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Community Service at
La Salle University
At La Salle University, the outstanding education you receive will touch your mind, but our dedication to community service, both in and out of the classroom, will touch your heart.
A large part of our mission as a Christian Brothers University is one of service to others. We encourage you to help achieve that mission by continuing your participation in community service and helping to touch the hearts of others. You will join many of La Salle’s undergraduate students who have volunteered their time, in some manner, to a community service cause.

This brochure will give you some information about what we do for our community on a regular basis, along with ideas of for getting involved in community service as a La Salle student.

COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

Every year, five students who are heavily involved in community service throughout their secondary school careers are named Community Service Scholars. These five individuals are awarded a half-tuition scholarship for past dedication and future promise of becoming service leaders on campus. For more information on the Community Service Scholarship, visit www.lasalle.edu/admiss/fin_aid/ and follow the links to “Scholarship Information” and “Institutional Scholarships.”
Many of our service volunteers are actively involved in one or more of our 15 community service programs. These programs include involvement on and off campus and represent a wide array of service opportunities. The programs are divided into three distinct areas of participation: direct service programs, tutoring and mentoring programs, and social justice advocacy programs. All of the programs are guided by the Fellowship of Community and University Services (FOCUS), which fosters campus-wide programming and planning of community service activities. If you want to check out La Salle’s community service programs, read on.
**AIDS OUTREACH** – in conjunction with Girard Medical Center, La Salle students visit AIDS patients and engage in therapeutic social activities

**CIRCLE K** – an international organization that works to meet the needs of local communities through various service activities

**ELDER CARE** – a program that builds relationships between La Salle students and our local elderly neighbors

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** – a hands-on organization working in our surrounding neighborhood assisting elderly neighbors with simple repairs

**HOMELESS OUTREACH** – a coordinated effort with the Philadelphia Committee to End Homelessness to speak and interact with homeless individuals

**LASALLIAN YOUTH NETWORK OF COLLEGIANS** – a group of students who participates in different service partnerships to continue the Christian Brothers’ mission to serve others

**NATIONAL STUDENTS PARTNERSHIPS** – a community-based resource center that helps people find jobs and housing

**SOUP KITCHEN** – an opportunity for students travel to St. Francis Inn in the Kensington area of Philadelphia to help prepare and serve food to the homeless
community service programs

FOSTER CARE TUTORING – a rewarding experience for students to assist with the academic, social, and emotional growth of children in the foster care system

LA SALLE ORGANIZATION CARING FOR KIDS (LOCK) – a program in which La Salle students work with different children’s programs at St. Christopher’s Hospital to open doors for children that would normally be closed to them

NEIGHBORHOOD TUTORING – an after-school program for neighborhood children in which they receive one-on-one homework help with a La Salle student volunteer twice a week

POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE (PAL) YOUTH CENTER – a program aimed at enabling students to work together while building bonds with local youth

academic excellence

Students in La Salle University’s School of Nursing have accomplished a 100 percent passing rate on the Family Nurse Practitioner Exam
THE ALLIANCE – provides support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and heterosexual students by creating campus awareness of relevant issues. The Alliance also sponsors HALT (Hate, Acceptance, Love, Tolerance) Week, which focuses on tolerance and understanding for all through speakers, films, and other activities.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AND VIOLENCE ENDS (SAVE) – a group that focuses on women’s issues and healthy relationships; SAVE sponsors “Take Back the Night,” a day that celebrates the empowerment of women.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE – an education and outreach organization that works to promote awareness of different social justice issues by sponsoring activities, speakers, etc.
profile: community service scholar

Name: Katie Daniels
Year of Graduation: 2006
Major: Communication
Minor: International Studies
Hometown: Lancaster County, Pa.
High School: Hempfield High School
Service Activities: AIDS Outreach, Soup Kitchen, Habitat for Humanity, and Coordinator of Foster Care Tutoring
Other Activities: Students’ Government Association Vice President of Student Affairs; member of GAELS Irish Society, Admission Campus Explorer, member of Gamma Sigma Sigma sorority

academic excellence

La Salle University’s chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma, an international honor society for accredited business programs, has been named the Gold Chapter for 2004. Of the 397 chapters worldwide, La Salle is ranked number one.
How did you become a Community Service Scholar?
First, I came for a tour of La Salle, and after meeting with an admission counselor and discussing my community service activities in high school, she encouraged me to apply for the scholarship. In high school, I participated in my church’s Youth Group Core Team, by coordinating service trips and planning activities for the rest of the group. I was also president of Anchor Club, a general service club similar to Key Club or Circle K, where we did activities such as starting a coffeehouse for our school to raise money for charity, and organizing field trips for our special needs classmates.

Why did you choose La Salle?
I definitely wanted to be in a major city, and I really wanted to attend a Catholic college. I also knew I wanted to major in communication, and I was really impressed with La Salle’s Communication Center. The deciding factor came when I sat for my Community Service Scholarship interview. At the interview, I could see that La Salle’s dedication to service was real, and I wanted to be part of it.

What can you say about service at La Salle?
Service at La Salle is great. The entire campus community gets involved, including faculty and staff, different student organizations such as fraternities and sororities, Students’ Government Association, La Salle Ambassadors, and others. I’m looking forward to coordinating Foster Care Tutoring next year, and possibly sitting on the selection committee to select and mentor future Community Service Scholars.
It’s obvious that you can get involved with service by joining an established outreach organization, but what you may not know is that you also have many opportunities to engage in service through your day-to-day coursework. Service-learning is the term used to describe classes that take course concepts and test them out in the real world through service. As a student, you’ll take what you learn in class and apply it as a volunteer in the community or with a non-profit organization. You’ll then take what you learn during your service experience back into the classroom.

successful outcomes
La Salle’s medical school acceptance rate is nearly 100 percent
Service-learning is the perfect illustration of how important going beyond the confines of campus is to our faculty. La Salle’s average class size of 19 and student/faculty ratio of 15 to 1, help faculty play an active role in all aspects of the service-learning experience. It also allows you, the student, more personal interaction with your professor inside and outside of the classroom, giving you access to your teacher, seldom found at other schools.

Currently a dozen academic major and minor programs include a total of 29 service-learning courses. The areas of study include:

- Biology
- Communication
- Computer Science
- Criminal Justice
- Economics
- Leadership and Global Understanding
- Nursing
- Psychology
- Religion
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Women’s Studies
Name: Michael Smith, Ph.D.

Hometown: Caseville, Mich.

College: Central Michigan University, B.A.A.; Graduate School: Central Michigan, M.A. and M.S.A.; Purdue University, Ph.D. in Communication

Courses Taught at La Salle: Undergraduate and graduate courses in Public Relations, including Principles of PR, PR Writing, Organizational Communication, and PR Seminar. Graduate course in Communication and Conflict. Also teaches in our graduate program in Prague, Czech Republic

Activities at La Salle: Community Service Scholars Selection Committee; Advisor, Public Relations Club; Faculty Senate; Mediation Committee Chair; Director, Graduate Program in Professional Communication; First Director, Graduate Program in Professional Communication and Public Relations, Prague, Czech Republic

academic excellence
La Salle’s education majors begin field placement in their freshman year, leading to impressive pass rates on the PRAXIS Exams for assessing teacher candidates
What does your service-learning course include?
I use service-learning most often in my senior Public Relations Seminar. Students work with nonprofit organizations to create, execute, and evaluate public relations projects. These range from planning special events to creating campaigns. Public relations helps nonprofit organizations raise awareness of their work and gain resources to help address community needs.

How did you become involved in service-learning?
I've been doing service-learning for over 10 years. I began while I was still a doctoral student. La Salle and Philadelphia afforded me a great opportunity to continue doing service-learning, and that's one reason why I decided to teach at La Salle.

Why do you think service-learning is valuable to students?
Well, I'd rephrase the question: Service-learning doesn't work unless it's valuable for all the parties involved. Students gain real-life public relations experience and, often, samples for their portfolios. More importantly, they gain a better understanding of the role that community service can play in their lives. Our community partners gain some valuable public relations assistance that helps them address their communication needs and further their missions of solving community problems.

What can you say about service at La Salle?
St. John Baptist de La Salle founded his schools, in part, to serve the poor in his community. Today, “poverty” comes in all forms—economic, physical, spiritual, etc. La Salle University makes it possible for every person—faculty, staff, and students—to continue that mission through service-learning, community service, and our service trips. We prepare students to make a living as, well as a life, of good works.
service trips

Last year, 80 La Salle students traveled to Boston, Mass., Harlan, Ky., and Tijuana, Mexico, to participate in student-led service trips. The students who participate in Los Niños, Project Appalachia, or Week of Hope spend either their spring break or eight days after school ends performing a variety of service projects for different special needs groups. All of La Salle’s service trips are funded through on- and off-campus activities, such as a live auction, a pizza and cookie dough sale, and “basket bidding,” where different groups and people on campus put together baskets of goodies to be raffled off. Service trips are fantastic opportunities for you to see other parts of our world and help those in need beyond your immediate community. Here’s a little about each service trip:
**LOS NIÑOS** – La Salle’s Los Niños trip takes a group of 23 students to Tijuana, Mexico, for eight days in early May. There, they work side-by-side with the communities of the Mexican border region in a variety of development initiatives, usually focused on the construction and renovation of schools and community centers. Time is also spent visiting with children in a local orphanage and engaging in a variety of educational and cultural enrichment activities. For more information visit www.losninosinternational.org

**PROJECT APPALACHIA** – Every Spring Break, 40 students drive 12 hours to Harlan, Ky., to partner for a week with COAP (Christian Outreach with Appalachian People). The students of Project Appalachia participate in home development projects for low-income families that are struggling to maintain quality living conditions. In the process, the students gain an enhanced understanding of the culture and the underlying causes of the economic hardship that faces this particular area of the Appalachian region. For more information visit www.geocities.com/coapinc/

**WEEK OF HOPE** – A group of 8 to 10 students travel to Boston, Mass., during Spring Break to work with Community Servings, a non-profit organization that prepares and delivers meals to homebound patients with AIDS. Community Servings operates on a small budget and depends on volunteers to help with many tasks. The students partake in activities relative to Boston and learn, first hand, about the issue of AIDS and the effect it has on everyday living. For more information, visit www.servings.org/
**Profile: Service Trip Veteran**

**Name:** Matt Joram  
**Year of Graduation:** 2005  
**Double Major:** Biology and Religion  
**Hometown:** Eldersburg, Md.  
**High School:** Calvert Hall College High School  
**Service Activities:** Coordinator, Los Niños trip (three years); coordinator, Homeless Outreach; co-coordinator, PAL Youth Center; Neighborhood Tutoring; FOCUS  
**Other Activities:** Study Abroad, Rome, Italy; Resident Student Association; PEER Educator; Opening Weekend Team Leader; Eucharistic Minister and Chapel Hospitality

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**Successful Outcomes**

La Salle has produced nine Emmy Award winners, including two in 2003.
How did you get involved with La Salle's service trips?
I heard about the service trips at the activities fair held in the fall semester and I signed up immediately. I thought that the service trips would broaden my horizons and give me a better understanding of the world we live in. I was looking forward to the trip my entire freshman year, and when it finally happened, I loved it. I was asked to be a coordinator by the previous coordinators and agreed because I enjoyed the trip so much. The trip means a lot to me, and each time I go back to Mexico, I learn even more.

What have you liked and learned as a trip member?
I liked getting to know other people at La Salle through the planning of the trip and the trip itself. I also liked being able to experience and discover Mexican culture. I learned an incredible amount. I learned about the stereotypes placed on Mexicans, the economic inequality, and the troubles and hardships that they face in order to meet their basic needs. I also learned about the great sense of community they have, and how welcoming and thankful they are. The trip is an amazing opportunity to educate yourself on worldwide issues and understand a rich culture that is different from your own.

Why did you choose La Salle?
When looking for a college, I wanted a smaller school, somewhat close to home, in a big city, and where service was important. I did not want to be a number on a piece of paper; instead, I wanted to be able to get to know my teachers personally, which I have done. I have eaten lunch and dinner with my professors and other faculty members on more than one occasion. I use the city of Philadelphia every weekend. It has so much to offer a college student; it’s great. Finally, service is at the heart of La Salle, and there are enough programs here that everyone will find one that suits their needs.
conclusion and contact information:

Touching hearts is at the core of the learning experience at La Salle University. You feel its genuine spirit from your first day here. You, too, can join over half of our undergraduates in performing some type of service through La Salle. Regardless of whether it is involvement in a community service program, service-learning, or reaching out to help others far away during a service trip, you are touching hearts and giving back.

La Salle values community service involvement in prospective students, current students, and faculty and staff. However, we are not the only ones who see the value of service. In a recent study conducted by Florida State University, nearly 60 percent of the employers polled rated volunteer community service as either very important or above average when hiring employees.

academic excellence

La Salle ranks seventh out of 256 schools of its type as the undergraduate point of origin of doctoral degree recipients over a 75-year period.
There are many reasons to get involved in community service. If you are interested in continuing your service, or trying service for the first time, we know that La Salle can provide you the opportunity.

For more information on La Salle’s community service initiatives, please call us at 215.951.1804 or e-mail umas@lasalle.edu. Contact Louise Giugliano, Associate Director, University Ministry and Service, Head of Service Learning; Becky Messa, Coordinator of Community Service; or Sean Lavelle, Community Service Associate, to learn more. You can also visit our site on La Salle’s Web page, www.lasalle.edu/umas/, for more detailed information including specific contact information, a list of our Community Service Scholars, pictures from service trips, and more.

For admission information, please contact the Office of Admission and Student Financial Services at 215.951.1500 / 800.328.1910, or admis@lasalle.edu. You can also visit www.lasalle.edu/admis/ for specific information and to fill out a fee-waived admission application.