From the Parents Chairs

It has been a privilege and our pleasure to serve as co-chairs of the Parents Committee. This marks our last year as Assumption parents—an identity we’ve enjoyed since our daughter, Laura Marie, matriculated in the fall of 2004.

As we near the conclusion of our term as co-chairs, we continue to be inspired by the dedication, intellect, and character of those in the Assumption community whom we have come to know. Thank you for your commitment to your child’s future and to the College.

The generosity and outstanding support of the Assumption parents has been truly motivational for us.

It has been our honor to connect with the College on a more personal level and to offer our whole-hearted support of Assumption. We are proud that 42% of parents of undergraduate students contributed last year and we hope you will participate in the 2008 Parents Fund this year with a gift of any size.

We wish you and your family all the best,

Luise and Larry Cancro
Co-chairs, Parents Committee

Q & A with Conway Campbell: Associate Dean of Campus Life

What is the role of your office?
I am responsible for the overall supervision and operation of the Residential Life program. I supervise an associate director, two area coordinators, seven resident directors and 56 resident assistants. Since we are such a large department, I am responsible to make sure all our processes and functions work well. In my role, I also represent the office on a variety of campus wide committees, where we work to better serve students.

What is the housing lottery?
The lottery and housing selection process is the official procedure for the students in the three non-graduating classes to select their housing for the following academic year. It is a process for current full-time undergraduate students only. There are three steps to the process. First, the student pays a $400 qualification deposit to participate in the process. (The deposit is applied to the student’s bill in the fall.) Second, the student submits a housing intent form. This form lists the names of the student’s selected roommate(s) if he/she desires to room with others. Third, the student selects his/her room or apartment. This is a class year-based process. So rising seniors will pick first, then rising juniors, then sophomores.

What is the training process for the Residential Life staff?
We pride ourselves on our practical staff training. In preparation for academic year, the professional staff begin an intense training program August 1. The resident assistants will return in mid-August and will train until all students return. We typically repeat the process in January for a week before students return. In addition, the professional staff and the RAs participate in inservice training and development throughout the year. Students enter college with complex needs and issues, and training helps us to stay current.

What is a typical day for an RA?
Resident assistants are full-time students, so their days are busy ones. They do everything that other students do, but they have the additional responsibility of working with a floor of students. Typically they will spend some of the day in class, group work, work study, varsity athletics, intramurals and homework to name a few. But then a student may come to them with a roommate issue that they will help mediate, or they may have a staff issue.

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Student Retreats provide unique opportunity; not just for Catholics

Among the many services and programs available to students through the College’s Office of Campus Ministry is its popular retreat program, which boasts hundreds of participants each year.

Campus Ministry offers several retreat options, including START, SEARCH, Senior, Emmaus and Spare Change retreats.

Approximately 10% of the student population (215) participate in retreat programs each year, including about 60 students in leadership roles.

The first retreats were developed by two student pioneers—Amy Logue’01 and Erin Jones-Barata ’01—in 1999. After attending a retreat at St. Michael’s College, they took elements from that experience to customize the first START retreat with Sr. Claire Tjader, a former Campus Ministry employee and current AC Trustee.

START 1 retreats
START 1 retreats last 24 hours and take place at Mercy Center, adjacent to the AC campus. Students begin to reflect on issues of identity, community, commitment, and faith. Each retreat is student-led and includes talks (by students), small and large group discussions, reflection, and entertainment, which incorporates skits.

Each retreat team consists of 16-18 students with different responsibilities to run the retreat, led by two ‘rectors’ who direct the team and facilitate each retreat component. According to Stephanie McCaffrey, assistant director of Campus Ministry, selection for START retreat team members has become competitive enough where some volunteers have to be turned away.

START 1 retreats are held once each semester, with the next one occurring March 28–29. All retreats are open to all students, Catholic or non-Catholic. They provide opportunities for students to meet new people, reflect on their life and grow their faith. Generally, between 30 and 35 students participate in each START 1 retreat.

START 2 retreats
START 1 retreat attendees are encouraged to attend at START 2 retreat. This gathering lasts 48-hours and is held at an off-campus retreat facility in November. “The themes are deeper," McCaffrey explains. "We'll pick up where we left off with START 1, then talk about prayer, Jesus and the realities of suffering and dealing with that.

SEARCH retreats
This is an opportunity for students to help facilitate retreats for Worcester County high school students, many of whom are preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. During the 2007–08 academic year, SEARCH is working with parishes in Ashburnham, Lunenburg, Millbury, Northborough, Pepperell, Sterling, Townsend, Westboro and Westminster.

Senior Retreat
Seniors are invited to participate in the Senior Retreat at an off-campus facility in mid-February. This 24-hour retreat provides members of the graduating class with a chance to reflect upon their Assumption experience and look ahead to a bright future. No previous retreat experience is required. It is modeled after the START 1 retreat, but the rectors have the freedom to tailor the sessions to incorporate new initiatives they feel with be more meaningful for their class.

Spare Change Retreat
This offering, usually held in February, was designed to help students reflect upon the Christian call to advocate for social justice. It is a one-night retreat which includes interactive activities and talks to help students integrate the Gospel call to peace and justice more fully into their lives.

Emmaus Retreat
Offered for the first time this spring, this retreat is designed for upperclass students or alumni who have previously participated in the START 2 Retreat. The full weekend’s activities will focus on deepening one’s prayer life and relationship with God. Campus ministers

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Learning in class is one approach, but when it comes to studying abroad the world is your classroom.

The potential for an enriching experience, beyond what was thought possible, is great. Students majoring in a language, global studies, or international business are strongly encouraged to study abroad, supplementing their course work with life experience.

Often times, study abroad can enhance one’s specific intellectual interests or commitments. For instance, political science majors interested in post-Soviet politics may discover how eye-opening a stay in Prague can be. What better place for English majors to study English or Irish literature than in England or Ireland? And isn’t Vienna an ideal place for a music major to study Mozart?

Study abroad is more than just travel. Through an immersive experience, it should supplement a student’s overall educational goals and interests.

It offers students the chance to experience the world from a different perspective, to escape parochial confines, and to push themselves to know themselves and their world in a richer way. Study abroad is a transformative experience, and those contemplating it ought to prepare to be changed. As one returning Assumption student put it: “It blew my mind and changed the way I live.”

Many Assumption students have paved the way for the future. The College has sent students to six continents. The most frequently visited sites include: Tokyo, Sydney, Melbourne, Madrid, Barcelona, Rome, Florence, London, Paris, Dublin, Costa Rica and the Semester at Sea program, which includes stops in China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, India, Egypt, Turkey and Croatia (among others). Oxford or Cambridge universities are also possibilities for top students.

There are many questions to consider before applying to study abroad, such as motivation, planning coursework to accommodate intentions to graduate, locations, language barriers, and financial considerations, among others.

To qualify, among other requirements, an AC student must be a mature, resourceful and healthy junior or senior (with some exceptions) carrying at least a 3.0 GPA and a genuine willingness to be immersed in, and show respect for, a foreign culture.

According to those who have studied abroad, their experiences were amazing. Some of them have shared the following thoughts:

“...It was fun to studying a slide of Picasso’s ‘Guernica’ and I could say I already went to the Reina Sofia in Madrid and stood in front of this gigantic masterpiece.”

“I loved being surrounded by beauty and history while I studied and socialized.”

“One can never understand a country fully and wholly until they visit it.”

“It was one of the best experiences I ever had and I wouldn’t hesitate to go back.”

AC students study abroad primarily through the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS); the Institute for Study Abroad (IFSA) through Butler University; and Semester at Sea. The College also sends students to Washington D.C. through the Washington Center for Internships. These providers offer diverse programs of study. They have been chosen by the College based on their reputations for academic rigor, authentic cultural offerings, global reach, and their popularity with past students.

**Student Retreats**

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will offer spiritual direction and there will be opportunities for learning different forms of prayer, meeting in small groups and experiencing silence for a portion of the retreat. The goal is to provide an opportunity for students to enter more deeply into their relationship with God and to learn new ways of praying.

**Sign me up!**

To sign-up for a retreat, registration forms are available in both Campus Ministry and the Hagan Campus Ministry office. Contacts: START 1 - Darren Hazeur, dhazeur@assumption.edu or 508-767-7404. START 2 - Stephanie McCaffrey, smccaff@assumption.edu or 508-767-7476.

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**Spring calendar**

March 29 ... Parents Comm. meeting
April 21 ............Honors Convocation
May 5 ..................Last day of classes
May 7–13 .................Final exams
May 16 ....Baccalaureate Mass & Soiree
May 17 .................Commencement

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

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**Conway Campbell**

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meeting to attend; or many of the other administrative tasks they are asked to do. So needless to say, they need to be highly motivated and organized students.

What part of your job is most satisfying?

I love working with students. My job removes me from a lot of the daily contact with students, but I find ways to maintain it. I work with students on committees, and students will come to me when there are issues that need a different level of resolution. I also eat lunch daily in the main dining hall, where students often approach me with a question or comment. I also love to see how a student changes from their first year to the last. It’s amazing how they change and mature, and I’m grateful for any role I have in that process.
Parents Fund celebrates successful year

The Parents Fund enjoyed another successful year in 2006–07. A total of 1,245 generous parents contributed $130,853 to the Assumption College Parents Fund. These funds help support the College to continue a proud tradition of academic and extracurricular excellence.

The funds raised through the Parents Fund help provide financial aid and support student activities, athletics, campus ministry, the library and more. Assumption extend its gratitude to the parents who participated last year and encourage everyone to participate with a gift of any size this year. Also, we would like to thank the amazing committee of 75 parent volunteers and the 20 student callers for their hard work to make the Parents Fund a success!

The Parents Committee meets twice a year, once in the fall during Parents Weekend and once in the spring. In the fall, the Marriott Room overflowed with parents who came to hear Chris McCarthy, the College's chief financial officer, talk about the cost of running the College. During the meeting, President Francesco Cesareo greeted and thanked parents for their involvement.

You are invited to join us on Saturday, March 29 for the spring Parents Committee meeting. If you have any questions or if you are interested in joining the Committee, please contact Deb Konicki, director of parent programs, at (508) 767-7104 or dkonicki@assumption.edu. For more information, visit www.assumption.edu/alums/ParFund/default.html.

Please participate in the 2007-08 Parents Fund by sending a gift of any size to:
Office of Annual Giving
500 Salisbury Street
Worcester, MA 01609-1296
or consider making a credit card gift at www.assumption.edu (click donate to Assumption)