ON A MISSION WITH BILL PRICE

Witnessing the degree of poverty in Gualan, Guatemala, was an eye-opening experience for William Price, Ph.D., who participated in and helped to organize a mission trip through Abington Presbyterian Church last summer.

“This was a level of poverty that I hadn’t seen,” said Price, a professor of chemistry and biochemistry at La Salle. “Families were living on a landfill.”

About 10 years ago, Price and his wife Alice revived the youth group at Abington Presbyterian to encourage their two sons to get involved with their church. Members of the group meet weekly and participate in a mission trip each summer.

In the past, mission trips have included local retreats and service projects along the East Coast. But when a fellow parishioner explained the dire need of families in Gualan, the Prices coordinated an intergenerational effort to help. About 20 high school and college students and 25 adults traveled to Gualan to work with Hearts in Motion—an organization established in Guatemala that relies on mission work to provide continuous care and medical treatment to families in need.

“Some of the kids we saw were malnourished. A lot of people had never seen a doctor,” Price said.

The group from Abington Presbyterian spent the week building a nutrition center and basketball court. Several students worked with doctors and nurses at clinics that helped to serve 1,400 patients in five days. Others organized a vacation Bible school and coordinated afterschool programs like soccer.

Despite the challenges of their living conditions, the people of Gualan were grateful and accommodating. “We returned tired and invigorated… it was a remarkable program,” Price said.

At La Salle, Price hopes to encourage students to make service part of their daily lives. “What I love about La Salle is that so many of the students see service as an obligation and a lifestyle,” he said. “I find that giving back is just so crucial to one’s happiness. We will get as much out of it as we put into it.”

AFRICA AND THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

By Richard E. Mshomba, Ph.D.
Cambridge University Press, 2009; 352 pp; $80

Africa and the World Trade Organization explores the important role of African countries within the World Trade Organization (WTO). It examines the WTO’s enforcement mechanism, its broadened mandate as illustrated by the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, agriculture in the Doha Round, government transparency, and the endeavor to streamline assistance to developing countries.

Richard E. Mshomba has been a professor of economics at La Salle since 1991. Born and raised in Tanzania, he received a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Mshomba also authored Africa in the Global Economy and is a regular analyst on Voice of America. He contributes op-ed pieces to The Arusha Times in Tanzania and travels there regularly with his family for educational and development initiatives.

EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT

When faculty, staff, and students returned to campus for the spring semester, they were greeted by a more polished phase of the currently expanding Holroyd Hall. The exterior of the renovated structure, featuring the new Hugh and Nancy Devin Center for Science and Technology, is nearly complete and the building is on schedule for a fall 2009 opening.