

Faculty Research Bolsters Common Tactics Used by Students to Avoid Being Called on in Class

Remember those subtle tactics you used as a college student to avoid being called on in class? Turns out, you weren't alone in your avoidance behavior. A new study by Canisius psychology professors **Dr. Judith E. Larkin** and **Harvey A. Pines** found that 99 percent of college students engage in actions to prevent being called on by their professors. Among the most common avoidance characteristics used: avoiding eye contact with the teacher; dropping a pen or notebook to appear busy; pretending to look for the answer in a notebook; looking as if (he/she) is reading something course related; and using facial expressions to appear as if (he/she) thinking of the answer – but haven't come up with it yet.



Dr. Judith E. Larkin (left) & Dr. Harvey A. Pines (below)



"Most teachers believe that students' active involvement in the classroom promotes learning," explains Larkin. "As a result, they (teachers) engage in a variety of behaviors designed to produce participation – the most common of which is calling on students in class. But our research found that 56 percent of college students surveyed either disliked or strongly disliked this teacher behavior and as a result, they employ these various avoidance tactics."

The study also found that female students are more likely than male students to engage in avoidance behaviors, "possibly because they are more attuned to the potentially negative social consequences of looking foolish in public," adds Larkin.

She and Pines surveyed 129 college freshman students in two introductory psychology courses. Their findings were reported in the *Ottawa Citizen* and the *National Post Canada* newspapers. Additionally, Larkin was interviewed by Discovery Channel Canada and WGRZ-TV Channel 2.

Principles and Practice of Information Security Published by Volonino

Protecting computers from hackers is the subject of **Dr. Linda A. Volonino's** new book, *Principals and Practice of Information Security*. The chair of information systems (IS) and director of telecommunications at Canisius co-authored the book with Stephen R. Robinson of

Verity Partners LLC. In it, the two outline digital liabilities and risk management; policies, practices and defensive technology; computer forensics, electronic evidence, fraud and computer crime laws; and privacy.

Published by Prentice Hall, *Principals and Practice of Information Security* is available at amazon.com.

Sister Pat Leads Service Learning

The combination of academic study and community service will play a more integral role in the classroom with Sister Patricia Brady, SSMN, working full-time as the college's new director of service learning. In her new position, the former coordinator of volunteer services for campus ministry is collaborating with individual faculty members to develop a series of service projects relevant to students' coursework. She also oversees participation in the various service projects and assists students with their reflections afterwards.

Service learning combines classroom experience with community service, to emphasize civic responsibility.



Sister Patricia Brady, SSMN

Seven Professors Join Canisius Faculty

Seven new, full-time professors became members of the Canisius College faculty this fall. They are: **Anne Barrau, PhD**, assistant professor of modern languages; **Gregg Kirchofer**, assistant professor of physical education and a PhD candidate in health sciences at the University of Toledo; **Marc LoGrasso**, interim assistant professor of economics and a PhD candidate in finance at SUNY Buffalo; **Jonathan Mercantini, PhD**, assistant professor of history; **Robert Nida, PhD**, associate professor of education; **Erin Robinson**, assistant professor of sociology/anthropology and a PhD candidate in sociology at SUNY Buffalo; and **Margaret Stefanski, PhD**, assistant professor of modern languages.

There are currently 212 full-time faculty at Canisius, of whom 98 percent hold PhD or terminal degrees.

Wall Obtains Prominent Professional Designation

Dr. Richard A. Wall, professor of economics and finance, joined an exclusive group of investment professionals this fall when he obtained the prestigious Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation. Administered by the Association for Investment Management and Research (AIMR), the designation is the only globally recognized credential for investment analysis and management.



Dr. Richard A. Wall

It is considered the hallmark of integrity and excellence, and the CFA curriculum requires a combined 800 hours of study, covering such issues as ethical and professional standards; accounting and financial statement analysis; and equity and alternative investments. Candidates must also pledge to adhere to the stringent ethical standards set forth by AIMR.

Wall's accomplishment is even more noteworthy considering passing rates on the CFA exam average only 50 percent.