Gannon to visit Czech Republic as Fulbright specialist

Charles Gannon, Ph.D., associate professor of English, has received a Fulbright Senior Specialists grant in U.S. Studies — Literature at Palacky University in the Czech Republic. This follows his 2004 Fulbright to Dundee University, Scotland.

Palacky University is situated in the Moravian capital of Olomouc, the second-oldest city in the Czech Republic. One of the oldest universities in the Republic, Palacky was formed as a Catholic institution but soon thereafter persecuted for those origins. Eventually allowed to reorganize, it was then nearly expunged by the Communist regime, Gannon said, adding, “It holds a Republic-wide reputation as a quiet, bona’s June 16, 2005 St. Bonaventure University

Bona signs dual-admissions agreement with UB Dental

St. Bonaventure and the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine (UBDM) have signed a dual admissions/dual degree agreement that will allow high-achieving students to earn a bachelor’s degree from SBU while being assured a reserved seat at UBDM.

After three years at SBU, they then will move to UBDM to complete their doctor of dental medicine degree.

The program is one component of the Franciscan Health Care Professions Programs at St. Bonaventure, which emphasize the desire to serve others as an important prerequisite for applicants, and include a “summer of service” internship as one of the program requirements.

“This is an exciting opportunity for those with the desire and ability to enter the field of dental medicine,” said University president Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F., S.T.D., adding, “The Franciscan Health Care Professions Programs recognize that we are all called to serve others, and emphasize the importance of heeding that call for those in the caring professions.”

“The agreement, which takes effect this fall for 2005-2006 academic year, allows students to complete both degrees in just seven years instead of the traditional eight, saving both time and money,” said Dr. Michael Domboski, assistant to the dean of Arts and Sciences for the Franciscan Health Care Professions Programs at St. Bonaventure.

“In addition, New York state residents enjoy a significant cost savings by attending the University at Buffalo because it is part of the SUNY system,” he said.

Applicants must:
• Score 1200 on the SAT (minimum combined verbal/mathematics) or 29 on the ACT.
• Maintain a high school grade point average (GPA) of 90 percent or higher.
• Rank in the top 10 percent of their class.
• Compile a record of community service.
• Provide letters of recommendation and a personal statement.

Applicants for the program must meet not only academic standards, but also comportment requirements.

University to honor Burr, Flood during Feast of St. Bonaventure

Internationally renowned Franciscan scholars Fr. David Flood, O.F.M., and Dr. David Burr will each receive the Franciscan Institute Medal from the University during the celebration of the Feast of St. Bonaventure.

The Eucharistic Liturgy for the Feast of St. Bonaventure will be celebrated at 5 p.m. Friday, July 15, in the University Chapel, Doyle Hall. Fr. John F. O’Connor, O.F.M., Provincial Minister of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, will serve as celebrant. Fr. Wayne Hellman, O.F.M., Conv., will be the homilist.

University president Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F., and Fr. Michael Cusato, O.F.M., director of The Franciscan Institute and dean of the School of Franciscan Studies, will present the medals during an Academic Convocation beginning with Vespers at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 16, in The Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts. A dessert reception will follow in the Dresser-Rand Atrium.

Both honorees are known for their scholarly work on Peter John Olivi, a friar of the late 13th century whose critical importance for Franciscan history has come...
The University has selected Bernard M. Brodsky, a Williamsville attorney with national and international expertise in dispute resolution and litigation, to serve as its ombuds officer effective June 27.

The ombuds position, a recommendation of the special task force that investigated the basketball eligibility controversy in 2003, will provide resources for confidential complainthandling and neutral, informal conflict resolution to all St. Bonaventure University faculty, students and employees. Brodsky will facilitate communication and promote collaborative dispute resolution by various methods including self-help and mediation, as well as collect data and provide feedback to University president Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F., S.T.D., regarding policy and procedure improvements.

“Given Mr. Brodsky’s respected mediation skills and understanding of the strategies for dispute resolution and system change, he is the right choice for this vital position,” said Sr. Margaret. “We are confident that he will gather and analyze information impartially, demonstrate integrity and work fairly, respectfully and effectively with the University community."

Brodsky’s office will be in Francis Hall G-3, a ground-floor room accessible through the side door from the Francis parking lots. During the academic year, he will be available Mondays and Tuesdays during regular business hours.

For the summer, while the office is being organized and established, he will be available as needed by calling ext. 2684.

Brodsky has served since 2002 as special counsel for Lipsitz, Green, Fahringer, Roll, Salisbury & Cambria LLP in Buffalo. He previously served as a trial attorney in the Civil Division of the Department of Justice, and, for a decade, as counsel for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., where he received two General Counsel’s Awards and several Special Act Awards.

Brodsky was also a partner in several Buffalo law firms and served as Far East Division counsel and litigation counsel for The Coca-Cola Company.

Brodsky holds a bachelor of arts degree from Middlebury (Vt.) College and a master of arts degree in political science from The New School.

He earned a juris doctorate, cum laude, from the University at Buffalo School of Law, where he served as editor in chief of the Buffalo Law Review.

He also holds a master of laws degree in international and comparative law, with distinction, from Georgetown University Law Center.
A new camp experience will educate local junior high school students on leadership while helping to prepare them for college.

Bona Leaders for the 21st Century, a collaborative effort between St. Bonaventure University, the Cattaraugus County Department of Social Services and Community Schools of Olean, will include up to 50 junior high school students with leadership potential.

The overnight camp will be held on campus July 5-6 for boys and on July 7-8 for girls. Applicants must be residents of Cattaraugus County and should be eligible for the reduced school lunch program.

“Gannon” continued ...

but firm and authoritative, voice of the national conscience in the face of oppression.

During two, two-week visits this fall, Gannon is expected to assist in incorporating American style and methods into the teaching process in various Czech undergraduate and doctoral programs, as well as to help launch a new master of arts study program in North American studies at Palacky University.

During his first visit, Gannon will be a lector and plenary speaker at the Olomouc Colloquium of American Studies, where this year’s topic is “Cult Fiction, Film, and Happenings.” In addition to lecturing, he will chair seminars on both American literature and culture, and lead workshops on joint-publishing opportunities in the West. During these workshops, he will outline opportunities to contribute to a special “Literature and Culture” edition of the Journal of Transatlantic Studies that he has been asked to edit for 2007.

During his second visit, he will travel widely, delivering lectures at the U.S. Embassy and at Charles University in Prague, Palacky University, Masarykova University in Brno, and Ostrava University in Ostrava. He is also scheduled as a speaker at the University of Konstantin the Philosopher in Nitra, and at the University of Presov, both in Slovakia. Most significantly, he has been asked to help establish “a new research center, which has received a Czech state grant, and whose subject of interdisciplinary research is Plurality of Democracy and Culture.’”

Gannon is envisioned as being one of the first and fundamental foreign consultants to this project, which is likely to involve subsequent visits in coming years.

“My primary scholarly interest — the transnational, cultural and political contexts and influences of American narratives — is inspired by the same conviction that prompts my work as a Fulbright Senior Specialist: that words, and the narratives we build with them, are the inevitable precursors of deeds. Consequently, my focus is on politically-charged narratives — fictional and factual — that have either foretold or fostered actions which have had historical impacts upon nations and peoples,” Gannon said.

“In an era without the sharply polarized contexts of the Cold War, practically-minded scholarly analysis of such narratives represents an increasingly essential opportunity for establishing additional understanding between nations,” Gannon continued. “Indeed, ‘unofficial’ communicative acts such as popular narratives may be the only anticipatory political barometers by which the evolving attitudes of disparate and changing cultures can be registered and compared.”


The University of British Columbia at Vancouver also awarded him with a full-expense grant to deliver a plenary talk at its prestigious Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies.

A published fiction writer, Gannon worked for eight years in the film/TV world as a scriptwriter, consultant and producer, and also served as a freelance writer and editor for publishers including Prentice Hall and Simon and Schuster.
"Feast, continued"

to be known through their work.

During the Convocation, Burr, professor emeritus of history at Virginia Polytechnic University, will give the academic presentation. He has published extensively on Peter Olivi and the Franciscan Spirituals. Among his monographs are “The Persecution of Peter John Olivi,” “Olivi and Franciscan Poverty,” “Olivi’s Peaceable Kingdom: A Reading of the Apocalypse Commentary” and mostly recently, “The Spiritual Franciscans,” which received three national awards.

He also edited an important volume of Olivan texts, “Tractatus de paupere,” and his many published articles concern not only Olivi but also the subjects of medieval apocalypticism, Franciscan tertiaries in southern France and female mystics of the latter half of the 13th century.

Fr. David, a member of the Institute research faculty, will present his paper the week of July 18. He is perhaps best known for his ground-breaking studies on the Regula non bullata. St. Francis’ first unsuccessful attempt at codifying the Rule he had developed for his brothers. Among his published works on this critical text are “The Birth of a Movement: A Study of the First Rule of St. Francis,” co-authored with Thadée Matura; “Francis of Assisi and the Franciscan Movement,” and “Work for Everyone.”

In addition to his numerous articles on Peter Olivi, he has also edited several important volumes of texts by the French friar, including “Peter Olivi on the Bible” and “Peter John Olivi on the Acts of the Apostles.” He is currently completing work on the “Commentary on Genesis,” expected in 2006, and has also edited two important 13th-century commentaries on the Franciscan Rule, that of Hugh of Digne, published in 1979, and of Peter John Olivi, published in 1972.

The Franciscan Institute established the medal in 1987 to honor scholars who have made outstanding contributions to Franciscan studies in philosophy, theology, history and spirituality. For more information, contact Debbie Woodward, secretary of The Franciscan Institute, at ext. 2595.

Kirk Scholarship memorializes longtime friar-professor

The Franciscan Institute has announced the establishment of The Rev. Cassian Kirk, O.F.M., Memorial Scholarship. The endowed scholarship was created through the generous gift of $25,000 from Carmela J. Bonanno and her son, Rev. Raphael D. Bonanno, O.F.M., ’64.

Fr. Cassian taught at the minor seminary of the Holy Name Province in Callicoon, N.Y., and was legendary for helping students who were struggling financially or academically to complete their program of studies.

The scholarship will assist Franciscan sisters and international students who wish to pursue a master’s degree at the Franciscan Institute and who demonstrate outstanding leadership qualities.

Fr. Michael F. Cusato, O.F.M., director of the Franciscan Institute and dean of the School of Franciscan Studies, said, “We extend our most heartfelt appreciation to the Bonannos for their thoughtful generosity and sincere commitment to Franciscan education.”

He noted, “This scholarship will enable us to reach out to our Franciscan sisters and international students who find it exceptionally difficult to finance their educational pursuits. The scholarship recipients will benefit from their studies at the Franciscan Institute and then continue their ministries to share the Franciscan message throughout the world.”

“Fr. Kirk was a gentlemanly priest,” said Fr. Raphael. “He taught the seminarians to be grateful for everything received and encouraged us to do our best. My parents, Anthony and Carmela Bonanno, who were poor at the time, assumed a heavy, extra financial burden when I went to the seminary at Callicoon.”

“Fr. Cassian, rector at that time, agreed to a two-thirds payment of the tuition. My father took on an extra job to meet the obligations of the seminary and the two children still at home.”

He continued, “My parents were eternally grateful for Fr. Cassian’s kindness and vowed to pay back the favor before they died. Fr. Cassian never once asked my parents for money and displayed a marvelous example of Franciscan detachment and reliance on divine providence.”

“My father passed away in 1999 and now my mother, at age 95, wanted to give this endowed scholarship to the Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University to educate future Franciscan leaders of the same quality as Fr. Cassian,” said Fr. Raphael.

Fr. Cassian entered St. Joseph Seraphic Seminary in Callicoon and was ordained June 14, 1932. He spent four years at Christ the King Seminary at St. Bonaventure and returned to Callicoon to educate young friars. He was twice elected a provincial councilor of Holy Name Province. He died Jan. 17, 1986, at age 79 in St. Bonaventure infirmary.

For more information on scholarships and endowments, contact Janet Glogouski at ext. 4084.