



# The *SPC* Scholarly Guide

Saint Peter's College Office of Faculty Research and Sponsored Programs

Vol. 3, No. 2

January, 2007

## Rev. James N. Loughran, S.J. 1940-2006

We are all painfully aware of the passing of our President, James N. Loughran, S.J., on December 24, 2006. This issue of the *SPC Scholarly Guide* is respectfully dedicated to Fr. Loughran's memory. He was a strong supporter of this newsletter. After each issue, he would invariably write to me or call me to tell me how much he enjoyed reading the Scholarly Guide. An advocate for scholarship, he indicated to me several times that he especially enjoyed reading about the *Scholarly Activities* of the faculty. He was also quite fond of the *Teaching Tips* and was even a Teaching Tip contributor in 2005 ([click here to read his tip](#)).

## The OFRSP has Moved

Please note that Office of Faculty Research and Sponsored Programs (OFRSP) has moved from Hilsdorf 302 to the lower floor of the library. The Center for Teaching Resources will be located directly outside the OFRSP office allowing faculty to access materials.

## Kenny Fellowships Awarded

The following are brief descriptions of the Kenny Fellowships granted by the College for Summer, 2007. Congratulations to all the recipients on their scholarly activities.

**Dr. Maria Calisi** of the Theology Department will conduct research, and submit an article to *Franciscan Studies*, on the texts of Bonaventure which were used as the central reason for the denial of ordination to women in the Catholic Church.

**Dr. Enrique Delamonica** of the Economics & Finance Department will study if and how Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (a plan by the World Bank) are reducing poverty.

**Dr. Mark DeStephano, S.J.** of the Modern & Classical Languages Department will travel to

Spain to conduct archival research and to continue research in the National Library of Spain on the life and works of Fr. Luis de Coloma, S. J., a Spanish Jesuit of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries who was the most widely read author in Spain during his lifetime.

**Dr. Barna Donovan** of the Communications Department will work on a book project pertaining to the cultural history of conspiracy theories and conspiracy theory films.

**Dr. Jessica Epstein-Toney** of the Chemistry Department will conduct research focused on the production of ethanol. In addition to publishing new ideas for industrial application, the experiments can be adapted for teaching and student research.

**Dr. William Evans** of the Philosophy Department will begin work on a book that addresses teaching and learning in Plato's earlier dialogues.

**Dr. Susan Graham** of the Theology Department will continue work on a book project, entitled, *Jerusalem: Christians, Jews, and Sacred Places*.

**Dr. Maryellen Hamilton** of the Psychology Department will write and submit several manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals. The projects upon which the manuscripts will be based were conducted here at SPC with former student Karla Batres.

**Dr. Brian Hopkins** of the Mathematics and Physics Department will work on a book project with the working title, *Hands-On Combinatorics: Pascal, Fibonacci, and More through Trains*. The goal is to use Cuisenaire rods, a popular elementary school mathematics manipulative, to help high school and college students visualize concepts in combinatorics, the science of counting.

**Dr. Leonor Lega** of the Psychology Department will produce a scholarly interactive Digital Video Disk: *The Missing Link in Behavior Management*. The DVD will be produced for teachers working with

students from diverse ethno-cultural backgrounds, utilizing theory of Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy.

**Dr. William Luhr** of the English Department will co-edit a book on the history of gender-based approaches to cinema studies. He will also revise the second edition of his book, *Thinking about Movies*.

**Dr. Oscar Magnan, S.J.** of the Fine Arts Department will travel to Italy to conduct research at various archaeological sites. He will make a detailed study of the relationship between art and religion in numerous Etruscan caves and tombs.

**Dr. Enrique Nuñez** of the Business Administration Department will study innovation intermediaries, third parties that act as "trusted brokers" between an external community of prospective innovations and innovation seeking firms.

## Scholarly Activities

*Your work is important. If you present at a conference, publish a paper, or disseminate your scholarly work in some other way, please send the information by e-mail ([fbonato@spc.edu](mailto:fbonato@spc.edu)) so that it may be included in the SPC Scholarly Guide.*

**Laura Twersky** of the Biology Department mentored four students who received research grants from the TriBeta Research Foundation for laboratory work conducted in Biology 497, Research I.

**James Clayton** of the Education Department presented a workshop on October 20, 2006 at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Northeast Regional Conference in Atlantic City, NJ. The topic of the workshop was instructional strategies for elementary level mathematics teachers and it was entitled: "Come Fly with Me: Paper Airplanes Make Geometry Real!"

**William Luhr** of the English Department organized and co-chaired an interview presentation on "Acting for Film" featuring three-time Academy Award nominee Joan Allen at Columbia University on September 21, 2006. Dr. Luhr also participated as an invited scholar in *Le Giornate del Cinema Muto* in Sacile/Pordenone, Italy from October 6-15, 2006.

Dr. Luhr was also quoted in a Fox News Online article on the latest James Bond's film, "Casino

Royale." The article can be accessed here: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,229481,00.html>. He also organized and co-chaired a presentation by Professors Elizabeth Weis and Pamela Grace (Brooklyn College, C.U.N.Y.) entitled "All About Eavesdropping: or, Is There an Aural Analogue of Voyeurism?" at Columbia University on November 16, 2007.

**Kathleen Monahan** of the English Department presented a paper, "God or the Devil: Religion and Crime in the 18th Century," at the Midwest Popular and American Culture Annual Conference in Indianapolis, IN, on October 27, 2006.

**Elizabeth Nelson** of the English Department presented a paper, "Murder Still Merry," at the Midwest Popular and American Culture Conference in Indianapolis, IN, on October 27, 2006.

**Eugenia M. Palmegiano** of the History Department, organized and chaired a panel, "American Historical Association Standards of Professional Conduct: Sharing Ideas about What They Mean for AJHA Members," at the Annual Convention, American Journalism Historians Organization, Wichita, KS, October 2006. She was also honored, as were other former presidents of AJHA, for service to the organization on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary. Dr. Palmegiano also published two book reviews, *The Language of Democracy: Political Rhetoric in the United States and Britain, 1790-1900*, by Andrew W. Robertson, *American Journalism*, Spring 2006, and *Nineteenth-Century Media and the Construction of Identities*, eds. Laurel Brake, Bill Bell and David Finkelstein, *JHistory*, July 2006.

**Katherine Safford-Ramus** of the Mathematics Department published a literature review as part of her US Department of Education grant project. The review is entitled, A Review of the Literature in Adult Numeracy: Research and Conceptual Issues. The review can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

**Peter P. Cvek** of the Philosophy Department published an article entitled: "The Neo-Confucian Theory of Li, the Goodness of Human Nature, and the Natural Law," in *Vera Lex*, the Journal of the International Natural Law Society, volume seven, (Winter, 2006), 37-57. The paper is a comparative study of the thought of the Neo-Confucian scholar Chu Hsi and the philosophy of Thomas Aquinas on questions of human nature and the moral law.

**Andrea Bubka** of the Psychology Department presented with co-author Frederick Bonato a talk entitled, "*Color effects on self-motion perception*," on November 11, 2006, at the annual Psychonomic Society meeting held in Houston, Texas.

**Maryellen Hamilton** of the Psychology Department recently published a journal entitled, "Goats don't Wear Coats: An examination of Rhyming Acquisition in English as a Second Language Learners". The article appeared in the *Bilingual Research Journal*, 30 (263-273). Dr. Hamilton also presented a paper in July, 2006 entitled, "Item Distinctiveness versus Contextual Distinctiveness: Influences on Remembering" at the forth International Conference on Memory in Sydney, Australia. She also presented "*Impact of Differentiating Between Critical and Distorted Terms on Semantic Illusions*" in November, 2006, at the annual Psychonomic Society meeting held in Houston, Texas.

**Eileen Flynn** of the Theology Department had an article published in the September 19, 2006 edition of the Asbury Park Press entitled, *Terrorism war poses moral issues for students*.

**Susan Graham** of the Theology Department was recently elected to the National Board of Theta Alpha Kappa as an at-large Representative for 2007-2010, at the Annual Meeting of Theta Alpha Kappa. The meeting was held in Washington, DC on November 19, 2006, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature.

Dr. Graham also co-organized and co-Chaired a session at the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature held in Edinburgh, July 2-6, 2006. The session, entitled, "Wielding the Double-Edged Sword: The Bible in Agonistic Rhetoric," addressed the use of the Bible as a polemical weapon and/or means to defend community consciousness and self-identity at moments of crisis and conflict for Christians and Jews in antiquity. At such times, the session showed, the biblical narratives have been used to sharpen or dull the "jagged edges" that emerge between Christian and Jew, Greek, and other Christians. Dr. Graham also presented a paper at the conference, "Cracks in the Edifice: Justinian's Biblical Interpretation and Erasure of the Jew."

## **Research Tip:**

### **Dr. Andrea Bubka, Psychology**

It has been my experience that the best way to become a good researcher (scholar) is the same way to become a good teacher—practice. That is, don't wait for the summer to work on a research project or every other year when a fellowship is awarded. Teaching and researching activities should co-exist. Teach in the morning, research in the afternoon. Teach on Tuesdays and Fridays and research on Mondays and Wednesdays. When researching becomes as common as teaching, it is easier to secure fellowships.

Researching and teaching often overlap. One way to continue research activities while teaching is to teach related seminars or research courses. Students like nothing better than for their professor to be an expert in the course he/she is teaching. Also, we are typically more enthusiastic about teaching topics related to our own research. This is also a great way to find student research assistants.

Sometimes professors enjoy engaging in the research activities, but when it comes to writing up the project for publication, they get stuck. Present research at conferences first before writing a paper for publication. Presenting at conferences typically involves submitting a short abstract and sometimes a longer abstract. These requirements are easier than writing the whole paper. Telling other researchers about your work is a real motivator. Others also provide valuable feedback that facilitates the writing process. One of the conferences that I attend is regional (Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore); every year, members of the Psychology Department along with our student research assistants present at this conference. Preparing and collaborating with the students facilitates the writing process. This is the ultimate hands-on experience for the students. This is another case of researching and teaching overlapping.

Some people think that teaching and researching are two separate entities; some professors are good teachers and some professors are good researchers. Ideally, professors should be both. Consider the examples presented above in which teaching and researching overlap. I know many professors that engage in research projects in the classroom and present at conferences, but they

never complete the final steps, writing up the findings for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Instead they just consider themselves good teachers when they could/should be both. People, strangers, relatives, students have probably asked if you are a good teacher, but when was the last time someone asked you if you were a good researcher?

## Teaching Tip:

**Dr. Irene McEachen, Nursing**

I would like to share a teaching tip that I have been successfully using in the graduate course: Administration in Healthcare Financing. The majority of students are nurses, with an MBA student included from time to time. My objective, in addition to having students knowledgeable re: budget creation and cost-benefit analysis, is to provide the students with an understanding of our current reimbursement systems. These systems include Medicare, Medicaid and the complex reimbursement methods used by managed care organizations.

Within these systems we uncover the threads of pluralistic and ethical issues, along with the financial ones, that are played out in the media. To accomplish this we turn to current events to graphically highlight certain aspects of healthcare financing that may not be obvious on first glance. If an uninsured person receives a transplanted organ, who pays? Should the donor of the organ be paid?

I give each student a newspaper or magazine clipping and have the student present the information to classmates. I urge the student to have a provocative question or two to ask classmates after the presentation. These provocative questions lead to debates that increase our understanding of some subtle financial aspects of the issue. It is easy to find clippings related to basic universal health care insurance, why we don't have it and how can we pay for it. How do we pay for the uninsured and do we support the Oregon "Death with Dignity Act"? What is the cost of maintaining patients on life support for months or years, and will this cost increase our personal insurance premiums?

Students react very positively to these presentations and their reactions keep them awake and alert during an hours long class that meets in the evening. When appropriately utilized, current events as applied to the course content, creates a vibrant classroom environment.

## Important Dates

### FEBRUARY 7

#### **Deadline for applications:**

Funds for research  
Funds for Attendance at  
Workshops and Short Courses

### FEBRUARY 9

#### **Deadline for applications (to OFRSP):**

Faculty Resource Network Summer Seminars  
([additional information and application](#))  
Faculty Resource Network Scholar-in-Residence  
([additional information and application](#))

### FEBRUARY 12

#### **Faculty workshop: Renewal, Tenure, and Promotion**

Degnan Conference Room, 12:00-1:00

### FEBRUARY 28

#### **Faculty workshop: Scholarship**

Degnan Conference Room, 12:00-1:00

### MARCH 7

#### **Deadline for applications:**

Funds for research  
Funds for Attendance at  
Workshops and Short Courses

### MARCH 21

#### **Faculty workshop: Grant Writing**

Degnan Conference Room, 12:00-1:00

### APRIL 1

#### **Deadline for applications:**

Funds for research  
Funds for Attendance at  
Workshops and Short Courses

### APRIL 12

#### **Faculty workshop: Fellowships**

Degnan Conference Room, 12:00-1:00