

School of Education Welcomes First Faculty Fellow



The Canisius College School of Education and Human Services instituted its first faculty fellowship this fall. Filling the position is **Ali Ait Si Mhamed**.

Originally from Morocco, Mhamed is currently pursuing a PhD in leadership and policy in higher and international education at the University at Buffalo. He is also a research assistant in U.B.'s Education Department, where he studies global higher educational systems, with a

concentration on North Africa and Eastern Europe.

"The addition of a faculty fellow will help raise student awareness of the different teaching and learning styles shaped by cultural influences, and assist them in the development of effective teaching strategies," explained Margaret C. McCarthy, PhD, dean for the School of Education and Human Services.

Mhamed will serve as a full-time faculty member on a 10-month term.

New Academic Year; New Faculty

Canisius welcomed several new faculty members this 2004-2005 academic year. They are: **Brian Dunkle, S.J.**, instructor of classics; **David Foley, PhD**, assistant professor of political science; **Uriah Kim, PhD**, assistant professor of religious studies & theology; **Dennis Koch**, assistant professor of sports medicine, health & human performance; **Jamie O'Neill**, assistant professor of digital media arts; **Rev. James Pribek, S.J., PhD**, assistant professor of English; **Barbara Robinson**, physical education instructor; **Gurmukh Singh, PhD**, assistant professor of physics; **Eric Stenclik, PhD**, assistant professor of modern languages; **Staci Carney Studesville**, director of sport administration; and **Holly Tanigoshi, PhD**, assistant professor of counseling & human services.

There are currently 205 full-time faculty at Canisius, of which more than 96 percent hold PhD or terminal degrees.

ASCAP Award for Vehar

Canisius College

Composer-in-Residence

Persis Parshall Vehar is the recipient of a 2004-2005 ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) Award. Recipients of the award are selected by an independent panel of judges, who base their decision on each writer's catalog of original compositions and recent performances.



Vehar has written more than 200 vocal and instrumental compositions that range from chamber music to large ensembles and include two operas.

Many have been performed internationally and broadcast on National Public Radio (NPR).

This is Vehar's 18th ASCAP Award.

LaValley Named Director of OCD Program

Brian R. LaValley, APR, is the new director of the college's master's program in organizational communication and development (OCD).



Accredited in public relations by the Public Relations Society of America, LaValley has nearly 20 years of experience in the field. Prior to Canisius, he was a senior public relations representative for Independent Health and manager of community relations for Tops Markets.

LaValley earned his bachelor's degree in public communication from Syracuse University and his master's degree in business administration from St. Bonaventure University.

In addition to his responsibilities as director, he will also serve as an assistant professor of communication studies at Canisius.

Riga Leads Students in Award-Winning Research



English Professor **Frank P. Riga, PhD**, and students in the college's English honors society (Sigma Tau Delta) received high accolades this fall when the national organization presented the Canisius

chapter with two of its most prestigious awards.

The group received the Frederic Fadner Critical Essay Award for "Alice, Before and After: Art from Art," a study of creative works derived from Lewis Carroll's late 19th century novels *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through*

the Looking Glass. Students researched and authored the critical essay under the guidance of Riga, who is the college advisor for Sigma Tau Delta. They presented their findings at the honor society's national convention and were later awarded the organization's Judson Q. Owen Award for best piece overall.

"Alice, Before and After: Art from Art" explores the widespread artistic and intellectual influences of Carroll's works on Western culture, and how they have contributed to the creation of new poetry, linguistic theories and music.

"Alice, Before and After: Art from Art" will be published this spring in *Sigma Tau Delta Review*, the honor society's annual literary journal.