



# The Servant Leader

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTER FOR VOCATION AND SERVANT LEADERSHIP

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## Profile: Albert Bernard Hakim Salve et Vale



It was 1937 when Al Hakim first walked up the elm shaded lane to Presidents Hall and, quite unaware of the casual nature of the interview, made application to Seton Hall College. For the next 71 years the two have rarely been separated.

Perhaps no one has done more than Al Hakim to build a sense of community among our faculty, whether it be by hosting the BBBR, an invitation to lunch, producing the Sab-batical Panorama, or asking a thoughtful question over coffee.

It is remarkable to realize that of Seton Hall's 152 years of history, Al Hakim has been witness to almost half of it. Al knew Seton Hall first as student, then in 1946 as a young teacher

at the Prep and the College. In 1950 he became a fulltime member of the college faculty, then after completing his PhD in 1954, he twice served as chair of the Philosophy Department.

In 1961 he became Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and served there until 1973. Upon returning to the faculty, Dr. Hakim cooperated in the founding of the Center for Humanistic Studies, which he later directed. In 1990 Dr. Hakim accepted emeritus status and the responsibility of directing the Center for College Teaching.

Author of a popular text book, *Historical Introduction to Philosophy*, Al is not one to rest on his laurels. He has two other manu-

scripts ready for publication: one on moral philosophy and the other a collection of meditations from western literature. It is with fondness that we salute Albert Bernard Hakim and bid the philosopher farewell.

### 1. Where were you born?

Kearny NJ. My parents were Chaldean Christians; they came to the United States in 1912 from what is now called Syria by way of Turkey and Alexandria.

2. How would you describe your calling? I feel that my calling has been to seek a deeper understanding and appreciation of what it means to be a human being.

3. What has been the most fulfilling moment at work? For me it has been classroom teaching.

4. What is your favorite book? Well, I can't say just one, perhaps several: the Gospel and Letters of John, and the Confessions of St. Augustine.

5. What is your favorite Scripture passage? That would be the great teaching on love in 1 John 4: "The man without love has known nothing of God, for God is love."

6. Who is one of your heroes? St. Augustine for one.

7. What is your favorite poem? "Hound of Heaven" by Francis Thompson: "I fled Him, down the nights and down the days; I fled Him, down the arches of the years; ..."

8. What is your favorite movie? My favorite movie is "It Happened One Night" with Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert.

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## Center Hosts Visitor from BC

Lilly Endowment recently offered its grant recipients a mentor to help assess programs and plans for the future. On April 3 and 4, we had the pleasure of hosting Burt Howell, from Boston College, who directs their Intersections Project, BC's equivalent of our Center. Burt described himself as "someone prepared to be a conversation partner" on the future of the Center.

On Thursday, April 3, Burt was the guest at a dinner with five of our Servant Leader Scholars. On Friday, April 4, he led a discussion with major stakeholders. Excellent conversations, centered on questions of strategic planning, were had with both groups.



Around the table at the stakeholders' discussion were: Danute Nourse, David Peterson, Roseanne Mirabella, Burt Howell, Andrew Brereton, Carol Ann Koert, Andy Day, Linda Garofalo, and Francina Peterson.

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## Faculty Retreats

On February 28, 2008 an *Interfaith Conversation on Faith and Academic Work* was cosponsored by our Center and the Center for Catholic Studies. It was facilitated by John Haughey, S.J., Senior Researcher at Woodstock Theological Center. Its purpose was to understand how faculty of different faiths approach the connection between academic work and personal faith. The outcome was a more personal knowledge of one's colleagues, and a deeper sense of being a community of shared purpose.



On March 11, 2008, all faculty were invited to a morning retreat led by Father John Russell of the School of Theology. The presentation was entitled *Facing an Atheism of Neglect: The Lenten Passage*. Father Russell explained his theme as follows: "Have we embraced a life forgetful of God, an atheism of neglect? The Lenten Passage is fundamentally an invitation to commit more generously to the God who loves us." Participants found the two hour experience both peaceful and inspiring, a welcome oasis in their busy schedules.

## Al Hakim's Profile (cont'd)

9. **What is your favorite pas-time?** My two favorites are reading and enjoying the great outdoors.

10. **A defining moment in your life was . . .?** Perhaps there were three: becoming a priest, becoming a husband, becoming a father.

11. **What change would you like to make at Seton Hall?** I wish we could give our students more exposure to art and music.

12. **Where would you like to travel next?** To the Holy Land, to Japan, then on to the Moon.

13. **What would you like on your tombstone?** "He never really understood the Theory of Relativity"

## Public Service Month Awards Ceremony

In an awards ceremony on February 27, 2008, sponsored by DOVE and the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership, essay contest winners and student servant leaders were honored. The first place winner of the Public Service Month Essay Contest was Christina Mermigas, with the first and second place Honorable Mention going to Allison Marron and Era Murzaku. The Committee found the judging challenging, given the excel-

lence of the submissions.

The recipients of the Student Servant Leader Awards were: Theresa Floyd, Michael Jacobson, Jason Marker, and Andrew Smolin. Servant Leader Scholars are included in both sets of winners: Allison Marron, Theresa Floyd and Michael Jacobsen. We congratulate all the students who were chosen, and thank everyone who participated in any way.



## Saints and Sleuths II

Saints and Sleuths II is the second year of a celebration of Catholic life and literature, sponsored by our Center, The G.K. Chesterton Institute, the Center for Catholic Studies, and the Celtic Theatre Company. It was held over the weekends of January 18-20 and 25-26, 2008 in Seton Hall's Theatre-in-the-Round. The performances were dramatic readings of some of the best-loved Catholic writ-

ing of the early twentieth century including: G. K. Chesterton, Hillaire Belloc, John Henry Newman and Canon Sheehan.

This delightful experience was as entertaining as it was educational. Each performance was followed by a commentary from invited guests, a lively discussion with the audience, and an open reception on stage. Saints and Sleuths III is not to be missed!



The largest group ever for the Focus Leadership Conference from Seton Hall attended the meeting at Dallas in January.





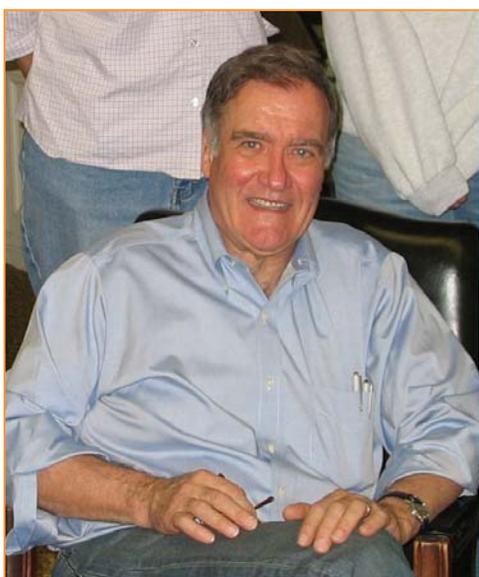
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## From the Director: *In Memoriam*

### *Dr. William J. Toth 1940-2008*



Bill Toth's sudden passing on February 3 was a hard blow to all of us associated with the Center. Bill, along with Father Dick Liddy, was the first to urge Seton Hall to apply for a Lilly grant and was essential to bringing the application to a successful conclusion. Bill was chair of the pastoral theology department at the Seminary, and loved his role in preparing men for priesthood. Bill led several programs for the Center for Catholic Studies: he was the executive director of the Micah Senior Executive Project, and founder of the Woodstock Business Conference at Seton Hall. He gave the Micah retreats to

our students in the Stillman School of Business, and he gave retreats to our own staff.

Bill also served as chair of the Peace and Justice Commission of the Archdiocese of Newark and as a deacon in his parish. Surviving Bill are his wife, Kathleen, and his eight children, including his son, Father Stephen Toth, a 2002 graduate of Immaculate Conception Seminary, and ten grandchildren. We sorely miss our friend who was a wonderful example of a servant leader.

**David R. Foster,  
Director**

## Faculty Summer Seminar 2008

The Faculty Summer Seminar is an annual gathering of interested faculty members, led by a visiting scholar, with a focus on some aspect of academic or personal vocation. This year's topic will be "Kierkegaard and/or Catholicism: A Matter of Conjunctions".

This year's seminar will be May 20-22, and facilitated by William Cahoy, Dean of the School of The-

ology and Seminary at Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN. Professor Cahoy's dissertation at Yale was on Kierkegaard's view of the self in community. He lectures on issues in the Catholic intellectual tradition, Catholic higher education, faith and the liberal arts, and faith and reason.

For further information contact Anthony Sciglitano in the Religious Studies Department.