, the School of Social Work has completed a comprehensive study fo-



cused on Catholic social teaching principles and the Social Work Code of Ethics. This research revealed a substantial common ground between the church's social teaching and social work's professional commitment.

The examination of Catholic Social Teaching and social work ethics has led to the development of Social Work for Social Justice: Ten Principles. The School is currently engaged in the process of integrating these principles into undergraduate and graduate curriculum, faculty development, and outcomes assessment.

Alvernia College Strengthens Franciscan Identity

From: Sr. Rosemary Stets, Assistant to President for Mission and Ministry

Alvernia has been an active participant in the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (AFCU) as the U.S. institutions collaborate and strengthen their commitment to the heritage and intellectual tradition of Franciscan higher education. Some activities include:

The AFCU-sponsored Assisi Pilgrimage has been introduced as a 3-credit course in Theology. Students also participate in the Spring

Semester in Italy, coordinated through St. Bonaventure University.

Alvernia faculty have organized a series of Franciscan Heritage Dinners in an effort to build a sustained engagement with the Franciscan intellectual tradition, and to



reflect on the college's mission and heritage.

In June of 2008, Alvernia will host the next AFCU Symposium, "Franciscan Academies: Deepening our Conversation" for member institutions, sponsors and trustees.

In completing Alvernia's Long Range Strategic Plan this year, the president and planning council highlighted Franciscan identity and mission as the first priority in the document, and indicated that Franciscan identity and collaboration with the sponsoring congregation will be overarching principles for the plan.

UD School of Law: Emphasizing Ethics and Service

From: Lisa Kloppenberg, Dean of the University of Dayton School of Law

Our emphasis on ethics and service is important for our students and legal education.

We started encouraging incoming law students to sign a pro bono pledge that states they will complete 50 hours of pro bono or community service before graduation. UD students will add to their list of community service work in April when a group will perform pro bono work in areas damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

The University of Dayton School of Law debuted its "Lawyer as Problem Solver" program that gives students a foundation in serving clients as well as understanding the law. The program, which allows students the option to complete their degree in two calendar years, emphasizes real-world learning and service in UD's Catholic, Marianist tradition.

The International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution gave the program an award for excellence last year.

The Myser Initiative at The College of St. Catherine

From: Tammy McGee, Vice President, Finance and Business

Responding to one of the president's highest priorities, donors established a substantial endowment to foster the Catholic identity of the College of St. Catherine, the nation's largest college for women. The Myser Initiative fosters deepened understanding and active engagement with the College's Catholic identity, especially among faculty, enabling them to integrate into the curriculum the Church's intellectual tradition and social teaching. This infusion/integration approach appears more likely to knit itself deeply into the fabric of our institution than an approach relying on disparate courses or an added department.

A primary example of this approach has been the work of the joint Social

Work program at St. Catherine's and the University of St. Thomas. Faculty identified ten principles common to Catholic Social Teaching and the Code of Social Work Ethics and they are intentionally integrating these principles throughout the social work curriculum. This integration model, involving curriculum, faculty and student development, has been unfolding over several years and other departments are now adapting it to their own disciplines.

The Myser Initiative will support a weeklong summer workshop to engage faculty from several disciplines in revising courses to include explicit focus on various aspects of the College's Catholic identity. This integration approach will also be shared with social work faculties from Catholic colleges and universities at a June 3-6 national conference, "Social Work for Social Justice." The Myser Initiative also sponsors brown bag luncheons, intensified faculty orientation sessions, and public lectures such as the upcoming one by noted Boston College moral theologian Lisa Sowle Cahill on "Theology, Bioethics, and the Common Good."

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Centering on Ethics and Leadership at Alvernia

From: Jerry Vigna, Dean, Arts and Sciences

I end my post as Dean of Arts and Sciences and become founding director of Alvernia's Center for Ethics and Leadership on July 1.

The Center builds on Alvernia's tradition of developing students' intellectual promise, their ethical and moral perspective, while emphasizing each individual's leadership potential.

The Center is an interdisciplinary initiative for dialogue on ethics and leadership among members of the Alvernia community, the local and regional com-

munities, and colleagues throughout the academy and is designed to do the following:

- advance Alvernia's Franciscan identity
- establish Alvernia as a recognized leader in ethics and leadership education
- expand educational opportunities for students and faculty, especially for collaborative scholarship and service
- leverage community resources and provide valuable programs and activities.

The Center will also emphasize Catholic Social Teaching, especially the ideas of social justice and service, as distinctively Catholic Franciscan elements of the intersection of ethics and leadership; it will maintain an interdisciplinary focus and broad scope of issues addressed; and it will engage other Christian and non-Christian traditions in dialogue about leadership and ethics.

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Cummins Institute for Catholic Thought, Culture & Action: Saint Mary's College of California

From: David Gentry-Akin, Dean, Graduate Liberal Studies

Initiatives to foster and promote the renewed vitality of Catholic mission and identity at St. Mary's College of California are coordinated through the Cummins Institute for Catholic Thought, Culture, and Action, a cross-functional group started in 2003.

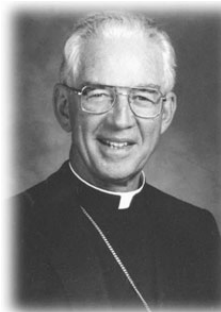
The Institute is named for the Bishop Emeritus of Oakland, John S. Cummins. It is composed of a "governing board" of members representing administrators, faculty, staff, and students drawn from both the academic and student life sides of the college. Graduate and undergraduate programs are represented.

The Institute sponsors an annual summer program called The Cummins Lectures on the Catholic Intel-

lectual Tradition.

This summer, the lectures are being given by Rosemary Haughton, founder of Wellspring House in Gloucester, Massachusetts, and internationally known theologian, author, and lecturer.

In summer 2005 we were blessed to have Monika Hellwig, former president of ACCU, just before her death in September of that year. In summer 2006, Fa-



Bishop John S. Cummins

ther Michael Himes of Boston College gave the lectures and in summer 2008 we look forward to hosting Father Jim Heft, SM, of University of Dayton and Southern California University

The Institute is involved in numerous activities throughout the academic

year that seek to heighten consciousness about the role that the Catholic tradition should play in the life of the College. It sponsors occasional lectures and promotes such activities as the upcoming "De La Salle Week" that will focus on the tradition of Christian Education developed by John Baptist De La Salle and the Christian Brothers over their three hundred plus years of service to the church.

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