KEMPER SCHOLARS EMBRACE AND ENRICH POLITICAL SCIENCE

La Salle University is one of only 19 colleges and universities in the nation to participate in the Kemper Scholars Program, which was founded by James Kemper, who began The Kemper Insurance Company. The Kemper Scholars Program partners with selected universities to “cultivate broadly educated” liberal arts students “for future leadership.” Kemper Scholars do two summer-long internships, one with a nonprofit or government agency in Chicago, Ill., after sophomore year, the other with a for-profit organization virtually anywhere in the world after junior year.

The Political Science Department is delighted that three of the University’s four current Kemper Scholars, Maria Muscara, ’10, Patrick Terranova, ’11, and Nate Tarnovski, ’12, are political science students. All three recently attended the Kemper Scholars Conference in Chicago and are exceptional students, active in the life of the University.

MARIA MUSCARA

Maria Muscara, a senior dual major in communication and political science, was awarded the coveted Robert J. Courtney Scholarship for her senior year, and, during the course of her senior year, Muscara traveled to San Diego, Calif., to accept the very first John D. Graham Scholarship from the Public Relations Society of America.

At La Salle, Muscara has been on the Honors Board since freshman year, was first runner-up in the Moot Court competition her sophomore year, served as President of the women’s rugby team, was a member of the Departmental Board, and was Chair of the College Republicans.

Muscara says the Kemper Scholars Program was “one of the best experiences of my college years” and “taught me crucial professional leadership skills.” In the summer of 2008, she was a Kemper intern at DevCorp North in Chicago, learning community development and organizational skills. During the summer of 2009, she was in New York City interning and honing her public relations skills.

Where will it all lead? Muscara has always been interested in politics and in government, and her goal following graduation this May is to “take a job in Washington, D.C., working for a public relations agency doing public affairs and government relations.”

PATRICK TERRANOVA

Patrick Terranova is passionate about the urban environment, city planning, and sustainable development; his dream job is to become the Mayor of Baltimore, Md.

At La Salle, Terranova is a senator in the Students’ Government Association, a resident hall assistant, a broadcaster for the men’s basketball team, and an active participant in the Urban Writers Project, where he worked with inner-city eighth-grade students writing about their lives and experiences. Terranova is fluent in Spanish, has taken travel/study classes to Chile and Brazil, and worked for Catholic Relief Services in Baltimore.

Last summer, for his initial Kemper internship, Terranova was assigned to work in the Chicago Mayor’s Office. He enhanced the office’s environmental practices by implementing an office-wide survey of transportation, machinery, lighting, and office practices. He also designed and proposed a “Chicago Global Scholars” program, an exchange program for high school students between Chicago and its “sister cities” around the globe.

Terranova knows he owes his summer working in Chicago’s City Hall to the Kemper Program. “I love cities,” he said. His study of politics provides him with an “understanding of the policies, red tape, and setbacks that play into the urban economy.” His love of cities drives him to fix what he finds. He plans to return to Chicago again this summer for his second Kemper internship, but his heart remains with Baltimore.

NATE TARNOVSKI

At Archbishop Ryan High School, Nate Tarnovski was a member of the Forensic League Championship Team. As a member of the Philadelphia Boys Choir, he toured China, South Korea, Cuba, Italy, France, Norway, and Iceland. At La Salle, his forensic skills have him demonstrating persuasional arguments, and continued on page 2
THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

During this past year, the Political Science Department lost an important friend, colleague, and former student with the death of Joseph V. Brogan, Ph.D., ’72.

I thought it was appropriate to share with our alums a portion of the remembrance I read at Joseph’s mass of celebration on Oct. 10, 2009.

I knew Joseph Brogan for 39 years, beginning in 1970 when he was a political science major at La Salle in my constitutional law and political theory classes. He was the best student I ever taught. I encouraged him to pursue his Ph.D. in political philosophy at Notre Dame, where he excelled.

Joseph appreciated and lived the life of the mind; he was the consummate professional, teacher/scholar, and mentor. In 1980 he won the coveted Leo Strauss Award for the best dissertation in political philosophy in the nation. After serving as La Salle’s Director of Admissions (1981) and later Acting Administrator of the Evening Division, Joseph returned to the Political Science Department as a full-time faculty member in 1987. He maintained an active research agenda, presenting papers and chairing panels at the Pennsylvania, the Northeastern and the American Political Science Associations. He published his textbook, Constitutional Law in the United States, and I believe he had memorized all of Tolkien’s work. He diligently served the University for more than 25 years in the Evening Division, in the Political Science Department, as a member and officer of the Faculty Senate, and as a teacher in the Honors Program.

But it was as a teacher that Joseph truly excelled and found his calling. Joseph loved books, philosophy, religion, politics, history, drama, and mystery stories. He taught his students to love books and learning and in 1993 received the Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching. He kept in touch with his former students and they kept in touch with him. At the time of his death, there was a photo in his office of a former student from Northeast Philadelphia, who, with Joseph’s support, went first to Harvard and then to Cambridge. The former student wrote me after learning of Joseph’s death, saying, “Joe was a wonderful mentor and friend to me and I will miss him terribly.” I was privileged to spend the past two years with Joseph as a friend and colleague in the Political Science Department. To paraphrase Joseph’s former student, many of us will miss terribly our conversations with Joseph about books, about ideas, about teaching, about life.

Michael R. Dillon, Ph.D., J.D.
Chair, Political Science Department

LA SALLE, ISRAELI, AND PALESTINIAN STUDENTS FACE MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS

Fifteen students (five La Salle undergraduates, five Israeli students, and five Palestinian students) are now meeting regularly on Facebook with three academic moderators/coordinators. This Middle East Student Project was conceived by Professor Kenneth Hill following his research sabbatical in the Middle East last year. During his multiple trips to Israel and to Palestine, Hill met with numerous academicians and activists, including Michael Cohen of Bar-Ilam University and the Galilee Institute in the center of Israel and Tamer Halaseh, the Director of International Relations of Bridges for Cultural Exchange in East Jerusalem, who each agreed to serve as coordinators with Hill on the new Middle East Student Project.

The students selected to participate receive passwords to the Facebook page and initially post a short biography and photo identifying their major, class, and level of interest. The three coordinators will post statements and/or topics for discussion by the students. All 15 students are then able to post comments, responses, and opinions on the topic. Students will be free to respond to both the initial statement and to one another and may participate by posting as frequently as they like.

Hill envisions this project as a serious learning experience for La Salle students, even if they know very little about the Arab-Israeli conflict when they first join the project. While strong disagreement is to be expected at times, all students understand this is not a debating forum and that opposing views and opinions must be treated with civility. A new statement or topic for comment will be posted by one of the three coordinators every few weeks. Polemical statements or derogatory comments by any student participant can and will be removed from the site by one of the faculty coordinators as soon as such a comment is posted.

The Department looks forward to seeing this project grow and expand in the years to come.

KEMPER SCHOLARS

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At La Salle, Tarnovski is politically involved, assisting to resolve constituent issues for a Pennsylvania state senator, serving as a poll watcher for the 2008 presidential election, and canvassing, polling, and phoning for the Campus Political Association. It is not surprising then to learn that Tarnovski would like to follow Patrick Terranova’s path and has applied to work in the Chicago Mayor’s Office this summer for his first Kemper internship.

Nate plans to pursue a career in domestic politics and believes his Kemper Scholarship has engendered a “sense of duty, both socially and academically” to achieve his ambitions.

Obviously, for the faculty it is a real joy to have Maria Muscara, Patrick Terranova, and Nate Tarnovski in our classes.
POLITICAL SCIENCE ALUMS ASSIST ASPIRING LAWYERS

INITIAL LEGAL CAREERS NIGHT
On Nov. 10, 2009, the La Salle University St. Thomas More Pre-Law Program, in conjunction with the Office of Alumni Relations, held its first Legal Careers Night. Approximately 20 alumni lawyers from the 1970s through 2004 attended the affair and interacted with more than 60 current students. The attorneys came from a wide array of practices and represented many of the area’s best-known mid-size and large law firms as well as public and corporate in-house counsel, government attorneys, state legislators, and members of the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office, and the Defender’s Association.

These lawyer alums met and spoke with students informally one on one or answered questions in small groups about law school, the life of an attorney, the wide range of legal practice, and their own practice areas. The students found this networking to be a powerful and rewarding experience. As depicted in these photos, a large number of political science legal alums were in attendance, providing support, encouragement, and practical advice for many of our current students.

NEWS ABOUT YOU!
The La Salle University Political Science Department wants to hear from you. Please complete this form and send it to: La Salle University, Political Science Department, 1900 West Olney Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19141-1199.

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☐ I am willing to accept an intern. ☐ Contact me about summer interning or employment.

☐ Yes, I will attend the reception on April 16. ☐ Sorry, I cannot attend.

La Salle University, Political Science Department, Box 192, 1900 West Olney Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19141
POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS INAUGURATE MOCK TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Arriving on campus last year, three political Science majors discovered the University did not offer something they wanted as part of their collegiate experience—a Mock Trial Program. Undeterred, they researched the nationally recognized American Mock Trial Association, wrote up a constitution for La Salle, and made a formal proposal to Student Affairs.

By the end of 2008–2009, the University had a new officially recognized student organization, whose elected officers included political science majors Steve Patton, President, ’12; T.J. McCarrick, Vice President for Logistics, ’12, and John Prendergast, Vice President for Personnel, ’12.

In only its first year, the La Salle Mock Trial Association obtained travel funding, drummed up interest among the student body, and now has 14 members. Each year the American Mock Trial Association prepares the facts, testimony, and law for a new competition case. The 2009–2010 competition case is a criminal trial.

La Salle’s two trial teams (composed of students serving as both attorney advocates and witnesses) have practiced and prepared diligently. In their initial tournaments, at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and at the University of Pennsylvania, both trial teams are off to an impressive start, scoring victories over local rivals Villanova and Rutgers.

(La Salle 2 – Villanova 0)
(La Salle 2 – Rutgers 0)

Overall, the initial season is a great success with one student being named “best attorney advocate” and two others receiving “honorable mention attorney advocates.” The trial teams will next compete in the Eastern Regional Competition at Princeton University. Their goal is to advance to the National Qualifiers in the team’s inaugural year. As John Prendergast said, “We think we can compete with each and every team in our region.”