

De La Salle TODAY

A MAGAZINE FOR THE LASALLIAN FAMILY IN THE LASALLIAN REGION OF NORTH AMERICA

SPRING 2015

THE EVOLVING ROLE OF
LASALLIAN RESEARCH



De La Salle TODAY

Dear Reader,

Research has a way of uncovering our roots and shining light on our future. In the Lasallian context, investigating the past and documenting the present connect us with our founding story. Doing so inspires us to move the mission forward in ways the first Brothers could not have imagined, but in ways that are consistent with heart of the mission – to provide a human and Christian education to young people, especially the poor.

In this issue, we start by examining how Lasallian research began and how it has blossomed into what it has become today – an effort that not only studies Lasallian history, but also shines a light on the future with discoveries in health, science and more. This issue also shares history and current realities on research resources, including *AXIS: Journal of Lasallian Higher Education*, *Digital Journal of Lasallian Research*, and Archives throughout the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN).

This issue promotes a call from the International Association of Lasallian Universities (IALU) for Lasallian colleges and universities to collaborate and conduct research. Additionally, we highlight emerging research happening in higher education in RELAN.

We also look at a few research projects that reveal how the Lasallian mission transforms lives. One studies the impact youth and family service agencies have on youth and their families, while another explores how serving as a Lasallian Volunteer shapes the lives of those young people who dedicate their time to the mission.

We hope you find this issue of *De La Salle Today* to be eye-opening and inspiring as you learn what is happening in our Region and throughout the Lasallian world to advance research efforts, while leaning on our rich Lasallian history.

Enjoy!



ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

Editor

Cover photo: The SIEL 2012-2013 group in front of St. Peter's Basilica after attending a papal audience.
Courtesy SIEL 2012-2013

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NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS

NOVIATE TO BEGIN IN AUGUST 2015

Preparations are underway for the next novitiate class in the Lasallian Region of North America, which will begin on August 1, 2015, and end on July 16, 2016. The novices who will participate are: from the Midwest District, Brothers Ryan Anderson, Johnathon Emanuelson and Michael Phipps; and from the District of San Francisco New Orleans, Brothers Javier Hansen and Joseph Wright. The novitiate follows a multi-year experience of community living and apostolic work. So as to enter progressively into the fundamental spiritual outlook of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, the novices bring their experience into a year of study, prayer and reflection. The novitiate experience precedes the first profession of vows as a Christian Brother.

The novitiate is located at 5225 South Greenwood Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, after its move from Mont La Salle in Napa, California. The novitiate community is in the Hyde Park neighborhood, which is home to the University of Chicago and a mile from the Catholic Theological Union. The novitiate also has a new director and sub-director. Brother Thomas Johnson, FSC, was appointed as the new director effective November 30, 2014, and Brother Thomas Westberg, FSC, was appointed to a one-year term as sub-director effective July 1, 2015.

TWINNING PROGRAM CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

The twinning program between the Lasallian Region of North America and the Lwanga District of Africa celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2015. The program was established in 1995 in response to a call from the Institute for Districts capable of providing funds to partner with Districts in need. The twinning program pairs schools in the United States and Toronto with 13 ministries in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Nigeria. Schools in the United States and Toronto are twinned with ministries in the Lwanga District, not only to support them financially, but also to build relationships as brothers and sisters in the Lasallian family.

Increased excitement has surrounded twinning in recent months. In October 2014, Lwanga District Visitor Brother Ghebreyesus Habte, FSC, visited a number of ministries in the United States. During the 2015 Lenten season, Christian Brothers Conference provided new resources to help schools in our Region learn more about ministries in Lwanga and encourage them to connect. In the summer of 2016, the District of Eastern North America will host its second delegation to Kenya called Come and See, which is a follow up to the District's 2014 Twinning Summit. To learn more, contact Maryann Donohue-Lynch by email at donohuelynch@fscdena.org.

Brother Ghebreyesus Habte, FSC, center, stands with students at Calvert Hall College High School in Baltimore, Maryland, which was one of the stops during his visit.



NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED

CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP AT LASALLIAN UNIVERSITIES

La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, made history by appointing its first layperson and female president to serve in a non-interim capacity. Selected to serve as the university's 29th president, Dr. Colleen M. Hanycz is the current principal (the Canadian equivalent of president) of Brescia University College in London, Ontario, a position she has held since 2008. Her appointment is effective July 10, 2015. Hanycz will formally succeed Brother Michael McGinniss, FSC, who completed 15 years as president on May 31, 2014. Dr. James P. Gallagher has been serving as interim president since June 2014.

After nearly 30 years of leadership, Brother James Gaffney, FSC, president of Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois, will retire June 30, 2016. Brother James has led the university during a period of significant growth. Enrollment has increased to nearly 6,800 students, and Lewis has received regional and national recognition for its academic quality. During his tenure, academic offerings have expanded to include more than 80 undergraduate programs, 30 graduate degrees, and doctoral programs in education and nursing. The campus has been transformed through an investment of approximately \$250 million in numerous construction and renovation projects.



WAKE UP THE WORLD!

— 2015 Year of Consecrated Life —

YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE INCLUDES PILGRIMAGE

The Year of Consecrated Life (November 2014 – February 2016), which coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, invites everyone to focus on religious life, also known as vowed life or consecrated life. In addition to giving thanks for those 1.2 million religious worldwide, the year is meant to be a time of renewal for religious, as well as an invitation to young Catholics to consider a religious vocation.

As part of this year, participants from the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) and the District of Spain (ARLEP) will journey July 13 – 23, 2015, on the pilgrimage of El Camino de Santiago de Compostela. The journey, themed *Together as Brothers*, will provide Brothers and young men discerning their vocation the opportunity to journey together, both physically and spiritually. Participants will share their journey virtually and prayerfully through a shared blog, which will be available on www.lasallian.info.



(Left) Dr. Colleen M. Hanycz, incoming president of La Salle University. Courtesy La Salle University



(Right) Brother James Gaffney, FSC, president of Lewis University. Courtesy Lewis University

NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED

FORMATION PROGRAMS ENLIGHTEN LASALLIANS

Participants in the Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice met on different weekends in March 2015 in



West Coast, Midwest and East Coast groups. These gatherings took place in the second year of the two-year program, which focuses on our Lasallian heritage in light of contemporary realities. The March sessions focused on District, Regional and international governance and structures, along with the documents from the 45th General Chapter and recent international assemblies and how they relate on Regional, District and local levels. Participants will meet as an entire group July 12 – 17, 2015, at Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois.

Summer is also prime time for formation with the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies and the Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI).

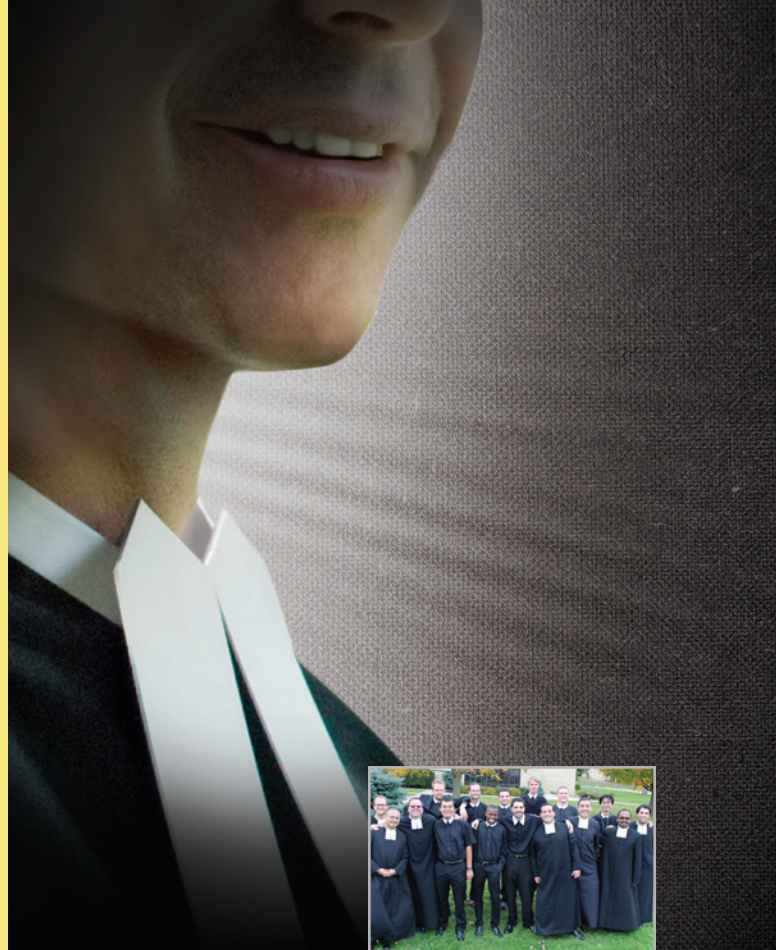


Buttimer will take place June 28 – July 11, 2015, at Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga. Buttimer is an intensive Lasallian education and formation program that studies the life and work of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and the origins of the Lasallian educational mission.



LSJI will return to Chicago, Illinois, July 19 – 24, 2015, with the theme *Violence & Peacemaking in an Urban Environment*. Participants will hear from law enforcement representatives, community organizers, activists, victims, perpetrators and peacemakers who will offer their perspectives shaped by experience.

Johnston, Buttimer and LSJI are programs of Christian Brothers Conference. To find out more about Regional formation programs, visit www.lasallian.info/programs-events.



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PRAY DEEPLY • STAND WITH THE POOR

NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED



LASSCA PARTICIPANTS FIND BALANCE AND BUILD CONNECTIONS

More than 130 participants attended the 11th annual Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators (LASSCA) Conference in San Diego, California, February 22 – 25, 2015, which centered around the theme *Lasallian Leadership in a High Velocity World*. Through dynamic speakers, presenters and conversation during general and breakout sessions, meetings, forums and more, topics concerning leadership, sustaining the mission, and strategic planning during a time of rapid change were addressed. Participants enjoyed time for conversation and networking, developing strong collegiality. Speakers included Brother Thomas Johnson, FSC, director of the Novitiate, Lasallian Region of North America; Dr. Marisa Guerin, president of Guerin Management Consulting, Inc.; and Sean Callahan, chief operating officer of Catholic Relief Service (CRS) – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

During the conference, the Operation HeadStart program at Archbishop Rummel High School in Metairie, Louisiana, was honored with the Brother Michael Collins, FSC Award, which recognizes excellence in a Lasallian secondary school program that represents admirable values, standards and passions. Additionally, LASSCA members selected Brother James Butler, FSC, president of La Salle College High School in Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania, as LASSCA's new vice president. He will serve alongside Chris Fay, LASSCA immediate past president and principal of Christian Brothers High School in Memphis, Tennessee; and Denise Jones, LASSCA president and president of La Salle Catholic College Preparatory in Milwaukie, Oregon.



(Above) LASSCA participants during Mass.

NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED

NEW GENERAL COUNCILORS APPOINTED

The General Council of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools has expanded. Superior General Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, announced the appointments of new General Councilors Brother Gustavo Ramírez Barba, FSC, in December 2014 and Brother Rafael Matas Roselló, FSC, in March 2015.

Brother Gustavo will accompany association for the educational mission, particularly Lasallian higher education. Brother Gustavo serves on the board of trustees at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. His role before being appointed General Councilor was as Visitor of the District of North Mexico.

Brother Rafael's duties include the promotion of Lasallian vocations, particularly to the life of the Brothers and the accompaniment of the various groups within the Lasallian family. He will also serve as an additional voice and presence on the General Council of a Brother from the Region of Europe and the Mediterranean (RELEM), the Region with the largest concentration of Brothers, many of them in their senior years. Prior to this appointment, Brother Rafael was serving in Haiti.

The General Council now consists of eight Brothers, which includes the Vicar General. Together, they assist the Superior General in the government and animation of the Institute.



Brother Rafael Matas Roselló, FSC.
Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

The General Council and Superior General met in February in Rome, prior to the appointment of Brother Rafael Matas Roselló, FSC. From left, Brother Gustavo Ramírez Barba, FSC (Lasallian Higher Education), Brother Ricky Laguda, FSC (PARC), Brother Timothy Coldwell, FSC (RELAN), Brother Robert Schieler, FSC (Superior General), Brother Jorge Gallardo de Alba, FSC (Vicar General), Brother Pierre Ouattara, FSC (RELAF), Brother Aidan Kilty, FSC (RELEM), and Brother Paulo Petry, FSC (RELAL). Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service





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NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED

APPOINTMENTS

BROTHER CHRISTOPHER BELLEMAN, FSC,
Interim Principal, St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute,
Buffalo, NY, effective March 28, 2015

JOHN BORDELON, Principal, Justin-Siena High
School, Napa, CA, effective June 15, 2015

BROTHER CHRIS ENGLERT, FSC, Member, Lasallian
Education Council, effective November 1, 2015

R. ROSS FALES, Principal, Christian Brothers
Academy, Lincroft, NJ, effective July 1, 2015

KENYA FUEMMELER, Principal, Helias Catholic High
School, Jefferson City, MO, effective July 1, 2015

DR. COLLEEN M. HANYCZ, President, La Salle
University, Philadelphia, PA, effective July 10, 2015

BROTHER THOMAS JOHNSON, FSC, Novitiate
Director, effective November 30, 2014

BROTHER MICHAEL KADOW, FSC, Auxiliary Visitor,
Midwest District, effective July 1, 2015

JOHN KNIGHT, President, De La Salle Collegiate,
Warren, MI, effective July 1, 2015

BROTHER STEPHEN MARKHAM, FSC, Auxiliary
Visitor, Midwest District, effective July 1, 2015

BROTHER JAMES MARTINO, FSC, President/CEO,
Ocean Tides School, Narragansett, RI, effective
August 1, 2015

BROTHER LARRY SCHATZ, FSC, Visitor, Midwest
District, reappointed, effective June 30, 2015

TIM SEYMOUR, Principal, Christian Brothers College
High School, St. Louis, MO, effective July 1, 2015

BROTHER THOMAS WESTBERG, FSC, Novitiate
Sub-director, effective July 1, 2015



CHANGES AT CHRISTIAN BROTHERS CONFERENCE

Several changes are underway at Christian Brothers Conference. Beginning in June 2015, the office will be located at 415 Michigan Avenue NE, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20017, which is down the street from the current location.

Additionally, a new executive director search is being conducted by the Lasallian Education Council to identify a successor for Dr. Margaret McCarty, who will conclude four years of service as the first executive director on June 1, 2015.

The Hecker Center for Ministry, located in Washington, D.C., has been the home of Christian Brothers Conference for eight years.





*The SIEL 2012-2013 group at the Generalate in Rome.
Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools,
Communications Service*



(Left) Then Superior General Brother Nicet-Joseph, FSC, center, converses with Brothers Charles Henry Buttimer, FSC, left, and Pablo Basterrechea, FSC, right, who would both later become Superiors General. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Archives

(Right) SIEL participant Brother Manuel Estrada, FSC, reviews documents. Courtesy SIEL 2012-2013

LASALLIAN STUDIES IN OUR TIMES

THE ONCE-QUIET ROLE OF LASALLIAN RESEARCH IS NOW BECOMING AN URGENT VOICE IN THE LIFE OF THE LASALLIAN MISSION.

BY BOB CARREJO

In today's landscape of all things Lasallian, there lives something called "Lasallian studies." To assume that it involves activities that examine aspects of the ministry begun by Saint John Baptist de La Salle, and is now being continued by his Brothers and their Partners, would be only partially correct. Fully understood, Lasallian studies is a mission-driven movement of organized scholarly inquiry, critique and visioning now taking place throughout the Lasallian world.

To appreciate the nature of this movement, and especially its importance to the life of the Lasallian mission, it is helpful to have a sense of both where it came from and where it seems to be headed.

Generally speaking, the purpose of Lasallian studies might best be described as "to contribute to a better understanding and awareness of Lasallian identity in order to serve better the Lasallian mission" (Research and Resources Service, www.lasalle.org/en/research-and-resources/). This description is helpful because it provides not only the firmness of a specific nature and purpose – *identity and mission* – but also the flexibility of a broad goal – *to contribute in order to better serve*.

This would be consistent with what historically has given the Lasallian mission much of its strength and resilience, namely, the creative tension between its moorings to the founding experience and its adaptation to the changing social contexts and conditions. The current direction of Lasallian studies seems to be one of entering into this tension and of exploring the questions and the answers that it might produce. In this respect, Lasallian studies appears to be moving beyond its somewhat quiet origins.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

LASALLIAN STUDIES IN OUR TIMES CONTINUED

Perhaps surprisingly, the idea of systematically exploring and reflecting on the Lasallian heritage is a relatively recent one. It has its roots in the enthusiasm that arose when the Institute began to realize the extent of what was not known – but could be known – about its most important figure.

“When we Brothers say that, in the last 30 years, we have rediscovered the Founder, it may seem somewhat strange at first sight. However, it is true. The whole process started in 1956 when the 38th General Chapter, impressed by a whole series of excellent papers submitted to the preparatory commission, expressed the desire that research work be continued into the life and writings of St. John Baptist de La Salle by means of critical studies which would constitute together the *Monumenta Lasalliana*. This would constitute the basis for a future critical biography of the Saint and for a detailed study of his spirituality” (Brother Hernando Seba Lopez, FSC, *Lasalliana*, No. 25, Article 15, 1992).

Prior to this, there did exist research-based works on the life of Saint La Salle and some on the Institute. However, what Brother Seba Lopez’s account recalls is a moment when Lasallian studies began to make the transition from consulting a limited collection of secondary sources into calling for a comprehensive Institute research movement. Soon, a group of Brothers would answer the call, becoming the vanguard of a modern generation of Lasallian researchers and authors. They took on the mammoth task of gathering the known (and some previously unknown) French source documents, doing or improving translations, and publishing the results.

This would lead to the Institute’s current catalogue of writings by Saint La Salle, his first biographers, and early Brothers. At the same time, they also began producing and circulating critical works on specific elements of Lasalliana, in many cases resurrecting a lost legacy of Lasallian contributions to religious life, education and social justice. This combination of archival and applied research would form the blueprint for contemporary Lasallian studies.

However, over time the original scope of what were considered valuable subjects for Lasallian studies would find itself being stretched. There are several reasons for this. One is the natural effect of how one piece of research inevitably inspires others. Another is the steady impact of changing times, particularly in regard to the explosion of communication technology. Still another is the evolving role of Partners in Lasallian ministries as they introduce into the Brothers’ mission paradigm other perspectives that broaden the conversation about where, how and why to bring the Lasallian worldview to bear on society. Together, these reasons tend to lead to what Brother Pedro Gil Larrañaga, FSC, describes in *A View from the Tower* as being “presented with the challenge of the viability of our heritage as we face circumstances that are not those from our foundation” (p. 19).

And so, the current focus for doing Lasallian studies includes many new possibilities for a Lasallian world that now finds itself in a race to remain part of the entire world. In addition to archival research, there also is conceptual, empirical and action-based research, with interests ranging from childhood faith development to global sanitation. Inter-disciplinary approaches are expanding the traditional vocabulary and images of Lasallian ministry, as well as raising awareness of the number of implications that modern problems hold for this ministry and vice-versa.



(Top) Brother Michel Sauvage, FSC, one of the founders of contemporary Lasallian scholarship, pictured fourth from left, stands with the commission on the Declaration. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Archives



(Left) Brother Alain Houry, FSC, director of Lasallian Studies (1993-2004), presents during a SIEL session. Courtesy SIEL 2012-2013



(Right) From left, SIEL presenter Brother Henri Bédel, FSC, coordinator Brother Diego Muñoz, FSC, and CIL staffer Brother Alfonso Novillo, FSC, prepare materials for a conference. Courtesy SIEL 2012-2013



LASALLIAN STUDIES IN OUR TIMES CONTINUED

These impressive developments are not without some headaches. For one, they are making it difficult for Lasallian researchers to settle on a single understanding of what Lasallian studies should look like. In fact, there is concern that insisting on a single understanding could prove counter-productive to the mission's ability to respond to diverse 21st century needs. While the debate continues, however, there does seem to be agreement that all approaches should share the outcome of a well-designed furthering of the Lasallian educational and apostolic vision. This seems to affirm that Lasallian studies has a responsibility for ensuring mission effectiveness by helping to guide a continual re-founding of the mission that will allow it to engage today's times and needs with authenticity and relevance.

Examples of how this responsibility is being met within the Lasallian studies movement can be found both locally and internationally. One involves what the Lasallian mission must imagine itself to be both now and for the future. The Symposium on Lasallian Research, sponsored by the Institute for Lasallian Studies at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and the Lasallian Region of North America, annually gathers Lasallians to "dialogue about the key characteristics or key areas that comprise the field of Lasallian research today; to break open the possibilities for Lasallian research in the 21st century" (Lasallian Research Symposium, www.smumn.edu).

In addition, the Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies and the Brother John Johnson Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice, both programs of Christian Brothers Conference, continue to provide research-based formation that facilitates and promotes participants' shaping of Lasallian praxis for their ministries and for the Region.

Another involves the promotion of worldwide Lasallian educational leadership. Just as research in the mid-20th century led to the rediscovery of the life and writings of Saint La Salle, new research in the early 21st century is helping to reestablish within academia the substantial and often overlooked body of Lasallian thought in the areas of primary and secondary school management, instruction and learning, and teacher and administrator training.

The Institute's International Lasallian Studies Session (SIEL), conducted by the Lasallian Research and Resources Service, is focused on the creation and training of new generations of Lasallian researchers. Its stated purposes include to "be in critical dialogue with contemporary trends, produce Lasallian research based on multi-disciplinary fields and networking with other researchers and, finally, to make available products of Lasallian research to the public in general" (SIEL 2012-2013: General Information, www.lasalle.org). The next SIEL focused on new Lasallian researchers is being offered October 12 – November 6, 2015, at the Generalate in Rome.

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(Top) SIEL participants take notes during a session.

Courtesy SIEL 2012-2013

(Bottom) Brother Michel Sauvage, FSC, one of the founders of contemporary Lasallian scholarship, pictured at center, stands with scholastics in the 1950s. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Archives

LASALLIAN STUDIES IN OUR TIMES CONTINUED

Brother Miguel Campos, FSC, one of the founders of contemporary Lasallian scholarship. He is currently serving at La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as distinguished professor of Lasallian studies, Office of Mission Integration.
Courtesy La Salle University



According to historian Geoffrey Cubitt, “Understanding how the flow of the past has produced each successive present moment and understanding how each moment has construed this past that it deems to be significant cannot be separate undertakings: the task is always to connect them” (*History and Memory*, p. 25). It is an essential function of historical research to ensure that knowledge about what has come before does not lie static, but engages us in a continual dialogue that joins memory to vision and tradition to innovation. Today’s Lasallian studies initiatives are serving this function, and in doing so, the life of the Lasallian mission.

In conclusion, it ultimately could be said that doing Lasallian studies in our times is necessary for doing Lasallian ministry in our times. What began as an effort to reconnect the Institute to the man who founded it can now provide the critical understanding and connecting of past to present that will infuse the Lasallian mission with creative fidelity to both the reverence for remembrance and the reading of the times that are the hallmarks of its tradition. ●

Bob Carrejo is the director of communications for the District of San Francisco New Orleans. He is a graduate of the 2012-2013 International Lasallian Studies Session (SIEL) and was a participant in the 2013 Lasallian Research Symposium. His 2012 SIEL research project, “Remembering the Future: Advancing the Role of Community in Mission Through Formation for Memory,” was published in the November 2013 Digital Journal of Lasallian Research.

The IALU participants in attendance at the 2014 Symposium on Lasallian Research at Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota.



LES ÉTUDES LASALLIENNES AUJOURD'HUI

LE RÔLE LONGTEMPS DISCRET DE LA RECHERCHE LASALLIENNE EST EN TRAIN DE DEVENIR IMPORTANT DANS LA VIE DE LA MISSION LASALLIENNE.

PAR BOB CARREJO

Dans le paysage actuel de tout ce qui est lasallien, quelque chose existe qui s'appelle les « Études lasalliennes ». Supposer que cette réalité implique les activités qui étudient les aspects du ministère commencé par saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle, et qui est maintenant pris en charge par les Frères et leurs Partenaires, ne serait que partiellement exact. Comprises au mieux, les études lasalliennes constituent un mouvement, à but missionnaire, d'études savantes organisées, de critiques et de regards tournés vers l'avenir qu'on peut observer dans l'ensemble du monde lasallien. Pour bien comprendre la nature de ce mouvement, et particulièrement son importance dans la vie de la mission lasallienne, il est utile d'avoir une idée à la fois de son origine et de là où il semble vouloir aller.

De façon générale, le but des Études lasalliennes peut idéalement être décrit comme « une contribution à une meilleure compréhension et à une plus grande conscience de l'identité lasallienne en vue de mieux servir la mission lasallienne » (*Recherche et service des ressources*, www.lasalle.org/fr/recherche-et-ressources/). Cette description est utile pour la raison qu'elle fournit non seulement la solidité d'une nature spécifique et d'un but – *identité et mission* – mais aussi la souplesse d'un objectif large – *pour contribuer à mieux servir*.

Cela serait consistant avec ce qui, historiquement, a donné à la mission lasallienne beaucoup de sa force et de sa résilience, notamment la tension créative qui existe entre son ancrage dans une expérience fondatrice et son adaptation aux contextes sociaux et aux conditions qui changent constamment. L'orientation actuelle des Études lasalliennes semble être d'entrer dans cette tension et d'explorer les questions et réponses que cela pourrait produire. À cet égard, les Études lasalliennes semblent aller dans une direction quelque peu différente de ses origines tranquilles.

Brother Maurice-Auguste Hermans, FSC, first director of Lasallian Studies (1956-1987) and architect of Cahiers Lasalliens. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Archives

Frère Maurice-Auguste Hermans, FSC, premier directeur des Études Lasalliennes (1956-1987) et créateur des Cahiers Lasalliens. Gracieuseté de l'Institut des Frères des Écoles chrétiennes, Archives

De façon surprenante peut-être, l'idée d'explorer systématiquement l'héritage lasallien et d'y réfléchir en est une relativement nouvelle. Elle a ses racines dans l'enthousiasme soulevé par l'Institut lorsqu'il a commencé à se rendre compte de l'ampleur de ce qui n'était pas connu – mais pourrait l'être – concernant sa plus importante personnalité.

« Que nous, les Frères, ayons, au cours des 30 dernières années à peu près, redécouvert le Fondateur, peut sembler un peu bizarre à première vue. C'est toutefois la pure vérité. Toute la démarche a débuté en 1956 quand le 38e Chapitre Général, impressionné par toute une série d'excellents travaux qui avaient été soumis à la commission préparatoire, a exprimé le souhait que le travail de recherche touchant la vie et les écrits de saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle soit continué par le moyen d'études critiques qui constitueraient le *Monumenta Lasalliana*. Cela établirait les bases d'une éventuelle biographie critique du Saint et d'une étude détaillée de sa spiritualité » (Frère Hernando Seba Lopez, FSC, *Lasalliana*, No. 25, Article 15, 1992).

Avant cela, il existait des travaux de recherche sur la vie de saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle et certains sur l'Institut. Toutefois, ce que rappelle le compte-rendu de F. Seba Lopez, c'est le moment où les Études lasalliennes commencèrent à faire la transition entre la consultation d'une collection limitée de sources secondaires et l'appel à passer à un *mouvement global de recherche touchant l'ensemble de l'Institut*. Un groupe de Frères répondit rapidement à l'appel et constitua l'avant-garde d'une génération moderne de chercheurs et d'auteurs lasalliens. Ils s'attaquèrent à la tâche gigantesque de rassembler les documents de base français qui étaient connus (et certains qui étaient inconnus auparavant), faisant les traductions ou les améliorant, et publiant les résultats.

SUITE À LA PAGE 18



Bob Carrejo est Directeur des communications pour le District de San Francisco Nouvelle-Orléans. Il est diplômé de la session 2012-2013 de la SIEL (Session internationale d'études lasalliennes) et participa au Symposium de recherche lasallienne de 2013. Le titre de son projet, à la SIEL, était : « Garder l'avenir en mémoire : se servir de la formation pour étudier l'importance de la communauté dans la mission »; il fut publié dans l'édition de novembre 2013 de Digital Journal of Lasallian Research (Revue numérique de la recherche lasallienne). (NDT : L'article complet peut être consulté en ligne; il n'a toutefois pas encore été traduit.)

Cela devait conduire au catalogue actuel de l'Institut pour tout ce qui touche les écrits de saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle, ses premiers biographes et les premiers Frères. Au même moment, ils commencèrent également à produire et à faire circuler des travaux critiques sur des éléments spécifiques du monde lasallien, mettant au jour, dans beaucoup de cas, l'héritage perdu des contributions lasalliennes à la vie religieuse, à l'éducation et à la justice sociale. Ce mélange de recherches archivistiques et appliquées devait constituer la base des Études lasalliennes contemporaines.

Cependant, avec le temps, le champ original de ce qui était considéré comme des sujets valables pour les Études lasalliennes fut étendu. Plusieurs facteurs expliquent cela. L'un d'eux est le fait tout naturel qu'un élément d'une recherche en inspire d'autres. Un autre facteur est l'impact continu des temps qui changent, particulièrement pour ce qui concerne l'explosion des technologies de la communication. Un autre encore, c'est le rôle en pleine évolution des Partenaires dans les ministères lasalliens, qui apportent aux paradigmes de la mission des Frères des perspectives différentes qui ont pour effet d'élargir la discussion sur les lieux, les manières et les raisons de faire appel à la vision mondiale lasallienne pour faire pression sur la société. Ensemble, ces raisons ont tendance à conduire vers ce que Frère Pedro Gil Larranaga, FSC, décrit dans son livre *A view from the Tower (Un regard à partir de la tour)*, à la page 19, soit « le défi de la viabilité de notre héritage, au moment où nous sommes confrontés à des circonstances qui ne sont pas celles de notre fondation ».

Ainsi donc, la raison principale actuelle pour faire des Études lasalliennes inclut beaucoup de nouvelles possibilités pour un monde lasallien qui se retrouve en pleine course pour continuer à faire partie du monde pris dans son ensemble. En plus de la recherche archivistique, il existe aussi une recherche conceptuelle, empirique et basée sur l'action, avec des sujets qui vont du développement de la foi de l'enfance à l'hygiène mondiale. Les approches interdisciplinaires élargissent le vocabulaire habituel et nos perceptions du ministère lasallien, en même temps qu'elles rendent plus conscients du nombre d'implications que les problèmes modernes ont pour ces ministères, et inversement.

Ces développements importants ne vont pas sans donner des maux de tête. Tout d'abord, ils rendent difficile aux chercheurs lasalliens la tâche de choisir une compréhension unique de ce que devraient être les Études lasalliennes. En fait, il existe l'inquiétude qu'insister sur une seule compréhension pourrait se révéler contre-productif quant à la capacité de la mission à répondre aux besoins variés du 21^e siècle. Pendant que le débat continue, on semble cependant s'entendre pour dire que toutes les approches pourraient bénéficier d'un approfondissement bien pensé de la vision lasallienne éducative et apostolique. Cela semble confirmer que les Études lasalliennes ont une responsabilité dans la tâche d'assurer le bien-fondé de la mission en aidant à mener une refondation continue de la mission, qui va lui permettre de s'attaquer avec authenticité et pertinence aux besoins d'aujourd'hui.

Des exemples quant à la façon dont cette responsabilité est prise en charge par le mouvement des Études lasalliennes peuvent être trouvés à la fois localement et au niveau international. L'un d'eux implique ce que la mission lasallienne doit s'imaginer être, à la fois aujourd'hui et dans l'avenir. Le *Symposium sur la recherche lasallienne*, organisé par l'Institut pour les études lasalliennes de St. Mary's University of Minnesota et par la RELAN, rassemble annuellement des Lasalliens pour « échanger sur les caractéristiques essentielles ou les sujets-clés qui impliquent le domaine de la recherche lasallienne aujourd'hui; (pour) ouvrir largement les possibilités de recherche lasallienne au 21^e siècle » (*Lasallian Research Symposium*, www.smumn.edu).





Brother Michel Sauvage, FSC, one of the founders of contemporary Lasallian scholarship. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Archives

Frère Michel Sauvage, FSC, un des fondateurs des études lasalliennes contemporaines. Gracieuseté de l'Institut des Frères des Écoles chrétiennes, Archives

De plus, l'Institut Buttimer d'études lasalliennes (Buttimmer Institute of Lasallian Studies) et l'Institut Frère-John-Johnson pour la pratique lasallienne contemporaine (Brother John Johnson of Contemporary Lasallian Practice), sont deux programmes offerts par le Bureau régional (Christian Brothers Conference) qui continuent à offrir une formation basée sur la recherche et qui facilite l'adoption et la promotion, par les participants, d'une couleur lasallienne utile pour leurs ministères et pour la Région.

Un autre organisme inclut la promotion d'un leadership éducatif lasallien pour le monde entier. À la manière de la recherche du milieu du 20e siècle qui conduisit à la redécouverte de la vie et des écrits de saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle, la recherche nouvelle en ce début de 21e siècle aide à rétablir, à l'intérieur même du monde des chercheurs, l'aspect important et souvent négligé de la pensée lasallienne dans les domaines de la gestion des écoles primaire et secondaire, de l'instruction et de l'apprentissage, ainsi que la formation des enseignants et des administrateurs.

La SIEL (Session internationale d'études lasalliennes), menée par le Service de la recherche lasallienne et des ressources, met l'accent sur la création et la formation de nouvelles générations de chercheurs lasalliens. Ses buts officiels incluent « d'être en dialogue critique avec les tendances actuelles, de produire une recherche lasallienne basée sur des champs multidisciplinaires et en réseau avec d'autres chercheurs et, enfin, de rendre disponibles au public en général les résultats des recherches » (SIEL 2012-2013 : informations générales, www.lasalle.org). Le prochain SIEL à mettre l'accent sur les chercheurs lasalliens sera offert du 12 octobre au 6 novembre 2015 à la Maison Généralice, à Rome.

(Left) SIEL participants review archive materials during a conference. Courtesy SIEL 2012-2013

(À gauche) Des participants de la SIEL examinent du matériel d'archives au cours d'une conférence. Gracieuseté de SIEL 2012-2013

Selon l'historien Geoffrey Cubitt, « Comprendre comment le mouvement du passé a produit chaque moment des présents successifs et comprendre comment chaque moment a exprimé ce passé qu'il considère significatif ne peuvent pas être des entreprises séparées : la tâche est toujours de les interconnecter » (History and Memory, p. 25). C'est une fonction essentielle de la recherche historique de s'assurer que la connaissance de ce qui s'est passé ne gît pas de façon statique, mais bien plutôt nous engage dans un dialogue continu qui unit la mémoire à la vision et la tradition à l'innovation. Les initiatives des Études lasalliennes d'aujourd'hui servent à cela et, ce faisant, servent la mission lasallienne.

En conclusion, on pourrait dire que, en dernière analyse, faire des Études lasalliennes aujourd'hui est une activité nécessaire au ministère lasallien de notre époque. Ce qui a débuté comme un effort pour reconnecter l'Institut à l'homme qui l'a fondé nous fournit maintenant la juste compréhension du passé et son rapport avec le présent, ce qui fera bénéficier la mission lasallienne d'une fidélité créative constituée à la fois d'une vénération de la mémoire et d'une lecture des temps actuels, deux éléments qui constituent les caractéristiques principales de sa tradition. ●

TRADUCTION : F. FLORENT GAUDREAU, FSC

Brother Patrice Marey, FSC, a moving force in the progress of contemporary Lasallian scholarship. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Archives

Frère Patrice Marey, FSC, qui eut une influence majeure sur le développement des études lasalliennes contemporaines. Gracieuseté de l'Institut des Frères des Écoles chrétiennes, Archives





“ Both digital journals give me immediate access to contemporary Lasallian research and to current articles reflecting on various elements of the Lasallian educational mission. In addition to this, *AXIS* has also brought back into circulation a number of important texts that have long been out of print and therefore very difficult to track down. Making these historic texts available in digital format has been a great gift to many Lasallians!”

Dr. Greg Kopra, Director of Formation for Mission, District of San Francisco New Orleans, Editorial Board Member *AXIS: Journal of Lasallian Higher Education*



Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, then Superior General, at the 2006 International Mission Assembly. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service



DIGITAL LASALLIAN JOURNALS: SHARING RESEARCH AND RESOURCES IN SERVICE OF THE MISSION

BY ANNMARIE DEMARAIS

In June 2007, then Superior General Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, called upon participants in the first International Lasallian University Leadership Program in Rome to join him in accelerating the advancement of the worldwide Lasallian mission. Specifically, he challenged the Lasallian university administrators and faculty to re-imagine the dynamic role of Lasallian universities and to develop ways to make the Lasallian tradition contemporary.

Three participants from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota (SMUMN) heard this call – Dr. Roxanne Eubank, Valerie Edwards Robeson and Dr. Richard Tristano – and returned to Minnesota ready to engage in dialogue and action. Their subsequent inquiries and persistent collaborations led to the creation and development of the free, open-access, electronic journal, *AXIS: Journal of Lasallian Higher Education*.

At the same time, new directions were emerging within the center of the Institute regarding the work of the service entitled Lasallian Studies. Rather than focusing solely on the gathering and archiving of historical and biographical works of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, the former Superior General and his Council directed the service to begin promoting the combination of contemporary research with the new technologies of communication.

(Left) The 44th General Chapter (capitulants pictured at top) and the 2013 International Mission Assembly (RELAN delegates pictured at bottom) are two gatherings that called for increased contemporary Lasallian research. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service

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DIGITAL LASALLIAN JOURNALS: SHARING RESEARCH AND RESOURCES IN SERVICE OF THE MISSION CONTINUED



*Brother Diego Muñoz, FSC,
speaks to SIEL participants.
Courtesy SIEL 2012-2013*

Lasallian Studies became Lasallian Research and Resources. It was hoped that this service could function as a primary source for research for Lasallians worldwide, open to the new questions of the 21st century. Out of this newly re-visioned Institute department, a second digital journal dedicated to Lasallian research was launched in 2010: *Digital Journal of Lasallian Research*. Brother Diego Muñoz, FSC, secretary for the Lasallian Research and Resources Service in Rome, was named service coordinator for this new journal.

The call of the Institute for contemporary Lasallian research has continued to sound throughout every Lasallian Region of the world. Examples of the urgency of this message can be seen in the documents of the 44th General Chapter of 2007, the International Mission Assemblies of 2006 and 2013, the 2013 research agenda of the International Association of Lasallian Universities (IALU) (*see page 26*), and the 2012-2013 Research Policies of Lasallian Region of Latin America (RELAL).

Recently, the third annual Symposium on Lasallian Research (September 2014), sponsored by the Institute for Lasallian Studies at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN), provided a much-needed forum for scholars and researchers to gather and dialogue about the shared vision for Lasallian research and the structures needed to support this important work.

IN HIS ADDRESS AT THE 2012 SYMPOSIUM ON LASALLIAN RESEARCH, THEN GENERAL COUNCILOR OF RELAN, BROTHER ROBERT SCHIELER, FSC, NOW SUPERIOR GENERAL, REMINDED PARTICIPANTS THAT “WE UNDERTAKE RESEARCH NOT ONLY TO INCREASE THE QUANTITY OF OUR KNOWLEDGE BUT TO DEEPEN THE QUALITY OF OUR UNDERSTANDING.”

AXIS: Journal of Lasallian Higher Education and *Digital Journal of Lasallian Research* both seek to be vehicles through which scholars can document and advance the effective pursuit of our shared Lasallian mission. Although both journals share a common foundational mission, they each gift the worldwide Lasallian community in particular ways.

2013 International Mission Assembly. Courtesy Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Communications Service



“The existence of these digital resources – *AXIS* and the *Digital Journal* – opens the door to Lasallian research for all of us; their accessibility and ease of use serves to connect us the world over, together and by association, in the pursuit of the many facets of our historical, lived and future Lasallian reality.”

Dr. Mary Catherine Fox, Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota,
Editorial Board Member *Digital Journal of Lasallian Research*

AXIS: Journal of Lasallian Higher Education (axis.smumn.edu) exists to encourage and share original scholarly and creative works about, and texts of historic significance to, Lasallian Catholic higher education. *AXIS* is a free, open-access, electronic, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary periodical published two or three times per year. The Institute for Lasallian Studies at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota sponsors the journal.

The journal's 12-member editorial board is comprised of Brothers and Lasallian Partners from throughout the United States and abroad. Content of the journal is presented in four categories:

1. original and scholarly works;
2. a shared knowledge archive of unpublished or previously inaccessible speeches and papers authored by leaders in the Lasallian movement;
3. annotations of relevant doctoral dissertations and books; and
4. selective bibliographies of diverse sources relevant to Lasallian Catholic higher education.

In addition to free, online access of the journal, bound print copies of any issue are available via the on-demand print service www.lulu.com.

AXIS strongly encourages and welcomes ongoing submissions of scholarly research and writing. Submissions may include, but are not limited to, empirical research reports, theoretical/conceptual papers and case studies. Dr. Richard Tristano, professor of history at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, has been a frequent contributing author to *AXIS*.

"I have had the privilege of having four projects published by *AXIS*. In every case, the project was linked to collaboration and association with Lasallian colleagues," said Dr. Tristano. "In every case, my research allowed me to build deeper associative relationships with the Lasallian community and with my calling as a teacher."

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**Digital Journal
of Lasallian Research**

*Participants at the 2014 Symposium on
Lasallian Research enjoy a discussion.
Courtesy Saint Mary's University of Minnesota*



DIGITAL LASALLIAN JOURNALS: SHARING RESEARCH AND RESOURCES IN SERVICE OF THE MISSION CONTINUED

Digital Journal of Lasallian Research (revista_roma.delasalle.edu.mx) is sponsored by the Lasallian Research and Resources Service at the Generalate in Rome. It can be accessed freely and online at the website of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (www.lasalle.org). The objective of this journal is to make available research articles, essays, documents, book reviews and events for Lasallians and all those who are committed to the human and Christian education of all persons around the world. *Digital Journal* is a peer-reviewed, bi-annual periodical and is guided by a nine-member editorial board.

Recent issues of the journal have included the research products of participants in the International Lasallian Studies Session (SIEL) 2012-2013. Articles are received for publication in one of three official languages of the Institute: French, English or Spanish. Journal issues one through six provide full English translations of all articles. Beginning with issue number seven, articles are presented in their original version; summaries and keywords only are translated into French, English and Spanish.

BROTHER THOMAS JOHNSON, FSC, THEN VICAR GENERAL, WHEN ADDRESSING THOSE GATHERED FOR IALU 2012, NOTED, “DE LA SALLE WALKED THROUGH POOR NEIGHBORHOODS EACH DAY ON THE WAY TO THE CATHEDRAL. THESE EXPERIENCES AFFECTED HIM. WHAT ARE WE ‘WALKING THROUGH’ THAT AFFECTS US, OUR UNDERSTANDING OF MISSION?”

In what newly imagined ways are researchers and practitioners being summoned to further the Lasallian mission through the sharing of research, new knowledge and enhanced understanding? Although not yet fully defined, an understanding of the full nature and scope of contemporary Lasallian research continues to emerge. What *is* clear is that *AXIS: Journal of Lasallian Higher Education* and *Digital Journal of Lasallian Research* stand ready to promote and share new learnings and inspire transformation worldwide, together and by association. ●

*Annmarie DeMarais is managing editor of
AXIS: Journal of Lasallian Higher Education.*

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MORE RESEARCH RESOURCES: EXPLORE TEACHING TEXTS AUTHORED OR EDITED BY BROTHERS WORLDWIDE

BY BROTHER PAUL AUBIN, FSC,
TRANSLATED BY BROTHER FLORENT
GAUDREAU, FSC

The first textbook in our tradition was written by the Founder in 1703 – *Duties of a Christian to God* – and Brothers continue to produce textbooks. Brother Paul Aubin, FSC (Francophone Canada), has compiled a listing, which is constantly being updated and includes 22,493 titles published in 37 countries in a number of languages (English, Flemish, French, Italian, Spanish). There is a developing list of 329 titles from the United States. The list can be accessed through Université Laval (Québec City) at www.bibl.ulaval.ca/ress/manscol. Once on the site, choose “Diaspora” to see the titles. The site allows for extensive cross-reference research (subjects, year of publication, etc.).

MANUELS ÉCRITS OU ÉDITÉS PAR LES F.É.C. DANS LE MONDE

Le premier manuel des F.É.C. a été écrit par le fondateur en 1703 – *Traité des devoirs d'un chrétien* – et les Frères continuent encore de nos jours à produire des manuels scolaires. Cet inventaire – toujours en voie de réalisation – peut être consulté sur internet à l'adresse : www.bibl.ulaval.ca/ress/manscol. Une fois dans le site, il faut cliquer sur Diaspora. Vous aurez accès à une masse de 22 493 titres de manuels publiés dans 37 pays. On peut interroger la banque par auteur, mot(s) du titre, discipline, éditeur, pays et langue. On peut croiser les interrogations : discipline et année de production, etc. Ainsi, pour les États-Unis, on aura accès à une liste de 329 titres. ●

HISTORY OF THE SYMPOSIUM ON LASALLIAN RESEARCH

BY ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE

The Symposium on Lasallian Research, which is mentioned in several stories in this issue, was first held in 2012. Co-sponsored by the Institute for Lasallian Studies at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota (SMUMN) and the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN), Brother William Mann, FSC, president of SMUMN, and Dr. Roxanne Eubank, director of the Institute for Lasallian Studies at SMUMN, generated the idea as a way to support the development of Lasallian scholars. They invited RELAN to co-sponsor the gathering in order to invite the larger community.

The three gatherings, which have all been held on the Twin Cities campus of SMUMN, have grown over the three years, starting with 43 participants from mostly the United States in 2012 and growing to more than 120 Lasallians from around the world in 2014.

The 2012 symposium focused on defining the areas of Lasallian research. In 2013, the symposium adopted the research agenda developed by the International Association of Lasallian Universities (IALU) (*see page 26 for more on IALU's research agenda*). That symposium presented an opportunity to explore research beyond studying the beginnings of the Lasallian mission and moving into what Lasallian education is doing today, how it is effective, and how it is impacting the world. The idea was to take it beyond historical Lasallian research and look at what Lasallians are doing in health, nutrition, science and education. IALU co-located its meeting of the university directors of research with the symposium in order to facilitate more collaboration among participants.

The annual gatherings not only attracted more international participants, including from the Generalate in Rome, they also expanded on the work started in 2012 by further refining perspectives on the nature and purpose of Lasallian research, examining a variety of current research initiatives and issues, and encouraging participants to forge research partnerships.

Each year, a white paper is published following the symposium, with the paper on the 2014 gathering expected out in May 2015. The papers can be found on the *AXIS* website (axis.smumn.edu) by searching "symposium." Additionally, following the gatherings, some universities have started offering internal grant programs for research, and new collaborations are being born.

The gatherings have fueled a renewed excitement for Lasallian research, which is expected to continue with the next symposium, scheduled for September 27-29, 2015, on the SMUMN Twin Cities campus. Superior General Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, is scheduled to be a keynote speaker, and organizers are now accepting papers or presentations for the symposium.

Papers along the IALU themes are preferred: education and learning innovations; food, nutrition and health; and environmental sustainability. Proposals should be no more than two pages in length; include the author(s) name(s), title(s) and institution(s); include the title of the paper/presentation; identify the intended audience; and provide a one-page abstract of the paper/presentation. Presentations should be 50 minutes in length including time for questions and discussion. Send proposals by June 30, 2015, to Dr. Roxanne Eubank by email at reubank@smumn.edu. ●

Brother William Mann, FSC, president of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, engages participants at the 2014 Symposium on Lasallian Research. Courtesy Saint Mary's University of Minnesota





(All pictures in this story) Participants at the first forum on Faculty Training and Identity within the Lasallian Context in October 2013 at Casa La Salle (Tetela) in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Courtesy IALU

IDENTIFYING THEMES AND CALLING FOR COLLABORATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

BY ARNULFO AZCARRAGA, PH.D.

Lasallian colleges and universities are invited to collaborate and conduct research along three themes identified by the International Association of Lasallian Universities (IALU).

The research themes for IALU, which is a network of Lasallian higher education institutions worldwide, were first identified in July 2012 during the IALU board meeting held in Miami, Florida. At that time, only two themes had been suggested: food and the environment.

These two themes were then used as the focus of an IALU research agenda, which was crystallized in a document entitled “Lasallians in the World, Solving Real Problems of the World.” This document was originally written by the author of this story, professor Arnulfo Azcarraga, Ph.D., then vice chancellor for research at De La Salle University in Manila, Philippines, and enhanced by Brother William Mann, FSC, president of Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota.

Approved and endorsed by the IALU board during its meeting in Mexico City in January 2013, the IALU research agenda expounded on these two themes, calling on the worldwide Lasallian family to engage in relevant research as an expression of its active faith toward positive, meaningful, lasting and inclusive growth in society.

To promote and foster collaboration among Lasallian researchers in just a few, focused research themes, these two themes were then presented at the second Symposium on Lasallian Research held on the Minneapolis campus of Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota in October 2013:

1. Food, Nutrition and Health (e.g., biochemistry of food products, science and engineering of potable water, cancer risks and cures from food, economic impact studies of nutrition programs in schools)
2. Sustainability and the Environment (e.g., dealing with climate change, eco-design of houses and urban centers, industrial ecology, air and water quality monitoring in mega-cities)

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IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE IALU RESEARCH AGENDA DID NOT PRECLUDE THE PURSUIT OF OTHER LINES OF RESEARCH ACCORDING TO THE INDIVIDUAL MISSIONS AND VISIONS OF THE IALU MEMBER INSTITUTIONS, AND THAT IALU “ALWAYS VALUES AND SUPPORTS RESEARCH ON THE LIFE AND HERITAGE OF SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE, AND ON MODERN EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES AND THE EVANGELIZATION OF THE YOUNG.”

Despite this assurance, if these were to be the *Lasallian* research themes, there was a compelling sense among the participants that a third theme should be added. The body agreed that it was logical for IALU to be strategic in focusing on a few select research themes. However, not including education as one of those themes appeared inconsistent with the very mission and charism of Lasallian schools across the world.

And so, at the workshop among IALU research leaders held in the afternoon just after the 2013 symposium, it was agreed that the following third theme, on education, would be endorsed to the IALU board. The board, which met in January 2014 in Beauvais, France, unanimously agreed, and this theme was added:

3. Education and Learning Innovations (e.g., access to education among the poor, impact of use of tablets for learning math and science, coping mechanisms among children with learning disabilities, predicting the academic emotions of young learners based on physiological signals)

Having agreed on the three themes, IALU now seeks to jumpstart research collaboration among IALU member schools by encouraging the writing of proposals aiming at large external grants to be submitted to funding institutions.

At that post-symposium workshop among IALU research leaders in Minneapolis in 2013, it was pointed out that externally-sourced research funding would be key to many other research-related initiatives, such as intensive faculty exchanges, scholarships for Ph.D. students from one IALU university to conduct research at another IALU university, and regular conferences and workshops among Lasallian researchers to share research results. As a first step, there is a Call for Collaborative Research within IALU that targets one focus area for each of the three research themes, as follows:

- a. Research Theme: Food, Nutrition and Health
Focus Area: Food Safety and Security
- b. Research Theme: Sustainability and the Environment
Focus Area: Quality of Air and Water
- c. Research Theme: Education and Learning Innovations
Focus Area: Access to Education - Innovative Alternatives to Promote Inclusion





The details of this call can be viewed on the IALU website (www.lasalle-ialu.org). It is hoped that Lasallian researchers worldwide will take advantage of the vast resources that are available within the network of Lasallian schools.

The themes and focus areas are all multi-disciplinary and are certainly the kinds of areas of research funded by large development agencies that are mostly interested in alleviating poverty and in addressing the needs of women, children and the marginalized.

EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, EACH OF THESE THEMES AND FOCUS AREAS ARE THE VERY KINDS OF THRUSTS THAT DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OF SOCIETY. THEY TOUCH ON SOCIETAL ISSUES WITH THE HUMAN PERSON AT THE CORE OF EACH PUSH AND SOCIETY'S POOR AS THE FOCUS. NO DOUBT THESE ARE DIFFICULT AREAS TO ENGAGE. NO SINGLE INSTITUTION CAN, NOR SHOULD, DO IT ALONE.

In his letter dated January 28, 2014, addressed to university presidents of IALU member schools, IALU President Brother Carlos G. Gómez-Restrepo, FSC, drives home the point saying, "These are research themes that are perfectly consistent with our Lasallian Mission, and specifically with our collective commitment to serve society, especially the poor and the marginalized."

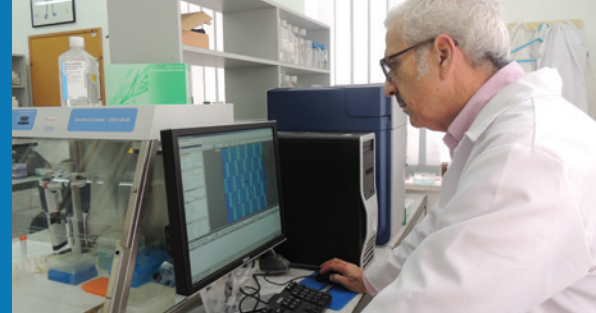
Indeed, with cognizance of the fact that Lasallian researchers can achieve significantly more by working together and by association, IALU issues this call to Lasallians worldwide, in solidarity with the societies they serve, to solve real problems of the world. ●

Arnulfo Azcarraga, Ph.D., is a professor of computer science at De La Salle University in Manila, Philippines. Azcarraga is also a member-at-large of the IALU board.



RESEARCH IN RELAN

COMPILED BY ELIZABETH MOORS JODICE



Lasallian colleges and universities throughout the world support and encourage research at their institutions. From science to Lasallian history to projects that solve real-world problems, colleges and universities in or associated with the Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) are making strides in research. While the projects each higher education institution supports are too numerous to mention, here is a snapshot of research being done in our Region.

BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY PALESTINE

Among the research projects conducted at Bethlehem University in Palestine, one is providing genetic knowledge much needed for the well-being of Palestinian society. Led by professor Moien Kanaan, the Heredity Research Lab (HRL) at Bethlehem University, pictured above, provides the Palestinian community with valuable services such as early detection of inherited hearing loss. The general aim of HRL is to develop an ongoing, integrated clinical and molecular resource that addresses genetic diseases common in the region's Palestinian population. HRL's work currently also provides genome-related practical know-how as well as computer-intensive tools for the entire academic community of Palestine. HRL supports new biotechnological enterprises in the areas of diagnostics, agriculture, combatting genetic diseases, and genetic counseling.

LA SALLE UNIVERSITY PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

More than 250 faculty members at La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, pursue research programs such as reducing the harmful effects of chemotherapy, medication errors, stuttering and workplace mentoring. One project focuses on De La Salle Christian Brothers who lived and taught in Cuba before, during and after the Cuban Revolution. Professors Lisa Jarvinen, Ph.D., and Conrad Gleber, Ph.D., started the project, which will provide insight into the Brothers and their commitment to the Lasallian mission, despite difficult circumstances. They are creating an oral history archive, a website and a public performance piece based on their research. Jarvinen, below, is pictured with Brother Eduardo Salgado, FSC, at Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tennessee, as they discussed his time in Cuba.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS UNIVERSITY MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

The School of Sciences at Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tennessee, has recently added a degree in ecology, and a major component of the curriculum involves research into the regional environment of the Mississippi River Delta wetlands, pictured at right. Projects led by Dr. James Moore have included the study of plant communities on Mississippi River islands and the changing islands' morphology, the effects of flooding on native vegetation, and more. Other ecological research, led by biology faculty Lynda Miller and Brother Tom Sullivan, FSC, collected and studied lichens in Memphis' Overton Park, a large inner-city old growth forest, to measure and analyze the presence of heavy metals and other urban pollutants. Additionally, civil engineering professor Dr. Y. Lu Lin has worked with the Army Corps of Engineers on various research projects.





LEWIS UNIVERSITY ROMEVILLE, ILLINOIS

Research has always been an important part of the educational experience at Lewis University in Romeville, Illinois, pictured at top left. Faculty and students partner to make major advances in research that strengthen and serve society. The research aligns with Lasallian values and national priorities in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Lewis University students and faculty have been recognized for their excellence as they share their findings through national and international presentations, an annual Celebration of Scholarship event, a summer undergraduate research experience, and research collaborations with regional and international businesses. The Colonel Stephen S. and Lyla Doherty Center for Aviation and Health Research also supports students and faculty year-round in solving real-world problems.

MANHATTAN COLLEGE RIVERDALE, NEW YORK

Research at Manhattan College in Riverdale, New York, often takes a collaborative approach. For example, exercise science major Shannon Garrity '15 is working with alumni, including Louis DePasquale '73, and kinesiology professor Lisa Toscano '79, to investigate the epidemic of falling in older adults and how much compensatory stepping and balance plays a role in falling. They are working together to validate a fall assessment tool, pictured at right, comprised of a series of controlled pushes—what they call waist-pull perturbations. This Repeated Incremental Predictable Perturbations (RIPPS) Balance method, which was developed by DePasquale, identifies stepping strategy deficits as well as an innovative and safe induced-stepping treatment paradigm. They are testing younger adults, with the hope of eventually translating their findings to older populations.

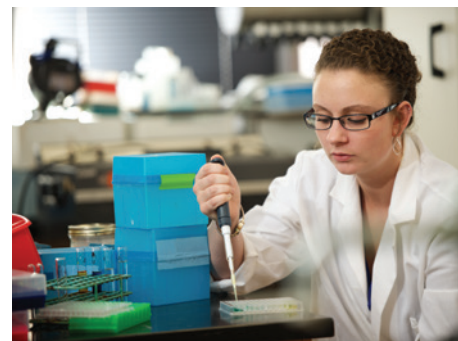


SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA MORAGA, CALIFORNIA

Scholarship and research are top priorities for faculty at Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga. They enable professors to stay current in their fields and promote opportunities for collaborative research with students. One example is biology professor Carla Bossard, pictured at top right, who regularly travels to Asia researching invasive plant species. Professor Bossard recently published a study on the impact of climate change and non-indigenous trees on the ancient evergreen forests of the Himalayas. Her report, written in collaboration with Tang Ya and Jacob Reidhead, was published in the *Journal of Ecological Engineering*. The research showed changes in the forest composition at higher altitudes. Bossard observes that it's at the extreme edges of nature where we first see big systemic changes.

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA WINONA, MINNESOTA

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota promotes a culture of scholarship and research among its students and faculty. Nearly all science-related undergraduate majors require research projects, and Saint Mary's students frequently collaborate with faculty advisers on research with real-world implications. Additionally, faculty in Saint Mary's Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs, already professionals in their fields, are encouraged to develop their skills and further their research to maximize student learning. Campuses are conveniently located near world-class medical facilities including the Mayo Clinic, which provide unparalleled learning opportunities. In addition to her classroom research, biology major Katie Leisen, pictured at right, is currently analyzing brain microvessels as part of her internship in Alzheimer's disease research at Mayo. ●





ARCHIVES: TREASURE TROVES OF LASALLIAN HISTORY

BY AMY SURAK

In the movie “Chinatown,” Jack Nicholson plays a detective who visits an archive seeking important information to help solve his case. He discovers a vital clue in an old book, surreptitiously tears out the page, and absconds with the document. As an archivist and steward of history whose responsibility is to *protect*, preserve and share materials that record our cultural heritage down through generations, this scene always makes me cringe.

But it does highlight the fact that archives are invaluable resources that document human experience and serve as society’s collective memory. Archival collections are essential to scholarly research as they help make the past relevant to the present. And it reminds us that these valuable resources serve many constituents including historians, sociologists, genealogists and writers (yes, even detectives), as well as users interested in broader administrative, legal and social topics.

Some may be surprised to learn that the Lasallian world is rich with archival resources. Archivists in the Lasallian Region of North America are hard at work preserving and making available our Lasallian history. The De La Salle Christian Brothers’ archival collections are the result of the activities of the Christian Brothers and the Institute and serve as the recorded memory thereof.

The material nature of the archival record is diverse and endless and is changing rapidly thanks to technology. Collections consist of various forms of recorded information and include documents, books, manuscripts, artwork, photographs, slides, maps, videos, audio recordings, oral histories, digital recordings and ephemera. Yes, we have strange and wonderful objects that range from the bizarre to the sublime (from human bones to Confederate currency, for example). The collections are organically created, accumulated, used and maintained by the Brothers and the Institute and are preserved because of their continuing value.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

(Left) Stacks of archive material at Manhattan College. Courtesy Amy Surak

ARCHIVES: TREASURE TROVES OF LASALLIAN HISTORY CONTINUED

The Archives constitute a treasure trove for Catholic historians, as well as researchers interested in a broad range of social, urban, ethnic and educational topics. Our collections provide an important and virtually untapped body of material documenting the Catholic Church's central role in providing charitable, welfare and educational services to American immigrant and working-class citizens. As a new generation of social historians has begun reinterpreting American religious history and recognizing the key role of the Roman Catholic Church in shaping urban culture, collections such as ours will only increase in value and significance. The Archives also contain comprehensive material concerning the interworking of the Institute documenting the founder, General Chapters, District administration and biographical information about the Brothers.

The Archives have gradually been coming together over time. Sharing a physical location does not necessitate any sort of merger, however, and each collection maintains its own autonomy within the archival facility. Each Archive has distinct intellectual needs and serves a unique administrative constituency. At La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Manhattan College in Riverdale, New York, for example, Lasallian collections share space with the institutional Archives and benefit from greater integration into the larger academic environment.



(Left) Mont-de-La-Salle in Maison-Neuve (now Montréal) opened in 1887. Those in formation— juniors, novices and scholastics—as well as the elderly and sick Brothers lived there. In 1917, the Brothers moved to the new Mont-de-La-Salle, in Laval-des-Rapides. The former Mont-de-La-Salle no longer exists. It is the current site of the Montréal Botanical Garden. Courtesy Nancy Lavoie, Francophone Canada District Archives

Currently, the major North American repositories for Lasallian materials can be found in a handful of locations. At La Salle University, Brother Joseph Grabenstein, FSC, maintains the Archives of the university, the former Baltimore District and the District of Eastern North America. Qualitatively, the collections have excellent strengths. The District collections are rich in publications as well as photographs and ephemera documenting the Districts and its schools, apostolates, missions, communities and Brothers.

On the West Coast, on the beautiful slopes of wine country in Napa, California, at the District of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO) headquarters, Andrea Miller, Jennifer Sturm and Brother Emmet Sinitiere, FSC, manage the Archives of the District of San Francisco New Orleans; Miller and Sturm manage Archives of the former San Francisco District and Brother Emmet manages the Archives of the former New Orleans-Santa Fe District. With the establishment of the SFNO District, the collections of the former Districts were brought together at Mont La Salle. The San Francisco District collection documents the history of the District, its communities, apostolates and the life and work of the Brothers. According to Miller, the Christian Brothers Winery collection is the most heavily used segment in the Archives, although the winery was sold in 1989. The New Orleans-Santa Fe Archives comprise the records of the two previously separate Districts as well as the combined District. The collections document the experience of the Brothers and the Institute throughout those Districts.

(Left) La Vie de Monsieur Jean-Baptist De La Salle, Instituteur des Freres des Ecoles Chretiennes, the famous biography of the founder by M. l'Abbé Jean Baptiste Blain, Volume 1, 1773. Courtesy De La Salle Christian Brothers Archives of the Midwest District

(Right) Hockey players from the former Académie De La Salle in Trois-Rivières compete in Champlain in 1913. Courtesy Nancy Lavoie, Francophone Canada District Archives



In Canada, Nancy Lavoie manages Archives for the District of Francophone Canada and the former Toronto District in Laval, Québec. The collections are housed in a building that was constructed in 1999 to centralize the Archives. It is an extension of the nursing home, Résidence De La Salle. Before being moved to the new facility, the Archives of the former Districts of Québec and Trois-Rivières were in Québec City, and the archives for the former Districts of Montréal, Longueuil and Ottawa were in Montréal.

At Manhattan College, I oversee the Archives of Manhattan College, the former New York and Long Island-New England Districts and the District of Eastern North America. The college also houses the Lasallian Studies Collection, a research collection of printed works by and about Saint John Baptist de La Salle, the history of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and their educational mission, and writings by and about many of its members. This collection includes more than 6,000 volumes of books, manuscripts, theses, booklets, circulars, pamphlets, cards, newsletters and journals.

Manhattan College also recently acquired the Archives of the Midwest District and Christian Brothers Conference. The Midwest District collection includes material on the first Christian Brothers' schools in the United States, histories of former Districts, and records of the Brothers, schools, communities and apostolates.

The Conference materials document leadership and programs, such as formation, ministry, education and overseas apostolates, at the Regional level.

SINCE LAST SPRING, ARCHIVISTS HAVE BEEN MIGRATING DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR COLLECTIONS INTO A NEW OPEN SOURCE DATABASE, ARCHIVES SPACE, AN ELECTRONIC ARCHIVAL DESCRIPTION AND COLLECTION MANAGEMENT DATA SYSTEM. THIS PROVIDES INTELLECTUAL ACCESS TO ALL OF OUR ARCHIVAL RESOURCES. WHILE THIS PROCESS IS ONGOING, RESEARCHERS HAVE THE ABILITY TO LOCATE RELEVANT INFORMATION AT ARCHIVSPACE.MANHATTAN.EDU. IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THIS LINK WILL BE CUSTOMIZED AND AVAILABLE VIA OUR WEBSITES.

Currently, all the Archives have formal access policies that can be found either on their web pages or distributed by the archivists. These stipulate procedures for using our archival material, which include restrictions on certain materials consistent with Institute regulations and relevant federal and local legislation. Researchers are welcome to make an appointment to utilize our collections. ●



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Kenny Latta served as a Lasallian Volunteer from 2010-2012 at La Salle Academy in New York City. He is also a graduate of Christian Brothers High School and Christian Brothers University, both in Memphis, Tennessee.

LASALLIAN VOLUNTEERS BY THE NUMBERS:

HOW FAITH-BASED SERVICE CHANGES LIVES

BY KENNY LATTA

In 2012, as I was finishing my two years of service as a Lasallian Volunteer (LV), the Catholic Volunteer Network (CVN) commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to survey the alumni of CVN member programs. Researchers from CARA developed their survey, and in the summer of 2013 sent it via email to more than 18,000 men and women who had once served in a faith-based volunteer program. They received 5,051 completed responses – 138 of them from former Lasallian Volunteers. That is a quarter of all LV alums!

The staff of Lasallian Volunteers requested a summary report of the responses of *only* the Lasallian Volunteers alumni, which they received in 2014, the Lasallian Volunteers' 25th anniversary year. I've spent some time with both reports – the one commissioned by CVN and the one requested by Lasallian Volunteers – and the data supports two conclusions: Lasallian Volunteers is an exceptional volunteer program, and it is excelling at its mission.

When the researchers at CARA released a report of their findings at the end of 2013, the Lasallian Volunteers staff was amazed at the breadth and depth of the information it contained. What kind of person joins a faith-based volunteer program, and why? What did they think of their term of service? How did it impact them? What are they doing now? How did their service influence their worldview? Their choice of career? Their faith life? The report hinted at the answers to these important questions and much more.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

*(Left) Kenny Latta completes LVs Ride in August 2011.
Courtesy Lasallian Volunteers*

LASALLIAN VOLUNTEERS BY THE NUMBERS:

HOW FAITH-BASED SERVICE CHANGES LIVES CONTINUED

The CARA study data allows us to compare the responses of Lasallian Volunteers alumni with the responses of former volunteers from throughout CVN, letting us see where the Lasallian Volunteers stand out. It also, where appropriate, allows us to compare the responses of the former Lasallian Volunteers with statistics about the general population in the United States.

For example, we have a lot to celebrate in the area of diversity. The data indicates that Lasallian Volunteers have been more diverse by gender and racial identification than CVN member programs taken as a whole. We seem to attract more men than other programs – 39 percent of the former Lasallian Volunteers who responded to the survey were male, compared to only 28 percent of the general CVN survey responses. At a time when schools across the country are starving for more male teachers, mentors and role models, it is significant that Lasallian Volunteers – a program which, like the De La Salle Christian Brothers, focuses on education – has been able to attract such a high percentage of male volunteers and place them in schools as teachers, coaches, mentors and counselors.

*Cesar Martinez, 2004-2005 LV, serves a student at De La Salle Blessed Sacrament in Memphis, Tennessee.
Courtesy Lasallian Volunteers*



Likewise, Lasallian Volunteers also seems to attract more people of color than faith-based volunteer programs as a whole. Only seven percent of the respondents who completed the larger survey reported a primary racial identification other than white. However, 18 percent of Lasallian Volunteers alumni who completed the survey reported a racial identification other than white. Though still not representative of the U.S. population – where the latest data shows that 28 percent report a primary racial identification other than white – the Lasallian Volunteers seem to be more representative than many other faith-based programs, which is something to be proud of and something we should continue to build upon.

For other demographic traits, Lasallian Volunteers alumni are not much different than the general population of CVN respondents. In general, Catholic volunteers are young and highly educated. Of the former Lasallian Volunteers who completed the survey, 57 percent are millennials, 100 percent have at least a bachelor's degree, and 52 percent have attained a master's degree or higher.

*Brother Ed Phelan, FSC, left, with a few of the 2014-2015 LVs.
Courtesy Lasallian Volunteers*





Then current and former LVs at a campus ministry/student activities/student life teams gathering in 2013.

Courtesy Lasallian Volunteers

Unsurprisingly, CVN members as a whole are also overwhelmingly Catholic. Approximately 85 percent of the Lasallian Volunteers alumni who completed the survey were raised Catholic and attended Catholic schools. Seventy-seven percent reported that they are still Catholic today, and 48 percent reported that they attend religious services at least weekly. This last statistic is more impressive when we note that only 27 percent of the general population in the United States attends weekly religious services.

Additionally, former CVN members are much more likely to have considered a vocation to religious life than other Catholic adults in the United States. Of Lasallian Volunteers alumni who completed the survey, 39 percent reported that they had considered or were currently considering a vocation to ordained ministry or religious life. It is possible, in the future, as now, faith-based volunteer programs like Lasallian Volunteers will become increasingly important vehicles for introducing young men and women to religious life and the possibilities of a religious vocation.

The data also indicates – and this, too, is not surprising – that Catholic volunteer programs like Lasallian Volunteers have a significant impact on the lives of the men and women who join them. For example, 70 percent of the former Lasallian Volunteers and 63 percent of the former Catholic volunteers overall reported that their volunteer service was important for their future career choices. Likewise, the overwhelming majority of former CVN volunteers continue to volunteer their time and donate money to charitable organizations, and almost 90 percent of them attribute their ongoing volunteerism and philanthropy to their experiences in a faith-based volunteer program.

Perhaps most importantly, of the 138 former Lasallian Volunteers who completed the survey, 99 percent reported they enjoyed their experience in the program, 99 percent reported the program helped them become the people they are today, and 98 percent reported they believed their experience with Lasallian Volunteers helped them to become better people.

As I reflect on my own time as a Lasallian Volunteer and the choices I have made in the years since, I realize that this last set of statistics captures my experiences well. The two years I spent as a Lasallian Volunteer were some of the most formative years of my life. They gave me a deeper understanding of the issues facing those living in poverty, a deeper understanding of the value of community life, and led me directly to my current career in community organizing and development. Further, my time as a Lasallian Volunteer deepened my commitment to service and my belief that serving others is the best way to live a happy, fulfilling and faithful life.

The CARA report and the follow-up report prepared for Lasallian Volunteers contain a wealth of other statistics – far too many to include here – that paint a picture of former volunteers as successful, passionate, civically engaged, compassionate and faithful individuals.

In many cases, the data indicates that Lasallian Volunteers is exceptional – among the best of the CVN programs to participate in the CARA survey – which leaves me feeling even prouder to have been a Lasallian Volunteer and very confident that Lasallian Volunteers is truly changing the world for the better, one volunteer at a time. ●



**TO VIEW THE CARA REPORT, VISIT
WWW.CATHOLICVOLUNTEERNETWORK.ORG AND
SEARCH "SURVEY OF FORMER VOLUNTEERS."**





Ocean Tides students with Dr. Lawrence Grebstein, second from left, and Dr. Judy A. Van Wyk, second from right. Courtesy Ocean Tides

Technologists who volunteered many hours to help design, develop and install new networks, computers and business systems at Tides Family Services. From left, Dan Kavanagh, from Citizens Bank, Kevin Brighton, from Citizens Bank, Jim McArdle, Tides Director of IT, and Keith Storti, from Citizens Bank. Courtesy Sheila K. Lawrence



RESEARCH IN YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES:

PARTNERING TO DEVELOP A TAILORED PRACTICE

BY CARISSA HAHN

Since the time of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, the Lasallian mission has implemented essential values that guide the support and care of youth in schools as well as alternative educational centers. When the founder relocated the center of the Institute to St. Yon in 1705, he not only established a place for Brothers and the novitiate, he opened three distinct ministries: a boarding school, a school for unmanageable children, and a house of correction.

This tradition continues today, especially within three youth and family service agencies in the District of Eastern North America: LaSalle School in Albany, New York; Tides Family Services in West Warwick, Rhode Island; and Ocean Tides in Narragansett, Rhode Island. They have individually partnered with universities to conduct research within their respective agencies to develop a way to collect data and measure the success of their work with youth and their families, a process that can be challenging because it is difficult to collect, quantify and measure results or outcomes in this type of work.

Bill Wolff, AFSC, executive director of LaSalle School, explained that a lot of research collects inventories on youth measuring many different points, mostly focused on wellness. For a long time, the primary objectives for foster care work and work done with vulnerable young people has been on safety, permanency and well-being. There have been measurements and ways to track safety and permanency, but it was only recently that the federal government has started looking at well-being on an evaluative basis.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42

RESEARCH IN YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES:

PARTNERING TO DEVELOP A TAILORED PRACTICE
CONTINUED

“I THINK WHAT HAPPENS HERE IS THAT OUR AGENCIES ARE NOT TRYING TO PIGEONHOLE KIDS, NOT TRYING TO FIT KIDS TO THE SITUATION, WHICH I THINK A LOT OF EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE DOES,” SAID WOLFF. “THESE KIDS ARE CHILDREN OF GOD, INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE VALUED FOR WHO THEY ARE. THEY ARE NOT DEFINED BY THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED TO THEM THAT BROUGHT US INTO THEIR LIVES. THEY’RE HERE, AND WE HAVE A CHANCE TO HELP THEM GO FORWARD. THESE ARE THE REASONS WHY WE NEED TO PROGRESS WITH THIS RESEARCH.”

Partnering a youth and family service agency with a university is effective if it is a mutually beneficial relationship. The university has students at all different levels of education who have a variety of interests and educational requirements. Youth and family service agencies have young people whose experiences can be studied for mutual benefit.

*Dr. Lawrence Grebstein, second from left, with students from Ocean Tides.
Courtesy Brother Kevin Junk, FSC*



OCEAN TIDES SCHOOL AND THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Ocean Tides School partnered with University of Rhode Island to conduct an extensive study of the school, which resulted in a book entitled *Turning the Tide of Male Delinquency: The Ocean Tides Approach*, set to be released later this year. The study, which looked at 1,600 records of teenagers who lived at the residential facility since its opening in 1975, took 12 years to complete and is the largest and most comprehensive research project of court-adjudicated male juvenile delinquents ever done in the United States using multiple sources of data as a basis.

Dr. Lawrence C. Grebstein, professor emeritus of psychology at the University of Rhode Island and a consultant to Ocean Tides for 39 years, conducted this research project with Dr. Judy A. Van Wyk, associate professor of sociology at the University of Rhode Island. They collected, analyzed and recorded data in an electronic database they designed with the help of 38 undergraduate and graduate students from the university. Grebstein sees benefits for both institutions in the partnership and is confident that this research will help Ocean Tides in the near future. “We hope that our findings and recommendations in the book will help point out the value of well-run and well-conceived residential programs,” said Grebstein.

Brother Brendan Gerrity, FSC, president-CEO of Ocean Tides, is excited to see the agency receive recognition. “To have some hard data and research with the University of Rhode Island will be especially helpful for grants and also legislative support in a time when states are looking to cut costs on juvenile programs,” said Brother Brendan.



*Dr. Camela M. Steinke,
program assessment and
effectiveness research
specialist at LaSalle School.
Courtesy LaSalle School*



TIDES FAMILY SERVICES AND YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Tides Family Services partnered with Yale University School of Medicine to gather statistics on its program entitled Transition to Success, which works with juveniles who have significant substance abuse histories and are re-entering the community after an adjudicated stay at a secure detention facility. Transition to Success is funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Services (CSAT) of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Susan Kershaw-Sczuroski, LICSW, chief operating officer of Tides Family Services and program director of Transition to Success, called it a blessing to work with researchers at Yale. “Not only did they collect, analyze and present evaluation data regarding the program, they utilized a coaching style that has enabled our agency to grow our capacity for all program evaluation. They taught us strategies to be applied to a wide variety of areas using their enormous amount of experience,” said Kershaw-Sczuroski.

In November 2014, Tides was awarded a \$79,650 grant to fund further consultation with Yale University and Exact Change Strategies, another consultant that will configure the electronic client database in order for them to pull data more effectively. Yale University will continue to consult on report writing, revising documentation, risk assessments and training – all to improve the agency’s ability to collect usable data and reports.

“DEVELOPING WAYS TO COLLECT AND MEASURE OUTCOME DATA IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THIS TYPE OF WORK, ESPECIALLY TO SECURE PROPER FUNDING,” SAID BROTHER MICHAEL REIS, FSC, CEO OF TIDES. “I’M CONFIDENT EVERYONE WILL COME OUT A WINNER IN THIS PARTNERSHIP.”

LASALLE SCHOOL ALBANY AND THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

LaSalle School partnered with the Hindelang Criminal Justice Research Center at the University at Albany, State University of New York, to do its own research and create an evidence-informed approach to its work and provide proof of its treatments. Service Outcomes Action Research (SOAR) is a project of a long-term collaboration with the University at Albany, St. Anne Institute, and LaSalle School. Created in 2000, this partnership has been working to gather data to determine what works best with each client and using that information to tailor treatment to their youth. SOAR focuses on evidence-based practice through practice-based research and is a national leader in developing information with youth and families, particularly those in residential treatment centers like LaSalle School and St. Anne Institute.

Dr. Camela M. Steinke, program assessment and effectiveness research specialist at LaSalle School, has worked with SOAR since coming to the University at Albany as a graduate student in 2005. After completing her Ph.D., she was hired at LaSalle. “The University at Albany provides a lot of benefits to LaSalle,” she said. “At the most basic level, they provide the manpower to assist with data collection and entry into various electronic systems. The partnership allows LaSalle to examine relationships between services and outcomes that would not be possible without it.”

PUTTING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE

These three partnerships are ongoing and allow for other opportunities to emerge. The university and agency learn from each other and collaborate on various projects, even outside of research, which is valuable for both the organization and university.

The agencies conduct these research projects because they want to understand what works best for young people and implement more of that in their practice. It’s helpful to identify what tends to work better with youth who have certain characteristics, instead of a one-size-fits-all approach. This personal approach is at the heart of the Lasallian mission. ●

De La Salle
TODAY



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2015

- 6 – 7 Regional Education Advisory Committee (REAC) Meeting, Narragansett, RI
-
- 14 – 17 Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB) Meeting, Baltimore, MD
-
- 21 – 25 Lasallian Volunteers Debriefing Retreat, Plano, IL
-

JUNE 2015

- 28 – July 11 Buttimer Institute of Lasallian Studies, Moraga, CA
-

JULY 2015

- 12 – 17 Brother John Johnston Institute of Contemporary Lasallian Practice, Regional Gathering, Romeoville, IL
-
- 19 – 24 Lasallian Social Justice Institute (LSJI), Chicago, IL
-
- 21 – 22 Lasallian Education Council (LEC) Meeting, Montréal, Canada
-
- 21 – 31 Lasallian Volunteers Orientation, Romeoville, IL
-

AUGUST 2015

- 1 Novitiate Commences, Chicago, IL
-

SEPTEMBER 2015

- 28 – 30 Symposium on Lasallian Research, Minneapolis, MN
-

OCTOBER 2015

- 15 – 18 Brothers in Initial Formation Gathering, Napa, CA
-
- 28 – 30 Regional Council of Young Lasallians Meeting, Montréal, Canada
-
- 28 – 31 Regional Conference of Christian Brothers (RCCB) Meeting, Montréal, Canada
-

NOVEMBER 2015

- 5 – 8 Regional Vocation Formation Committee Meeting, Napa, CA
-
- 11 – 13 Novitiate Postulancy Committee Meeting, Chicago, IL
-
- 18 – 19 Lasallian Education Council (LEC) Meeting, Chicago, IL
-
- 19 – 21 Huether Lasallian Conference, Chicago, IL
-





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