From the Parents Chairs

Welcome parents! Our daughter has entered her senior year at Assumption and we can hardly believe how quickly the years have passed. We certainly relate to the excitement and anxiety that freshman parents felt as they drove away from the College. Enjoy the experience, like their childhood, their college years quickly fly by.

For the past two years, Luise and I have enjoyed the spirit and camaraderie of being involved with the Assumption College Parents Committee, an energetic and dedicated group of parents who work with the College to help make Assumption better for all students. Members volunteer their time and talents to benefit the College and its students by supporting the Offices of Career Services, Annual Giving and Admissions. We encourage you to become actively involved in order to make the most of your child's college experience.

The admissions office boasted largest applicant pool in College history, accepting 607 of 3,895.

Thanks to the extraordinary support of current and former parents, $130,828 was contributed to the Annual Fund in support of student financial aid as well as co-curricular activities like the Reach Out Center (see article on page 3).

Parents News is published twice a year. Please e-mail Deb Konicki P'08 (dkonicki@assumption.edu) if you have any suggestions.

Kind regards,
Luise and Larry Cancro P'08
Co-chairs, Parents Committee

President Francesco Cesareo arrives
Former Duquesne dean to be inaugurated October 12

Francesco Cesareo, Ph.D. took over the reigns in July as the 16th president of Assumption College. He replaced Tom Plough, who left a legacy of physical plant and endowment expansion, highlighted by the $33 million Centennial Campaign and construction of the Richard and Janet Testa Science Center and the Multi-Sport Stadium.

The former dean of the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Dr. Cesareo is quickly acclimating himself to the College, its trustees, employees, and the local community. He eagerly awaits the opportunity to meet parents, alumni, and friends, at numerous events this fall, especially during Inauguration weekend (October 12–14).

This traditional academic ceremony will take place on Friday, October 12. The entire Assumption community, as well as delegates from other colleges, and civic leaders, will be invited.

On October 13 at Worcester’s historic Mechanics Hall, the College’s annual President’s Council Dinner will be held, where Assumption’s major donors are recognized and honored.

The weekend’s events will close on October 14 with a Mass, a brunch, a faculty/student barbecue and the festivities for Midnight Madness, the official start of the 2007–08 basketball season.

Dr. Cesareo, a historian who specializes in the Renaissance and Reformation periods, has published widely on the Catholic Reformation, the history of 15th and 16th century Rome and on the Renaissance papacy. His work has also focused on Renaissance education, Church history and Catholic higher education. He has also been a frequent commentator for local and national media on issues regarding Catholic higher education and the Catholic Church in general.

In a radio interview with Worcester’s WTAG-AM radio in February, Dr. Cesareo shared what attracted him to Assumption. “The position at Assumption was very attractive to me given my academic background," he said. “The commitment to the liberal arts at Assumption and the way in which the pre-professional programs are grounded within the context of the liberal arts education is very important in society today. Also paramount is the faculties’ emphasis on the student and the student-centered approach which seeks to give students a formative education so that the whole person is educated, not just simply the transmission of knowledge."

He also shared his opinion about the role of a College president. “The president needs to set the vision for the institution and, as a result of that, bring that vision to life for the members of the College. The president articulates what the College stands for and how it can be an asset and a resource for the community."

Dr. Cesareo and his wife, Filomena, are the parents of three young children. They reside on the edge of campus.
New Matriculation Ceremony welcomes new students to campus

The Class of 2011 was the first to participate in the new Matriculation Ceremony, created by President Francesco Cesareo.

Such a ceremony is celebrated at many colleges and universities to welcome the new students to campus and introduce them to the values of the institution and the importance of the academic journey upon which they have embarked.

“This ritual is often a defining moment of transition for new students as they begin their college career,” said President Cesareo, “as well as an opportunity for the community to show their support and readiness to assist them along the way.”

Held August 27 in Laska Gymnasium, speakers included Provost Dr. Mary Beadle, Faculty Senate President Dr. Owen Sholes, V.P. for Mission Fr. Dennis Gallagher, A.A. ’69, Trustee Chair Dr. Fred Bayon ’65 and President Cesareo. Members of the College’s faculty and administration also attended.

At the ceremony, senior student leaders distributed crosses bearing the College’s motto, “…until Christ be formed in you,” to the Class of 2011. The wallet-sized card accompanying the cross reads: “This cross speaks of God’s love for the world and for each of his sons and daughters. It speaks, too, of an Assumption education … of the mind and heart which transforms those who give themselves to it. May the promise of this education be realized in you.”

AlertNow system tested last spring to rapidly contact parents

Assumption College officials were pleased with their first experience utilizing the AlertNow system in April to deliver a broadcast phone message to the homes of all parents.

The system proved highly effective, as the message was delivered to more than 95% of those called. The message was not delivered to less than five percent, due to either a disconnected line, no answer or a busy signal.

In the spring of 2006, Assumption contracted with AlertNow to establish an Emergency Network rapid notification system. This was done to prepare us for a crisis such as a natural disaster, an epidemic (e.g. bird flu, SARS), or a violent situation.

This system allows the College to record a voice-mail message and send it instantaneously to various groups such as: all students, all employees and all parents of current students. In addition, students’ cell phone numbers will be added as a group this fall. This will also allow the College to send text messages to students.

The AlertNow message sent to parents of current students last spring explained how the College was responding to an unspecified threat to an unspecified Worcester- or Providence-area college that had been logged by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Working with the FBI and local law enforcement, the College took extra precautions to inform its constituents of the threat, and increased its security. The threat was dismissed by the FBI the next day.

Assumption College is pleased to have a service available which will allow it to reach parents, students, and employees efficiently with a clear message in a time of crisis.

2008 parents encouraged to make early Commencement plans

Fall has just begun, but its not too early to start planning for the 2008 Commencement weekend, especially for those families who will be staying over for at least one night that weekend.

Area hotels often book early, so make your reservations far in advance. The Baccalaureate Mass will be held on Friday, May 16, and the Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 17.

To access information about Commencement, visit the Assumption Web site at www.assumption.edu and search for “Commencement.” Click on “Frequently Asked Questions,” which includes links to hotels, restaurants and other visitors’ information.

The College will create a Commencement 2008 Web site in the coming months.

Ruckus partners for legal music downloads

Assumption College recently became one of more than 100 schools nationwide that have joined the Ruckus Network to provide legally downloaded music to its students.

With free access to a library of more than 2.5 million music tracks, Ruckus eliminates copyright infringement through its licensing agreements with all of the major international record labels, as well as thousands of independent labels and artists.
Reach Out Center is the hub for AC’s volunteer opportunities

Students looking for an opportunity to get involved, make new friends, and make a difference in the lives of others should consider the Reach Out Center (ROC), one of Assumption’s gems.

A student-run organization, the ROC offers numerous opportunities for students to volunteer at a wide range of agencies and make a positive impact in the community.

The ROC is run by a staff of approximately 30 student leaders—service directors and project coordinators. They develop and enhance leadership skills, organizational abilities, interpersonal skills, and more.

“The students are enhancing their education, connecting with a local agency, getting practical experience and building their résumés,” said ROC Director Carleen Roy-Butler. “Assumption cares deeply about building good citizens and the ROC helps to carry out that mission. For some students, we are exposing them to issues dealing with race or poverty for the first time. It can provide real-world experience in a setting that is not too intimidating.”

Each ongoing program has a student leader as a service director. That person is the liaison between the College, the agency, and the students. “Many schools have volunteer programs, but Assumption is unique in how it taps into the potential of current volunteers, trains them, and creates leaders,” said Roy-Butler.

Student leaders participate in a week-long training program in the fall to prepare them for their positions, such as recruiting volunteers, retaining them and making sure they are having a good experience.

Each semester, at least 250 students are involved in the ROC. Between 400 and 500 participate each academic year. “Students can be involved in either the ongoing programs — donating their time once a week or every other week — or participating in our ‘one-shots,’” Roy-Butler explained. “These are one-time opportunities that meet a need in an agency or organization, but does not require a long-term commitment.”

The most popular one-shots require physical work. “Students like the clean-ups and building programs, such as Rebuilding Together Worcester, because it’s tangible and it connects them with an issue, such as affordable housing.”

According to Roy-Butler, the ongoing programs that involve working with children, in schools and through after-school programs, are both the most popular and the most successful. “Some schools that we’ve worked with have told us that without our support, their programs would not survive.”

There are numerous opportunities in a wide variety of agencies and organizations. If a student has an idea or connection to an organization with a need, the ROC can coordinate new opportunities. “If you want to volunteer, we can make it happen,” said Roy-Butler.

Once Thanksgiving approaches, many people inquire about helping out during the holiday season. Several ‘one-shots’ include Thanksgiving baskets for St. Paul’s Food Pantry, a toy drive for Operation Mexico, a change drive for Abby’s House (supports homeless and battered women and children in Worcester), and ‘Coats for Kids,’ which is organized through the Worcester Public Schools. The WPS provides children’s names and coats sizes and the AC community purchases new coats for these needy children.

The safety of all students is paramount to their volunteer experience. “We have established solid working relationships with these agencies and organizations, and make sure that the safety and welfare of our students.” The ROC provides transportation to all sites, via either car pools or cab rides.

Angela Martano ’08 is the service director for ‘one-shots.’ She signed up to participate in the ROC during the freshman club and activities fair. Angela joined Book Buddies, a one-on-one reading program for local school children. "It was the first thing I did to start to meet people. I really enjoyed helping the kids and became friends with the service director, who was a senior, and she nominated me to become a service director the following year."

Angela enjoyed training with the other ROC student leaders. “I really enjoy meeting other people in a similar position with similar interests,” she said. Angela’s busy schedule is the main reason why her position as the ‘one-shots’ service director works well. She enjoys the broad scope of opportunities and greater flexibility to accommodate her free time. “I interact with people from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures and ages. It’s really helped me build my communication skills and résumé,” Angela remarked.

Due to the collaborative nature of its work and the quality of these students involved, the ROC office in Hagan Student Center has become a hang-out for many students, including Angela. “It’s definitely my second home on campus,” she admitted. Roy-Butler explained, “The office is very busy, especially in the middle of the day. Students will come in to help out with projects or to just sit and talk. It’s a lively place and a wonderful atmosphere.”

To learn more about the ROC, visit www.assumption.edu or contact Carleen Roy-Butler at 508-767-7142.
Participate in the Parents Committee’s Career Networking Dinner this spring

The Parents Committee will sponsor the 7th annual Career Networking Dinner this spring.

Members of the Junior and Senior classes along with sophomores who participate in the CALLS program will dine with professionals from various fields of employment to share their resume and get helpful insight and advice from a parent or alumnus in a field. Students will also receive dining etiquette tips.

This year’s program includes a new twist, as during dessert the professionals will rotate around the room from table to table in a round-robin fashion to share their professional story and to answer any questions the students may have. The event is a unique opportunity and allows parents to contribute their time and expertise in a rewarding way.

If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact Deb Konicki at dkonicki@assumption.edu or call 508-767-7104.

The Parents Committee
Questions? Comments? Want to join?
Contact Deb Konicki P'08, director of Parent Programs,
at 508-767-7104 or
e-mail dkonicki@assumption.edu
Visit us on the Web at www.assumption.edu/alums/ParFund/default.html

2007-08 calendar
Oct. 8-9 ....Columbus Day (no classes)
Oct. 19-21............ Family Weekend
Nov. 22-25 ....Thanksgiving (no classes)
Dec. 5..................Last day of classes
Dec. 7-13............... Final exams
Jan. 22...............Spring classes begin
March 1-9 ....Spring Break (no classes)
March 20-24 ......Easter (no classes)
May 5..................Last day of classes
May 7-13................. Final exams
May 16...............Baccalaureate Mass
May 17...............Commencement

For the full College calendar, visit www.socialweb.net/assumption