

## Bibi is Senior Editor of New ACSM Book



Canisius College Professor **Khalid W. Bibi, PhD**, lent his expertise on sports medicine, health and human performance to the new certification review book issued by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). Bibi was senior editor of the 300-plus page volume,

which will be used as a comprehensive study guide and certification review book for thousands of students seeking ACSM certifications over the next four years.

The ACSM is the leading sports medicine, health and human performance organization in the world and its certifications are considered the "gold standard," as professionals in the field strive to attain one or more ACSM certifications.

**Dennis W. Koch**, assistant professor of sports medicine at Canisius, served as a reviewer for the ACSM Certification Review publication.

## James Edits New Book on French Essays



The mystical inspiration behind the literary creativity of women is the focus of a new book of French essays edited by **Genevieve L. James, PhD**, professor of modern languages.

*De L'écriture Mystique au Féminin* documents the writings of Christian women mystics, devout women in pursuit of

Christian or Buddhist mysticism, and women accused of witchcraft. The various essays examine whether women have a privileged link with mysticism, how the reliability of their experiences is resolved, and whether mystical experiences are solely possible through writing.



## Dierenfield's African American Experience Awarded by AJCU

The Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) awarded **Bruce J. Dierenfield, PhD** and his Canisius College Program in the African American Experience with an honorable mention recognition, during the AJCU Conference on MultiCultural Affairs.

Dierenfield established the African American Experience through a Peter Canisius Distinguished Teaching Professorship. Now in its third year, the program introduces students to the diverse and unique contributions of African

Americans through four inter-related, academic elements that include coursework, field trips to local and nationally historic sites, cultural encounters and a distinguished lecture series.

Dierenfield and his program were nominated for the AJCU award by **Sababu C. Norris**, director of the college's multicultural affairs program, and **Rhonda F. Hands**, assistant director of admissions.

## Canisius Enrolls 26 New Faculty

Twenty-six new faculty members joined the Canisius community at the start of the 2005-2006 academic year. The total number of full-time faculty at Canisius now totals 217, of which 95 percent hold PhD or terminal degrees.

The new Canisius faculty members are: **Patricia Johnson** in the Accounting Department; **Timothy Greg, PhD**, **William Peiffer, PhD**, and **Scott Severance, PhD**, in the Chemistry & Bio-Chemistry Department; **Erik Day** and **Rosanne L. Hartman, PhD**, in the Communication Studies Department; **Matthew Hertz, PhD**, in the Computer Science Department; **Jennifer Desiderio, PhD**, and **Robert Oscar Lopez, PhD**, in the English Department; **Justine Price, PhD**, in the Fine Arts Department; **Karen Dutt-Doner, PhD**, in the Graduate Education & Leadership Department; **Jeffrey Anderson, PhD**, in the History Department; **Ronald Rivas, PhD**, in the Management/Marketing Department; **Linda Roycroft** in the Mathematics/Statistics Department; **Captain Wilbur Lynch** and **Major James Soos** in the Military Science Department; **Sergio Pedro** in the Modern Languages Department; **Tanya Loughead, PhD** and **Richard Perkins, PhD**, in the Philosophy Department; **Jong-Hoon Yu, PhD**, in the Physical Education Department; **Mitra Shojanian Feizabadi, PhD**, in the Physics Department; **Rebecca Krawiec, PhD** and **Jonathan Lawrence, PhD**, in the Religious Studies & Theology Department; and **Jeffery Faunce**, **Kimberly Leavitt** and **Touorouzou Herve Some** in the Undergraduate Education Department.



## Center for Teaching Excellence Under New Leadership

The college's Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) is under new leadership this fall with Patricia Coward, PhD, serving as director. The CTE fosters faculty development at the college through academic, personal and interpersonal venues. In her role as CTE director, Coward will further enhance faculty development opportunities related to teaching techniques, technology in teaching, and physical, moral and spiritual wellness.

Prior to Canisius, Coward taught in the English Department at Frostburg State University in Maryland, where she also served as director of the school's Center for Teaching Excellence.

# In memoriam

## Ramon E. Abarca, PhD

APRIL 12, 1927 – SEPTEMBER 19, 2005

The Canisius community said goodbye to dear friend, colleague and benefactor **Ramon E. Abarca HON '03, PhD**, on October 18 at a memorial Mass in Christ the King Chapel. Ramon Abarca died on September 19, 2005, following a long illness. And although he resided in Florida at the time of his death, it was fitting to memorialize Abarca on the campus he called home for nearly three decades.

Abarca joined the college's History Department in 1963 and found Canisius a good fit; for he held a deep affection for the Jesuits and their principles.

"He was one of the most beautiful persons God ever put on this Earth," said J. David Valaik, PhD, professor *emeritus* of history. "He never had an unkind word to say about anyone and no one ever said an unkind word about Ramon."

Valaik compared Abarca to Mr. Chips, the much-loved British schoolteacher from the classic novel *Goodbye, Mr. Chips*, who cared deeply for his students. In 1998, Abarca established the Ramon E. Abarca Scholarship Fund to make certain that educational opportunities would be available for Canisius students for years to come.

A great intellect and masterful teacher, Abarca had a special affection for European diplomatic history. And it was in his classroom that Abarca brought history to life. He engaged students in spirited discussions and took great care to paint a portrait of history through many of its colorful characters. "It was as if Ramon lived in the 18th century," said David R. Costello, PhD, professor of history. "He spoke as if he were a personal friend of Voltaire, Montesquieu and Diderot."

If Abarca wasn't entertaining students in his classroom, he was entertaining friends in his home. It was there that Ramon showcased his culinary expertise, which always



ABOVE: RAMON E. ABARCA HON '03, PHD, IN 2003 UPON RECEIVING AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS.

BELOW: ABARCA AS SEEN IN THE 1965 AZUWUR.



included his famous flan for dessert. "Ramon loved to entertain," said Daniel P. Starr '58, PhD, associate professor of history. "There were always great friends and a cornucopia of food." There was also plenty of music. "I can remember the *Bosa Nova*, Ramon's favorite, echoing though the halls of his flat," added Starr.

"They were wonderfully wild affairs," said Valaik, who recalled one party that became so "riotously loud" that Abarca's neighbors called the police. "The cops ended up staying at the party!" laughed Valaik. "After that, Ramon invited his neighbors to the gatherings and they too became his friends."

Even after Abarca finished his distinguished career at Canisius in 1990, he continued to entertain members of his college family in Fort Lauderdale, FL, where he retired. "His parties were much smaller but he still thoroughly enjoyed entertaining his friends," said Vito S. Lenoci '59, who would visit Abarca in Florida each winter. "He was my friend, teacher and mentor and it was always a joy to spend time with him."

Abarca's last appearance at a Canisius event was in 2003 when he received an

honorary doctor of humane letters from the college.

"He was very touched," said Starr who recalled a captivated crowd in attendance. "Everyone listened intently as he spoke with passion and a good strong voice about his love for Canisius, the Jesuits, Buffalo and especially his students."

Ramon Abarca will be remembered as a generous, humble man, a great scholar, and a remarkable teacher and friend. "He was one of a kind and I'm so glad his legacy will live on through the scholarship that bears his name," said Starr.