

**In Memoriam:
Rev. James J. Ruddick, S.J.**

Canisius College mourned the loss of **Rev. James J. Ruddick, S.J.**, who died March 18 of natural causes. Father Ruddick was 83 years old.

A professor *emeritus* of physics, Father Ruddick taught at the college for nearly four decades. He joined the Physics Department in 1957 as an assistant professor and served as chair of the department from 1959-1970. Father

Ruddick was named professor *emeritus* in 1994.

In addition to teaching, Father Ruddick was director of the college's Braun Seismograph Station, which monitors and measures earthquake

activity. In his role as director, Father Ruddick became a valuable resource and familiar face for local media outlets.

At Canisius, Father Ruddick also served as rector of the Canisius Jesuit community (1971-1977), a member of the college's Board of Trustees (1971-1977) and moderator of the Canisius College Scholarship Associates.

"Father Ruddick was an enthusiastic, entertaining and generous priest who was full of life and loved to be with people in good times and bad," said **Rev. Patrick J. Lynch, S.J.**, associate professor and chair of religious studies and theology, and rector of the Canisius Jesuit community. "He was a conversationalist without equal in the Jesuit community."

Prior to his death, Father Ruddick was associate vicar for religious for the Diocese of Buffalo and assisted at St. Ann's Church in Buffalo, where he lived in the parish residence.

He entered the Society of Jesus in 1940 and was ordained a priest in 1955.



Two Faculty Professorships Awarded

The newest areas of study to be supported by the Peter Canisius Distinguished Teaching Professors Program are autism disorders and African American history. The three-year grants, which

began in this month, provide the college's faculty with the resources to create innovative programs that enhance undergraduate teaching through interdisciplinary projects, scholarly travel, experiential courses and the incorporation of technology in the classroom.

The 2007 professorship recipients are: **Robert E. Nida, PhD**, associate professor of education, and **Susan Putnam, PhD**, associate professor of psychology. Together, they will create the Canisius College Center for the Study of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The center will provide Canisius students with instruction, clinical training and hands-on, graduate-level research experiences in the field of autism and related clinical disorders.

Bruce J. Dierenfield, PhD, professor of history and director of the All-College Honors Program, will use his professorship to further develop The Canisius College Program in the African American Experience, which was first funded in 2002. The program offers unique learning opportunities about African American history through formal lectures, musical and theatrical performances, story telling, presentations by leading scholars and civil rights activists, films by and about African Americans and visits to Harlem, NY and Mississippi. New to the professorship will be a trip to West Africa.

Peter Canisius Professors are chosen through a competitive grant process that focuses on creativity and the extent to which their proposals will enhance undergraduate teaching.



Susan Putnam, PhD and Robert E. Nida, PhD



Bruce J. Dierenfield, PhD



Watt Receives Teaching Excellence Award

The Canisius College Alumni Association presented **Trevor L. Watt, PhD**, with its 2007 Kenneth L. Koessler Distinguished Faculty Award. The award recognizes a faculty member's outstanding contributions to academics and teaching excellence.

A professor of religious studies and theology at Canisius for nearly 40 years, Watt is reputed for engaging students in their own education through intellectually challenging oral projects, group work and written journals. His courses, such as Theology of Death, Theology of the Family Process and Dream Interpretation, encourage students to contemplate deeper messages about life and learning. In doing so, students develop the skills needed to implement that information in their daily lives and throughout society.

"By continually relating course material to students' lives, he helps students grow to greater religious and psychological maturity," say the department colleagues who nominated Watt.

Aside from his educational work at Canisius, Watt makes impressive contributions to the larger academic world, specifically with his research on spirituality and psychotherapy. One of Watt's most significant pieces was a chapter on "Joseph's Dreams," which appeared in the book *Jung and the Interpretation of Dreams*. His expertise in the field was further recognized when he was named chair of the Interdisciplinary Religion and Social Sciences Group of the American Academy of Religion.

Watt is also a certified family therapist, a Fellow of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and a member of its certifying committee.