LA SALLE MAGAZINE
WINTER 2012–13
LA SALLE UNIVERSITY
150
Living the Promise

The La Salle List
150 Reasons to Celebrate Part 2
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150 Reasons to Celebrate Part 2

La Salle’s history is full of proud moments, important milestones, quirky anecdotes, and colorful characters. As La Salle turns 150, we’ve selected 150 reasons to celebrate La Salle, and we present the final 75, in no particular order, in this issue. Thanks to Brother Joseph Grabenstein, F.S.C., ’73, University Archivist, John P. Rossi, Ph.D., ’58, Professor Emeritus of History, several Alumni Leaders, and many La Salle staff members in Advancement, Athletics, Enrollment Services, and Student Affairs for their memories and contributions to this list. Do you think we missed something? E-mail butcher@lasalle.edu to let us know.

A Good Neighbor

La Salle established the Urban Studies and Community Service Center in 1967 to create a connection with the surrounding neighborhood through community service. The center’s “Communiversity” also offered non-credit courses to neighborhood residents.

Gridiron Memories

The first football game at McCarthy Stadium in 1936 was a memorable one. Not only did La Salle defeat St. Mary’s College of Minnesota, 47-12, but President Brother Anselm, F.S.C., delivered the ceremonial first kickoff.
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MODERN LOGO, CENTURIES-OLD TRADITION

In the current La Salle logo, introduced in 2004, the mark that appears next to the University’s name is a fracted, or broken, chevron, which also appears in La Salle’s coat of arms. The chevron, which is part of the coat of arms of the family of St. John Baptist de La Salle, the founder of the Christian Brothers, has been used for centuries by St. La Salle’s followers to evoke his memory. The star in the coat of arms is the symbol of the motto of the Christian Brothers, Signum Fidei, or “Sign of Faith.”

81

Getting Their Kicks

The women’s soccer team won the program’s first-ever Atlantic 10 championship in 2012 and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the second straight season.

83

A Whiff of Country Air

For a short time in the wee hours of May 31, 1968, La Salle’s resident population increased by one as a group of unidentified students smuggled a cow, Bessie, from the Belfield pasture, up 20th Street, across Olney Avenue, and onto the second floor of St. Bernard’s Hall. Daniel and Logan Blain, Belfield’s residents at the time, had to be roused from bed to coax Bessie back down the stairs. The traumatized bovine had left behind quite a smelly mess, leading then-dorm prefect and future University President Brother Patrick Ellis, F.S.C., to quip, “I might add that by 8 o’clock that morning the Lysol budget for the next fiscal year was completely exhausted.”

84

Taking a Stand by Sitting Down

In the days of shaggy beards, unkempt hair, and free thought, a group of La Salle students stirred up some minor controversy when organizing a four-day sit-in against the school’s obligatory ROTC program in 1969. Compared to protests, disturbances, or riots on other campuses at the time, the La Salle demonstration in College Hall was a last-ditch, peaceful effort at communication between students, faculty, and administration after a year-long discussion about the compulsory ROTC program. Ultimately, the students got their wish and the College Council reconsidered its previous vote to continue the program, making it a voluntary program with greater academic focus.
An Even Higher Education

The first students to graduate from La Salle with a doctoral degree received their doctorates (Psy.D.) in clinical psychology in 2002. The five-year, full-time program stresses the integration of theory and practice, requiring a two-year practicum and a full-year clinical internship.

83/Loyal Friends of the Brothers

Five La Salle faculty or staff members have been named honorary Christian Brothers (pictured top to bottom): Sidney MacLeod, long-time communication professor and active participant in The Masque; Raymond Ricci, ’66, former Vice President for Enrollment Services and Director of Mission Integration; the late Joseph Flubacher, ’35, economics professor; the late Roland Holroyd, biology professor; and the late Joseph Sprissler, Evening Division Director and Vice President for Business Affairs.

84/BETORE HE WAS FAMOUS

Early in his career, Jay Leno, now the host of The Tonight Show, performed his stand-up comedy routine at La Salle in 1983.

85/BRINGING HOME THE TITLE

The Explorers entered the 1952 National Invitation Tournament unseeded and left as champions. Defeating Seton Hall, St. John’s, Duquesne, and Dayton on its way to the championship, the team featured such standout players as Tom Gola, ’55, Norm Grekin, ’53, and captain/guard Buddy Donnelly, ’52. Gola and Grekin were named co-MVPs of the tournament.

Back When I was a Freshman ...

Tuition cost $20 per quarter and $80 per year in La Salle’s early years.
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**87//A Tradition of Scholars**

La Salle has a long history with the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship program, beginning in 1965, when Donald Rainey, ‘65, became the first La Salle student to be selected for a Fulbright. He studied literature in Germany. Since then, more than 60 La Salle students have earned Fulbrights, including Vincent Kling, ’68, now a professor in the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department, who became one of the first evening division students in the country to receive the honor.

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**TAKING A STAND**

Alonzo Lewis, ’57, a star on the men’s basketball team, traveled with the team to New Orleans, La., in 1954 for a game against Loyola. Louisiana was a segregated state at the time and barred blacks and whites from mixing on the court or in the bleachers. Lewis’s teammates refused to play without him, and Loyola officials, citing their status as a private school, defied the law and let the game go on. La Salle defeated Loyola, 85-71, and Lewis became the first black player to compete against white players in the state of Louisiana.

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**90**

**FOR ALL THE GLORY**

*In the 1930s, freshmen were required to wear beanies, known as “dinks,” at all times—any violation could lead to harassment by upperclassmen in the form of having to sing the school song or recite lines of poetry. Sophomores had to wear floppy white hats. In an annual matchup that pitted lowly underclassmen against even lowlier underclassmen, sophomores and freshmen competed in a tug o’ war. If the freshmen won, they were free from the beanie rule; if the sophomores won, the beanies stayed for another six weeks.*

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**SHARING OUR SERVICES**

La Salle students are using their expertise and skills to benefit neighborhood residents through a community clinic known as the Center for Psychological Services. Managed by doctoral-level supervisors, students in La Salle’s Clinical Psychology doctoral program and the Clinical-Counseling Psychology master’s program offer low-cost community services in anxiety management, behavioral medicine, mood disorders, pediatric psychology, and postpartum depression.

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**Hope to the World**

One of La Salle’s first international service trips sent students to Santiago, Chile, in the early 1990s to fix up homes and work at a day camp for children.
Three La Salle basketball players have been named NCAA National Players of the Year—Tom Gola, ’55, Michael Brooks, ’80, and Lionel Simmons, ’90. Gola (right), the Philadelphia “superstar,” was a standout player in both the Explorers’ 1952 NIT and 1954 NCAA championships. Praised for his speed, shooting, dribbling, defense, and team spirit, he smashed almost all of La Salle’s records and later returned to his alma mater as head men’s basketball coach. Brooks (above) led La Salle to the NCAA Tournament in 1978 and 1980, and he was named captain of the U.S. Olympic basketball team for the 1980 Moscow Games, which the United States boycotted. Simmons, who was the third-leading scorer in NCAA history (3,217 points) the year he graduated, went on to play for the Sacramento Kings. Gola, Brooks, and Simmons also occupy three slots on the list of the top five point-scorers in the history of the Big Five.

Christian Brothers have shaped the life of La Salle University for 150 years and continue to be active on campus as professors, administrators, and leaders. The Brothers are part of a more than 300-year-old tradition that began in France and has spanned the globe, with more than 800,000 students now educated by more than 80,000 Brothers, other religious, and lay associates in Lasallian institutions worldwide.

Many alumni have accepted additional La Salle degrees—honorary doctorates for their professional achievements and contributions to the world. Among the many alumni who have come back to collect honorary degrees and impart their wisdom on La Salle students are William J. Burns, ’78, Deputy Secretary of State, Tom Curley, ’70, former President of The Associated Press, Tim O’Toole, ’77, a past Managing Director of the London Underground, and Karen Pushaw, ’78, an advocate for the poor.
Make Way for the Ladies

Believe it or not, females didn’t always outnumber males on La Salle’s campus. In fact, until 1970, women had little presence at La Salle at all. After 107 years, La Salle finally admitted women on a full-time basis and, although the transition was a little bumpy at times, the La Salle ladies made their impression. “Armed with guitars, electric rollers, and James Taylor albums, 70 brave women took up residence on the three floors provided them in St. Edwards dormitory” and another 250 female commuters joined their cohorts in the classroom, according to La Salle Magazine in the fall of 1980. Female enrollment has steadily increased at La Salle since 1970. For the first time in 1992, the incoming freshman class was 51.6 percent female, and, since that shift, the female population has exceeded that of males on campus.

Educating Off Campus

To follow the Lasallian mission of meeting students where they are, the University opened its first satellite campus and offered courses from its Evening Division at Archbishop Ryan High School in Northeast Philadelphia in 1977. Today, La Salle offers courses at its Bucks County Center in Newtown and at the Montgomery County Center in Plymouth Meeting.

‘THE GOOD DOCTOR’

In his flowing black academic gown, Roland Holroyd was well known as a teacher and a walking history of La Salle’s early days. Holroyd first began at La Salle as a part-time biology teacher in 1920 and eventually left his position as an instructor at the University of Pennsylvania to join La Salle’s faculty full time in 1930.

‘Fight on to Victory!’

La Salle’s fight song, sung at the end of every basketball game, had to be revised after La Salle College became La Salle University. The third line became “Fight on for LSU” from “Fight on for LSC.”

IT’S NEVER TOO LATE

Following in the footsteps of La Salle’s Evening Division, which was established in the mid-1940s to educate returning World War II soldiers who attended night classes, the University launched the College of Professional and Continuing Studies in 2004. The College fulfills unique needs for adult students who delicately balanced work and family life with the desire to attain a college degree.

Generous Support

Several La Salle buildings and landmarks honor generous benefactors who have made their construction possible, including Sir John McCarthy (McCarthy Stadium, opened in 1936), H. Blake Hayman, M.D., ’41 (Hayman Center, opened in 1972), Hank DeVIncent, M.D., ’56 (Hank DeVIncent Field, dedicated in 1978), John Connelly (Connelly Library, opened in 1988), John McHale, ’49 (McHale Crossway and Plaza, dedicated in 2006), and Hugh, ’64, and Nancy Devlin (Hugh and Nancy Devlin Center for Science and Technology in Holroyd Hall, opened in 2009).
Brush with Fame
Muhammed Ali and Sammy Davis Jr. entertained on campus during a week-long African-American arts festival held in March 1969.

Cheers to the Brothers
Next time you’re browsing the aisles at the liquor store, consider grabbing a bottle of Christian Brothers brandy or wine to cap off your evening. Starting to produce an altar wine in California in 1882, the Christian Brothers shipped over vines from France, leading to the mass production and commercialization of Christian Brothers wine and brandy. Profits benefited the Brothers’ retirement fund, student scholarships, and other causes. Eventually, the operation was sold to a company that wanted both the grapes and the brand name. The company attributes its success to the quality product the Brothers started putting out more than a century ago.

Squashing Stress
In the midst of wrapping up last-minute projects and studying for final exams, students get a much-needed break thanks to the Stress Busters program. Stress Busters began in 2000, providing students with an opportunity to relieve and manage end-of-semester stress during the last week of fall or spring classes. Past activities have included mock tailgating parties, sitcoms and snacks, photos with Santa, and the ever-popular Kissing and Petting in the spring, which brings the pets of La Salle’s faculty and staff to campus for a playful afternoon on the Quad.

International Appeal
To welcome a growing number of international students to La Salle’s campus and help them adjust to living in the U.S., the University has developed the English Language Institute (ELI). The program prepares international students for life at La Salle and the greater Philadelphia region by increasing their English competency and introducing them to U.S. culture.

An Oasis in the City
La Salle found its permanent home—a lush, 130-acre campus on the edge of historic Germantown and Wister Woods—at 20th and Olney in 1930.

Cricket and Golf at Belfield
Introduced to the Belfield Estate in the 1840s by the sons of the estate’s owners at the time, cricket was once played where La Salle’s tennis courts now stand. The Belfield Country Club, which had a golf course that extended into what is now Main Campus, also once stood on the site of the Connelly Library and the North Halls complex.
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109//Speed Studying

In 1942, at the start of American involvement in World War II, La Salle’s Board of Managers approved an accelerated academic calendar, allowing students to graduate in just three years. The next year the schedule was accelerated further, and students could complete their studies in just two years and nine months.

‘Year Boxes’

From 1969 to 1972, the yearbook staff threw off the constraints of the traditional book format and produced boxes of inserts that pertained to students, faculty, and athletics. In an era of challenging authority, the administration was virtually ignored in these yearbooks.

Preparation for a Caring Career

The first nursing program established at La Salle, the R.N. to BSN program, was designed for adults already working as registered nurses. The program, which started with 36 students in September 1980, had its first graduates by May 1982.

'THE TEACHER OF TEACHERS'

Joseph Flubacher, ’35, joined La Salle’s faculty in 1938. His colleagues noted his dedication to the intellectual, moral, and social development of his students, while students saw him as a wise counselor and reliable friend. For more than 60 years, Flubacher remained dedicated to his alma mater, being named an honorary Christian Brother in 1992, receiving the Signum Fidei Medal for 1999, and accepting an honorary degree in 2000.

Preparing Business Leaders

Beta Gamma Sigma is the honor society for programs accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), a distinction held by fewer than 5 percent of business schools worldwide—and a group that includes La Salle’s School of Business. The La Salle chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma has been honored as an outstanding chapter for eight out of the last nine years, and it was awarded the Gold Award from AACSB as the international society’s top chapter in 2011.
In a city bursting with culture, history, and art, a “marvel” of a museum opened in La Salle’s Olney Hall, offering an intimate place to view and experience some of the area’s finest artwork. The La Salle University Art Museum officially opened in 1975, fulfilling the dream of Brother Daniel Burke, F.S.C., University President Emeritus, poet, critic, and English professor. After introducing art history into the curriculum while working as Academic Vice President, Br. Daniel became determined to establish an even more personal experience that would spark a love of art in the hearts of La Salle students and the neighboring community. After 10 years of slowly acquiring art and working with a meager budget, the dream became a reality. Today, La Salle is the only Philadelphia university with its own permanent display of paintings, drawings, and sculptures dating from the Renaissance to the present. The Art Museum’s six period galleries contain works by Peale, Eakins, Tanner, Rouault, and many others.

OK, so I say Explorer and you think … astronaut, obviously. Or at least that’s one of many images the La Salle Explorers visualized before becoming associated with the modern-day Explorer. In the 1930s, Hector the Dog briefly made an appearance to boost student morale, followed by a rather peculiar character wearing a raccoon coat and straw hat. The first semblance of a true mascot came in the 1950s when a member of the “Excitators,” La Salle’s fan club, borrowed a costume from the tobacco company his father worked for, setting the concept of the 17th-century French cavalier style. In 1962, during a game against St. Joe’s, the Explorer astronaut made its debut to initial looks of befuddlement, but the astronaut was eventually embraced by fans. In the late 1990s, a committee of students and administration developed the “Tick,” a blue superhero-type character who was quickly labeled the worst mascot in Philadelphia. Finally, in 2002, a survey revealed the old cavalier-style mascot remained a favorite, and the modern-day Explorer was born.

More than 46,000 strong, La Salle’s alumni are scattered across all 50 states and dozens of countries, helping to spread the word about their alma mater in all corners of the globe.
part 2

upgrading our Hardware

At the culmination of the Shoulder to Shoulder: Securing the Future major gift initiative, launched by President Brother Michael McGinniss, F.S.C., Ph.D., ’70, and chaired by Hugh Devlin, ’64, the University had raised $28.2 million toward the campaign’s goal of constructing a new science and technology center and strengthening the endowment, raising a total of $84.1 million over the life of the campaign. The fundraising effort allowed for a complete renovation of La Salle’s 50-year-old science building, adding 38,000 square feet and establishing the most state-of-the-art and environmentally friendly building on campus. Holroyd Hall, featuring the Hugh and Nancy Devlin Center for Science and Technology, reopened in the fall of 2009 as one of the best-equipped science facilities in the area.

MODERN AMENITIES

In the 1910s, for the first time, La Salle students could answer the call of nature without actually being in nature. Indoor toilets were installed in the basement of the college’s building at 1240 N. Broad St. during a remodeling project, replacing the toilets that had stood in the schoolyard.

Hollywood Connection

He made a name for himself as Young Frankenstein’s loveable Monster and as Everybody Loves Raymond’s gruff Frank Barone, but the late Peter Boyle, ’57, was known during his La Salle days by an entirely different name: Brother Francis de Sales. Boyle left the Brothers to pursue an acting career after college, but he never forgot his alma mater—he was awarded an honorary degree in 1993 and the Communication Department’s Shining Star Award in 2005, and he donated several film scripts to the Communication Department.

Achieving All-American Status

Since 1935, La Salle has developed an impressive list of student-athletes who have been named NCAA All-Americans. In total, 44 individuals and six relay teams have received the honor in 12 sports.
La Salle Magazine

Olympic Success
Beyond McCarthy Stadium or Gola Arena, La Salle students or alumni have achieved international distinction through Olympic success. In the course of 10 Olympiads, 16 current or former student-athletes have competed in seven Olympic sports. Of those, three have earned gold medals—Joe Verdeur, '50 (above), in swimming at the London Games in 1948; and Hugh Foley, '66, and Stan Cwiklinski, '66, both part of the eight-man crew at the Tokyo Games in 1964.

Living History
The Peale House, onetime home of famed American artist Charles Willson Peale and the location of La Salle’s President’s Office since 1986, is a National Historic Landmark and is considered one of the oldest buildings in use by a college or university in the country. Parts of the house date to 1708.

Teaching Nonviolence
Activist and devout Catholic Dorothy Day visited La Salle four times between 1956 and 1966, discussing nonviolence, the social responsibility of Christians, the Catholic conscience, and the U.S. intervention in Vietnam.

Year-End Roundup
With the exception of the period from 1944 to 1947, a yearbook has been produced at La Salle every year since 1940.

Honoring Service
The highest honor given by the Alumni Association, the Signum Fidei Medal, derives its name from the motto of the Christian Brothers, “Sign of Faith.” It is given annually to groups or individuals who have worked to uphold humanitarian principles in the tradition of the Brothers. Recent medal-winners have included Catholic Relief Services, the St. Gabriel’s System, and Marci B. Schankweiler, ’90, founder of the For Pete’s Sake Cancer Respite Foundation.

Necessity Breeds Ingenuity
While Sir John McCarthy (above, with shovel) had donated $10,000 to construct the stands for what would become known as McCarthy Stadium, the College was short on funds to complete the football stadium during the Great Depression. So La Salle President Brother Edwin Anselm, F.S.C., led the effort by La Salle staff to drag and level the field using a horse and wagon.
The Sisters of St. Basil the Great operated a school and an orphanage on the 16-acre property that is now La Salle’s South Campus from the mid-1950s until 1989, when La Salle purchased the land. La Salle’s newest residence hall, St. Basil Court, which opened in 2005, is named in honor of the nuns.

House of Prayer

In the days when La Salle’s College Hall accommodated students from both La Salle High School and College, an architect structured the building with a large, well-ventilated auditorium in the basement. The space housed plays, dances, assemblies, early graduations, and even large exams for several years. By the mid-1960s, the Union building had been built, including a new auditorium, so the College Hall space was transformed into the current De La Salle Chapel.

Top-Notch Performance

What’s life without a little bit of drama or a chuckle from a well-crafted one-liner? Although students had presented plays at La Salle for years, an organized drama club known as The Masque debuted its first official production, Sun Up, to the public in 1934. Founded by Joseph Sprissler and elevated to prominence by the late Dan Rodden, ’41, former student actor, Director of The Masque, and associate professor of English, the club has delivered quality productions for the La Salle community such as Romeo and Juliet, South Pacific, Guys and Dolls, and Macbeth. Known as an artistic man, Rodden “taught with the salesmanship of an actor,” according to La Salle Magazine in 1979. Today, The Masque performs in Dan Rodden Theatre in La Salle’s Union.

Campus at Wartime

The Christian Brothers are defined by their focus on a practical education, and perhaps at no point was that more apparent than during World War II, when courses in blueprint reading, mechanical drawing, and even fingerprinting were added to the roster, to train students for roles they might play in the war effort. Intriguingly, while students were preparing in the classroom to combat the Nazis, German POWs were housed at the Armory on Ogontz Avenue. Once a week, the prisoners were allowed to play soccer on campus; students were banned from venturing outdoors during their games.

Since its founding in 1981, the Nonprofit Center at La Salle’s School of Business has provided more than 50,000 nonprofit staff members and leaders and 6,000 nonprofit board members with leadership and emerging leadership development, education and training programs, expert consulting, and certificate programs. In all, the Nonprofit Center has provided consulting services to 5,000 nonprofit organizations.
Practicing What We Believe

Students volunteering in community service projects and in service-learning courses engage in more than 50,000 hours of community service annually, which equals more than $1 million of in-kind support for the local community. In recognition of this commitment to the community, the Corporation for National and Community Service has honored La Salle with a place on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the past five years. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching also selected La Salle for its Community Engagement Classification in 2010. Fewer than 1 percent of the nation’s higher education institutions have earned this recognition.

Women Hold Court

Forty years after men’s varsity basketball made its debut at La Salle, women got the opportunity to play during the 1971–1972 season. Basketball became the first sport for women, just one year after the University officially went co-ed.
HONORED ATHLETES

The Hall of Athletes was founded in 1961 by the Alumni Association and has inducted 141 individuals, five teams, and seven coaches.

Costume Drama

La Salle was a stop on a tour of college campuses by Sen. Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota in 1965. In order to fill the theater for his speech, professors rounded up students from their classes and even a troupe of student actors, in costume, who had been rehearsing for a Shakespearean play. Along with his planned speech on the importance of education, McCarthy remarked upon La Salle students’ unique dress code.

142//A Not-So-Trivial Record

With one quizmaster and a rotating cast of contestants, the student broadcasters of La Salle’s campus radio station, WEXP, stayed on the air continuously, asking and answering trivia questions, for 35 hours in April 2007, surpassing the previous world record of 30 hours.

143//BENDING THE RULES

After World War II, women began to work in the library and as secretaries. However, the Christian Brothers’ superiors in Rome were still wary of having too many women on campus, so when Superior General Brother Athanase Emile, F.S.C., paid a visit one day in 1948, President Brother Gregory Paul, F.S.C., told all the women to stay home. To keep up appearances, Brothers and lay faculty members sat at the female employees’ desks that day.

Little Magazine, Big Impact

Although its circulation never rose much higher than 700, the literary journal Four Quarters had a wide influence. Launched in 1951 to feature the work of La Salle’s campus faculty, it evolved into a showcase for renowned poets, novelists, essayists, and even politicians. Some of the more famous contributors included Nobel Prize-winners Seamus Heaney and Alan Paton, Pulitzer Prize-winner Robert Penn Warren, John F. Kennedy, W.H. Auden, J.D. McClatchy, John L’Heureux, and Flannery O’Connor. During its 44-year run, Four Quarters’ editors included Brother Edward Patrick Sheekey, F.S.C. (the namesake of Sheekey Writing Center in Olney Hall), and John Keenan, ’52 (left), longtime English professor.

Open Doors

Hired in 1967, Theopolis Fair (above) and the Rev. Sam Van Bird were La Salle’s first African American tenure-track faculty members. Van Bird taught sociology at La Salle for more than 20 years, and Fair served two terms as Chair of the History Department.

The first Hall of Athletes inductees were (clockwise from top left) Tom Gola, ’55, Joe Verdeur, ’50, Al Castello, ’55, Frank Loughney, ’40, and Ira Davis, ’58.
When La Salle and Villanova met for a Big 5 matchup on Feb. 8, 1969, both were ranked in the top 10 nationally, and expectations were high. The teams responded by putting on a show. La Salle, coached by Tom Gola, ’55, to a 23-1 record that season, was helped by a key three-point play by Ken Durrett, ’71, at a crucial juncture, and the Explorers defeated the Wildcats, 74-67. The victory was bittersweet, though, as the Explorers were in the middle of a two-year NCAA-imposed probation period that barred them from postseason play. Considered by some to be the best team in La Salle history, the 1968–1969 team was, according to Sports Illustrated, “On Top with No Place to Go.”

The American President

Before Brother Denis Edward, F.S.C., La Salle’s first 13 presidents were all born outside of the United States—in Canada, Ireland, Germany, and even Luxembourg. Br. Denis, who was born in Phoenixville, Pa., and served as President from 1911 to 1917, was the first American by birth to hold the office.

Serving Those Who Served Our Country

The G.I. Bill, officially named the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, was a boon for veterans and for La Salle. World War II veterans flocked back to campus, some still wearing parts of their uniforms, eager to earn degrees and start their careers, and La Salle, recovering from the lean Depression and war years, welcomed them with open arms. Between the fall of 1945 and the fall of 1946, La Salle’s enrollment exploded—from 138 students enrolled to 1,215. In 2009, a new G.I. Bill took effect, bringing a new generation of military veterans into the La Salle community.

‘The Gray Banana’

The sculpture that stands in the lobby of Olney Hall has been given quite a few nicknames by students since it was installed in 1984, but its official name is “The Solitude of Thought.” It was donated by sculptor Jay Dugan as an expression of gratitude for the education La Salle provided to his three children. The lobby’s floor had to be reinforced to bear the weight of the eight-ton sculpture, which was carved from a single piece of Carrara marble.

President Brother Daniel Burke, F.S.C., joined an Episcopal bishop, a Methodist bishop, a rabbi, and a Presbyterian church leader in a Vietnam War protest during Holy Week in 1971. During the protest, Br. Daniel chained himself to the White House fence.