

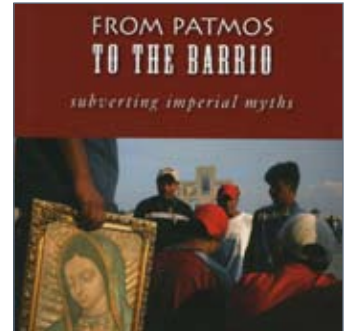
momentum

Bellarmino College of Liberal Arts Loyola Marymount University

SPRING 2009



The **Bellarmino College of Liberal Arts** aspires to excellence within a Catholic university that is student-centered, distinctive in its academic experience, and vibrant in its intellectual climate.



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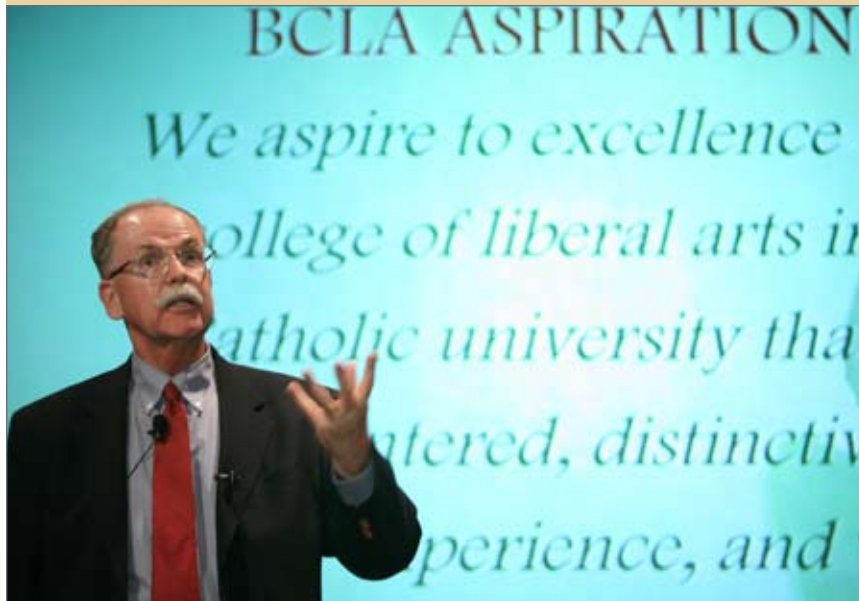
The Ability to Think
A Liberal Arts Education
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Classroom Innovator
2009 winner of the
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We have great teachers and many outstanding scholars at Bellarmine College and we are graduating students who are truly alive and engaged with the world.



◀ MICHAEL J. O'SULLIVAN, PH.D., INTERIM DEAN

This year I have emphasized academic excellence and intellectual rigor in the classroom so that our strategic plan, *Education that Transforms*, can become a vision that enables students to meet the “challenges of the wider world with sharpened intellects...” From the moment students arrive for their freshman summer orientation to the last final exam in their senior year, I want them to feel challenged to do their best work in every class, to find the intellectual passions that will animate them in their lives.

But we should not stop there. One of the keys to Ignatian spirituality is the practice of being reflective on a daily basis. There is a lot in our culture that works against that but we have to reclaim the goal of educating the whole person. We must do more than just teach students to think. We need to help them focus on the life of the mind and the importance of being reflective. We should teach the *value* of thinking.

We have great teachers and many outstanding scholars at Bellarmine College and we are graduating students who are truly alive and engaged with the world. In these pages, you will read about faculty, staff, and students who are making a difference, not just in the United States but around the world.

To some, 2008-09 may feel as if it were “in between,” that is, between the moment when we lost former BCLA dean, Michael E. Engh, S.J., who became Santa Clara University’s president and the yet-to-arrive moment when a new dean will assume his or her new responsibilities. For me, it has been a year “in the midst” of BCLA life. The view from the dean’s office has been both challenging and rewarding.

I hope you will recall your own great moments in the classroom, and remember the great teachers who challenged and inspired you.

Wishing you the very best,

Michael J. O'Sullivan, Ph.D.
INTERIM DEAN

momentum

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ON THE COVER:

LMU graduates throw their mortar boards into the air at the end of the undergraduate commencement ceremony at Sunken Garden.



Timothy Shanahan Named Daum Professor

Appointment Recognizes Teaching, Advising, Scholarship and Service

Timothy Shanahan, a professor in the Department of Philosophy, was awarded the 2009-10 Daum Professorship. The Daum is a one-year appointment made to a full professor, nominated by their department, for excellence in teaching, advising, scholarship, and service. Shanahan has taught and advised students in philosophy at all levels of the curriculum, including lower-division core classes, honors courses, graduate courses and pedagogical training for M.A. students. He has published four books, including an ethics text, “Reason and Insight: Western and Eastern Perspectives on the Pursuit of Moral Wisdom,” over twenty-five articles and four book reviews.

His colleagues note that: “Throughout his twenty-year career at LMU, he has never wavered in his commitment and devotion to the well-being of our students, the Philosophy Department, our college, and LMU as a whole.” The award includes a \$10,000 research fund and a reduced course load. Shanahan said he will use the time and resources provided by the Daum award to further some of his research projects. “My plan is to finish and publish a couple of papers I am writing on terrorism and counterterrorism, write a new paper commemorating the 150th anniversary of the publication of “The Origin of Species” examining changing conceptions of Darwin’s theory, and to begin a work on the philosophical themes in the film, “Blade Runner.”

During the Dean’s Convocation in March 2009, the 2008-09 recipient of the Daum Professorship, Prof. Linda Bannister, moved audience members with an overview of her project this past year, the award-winning play, “Turpentine Jake,” which she wrote in collaboration with James Hurd. Bannister and Hurd are currently working on a screen version of the play. The Daum Professorship gave her the time and resources to realize a project to which she is artistically and personally committed. “It has been a year that has changed my life forever,” Bannister said.



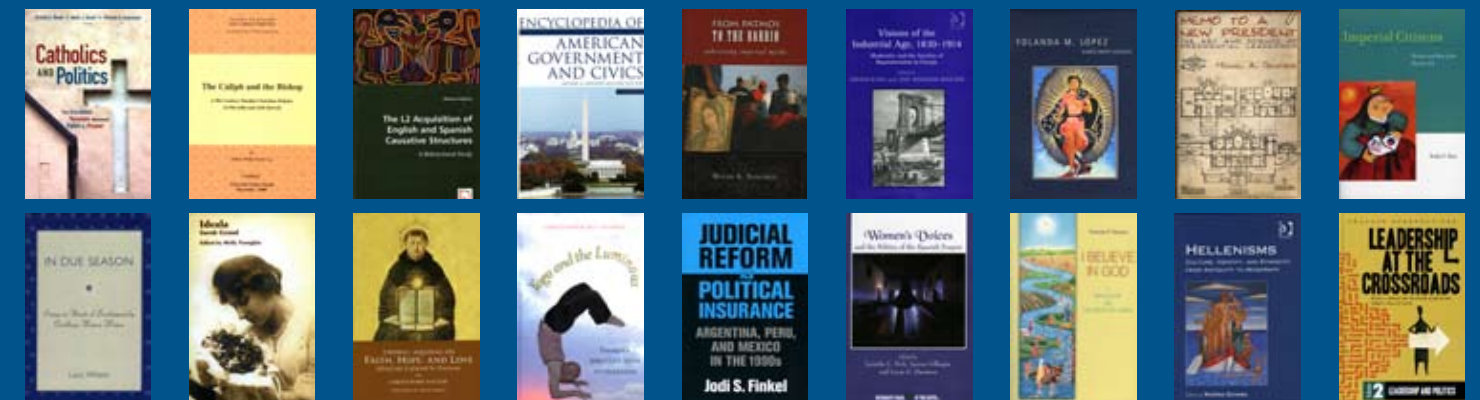
Throughout his twenty-year career at LMU, he has never wavered in his commitment and devotion to the well-being of our students, the Philosophy Department, our college, and LMU as a whole.



◀ COLLEAGUES OF PROF. TIMOTHY SHANAHAN

◀ PROF. LINDA BANNISTER, RIGHT, WITH CO-WRITER, JAMES HURD

Bellarmino Bookshelf



Bellarmino’s faculty turned out 18 books in 2008 that covered everything from politics to British feminists; from biographies to text-books. Pictured above are books by (in alphabetical order) Monica Cabrera, Christopher Key Chapple, Karen Mary Davalos, Jennifer L. Eich, Jodi S. Finkel, Michael Genovese (who published four books this year), Kristin E. Heyer, Christopher Kaczor, David Sanchez, Nadia Y. Kim, Molly Youngkin, Wafik Nasry, S.J., Lucy Wilson, Amy Woodson-Boulton and Katerina Zacharia. For more information on these publications visit: <http://bellarmine.lmu.edu/momentum>



Critical Times Call for Critical Thinking

Liberal Arts Offer a Practical Guide to Fulfilling Life

In recent years, as young men and women increasingly focused on careers and success, the life of the mind and intellectual inquiry seemed neglected; the concepts “critical thinking” and “service to others” were apparently shunted aside.

But the economic crisis and a new emphasis on service have brought renewed appreciation for the tools provided by a liberal arts education -- the ability to think, to analyze and to comprehend, which enable students to care about the world and to think and function in any environment. Combine that with the Ignatian principle of educating the whole person -- spiritually, emotionally, intellectually -- and you have the uniqueness of a Bellarmine College education. ▸

Colette Labouff Atkinson '88 says, “I work at UC Irvine as associate director at the International Center for Writing and Translation. In this mostly administrative position, my job involves [communication] every day, and it comes with ease in part, I think, because I had teachers who let me know it was worth understanding a letter, a person, a book.” Atkinson went on to earn an M.F.A. and a doctorate in English, but the early lessons stuck with her. “What I found in my courses ... was that I really learned to read closely and to try to figure out what someone -- anyone -- was saying,” she explains. “This was something I learned in every class I took, from the New Testament to American slavery and racism to poetry workshops.”

Magalí Del Bueno Riancho '08 earned degrees in theology and Spanish. It was in a theology class that she heard the maxim from St. Francis: “Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary use words.” “I took an Alternative Spring Break to Jackson, Miss.,” she says. “On the day we were going to leave, we were given the opportunity to work in the local soup kitchen. ... I had never been so convinced that I was in the right place at the right time.” Riancho has been teaching English at a school in Italy run by Salesian sisters, making use of her language training and furthering her beliefs.

Senior history student Jesse Jovel finds connections to his discipline even in casual settings. “It is truly amazing how useful being a history major has been,” he says. “From watching politics-driven shows like ‘The Daily Show with Jon Stewart’ to talking about race and power and authority in my sociology class, history has come into use.”

A Worldly Context

Despite a low ebb in liberal arts studies -- the New York Times reported in February that only 8% of college degrees are given in the liberal arts -- ethnic studies scholars, women’s studies professors and language departments can put their intellectual pursuits in a worldly context.

Lahaina Araneta, a senior in women’s studies did research for MuJER, a Guatemala-based nonprofit organization that trains sex workers in office skills and literacy to help them escape the trade. She says, “I can work any job and apply my women’s studies background; I could be an accountant, a dancer, a movie producer, and feel that my education in women’s studies has been critical to forming who I am.”

Sometimes, following an intellectual passion leads directly to a position. Jenna Badillo '06 was an urban studies major with a Chicana/o studies minor. For her minor course thesis, Badillo studied the Latino neighborhood adjacent to Koreatown in Los Angeles and investigated its demography as a key to what made it culturally Latino. Later, during a job interview with an

urban planning firm, she presented her thesis. She got the job and was also promised tuition if she enrolled in an urban planning graduate program.

And there are times when the depth and breadth of a liberal arts education becomes clearer over the dinner table. “Students have told me about arguments they’ve had during Thanksgiving break with family members when they’ve taken concepts they’ve learned to challenge the accepted way of looking at things,” said Joseph Jewell, chair of the Department of African American Studies. Jewell believes a broad academic training helps make sense of nightly news bites. That’s what he strives for in his classes: To convey understanding of the wider context of current events.

Search for Answers

For members of the Department of Economics, their relevance has rarely been clearer. Robert Singleton, associate professor of economics, sees the recent hard times sending students in search of answers. “The mission of macroeconomics is to be more relevant, to learn from the experience of the 1930s, and from the more recent experiences of Europe and Japan when they went through difficult times. We try to apply those lessons to what’s happening now.”

The critical-thinking skills and the long-term view that liberal arts emphasize are crucial to understanding the world and our place in it. The study of philosophy can transform a person, says Elizabeth Murray, chair of the Department of Philosophy. “Its practical use is for the long term, thinking through the problems of today to solutions.”

Katerina Zacharia, chair of the Classics and Archaeology Department, sees a clear connection between a world that increasingly resembles a global village and the study of the classics. “I try to turn liabilities into assets, implementing the lessons of the Greeks precisely when misfortune hits home. Like the wise Solon the Athenian, call no man happy for his temporary riches, but rather take the longer view and lead an ethical life aiming for a union with the divine and a deeper sense of fulfillment.”

Véronique Flambard-Weisbart, chair of the Department of Modern Languages, describes how the study of languages has shaped lives: A student, who had studied French and German, works for UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. “The [usefulness of studying modern languages] may not be apparent, but it will make a difference, may open new doors,” Flambard-Weisbart says.

These examples bring home the point that a liberal arts education -- the disciplines that reflect on life’s experiences to find deeper truths -- are key in facing whatever difficulties may arise.



I can work any job and apply my women’s studies background; I could be an accountant, a dancer, a movie producer, and feel that my education in women’s studies has been critical to forming who I am.

LAHAINA ARANETA



Top Teaching Honor Goes to Jodi S. Finkel Political Science Professor Transforms Thinking

Jodi S. Finkel, associate professor of political science, is the 2009 winner of the Fritz B. Burns Distinguished Teaching Award, LMU's most prestigious teaching honor awarded each year by President Robert B. Lawton, S.J.

Finkel is known as an innovator in the classroom. In her Overcoming Poverty class she begins working with students six months prior to the start of class to discover their individual research interests and career goals so that she can then establish compatible internships with Los Angeles-based nonprofits. She is a professor who strives to make a difference in her students' lives and in the lives those students may touch in the world beyond LMU.

"In my own classroom, I attempt to ask my students the burning questions that will send them on a lifelong journey. . . . You never know which question

will dance endlessly at the back of a student's mind or beat tirelessly at the center of a student's heart," said Finkel explaining her teaching philosophy.

Michael O'Sullivan, interim dean of Bellarmine College, praised Finkel's work and noted that, "students consistently attest to how her courses have transformed their thinking and challenged them to become actively involved in social justice issues. Professor Finkel spends time with her students, fostering their individual growth, provoking not only intellectual change but life transformation through her mentoring. There is no other faculty member in the college who has shepherded students to consistently achieve such high levels of recognition and acclaim outside the university."

A stellar example of her inspirational leadership is the nonprofit MuJER. With Finkel's encouragement and support, Ana Moraga and Tania Torres, two of her students, founded it as a small literacy project in Guatemala City for about 30 female sex workers. It has since expanded into an organization that serves and empowers over 200 women through computer training, vocational classes, and programs dealing with self-esteem, human rights, and domestic violence. Finkel is now the president of MuJER's board of directors.

Finkel earned her B.A. (1989), Master of Political Science (1996), and Ph.D. (2001) from the University of California, Los Angeles. She also earned a Master of International Affairs in 1992 from the University of California, San Diego. She began teaching at LMU in 2001.

Nurtured at Bellarmine

At 4 a.m. on January 20, 2009, Bellarmine College senior Natalie Minev, arrived at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. to wait eight hours in freezing weather to witness the inauguration of Barack Obama. She was traveling with Professor Michael Genovese and 21 other students who attended seminars, met with legislators and stayed for the inauguration.

"It was amazing. I was with a diverse group of LMU students and when [Obama] gave his speech everyone in this huge crowd united. It was amazing." One of the things that inspired her most was the new president's call to action. "He said, 'It's time for each person to make a difference in transforming the country,'" she recalled. She is prepared and ready.

Minev is the daughter of a Bulgarian father and a Filipino mother. Her father, who was tortured by the Soviet KGB before he escaped to the U.S., told her stories about some of his experiences and she became interested in human rights and political persecution. Even before hearing President Obama's speech, she was planning a career with a nonprofit organization.

A double major in English and political science, Minev wants a job helping others and has applied to two nonprofit service organizations: Teach For America and AmeriCorps. "I am really eager to get out into the world and apply my skills," she said. Later, she will decide if she wants to go to law school and specialize in social justice issues.

Intensely interested in current events, Minev sees the worldwide financial crisis as damage inflicted by people who were too focused on careers and success.

For her, success in life is all about balance... "a life that encompasses intellectual growth, care of self and care of others." And that's where the right type of



“There is a great need not just for career training and career guidance but personal responsibility and social responsibility.”

NATALIE MINEV

education comes in.

"There is a great need not just for career training and career guidance but personal responsibility and social responsibility," Minev said. "These are the priorities fostered in me in the last four years." Minev feels LMU, as a Jesuit university, has a clear vision of the intersection between liberal arts and social justice. For her, it was the right vision.

"I feel the most valuable gifts I've gotten from an LMU education are critical writing, reading and thinking skills for whatever I want to do. You are encouraged to explore your passion and you jump off from there. The education of the whole person is the most valuable thing you can get in an education."

Portrait of a Friend, Michele McGarry Crahan



Michele McGarry Crahan, known to those close to her as "Missy Crahan," has been a devoted supporter of Loyola Marymount University, and especially Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts, since the late 1990s. She is a member of numerous local Catholic, social and education-oriented charitable organizations and also happens to be an enthusiastic USC alumna. Through the generosity of benefactors such as Missy Crahan, Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts has raised \$16,765,674 to date towards its campaign goal of \$24,000,000.

Crahan, a devout Catholic and cousin of Rev. John P. McGarry, S.J., provincial of the California Province of the Society of Jesus, has long been an advocate of a rigorous, well-rounded, liberal arts education and has a deep

affection for the Jesuits. In addition to her volunteer efforts as a founding member of the BCLA Advisory Board, she is a Trustee of the Julia Stearns Dockweiler Charitable Foundation and sits on the Board of Advisors of the George H. Mayr Foundation. Crahan has supported the Dockweiler History Award, BCLA Advisory Board Scholarships, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships and the dean's discretionary fund within BCLA along with several other initiatives at LMU.

"It's very exciting to support BCLA because of the work it does with our young people ... opening their minds, encouraging their enrichment ... being able to touch their lives like the Jesuits have touched ours."

Sociology, Psychology, History Professors Honored

TOP: REBECCA SAGER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY
BOTTOM: CHERYL GRILLS, CHAIR OF PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Rebecca Sager, assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, was named one of two visiting fellows at the Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton for the upcoming 2009-10 academic year. Sager's project "looks at how religion is being integrated into the Democratic Party, both in its campaigning and its policies." Last fall, she was awarded a National Science Foundation grant for \$32,858. Her book, "The Politics of Faith: State Implementation of Faith-Based Initiatives," will be published in November 2009 by Oxford University Press.

Cheryl Grills, professor and chair of the Department of Psychology, received an \$895,000 grant from the Rob-

ert Wood Johnson Foundation in the fall 2008 semester. The grant will be used to launch the Psychology Applied Research Center which will examine childhood obesity in disadvantaged communities.

Amy Woodson-Boulton (not pictured), assistant professor in the History Department, will receive a 2009 summer stipend of \$6,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for her project, "Temples of Art in Cities of Industry: Beauty as Social Transformation in England, 1870-1930." She was also awarded a short-term Huntington Fellowship, where she will work in residence at the Huntington Gardens for two months.



The New LMU Alumni Online Community

Starting April 7, you can experience the power of the LMU network and connect with more than 48,000 fellow alumni worldwide.

Check out the many new features such as: Classnotes, Job Postings, Message Boards, Blogs and more. Link in your Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn member pages with your profile. Look for e-mail instructions on how to log in for the first time.

Log on. Link Up. Catch up.



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT'S MARIA JACKSON IS RECOGNIZED

Each year, an administrative assistant in BCLA is recognized for outstanding performance.

This year's recipient, Maria Jackson was recognized for her critical role in helping the English Department run smoothly, and for her ability to work with students. When asked about her job, Jackson replied, "I take pride in my work and I strive for excellence." Jackson plans to use the \$2,500 award to take a trip to French Canada this summer; she is hoping to put her French to good use.

Last year, the college honored Teresa Hackett of the History Department as the first recipient of the Outstanding Staff Award.



CATHY MACHADO'S WORK IN DEAN'S OFFICE IS ACKNOWLEDGED

At the spring 2009 Dean's Convocation, Cathy Machado, Senior Coordinator of Academic Services, was honored for her years of service in the BCLA Dean's Office, where she has worked since 1987. Machado quickly made herself the "go to" person for all matters related to academic advising and played an instrumental role in designing more student-centered advising services. Interim Dean Mike O'Sullivan recognized Machado for her "... many years of outstanding leadership and tireless service in developing effective advising strategies to support BCLA students and faculty."



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