The interdisciplinary mission of the Salesian Center is to promote the interaction of faith and culture, in a mutually beneficial engagement, through academic initiatives that focus on the authentic integration of social concerns and gospel values, an integration that has been embodied in the lives of St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantal and that continues to be expressed in the tradition of Christian Humanism.

Summary of the 2008-2009 Annual Report

last revised on July 26, 2009

The Salesian Center’s Logo & Color Scheme

In the tradition of Christian Humanism, redemption (the cross on the horizon) is foundational to the entire history of human life. For St. Francis de Sales, this saving event provides the way (white path) by which all human endeavor can become an expression of holiness. The Salesian Center for Faith and Culture explores various fields of human activity in today’s world (the green earth) – from the “flowering” of literature to the “fruits” of science (orange) – as these contribute to the fulfillment of human life within the embrace (circle) of God’s eternal love for all of creation.
During the 2008-2009 academic year, in which more than 2,500 persons participated in the work of the Salesian Center for Faith & Culture, the top three developments were:

♦ the widespread dissemination of Salesian Spirituality, by way of 23 speaking engagements in seven different states, eight publications of scholarly work, five courses offered, recognition by the Vatican of the annual “Salesian Spirit” essay contest for World Communications Day, and special celebrations for the 400th anniversary of publication of the Introduction to the Devout Life;

♦ the growth of the Forum for Ethics in the Workplace, whose audiences doubled over the past year to nearly 500 participants, whose board members made multiple presentations for business organizations in the Lehigh Valley, whose work was featured locally on PBS television’s Tempo Public Square, and whose efforts contributed to the $200,000 grant received by the University to create the Fleming Institute in Business Ethics; and

♦ the expansion of media placements for the Salesian Center this year (97 total hits), including appearances on television programs (WFMZ and WLVT locally), on radio programs (WAEB and WDIY locally, U-TALK out of North Carolina, and the “Catholic Channel” on Sirius/XM satellite radio), in print media (local newspapers, the Denver Catholic Register newspaper, the Georgia Bulletin newspaper, and America magazine), and via web services (American Catholic, Catholic News Service, Targeted News Service, and Times-Tribune).

The summary that follows highlights a few of the ways in which the Salesian Center continues to integrate faith and culture through its programs and activities. More details are available in the complete report.

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**PROGRAM REVIEW FOR 2008-2009**

**BACKGROUND & MISSION**

Fr. Thomas Dailey (Director) and Fr. Alexander Pocetto (Senior Salesian Scholar) undertook 23 speaking engagements for a variety of audiences off-campus and three orientation sessions for groups on-campus. These same members also conducted research and writing related to the Salesian tradition, which included academic courses, publications (9), and preached retreats (3).

The fourth annual Heritage Week celebration featured five evening events in which a total of 610 persons participated. And two special anniversaries were celebrated with discussion events: the centenary of the death of Fr. LOUIS BRISSON, founder of the Oblates and Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales, and the 400th anniversary of the publication of the Introduction to the Devout Life by St. Francis de Sales.

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**EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES**

The Salesian Center sponsors two lecture series on an annual basis, this year welcoming 238 audience members: The Anthony Ruggiero Lecture on Catholic Education and the R. Wayne Kraft Memorial Lecture on Christian Humanism.
The **Faith & Reason Honors Program** admitted 17 new students to the program. At its fourth annual Honors Colloquium, Lauren Greene won the “best honors thesis” award.

The **Salesian Online** program offered two courses that enrolled 15 students, including one in England!

The annual “**Salesian Spirit**” essay contest received international recognition via a citation and medal from the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for Social Communications to Matt Kuhner for the “best student” entry.

The **Salesian Leadership Institute**, generously funded by the Ryan Family Foundation, had 19 students and four faculty/staff participating in the two-year program, with 12 new students set to begin next Fall.

### Dialogue Opportunities

The faculty/staff **Lunch Bunch** [17 participants in total] discussed three new books in each semester.

The **Center Valley Forum** series [for 67 participants] considered “The Role of Religion in the 2008 Elections.”

The **I.M.P.A.C.T.** breakfast series for community leaders held four meetings [with a total of 79 participants].

The **Bulldog Breakfast** series, supported by the Salesian Center in cooperation with the Athletic Department, held six meetings for student-athletes, coaches and guests (average attendance of 30).

The fourth event in the annual **John Paul II Memorial Arts & Culture Series** featured the original poetry of John Paul II [for 19 audience members].

“The Word among Us” -- a new **performing arts touring company** comprised of alumni from DSU’s theatre program – performed a stage reading of *The Jeweler’s Shop* by Karol Wojtyla (John Paul II) at the Theology of the Body Institute in Malvern (PA).

### Partnership Ventures

**Baranzano Society** ... is a regional organization of scholars and professionals who dialogue about the interchange between science and religion in the field of bioethics.

The Society’s officers appeared on U-Talk radio, broadcast in North Carolina, and on the “Lehigh Valley Discourse” radio show, broadcast on WDIY-FM (Lehigh Valley NPR). The “Talking Circles” series of public forums enlisted guest experts to deal with several critical issues – pediatric healthcare, the debate over “dignity”, and the validity of “brain death” – for 343 participants.

**Forum for Ethics in the Workplace** ... brings together local business professionals and university scholars to provide for study, reflection, and public dialogue about ethical issues in various workplace settings.

The Forum sponsored four public breakfast events to a total audience of 311 participants: on real estate matters, on energy deregulation, on the national debt, and on the ethics of American youth. The Forum also sponsored two special events for 132 participants: a panel discussion on the financial crisis and a
movie screening/discussion about *I.O.U.S.A., One Nation, Under Stress, In Debt*. Members of the Forum’s board of directors offered presentations for the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Society for Human Resource Management, and were featured guests for the *Tempo Public Square* television show about youth and ethics, broadcast on WLVT-TV (PBS 39).

... seeks to promote positive expectations, good behaviors, and ethical standards among all those involved in youth sports.

LVCOSE co-sponsored a panel discussion [with 62 participants] on the dangers of MRSA. LVCOSE board members authored three newspaper essays, participated in one international conference on the philosophy of sport, and presented research at a conference on sport medicine.

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**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Coverage of the Salesian Center included 97 **media placements**, with stories appearing in 24 news outlets. Personnel were featured in three local newspaper stories, in five radio interviews (including Sirius/XM satellite radio), and on two television broadcasts (on WFMZ-TV 69 News and PBS 39 WLVT).

**Publications** from the Center this year included 11 **commentaries**, a new volume of *On the Wings of Truth*, and several **lectures** by members of the Salesian Center and guests of the University.

**Communications** are facilitated by the publication of an electronic newsletter – called **Be Well!** – that is distributed monthly to more than 1,270 addresses.

The **web site** remains the repository for all information and publications related to the work of the Center. The site now numbers approximately 285 informational pages and 330 texts/studies.

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**INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT**

Financing for the Salesian Center remains dependent on **contributions** of many individuals and groups. The University’s **annual fund** drive netted 41 donors who specified contributions of $8,400 to the Salesian Center. The University’s capital campaign received 3 donations/pledges toward the new Salesian Center amounting to $26,100. Other gifts and contributions netted $22,200.

As part of the University’s capital campaign, the Salesian Center collaborated on the submission of two **grant proposals**, totaling $225,000.

The University’s Office of Institutional Advancement provided a $1,000 sponsorship at the **National Catholic Prayer Breakfast** in Washington, DC. Nine donors to and alumni of the Center attended this special event.