Tinsley Campus Ministry Center opens

The Tinsley Campus Ministry Center opened in February. This distinctive addition to the Chapel of the Holy Spirit will be dedicated on April 27. An important expression of the College’s Catholic mission and identity, the Center will allow Campus Ministry staff to expand and enrich its programs that will contribute to the spiritual formation of our students.

The Center houses the Campus Ministry offices, an Interfaith Room for personal prayer, an auditorium for receptions, lectures and dinner programs; a kitchen, restrooms and a conference room and library with theological and spiritual reading materials.

The centerpiece of the Center is the Heritage edition of *The Saint John’s Bible*, a calligraphy, full-sized reproduction of the seven-volume original manuscript. Measuring 2’ x 3’ when opened, three volumes will be displayed in an illuminated case each week, corresponding to the three readings of the previous Sunday’s Mass. Made possible by the generous donation of Normand ’57 and Gloria Marois, Assumption is the only college in New England to own this magnificent work.

Major upgrades

The Chapel of the Holy Spirit has been close to my heart for more than 30 years, so it brings me great pleasure to have this issue of *Parents News* feature the new Tinsley Campus Ministry Center, which is connected to the Chapel. The building has been a long time coming. After 17 years of discussions and planning, the Center will officially open with a Mass and Dedication Ceremony on April 27.

Learning that plans would include air conditioning to the Chapel made me smile, because I remember a day in 1982 when guests at my wedding found the Chapel unbearably hot. Although there were large fans running prior to the service, they were turned off due to the excessive noise they made.

One of my father’s friends did not have the heart to tell me until years later, that the varnish on the pews was so tacky due to the humidity that it had rubbed off on his new linen suit! Future brides can rest assured that the Chapel will now be a comfortable setting for summer weddings.

Surely the new construction is much more than adding air conditioning and restrooms as enhancements, which you can read about in the lead article on this page. What the Center will also provide, most importantly, are opportunities to deepen the Assumption community’s connection to the mission of the College.

During this season of renewal I wish you and your family best wishes as another academic year comes to a close. Thank you for your support of Assumption College.

The Parents Fund – participation is key

Thanks to generous donations, the 2012 Parents Fund continues to grow. Contributing to the Parents Fund is a way for parents of current and former students to make unrestricted gifts to the College, which helps fund expenses such as health services, the library, information technology, campus ministry and the Academic Support Center.

Participation at any level of giving demonstrates support for Assumption. Foundations consider the percentage of parent donors as an indicator of the strength and quality of an institution.

To be counted as a donor in the 2011-12 fiscal year, your donation must be made by May 31. To make a donation to the Parents Fund, kindly use the enclosed envelope or visit [www.assumption.edu/donate](http://www.assumption.edu/donate). Thank you for helping Assumption maintain its tradition of excellence.
Q&A with James Rizza, Director of Campus Ministry

What are the opportunities Campus Ministry offers?

Campus Ministry enables students to grow in faith during their college years. Our goal is to meet the students on their spiritual journeys and to provide them with the help they need to discover and live out God’s vocation for them. There are many ways of doing this.

Our SEND mission trips immerse students in very different cultures here in the United States and in Central America. The experience gives them an understanding of a world larger than they’ve known and an appreciation for how they can contribute to it. The retreat program is an opportunity for students to get away from the busyness of their lives for a weekend and reflect upon what is most important to them.

Our 7pm Mass with the Chapel Choir remains vibrant, while students still have the option to attend the 10am Mass with the community or the quiet 10pm Mass. We have prayer services everyday, including our traditional Candlelight Prayer, Ignitus Praise & Worship and Eucharist Adoration. We support a number of faith discussion groups such as our Interfaith Dialogues, AC Allies, Advocates for Life, Knights of Columbus, a men’s bible study group and we are starting a women’s bible study group next year.

We brought students to World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain, last summer and next year Assumption College will travel to WYD ’13 in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. All of these activities give students the opportunity to grow in faith.

How many students participate in these programs?

Our retreats and SEND service immersion trips regularly fill up. We’re watching participation grow, especially with the addition of new programs. Some students want to be involved in everything we do. Many will find something particular connects with them, such as Candlelight Prayer; or they’re happy just attending Sunday Mass. Most of our students have some involvement with Campus Ministry before they graduate.

What are some of the advantages of involvement?

There is always a building of community as the students develop new friendships. They often encounter Christ in each other through our activities and the friendships that they build accompany them throughout their time at Assumption. That is not to say that the social benefits are what campus ministry is all about, but college students rely on a supportive environment to help them grow in faith. Our students are in college to learn and to prepare for the rest of their lives. Students find campus ministry to be a resource for encountering what God is calling them to. Sometimes it takes something big, like a SEND trip, to help them realize where they can really make a difference in the lives of others.

These kinds of experiences often lead our students to spend a year after graduation doing volunteer work, and lifelong vocations can also emerge. Our hope is that our students hear and answer whatever God calls them to.

How has the Tinsley Campus Ministry Center helped your office?

It has certainly made us a more visible presence on campus. Having our own facilities to work in allows us to meet our various needs. It also brings our activities to a common place, so that students involved are also aware of other things going on in campus ministry. The convenience of having the Chapel of the Holy Spirit right next door and all of our offices together helps us be more efficient. And, of course, the new Center is beautiful! People love visiting us and new traffic leads to more involvement.

Do you have any new or expanded programs or initiatives to take advantage of the TCMC?

We built an interfaith prayer room and accompanying that we’ve started an interfaith dialogue series. These serve two purposes. First of all, we hope that all of our students are growing in faith while at Assumption, including those of a different religious tradition. Secondly, students can benefit a great deal from learning about each other’s faith in dialogue. We can now host retreats in the Tinsley community room.

New retreats that we ran this semester include the Crossroads Retreat for Sophomores; our SEARCH program hosted many of its retreats in the Center; AC Allies initiated its first retreat this year and the Racial Healing retreat took place before the staff had even moved into the new offices. We now have a room for chapel choir rehearsals, receptions, movies, multimedia presentations, conferences and other gatherings. Having space available makes project planning and events considerably easier, and students feel empowered to initiate whatever the Holy Spirit moves them to do.

For more information about Campus Ministry, visit www.assumption.edu/dept/pastoral.
11th Career Networking Dinner attracts nearly 100 students

In February the Parents Committee hosted the College’s 11th annual Career Networking Dinner. Guest speaker Tom Manchester P’13, vice president of U.S. field marketing for Dunkin’ Donuts and father of an Assumption junior, shared with students the “Top 10 Keys to the Job Search,” including ‘clean up your Facebook page,’ ‘stay positive’ and ‘network with everyone you know.’ The event provided nearly 100 students with career advice and an opportunity to network with 20 Assumption students’ parents and Assumption alumni in a variety of professional fields. If you’d like to join us next year, contact Linda Rosenlund ’82 at parents@assumption.edu.

From the Parents Committee

In May when we transition from being parents of a student to parents of an alumna, we will look back to our four years with tremendous fondness.

It has been our pleasure to serve as co-chairs of the Parents Committee for the past two years. We joined the committee when Lauren was a freshman and it has been a great opportunity to share a special relationship with the College.

We will remain supportive of Assumption for so many reasons. We are grateful for the excellent Catholic liberal arts education that Lauren has received. With its approachable and dedicated faculty, stimulating learning environment, and supportive community, Assumption has laid a solid foundation for our daughter for a lifetime of learning, faith and service.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our service as co-chairs, and are proud of the thriving subcommittees that will continue to assist Assumption by providing resources for Admissions, Career Services and the Parents Fund.

Please stay involved with Assumption. It is truly a remarkable place that will feed your soul. We wish you and your family all the best.

Terry and Becky Milka P’12
Parents Committee Co-chairs

Thank you Terry & Becky Milka

As the term of our Parents Committee co-chairs comes to an end, we wish to thank Terry and Becky for their steadfast support of Assumption College. They have been tremendous advocates for Assumption since Lauren’s first year, serving on the Parents Committee and co-chairing it the last two years. President’s Council members since 2008, the Milkas have also represented the College at numerous regional receptions. We are grateful for their support, enthusiasm and good cheer!
To the parents of the Class of 2012

Congratulations on the upcoming graduation of your Assumption College student. As you transition to the “Parent of Alumni” group, we encourage you to continue using the College as a resource. Visit our website for cultural events, educational speakers and forums, and “Travel with Assumption” trips. We look forward to your continued involvement in the Assumption community!

Career services update

Bethany Rossi, Director of Career Services, was the guest speaker at a recent Parents Committee gathering. Bethany discussed the importance of internships and asked parents to share information with the department about internship opportunities that they may know about at their places of employment or within their networks.

Rossi and the new associate director, Nikki DiOrio, have worked tirelessly to build a solid internship program for students. Currently there are more than 60 internships posted on the students’ Hound Explorer website. Students should be encouraged to review the offerings, because internships are a valuable component to learning, providing an opportunity to gain on-the-job experience. Contact Bethany at 508-767-7409 or b.rossi@assumption.edu.

2012 Commencement

Friday, May 11
5pm Baccalaureate Mass
7-11pm Baccalaureate Soiree

Saturday, May 12
10am Commencement

The Commencement address will be delivered by Brian Kelly ’83, head football coach for the University of Notre Dame. For more info, visit www.assumption.edu/commencement.

Receive E-mail Updates
To sign up to receive e-mail updates regarding parent information, please e-mail parents@assumption.edu.