Campus Notes

The iSJU Program at St. Joseph’s University: Teaching Students the Way of Saint Ignatius

iSJU introduces and acclimates first-year students to the Ignatian mission and motto (spirit, intellect, purpose) alive in the campus community of SJU. The “i” comes from the focus on finding one’s individual vocation through 5 values: the person as Imago Dei; Imagination in action; Immersion in social justice and community; Intellectual pursuit and Individual talents and vocation. A series of residence “hall programs” including speakers from the student body, the faculty, and the Jesuit community are offered. The Program reaches over 60% of the freshmen class and, since its inception, participation in service and retreat opportunities has risen significantly.

For a link to the source of this article, Xavier University’s Jesuit Identity Resource, click here. For more information on this initiative, visit St. Joseph’s University’s Webpage.

Poetry Jam at Saint Mary’s College Helps Students Connect with the Homeless

Students from Saint Mary’s College in Indiana have set up a weekly poetry reading at their local homeless shelter. As part of a project for a religious studies class, three students, Lauren Theiss, Meghan Larsen and Nikki LaGare, volunteered at the local Center for the Homeless to help men study for their upcoming GRE tests. During the time they spent at the shelter, they were inspired to help the men express themselves through writing poetry.

According to Theiss, the students felt it would be a “good, healthy way for [the students] to express their feelings.” Religious studies professor Joe Incandela paid tribute to the students saying “One of the goals of the projects for this course is to enable the student to view our society from the perspective of those on its margins. The poetry jam has been an innovative way for these students to accomplish this goal.”

The students went on to “publish” the men’s poetry and distribute the book at the homeless shelter.

For further information visit the Poetry Jam Webpage at St. Mary’s College.

New Play Offers a Way to Spread the Pro-Life Message on Campus

The premiere of Jeremy Stanbary’s two-person, one-act play The Vitae Monologues took place on campus at the University of St. Thomas, MN in early 2009. This performance, based on inspiring true stories, explores the “difficult reality of post-abortion trauma as well as the healing that’s possible after abortion” (The Vitae Monologues Webpage).

To learn more about the Monologues, and for information on hosting the performance at your campus, visit Epiphany Studio Productions’ Website.

“Slow-Food” Dinners at The College of the Holy Cross

Michael Kennedy, ACCU Intern

Arthur Korandanis, the director of auxiliary services at the College of the Holy Cross, has been offering “slow-food” dinners to students since being inspired by the ideas of Italian food writer Carlo Petrini. Korandanis introduced the program to encourage students who have been raised in a fast-food culture to take the time to enjoy the experience of eating with fellow diners and appreciate the people who prepare and serve the food.

A recent dinner at Holy Cross began with a short introductory talk from Chef Tim Trachimowicz who described in detail the origins of the food served. The food, he said, was all local, even minor items such as the blueberries in the mesclun salad were locally sourced.

These bi-monthly events have become so popular that the booking schedule for the spring semester was full prior to the end of classes fall semester. Helping fuel popularity among students is the focus on good food and good conversation; this is maintained by a total ban on cell phones and blackberries during the event.

For more information contact Cristal Perriello at (508) 793-2419