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### Newsbulletin vol. 22, no. 8

Salve Regina College

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#### Recommended Citation

Salve Regina College, "Newsbulletin vol. 22, no. 8" (1991). *Newsbulletin*. 437.  
<https://digitalcommons.salve.edu/newsbulletin/437>

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# THE NEWS BULLETIN

VOL. 22 No. 8

March 4, 1991

SALVE REGINA COLLEGE

## College Community Mourns the Loss of Brother John McNiff, F.S.C.



Brother John McNiff, F.S.C., and English major Amy Pagliarini '91 share Salve Regina news with the Paris Opera House as a backdrop.

The Salve Regina College community mourns the loss of English Department Chairman Brother John McNiff, a beloved scholar, teacher and friend. His unexpected and untimely death on Jan. 28 has left a great void on this campus and in our hearts.

As a testimony to Brother John's spirited dedication to Salve Regina, hundreds of faculty, students, alumni and staff members gathered in the Great Hall of Ochre Court for a Mass of Christian Burial. It was a time in which we celebrated the rich life of this peaceful man.

Brother John came to Salve Regina in 1984, and immediately demonstrated in a quiet way his dedication to the College and love for its members. He brought to this Newport community a diverse background of scholarship, having served at various times in his career as high school principal, vice principal, athletic director and teacher. His life and work spanned the globe, from Asia, to Europe, and Harlem.

Students remember Brother John's unique ability to capture our intellectual curiosity in a way few teachers have done so before. His great love of literature was infectious. We recall a devoted teacher who took a personal interest in each student, encouraging us to share in his thirst for knowledge through reading and writing.

Alumni reflect on a lasting friendship with this favored teacher. Brother John kept in close contact

with many of his former students, reminding us to seek peace and happiness in whatever paths of life we traveled.

Faculty members recall Brother John's scholarly guidance, his success as a department chairman, and his ability to lead others with a gentle hand. Brother John was the epitome of the word "teacher." Indeed, he was an inspiration to us all.

We cherish the personal relationships we shared with Brother John. Many of us, on a regular basis, received notes and telephone calls from him just to say "Hello, I was thinking about you today." We will never forget his simple gestures of love which warmed our hearts and brightened our days.

The man with the black cap, who always had a story or joke to tell, and whose gentle presence brought peace into our lives, is sorely missed at Salve Regina.

Many of us regret not having the opportunity to thank him for all that he did for us, the love he demonstrated, and the friendship he so selflessly showed us time and time again. A humble man, Brother John sought no thanks for these gifts. In his absence from this life, perhaps we can best express our gratitude by sharing in his legacy of love, peace and laughter.

*(Martha Young, the author of this tribute, graduated from Salve Regina in 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts in English. She now serves as the College Public Information Officer.)*

## College Completes Accreditation Self-Study

At least every 10 years Salve Regina College invites accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). 1991 is such a year, and the self-study conducted by members of the College community, to be reviewed by peers from other institutions representing NEASC, has been completed and submitted. Engaging faculty, staff, students, alumni and trustees, the study is a renewal process which identifies the College's strengths and weaknesses within the framework of 12 NEASC standards.

There are six steps to the self-analysis: 1) a preliminary visit to the campus by a staff representative of the NEASC Commission, 2) analysis and report of the College by a faculty-elected self-study committee, 3) professional colleagues from other institutions study the self-study report, visit the campus for evaluation and write a team report of their findings, 4) the president may respond to the evaluation of the report before and after its final draft, 5) the NEASC Commission reviews the self-study report, the evaluation committee's report and the president's response, interviews the evaluation committee's chairperson and

takes action based on information gained, 6) the College continues to consider and act on results of its self-study and recommendations of the Commission.

The 12 NEASC standards include: 1) institutional mission and objectives, 2) evaluation, planning, outcome assessment, 3) organization and governance, 4) programs and instruction, 5) special activities, 6) faculty, 7) student services, 8) library, learning resources, computerization, 9) physical facilities, 10) physical resources, 11) ethical practices and 12) publications and advertising.

At the January 1990 faculty meeting, Christopher Kiernan, Academic Dean, introduced the members of the Steering Committee for the Self-Study Evaluation: faculty members James Farrington, Chair; Elizabeth McAuliffe, RSM; Thomas Svogun; administration members Robert Daszkiewicz, FSC, Assistant Academic Dean and Steering Committee Convener; Thomas Flanagan, Director of Administration; Roselina McKillop, RSM, Dean of Admissions; Frederick Promades, Registrar; John

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## Safety First and Security Second to None



Wayne Carlile (left), Director of Safety and Security, demonstrates a fire alarm system at Angelus Hall to resident assistants Anne Gendron '92 and Craig Austin '92.

"Don't be afraid to ask dumb questions — they are easier to handle than dumb mistakes." So reads the sign on the desk of 6-foot 6-inch Wayne Carlile, Director of Safety and Security at Salve Regina College.

Another motto that Mr. Carlile and his staff live by and toil to instill in others is "Better Safe than Sorry."

The task of the Safety and Security staff is to create a safe, secure and orderly environment for the College community which includes the students, families, faculty, staff and visitors to the College. A typical day includes traffic control, opening and closing buildings, transporting stu-

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## Engulfed by the Dilemmas of War



Early in February, students wore yellow ribbons, waved American flags and walked with banners to show support for the troops serving in the Persian Gulf.

Like the massive Persian Gulf oil spill creeping outward and entrapping innocent wildlife, so the war which spewed it is seeping into the hearts and minds of young students at Salve Regina College. War news spills from the TV night and day, and the reality of fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and friends serving in the Middle East touches some students more directly. During the critical college years young adults are coming to grips with who they are, what they stand for and finding their place in the world and the cosmos. They are grappling with personal codes of ethics and enlisting their intellectual, emotional and spiritual capacities along with the wisdom of respected teachers to make their own choices. The tragedy of the war and its enormous impact on them makes it, among other things, a magnet for both their personal concerns and their emerging view of the world.

At a recent faculty workshop, President Lucille McKillop recognized and expressed sensitivity to the students' absorption in the Gulf crisis and encouraged faculty members to glean something positive from the war by using it as an educational tool in relevant courses. Sister Lucille stressed the importance of a knowledge of history as a basis for making decisions today, pointing to the recent Congressional debate about authorizing war against Iraq. Sister Lucille emphasized, "Our students are returning to the second semester this year with the turmoil of this war as their backdrop. We need to listen carefully to what the students are saying. We need to discuss calmly with them what they are feeling. Those of you who have fought so that they would have the freedom of free speech need to remember that you did that. Do not deny them the right you fought for them to have. Tell them your experiences vis-a-vis the first World War, the second World War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and even the Cold War. Help them to know the causes of other wars — the Mexican-American War, the Peloponnesian War, the first and second World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the 800-year struggle between England and Ireland. If we

can expect that they are not experts in these recent western wars, what can we expect regarding the Persian Gulf, the Ottoman Empire, the distrust which sowed the seeds of the events which we experience today in this region. Let them know how the solutions of the past often become the problems of the present. These are teaching moments."

Sister Rosamond Ethier, Chairman of Politics, pointed out that the war crops up most often as an analogy in courses being taught, either by the student or the instructor. "The subject matter of our courses makes it natural to discuss events in the Middle East. I sometimes sense that the war is on the students' minds because of references to it in classroom discussions. Also, our classes are small, and we know the students really well — that close relationship encourages students to bring up personal concerns — some have fathers and brothers in the service." Sister Rosamond believes it is important for students to reach their own conclusions about the war issues and to reason from an informed basis rather than arguing from emotion alone.

"The war comes up mainly as an illustration in classroom discussions," remarked Dr. Lubomir Gleiman, Chairman of Philosophy. Quite often, it is the students who bring up the comparisons in "History of Western Philosophy" which Dr. Gleiman is teaching this spring semester. Although the philosophy chairman stressed the need to keep a balance between the curriculum and issues that arise out of current events, he noted, "It isn't difficult to keep the students on track."

Brother John Buckley, Chairman of History, says that war references have come up in his classes in an informal way, depending on the relevance of a particular course. Two of the courses which he is teaching this semester are "A Survey of American History" and "Contemporary East Asia." Oftentimes the students themselves make comparisons between history and current events. Brother John observed, "Because the students are witnessing what's happening, I do think it gives them new and sharper insights."

Dr. Patricia Murray, Chairman of the Sociology Department, says that conflict theory (with war as the ultimate conflict) is one of the concepts taught in "Introduction to Sociology," so there are references to the war in the Persian Gulf. Dr. Murray says she and her students have also discussed the yellow ribbon as a symbol of support for the troops and their safe return and the concept of symbols and their importance as a unifying element.

Father Patrick Bascio, Assistant Professor of Liberal Studies, teaches graduate students, predominantly Navy personnel who tend to express a uniformly supportive stance toward the war. Moral dilemmas raised by the war itself and its destructive acts are discussed. "For instance," explains Father Bascio, "The question of whether carpet bombing is moral has come up and most support it. They are convinced that with

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## Guest Artists to Teach in the SRC Theatre Department

The Theatre Department welcomes guest artists as faculty members this semester. Dr. Raymond Picozzi is teaching the advanced directing course this spring. He is a professor of Theatre and former Theatre Department Chairman at Rhode Island College. Donald Babbitt joins the guest faculty as an instructor in scene design and set construction. Mr. Babbitt has taught for 30 years in the Cranston school system.

John Custer is currently teaching a course in lighting design. He is a Resident Lighting Designer at Trinity Repertory Company in Providence and Professor of Theatre, Resident Lighting Designer and Managing Director of the Performing Arts

Series at Rhode Island College. Mr. Custer's designs have appeared off-Broadway and at the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, Minn.

A master class in musical comedy performance is being taught by Robert LuPone and Bernard Telsey. Mr. LuPone was nominated for a Tony Award for originating the role of Zach in *A Chorus Line*. Mr. Telsey works professionally casting plays and films in New York and Los Angeles. Together they are the founders and executive directors of the Manhattan Class Company.

The Theatre Department welcomes these guest faculty members to an already prestigious line-up of instructors.



Art students Ildiko Makos (center) and Stephanie Spagnolia competed in a sand/snow sculpture contest on Easton's Beach in February. They won a brunch for two at a local hotel for their entry in the Newport Winter Festival event.

## McKillop Gallery's Juried Awards Exhibit Showcases the Talents of Art Students

Salve Regina art students will exhibit their work at the Art Students' Juried Awards Show being held this month in McKillop Gallery. Many students taking art courses have entered their works of ceramics, drawings, graphics, paintings, photography and sculpture to a panel of judges.

The art work accepted for this show will be displayed on Wed., March 6 through Thurs., March 14 at

McKillop Gallery. Awards will be presented at an opening reception on Wed., March 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The Art Department faculty encourages all students and faculty to visit McKillop Gallery and see the artistic talent within our College community. Who knows? Perhaps Salve Regina is embracing a budding Picasso or Ansel Adams!

## SRC Shows Concern for Those Left Behind

Sharing Real Concerns During the Gulf Crisis, a support group for anyone affected by the war in the Persian Gulf, meets at 7:30 p.m. every Sunday at College Health Services in North Hall.

Members of the College community who have a loved one serving in the Gulf, or are in any way affected by the war, are invited to attend these meetings.

For more information, contact Liz Minifie or Teresa Fitzsimmons in College Health Services at ext. 2904.

## THE NEWS BULLETIN

The News Bulletin is published for the Salve Regina College community by the Office of Public Information.

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**Publication Dates**  
Dec. 10, Jan. 18, Feb. 4, March 4, April 8,  
May 6, June 3.

**Copy Deadline**  
Nov. 16, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 8,  
April 5, May 3

For further information contact the Office of Public Information, 100 Ochre Point Ave., Newport, R.I. 02840-4192 (401) 847-6650, ext. 2970.

## Where Gentle Strength Triumphs Over a Learning Disability



Marlene Garo '91 reviews textbook material before tutoring a fellow student and sharing some of the study skills which have helped her to excel academically despite her own dyslexia.

Marlene Garo is an inspiration. She has overcome massive obstacles to reach the head of her class at Salve Regina College with a close to perfect 4.0 average. She also tutors her fellow students in various subjects through the College's Tutorial Services. What is most amazing is that Marlene has dyslexia, a learning disability that impairs reading and math skills.

To what does she attribute her incredible academic success? She explains it this way: "My high level of motivation and my experience. At the height of my career in jewelry design, I decided to go back to school, so that made me determined

to succeed. I'm also a very disciplined person which is an essential quality if you are dyslexic," she explained.

Marlene has been fortunate to encounter excellent teachers. At the Adult Education Center in Providence, a tutor diagnosed her as a dyslexic. Relieved to finally discover a label for her problem, she began to research the disability, and in her research, she encountered one name again and again — Angela Renaud, the dean of student success at Johnson and Wales College. She eventually contacted Renaud and was taught many techniques to overcome her dyslexia.

She learned that there were different types and levels of dyslexia. For some dyslexic readers the words seem to fly right off the page, and they cannot learn through ordinary study. The Department of the Blind in Washington, D.C. offers them taped textbooks free of charge. For Marlene, the most effective technique involves outlining texts in diagram form with the main idea in the forefront and the details offshooting from that. An equally effective technique is the use of nonsense words and mnemonics to remember facts. Taping classes instead of painstakingly poring over notes that are swimming on the page is also recommended.

Good study skills are essential. "There's no such thing as a cramming session for a dyslexic — studying must be regimented over a period of time," said Marlene. Because their minds tire and their dyslexic symptoms worsen without rest, most dyslexics tend to study for about a half-hour, rest for ten minutes, then start studying again, and repeat that pattern whenever they study.

Marlene has mastered these learning techniques, and she imparts them to other learning disabled students through the College's Tutorial Services. "I find my work at Tutorial Services very satisfying because I believe in service to others. I get a lot of joy out of what I do because it makes me feel good to see students improving and succeeding," she confided.

She praises Salve Regina's administration and faculty in helping students with dyslexia. "They bend over  
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## Noon Concert Welcomes Celtic Charm of Pendragon



lalo, County Clare, Ireland. Mance Grady performs on the bodhran, congas and bones. As a musician, he gained his reputation while playing with the eclectic Nee Ningy Band as well as the Erinoids. Russell Gusetti on guitar, vocals, concertina, synthesizer and 5-string banjo, is an artist whose guitar style is the bottom line of Pendragon's romantic sound.

The band's original songs and tunes, such as Erin's Daughters, Crossroads and White Lace Curtains, express the story of an Irish people so firmly rooted in American soil that their music survives true to its tradition while inspiring the new music and innovative spirit of Pendragon.

Pendragon came together in 1983 after members met while performing with the Cumberland Company. The group was nominated last year as one of six nominees for the Boston Music Awards' newest category "Outstanding Irish/Celtic Act." Their song "Working River," a tribute to the milling industry along the Blackstone River, was voted local song runner-up and local recording runner-up. "Working River" has been chosen the official song of The Blackstone Valley Tourism Council.

The free concert begins promptly at noon in Cecilia Hall at Carey Mansion.

The Wednesday Noon Concert on March 6 will feature the Celtic band Pendragon, a group of five musicians from the Cumberland area recognized as one of the finest Celtic groups in New England. Their music concentrates on the rich and sometimes rare songs of Ireland and the British Isles, including thighslapping jigs and tear-wrenching ballads.

Pendragon is made up of vocalist Mary Lee Drouin, her husband Bob Drouin, who plays bouzouki, banjo, mandolin, guitar, and also does vocals. Phil Edmonds performs on the tin whistle, synthesizer and clay drum. He was born and raised in Kil-

## Dilemmas of War

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"smart bombs" more of an effort is being made to spare civilian lives than in any bombings of the past. On the other hand, they generally oppose the idea of targeting Saddam Hussein." Most of this student group believe it is a just war being fought to stop aggression. Father Bascio has spotted some of his former Navy students, now serving in the Persian Gulf, being interviewed on TV.

War issues have been integrated into the courses taught by Sister Ann Nelson, Professor of Politics. "We have examined St. Thomas Aquinas' criteria for a just war. We have looked at the distinction between morality and ethics — most students seem convinced of the morality of this war. We talk about how war is always evil, but sometimes it is the lesser of two evils." Many students see the war from a pragmatic point of view explained Sister Ann. They say things like, "What would it be like if Hussein had a few more years to build up his military strength?" "The war is better today than two years from now." "This has to be done, so let's get it done."

With Salve Regina's students in mind, Sister Lucille urged, "Students who are not involved in the decisions made today will be involved in decisions made in the future. They need to be prepared. Let us have intelligent dialogue in this learning center of higher education."

## People in the News

**Phil Arsenault**, a freshman guard on the men's basketball team, was recently named Rookie of the Week in the Commonwealth Coast Conference. He averaged 11 points in Salve Regina's one win, one loss week.

**Lisa Bell**, a senior guard on the women's basketball team, was recently selected Commonwealth Coast Conference Women's Basketball Player of the Week for her high scoring ability and her assists, steals and rebounds.

**Mr. Forrest Edward**, Director of Purchasing, was unanimously chosen to be the recipient of a scholarship grant from the National Association of Educational Buyers (NAEB). The grant, awarded to only five recipients yearly, was established to offset the expense of attending a NAEB sponsored conference.

**Mr. Daniel Ludwig**, Assistant Professor of Art, recently exhibited his work in several shows along the East Coast: "Emerging Artists" at the American Broadcasting Company Gallery and "Five Artists" at the Allan Stone Gallery, both in New York City, "Hot Off the Press; New Prints In Progress" at the Zimmerli Museum of Printmaking at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J. and the "Annual Members Juried Show" at the Newport Art Museum in Newport. From January to March, his work will be included in a touring show entitled "Kentucky on Paper." Sponsored by the U.S. Embassy, the exhibition will tour most major galleries and museums in Ecuador.

**Sister Roselina McKillop**, RSM, Dean of Admissions, and **Sister M. Consilii Reynolds**, RSM, Director of the Study Abroad Program, recently attended the national meeting of the Association of Foreign Student Advisors in Atlantic City, N.J. In addition, Sister Roselina and Sister Consilii had the opportunity to visit three British universities where Salve Regina students are currently studying: Trinity and All Saints College, Oxford University and Richmond College. Sister Consilii also presented a paper at the annual fall meeting of the American Conference of Irish Studies held in Worcester, Mass. The paper was entitled "A Woman Wrapped in Courage; the Life and Works of Venerable Catherine McAuley, Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy."

**Lynn Sheedy**, Director of Athletics, attended the National Collegiate Athletic Association's 85th Annual Convention held Jan. 7-11 in Nashville, Tenn. This year's convention focused on reform legislation.



## Generations of Families Tie Newport History Together



*Potter Family 1740*

The Newport Historical Society, with Salve Regina College as co-sponsor, presents its 8th annual winter series "GENERATIONS: The Family in Newport History." Since the Eastons first landed on Coasters Harbor Island in 1639 and founded Newport, the history of the town has been a history of families. The goals of this year's series are to show how the family has functioned over time and to correct widely held misconceptions about the family's history. It will also enable people from diverse backgrounds to see how the history of their own families is woven into the fabric of the community.

The lecture series opened on Fri., Feb. 15 in Ochre Court at 8 p.m. with "Domestic Revolutions: The Social History of the American Family" presented by Stephen Mintz, Professor of History, University of Houston. At the same place and time, the following two lectures were "Under the Shadow of the Founders. Generations in American History

and Culture" by John Demos, Professor of History, Yale University on Mon., Feb. 18; and "Act Your Age! Age Grading and Age Consciousness in American Culture" by Howard Chudacoff, Professor of History, Brown University on Tues., Feb. 26.

In all, ten lectures and an exhibition will complete the series which will be presented at several sites such as O'Hare Academic Center, Colony House and the Historical Society.

The Winter Series will be an opportunity for participants to look at themselves and their families in a new light and come to appreciate the strong ties that bind generations together. In the spirit of public education for the community, the College and the Historical Society will present the lectures free and open to the public, but advance registration is required. For more information contact Karen Rajkumar at Salve Regina College, 847-6650, ext. 2197.

## Accreditation

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Rok, Dean of Students; Esther Whalen, RSCJ, Director of Publications; appointed faculty members Joan Chapdelaine, graduate faculty member; George Morris, Educational Policies and Curriculum Committee representative.

The Committee has acted as a preliminary visitation team, directing its eye toward a critical review of the College's activities and programs against the framework of the 12 NEASC standards and suggesting questions beyond the scope of the NEASC handbook. The information gathered from the self-study was compiled in a 100-page Self-Study Report for review by an evaluation committee and the NEASC Commission.

Following the submission of Salve Regina's report and NEASC's review of it, a committee of professional colleagues at other NEASC institutions will assess the self-study results and undertake the third step of the accreditation process. On March 11, 12 and 13 NEASC representatives will visit Salve Regina for a close-up site visit.

President Lucille McKillop compares the accreditation process to an auditing process and emphasizes the voluntary nature of it. "We ask the New England Association of Higher Education to verify that we satisfy all the education standards which apply

to us. This accreditation can give reasonable assurance to the public of the context and quality of the education offered." Sister Lucille also underlined the fact that each institution is evaluated in terms of its stated mission and objectives, by continuing, "Thus, the programs of two institutions may be quite different and not at all comparable, even though both are accredited by the New England Association. I call that being your OWN best self."

## Gentle Strength

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backwards at this school," she said. Tutorial Services, provided by the College, has helped these students immensely. Individual departments have demonstrated their concern and flexibility by granting extra time to complete assignments. In addition, professors have been extremely understanding and cooperative in giving permission to tape classes.

Marlene summed it up best. She said that the average person looks at the world head on, while dyslexics see it at an angle, so to compensate, they simply must learn to tilt their heads. Her optimism and motivation are enough to make anyone believe in the impossible. Who could not be deeply moved by the good humor, the joy and the inner strength of this remarkable woman?

## Security

(continued from page 1)

dents to hospitals, driving handicapped students to classes, running a night shuttle between campus buildings and patrolling the campus by car and on foot during evening hours. The Salve Regina security cars are equipped with FM radios, and each officer carries a portable radio and is in constant communication with the dispatcher at the base station (Security Office).

Security, fire protection and traffic safety are integrated into the total educational process. The Safety and Security staff conduct training programs for the Resident Life staff on fire safety, personal safety and dormitory security. They are trained in the use of all fire and safety apparatus and systems as well as first aid and CPR. In addition, fire prevention presentations are held in the residence halls and fire procedures are publicized in handbooks and posted in classrooms and residence halls to emphasize safety-consciousness.

Fires are the biggest unplanned crises. Referring to a minor fire in Miley Hall on a winter evening, Mr. Carlile asserted, "It couldn't have been handled any better, not only by the security officers involved but also by the R.A. who became aware of it first and responded immediately by yanking the fire alarm pull station which sent a signal to the Newport

Fire Department." A smoke detector triggered the local alarm indicating that the fire was on the second floor, north wing. Responding to the alarm, security officers used fire extinguishers to quickly snuff out the Saturday evening fire. Hearing the alarm, students filed out of the building as they had done many times during the fire drills required by law. The arriving firemen extracted the smoke and extinguisher powder from the building and discovered that a curling iron on a blanket had started the fire. "Most people don't prepare for fires, but it's one of the most devastating things that can happen," declared Mr. Carlile.

Other natural disasters are less frightening to the Safety and Security staff. "We monitor the weather stations and have guidelines to follow for storms." For example, as Hurricane Gloria set its sights on Newport several years ago the procedures included such specifics as taping windows to prevent the shattering of glass.

"We go 24 hours a day, seven days a week with a staff of 11 persons," Mr. Carlile pointed out. "The security personnel do an excellent job. I couldn't ask for a better group. They're all here to provide a safe environment for a good education."



The McKillop Gallery recently spotlighted the clay art of Jay Lacouture, Professor of Art. "Born in Rhode Island/Made in Montana" was an exhibition of his work created while on sabbatical at the Archie Bray Foundation in Montana.

## Newport Irish Heritage Month

The Newport Irish Heritage Festival will commence in March, and Salve Regina is once again a proud sponsor. On March 8 and 9, the Salve Regina College Choruses will perform in a "Celebration of Irish Heritage in Song and Dance," featuring vocal solos, choral selections and traditional Irish dancing with musical accompaniment. The concerts, produced annually as a contribution from Salve Regina to the City of Newport's celebration of Irish Heritage, will be held in Ochre Court at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and will be available two weeks in advance of the concert. For more information, please contact the Music Department at (401) 847-6650, ext. 2945.

On Sunday, March 24, an Irish Tea and Entertainment will be presented in Ochre Court with a performance by the Island Youth Choir. The event will take place from 3 to 5 p.m., and the admission charge is \$7 per person.

These are the events that the College is directly involved with; Salve Regina is a sponsor for the whole festival with varied activities including lectures, dinners, an Irish coffee competition, much Irish music and the traditional St. Patrick's Day Parade, all taking place throughout the month of March. For more information concerning Newport Irish Heritage Month, please call 1-800-326-6030 or (401) 849-8048.