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The Campaign Newsletter for
La Salle College High School

Winter 2008

the Promise

Taking Charge

Charlie Dunleavy Leads the Capital Campaign Over \$10 Million

by Joseph F. D'Angelo EdD '63

Charles Dunleavy, Jr. '61 believes in the power of connecting with people. If you have a conversation with him, the theme he constantly returns to is that he could not have accomplished all he has in life without the help of other people.



In 1961, Dunleavy graduated from La Salle College High School, a member of the first class to graduate from the Belcroft campus. Self-described as "not a great student," he managed to participate in student council and swimming despite having to work after school. While he may not have been what he considered an outstanding student during his time at La Salle, he felt that he learned the importance of learning while he was in high school where he was most serious about the study of English.

As he explains with a laugh, he had some vague idea that he would like to be a poet, a budding T.S. Eliot. It was during this time that he came under the influence of his first significant mentor, Brother Gratian of Jesus (Hugh McNicholas) who, as Dunleavy put it, "planted the seed in my mind that if I really wanted to do something, I could."

After graduating from La Salle High School, Dunleavy entered La Salle University with no clear idea of what he wanted to do with his life, but after graduating with a pre-law degree, he took a job with the Pennsylvania Railroad and found himself living in Boston. A quick study, he realized that advancement in the world of business would require a business degree. By this time, he and his wife, Rita, a native Bostonian, had moved to New York, and he began taking business courses at Columbia University. One of the professors he had there was Pedro Vulovic who encouraged Charlie to enroll in the MBA program. To his surprise, he was accepted, did well, earned his degree, and got into public accounting with Arthur Young. Arthur Young offered the chance for summer study in Accounting at Northwestern University which led him to earning his credential as a CPA. His work in accounting allowed him to see "how different businesses are run" and through a friend he went to work for Salomon Brothers in New York where he ran real estate operations. Finally, he was hired by GMAC to build their mortgage business, growing the company from about forty-five employees when he started to over 3,500 when he retired as Vice-Chairman. Currently he is a founding partner of Witmer Financial Advisors, LLC, an investment and advisory firm.

Dunleavy feels compelled to give back to a school that challenged him and prepared him for life by offering lessons that he took with him wherever he went. As he put it, La Salle provided "an academic program that challenged you, and gave you a sense of pride." After he moved back to this area, he became more directly involved in his Alma Mater at the urging of fellow Hall of Fame member, Bob

Brother Gratian of Jesus (Hugh McNicholas) who, as Dunleavy put it, "planted the seed in my mind that if I really wanted to do something, I could."

Moran '69, serving first as a member of the Board of Trustees. He understands the power of connecting with people and believes in the power of a school like La Salle to change someone's life.

In 2006 and at the urging of Brother Richard Kestler, Dunleavy agreed to chair the "quiet phase" of Fulfilling the La Salle Promise, the largest capital campaign in the school's history. His relentless work ethic and love for his Alma Mater have helped to coordinate committees, solicit prospects, and more importantly, reach the goals of this crucial fundraising effort. During his short tenure as Chairman, the campaign has raised \$10.4 million and is well-positioned to reach its goal of \$25 million. As the campaign enters the "public phase," Al J. Gabriele, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, will assume the role as Chairman and will lead the efforts to solicit the remaining members of the La Salle community.

Fulfilling the Promise

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Construction Update

by Joseph H. Donahue '58

The four level McLean Hall classroom addition along with expanded administrative areas, is targeted for completion in July of 2008. After some preliminary work in the summer of 2008, sequential renovation of the three existing floors of McLean Hall will commence, along with additional renovation of administrative areas, all with a planned completion date in early 2010. Although some project delays have been encountered due to unforeseen underground piping configurations and unfavorable wet and windy weather, the contractors anticipate that the planned completion schedule for each of the project phases will be achieved.

Actual construction began immediately after the graduation of the Class of 2007, with the removal of hazardous substances and obsolete equipment in the boiler room and adjacent areas, followed by demolition of the one story link between McLean Hall and the West Wing. After the installation of a temporary access road into the area of the new building, excavation of the site of the new addition then began in earnest,

with a never ending procession of trucks. As the excavation was proceeding, five modular gas-fired boilers were installed in the existing West Wing boiler room to supply heat and hot water for all existing buildings. These new boilers, which were fully operational by mid-October, will be integrated with new heat pumps in all of the new and renovated buildings spaces to supply the heating and air conditioning requirements for those areas.

The final steel beam in the building was painted white, and signed by members of the Class of 2008 in a "topping ceremony" marking the completion of this critical milestone in the erection of the new building.

Completion of the McLean Hall addition excavation led to construction of foundations and installation of the steel framework over an approximate four month period. The final steel beam in the building was painted white, and signed by members of the Class of 2008 in a "topping ceremony" marking the completion of this critical milestone in the erection of the new building. After completion of the steel framing and placement of metal decks, concrete flooring was completed over several weeks, with concrete trucks arriving every twenty minutes during the "pours" in an operation carefully orchestrated by the contractors to install the basement and the three other concrete building floors in a very congested area.

With the basic structure in place, work began in early January on the exterior roofing and walls of the new addition, along with the interior walls, piping, electrical, and plumbing installations. The McLean hall addition will be complete and fully operational by the start of the new academic year in September of 2008.

New Athletic Fields

In April, 2007, La Salle acquired the 30-acre Karr Property located on the Northwest side of the current school property boundaries and contiguous with those boundaries. Extensive clearing of trees and brush, and a major regarding of the tract was necessary for this land to be suitable for athletic fields, based on the layouts of the space developed by our Consultant, Hibbeln Engineering Company. After the selection of the General Contractor, James D. Morrissey ('57), Inc., the development project began in July of 2007.

Currently, the project is approximately 70% complete (grading: 75%, drainage: 90%, pathway: 90%, and irrigation: 0%). The work was essentially halted due to the heavy and prolonged rain encountered in November and December of 2007 and will resume in the spring. When completed, the 28.5 acres school property will include approximately eight acres of playing fields, ten acres of natural areas (meadows and woods), an eight acre ecological study area, a walking trail approximately one mile long, and 1.5 acres of support areas (stormwater catch basins, parking, restrooms). 1.5 acres of the initial property purchased was donated to Springfield Township.

