Fr. Richard Lamoureux, A.A. ’64 to give commencement address

Assumption’s 93rd Commencement Exercises will be held Saturday, May 15, at 10 a.m. Fr. Richard Lamoureux, A.A. ’64, superior general of the Augustinians of the Assumption, will be the commencement speaker and will accept a President’s Medal on behalf of the Assumptionist order, which this year is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of its founder, Emmanuel d’Alzon.

Honorary degree recipients are Frank Carroll and Michele and Donald D’Amour ’64. Donald is chairman and CEO of Big Y Foods, Inc. Michele oversees the independent supermarket chain’s educational partnership initiatives. The 2008 leadership gift of $4.2 million leadership from the D’Amours is the largest in the history of the College.

Carroll is founder and president of Worcester’s Small Business Service Bureau and recipient of a 2010 Business Leader of the Year award from Worcester Business Journal.

For more information please visit www.assumption.edu/commencement.

“Hounds for Haiti” contributes to relief effort for earthquake victims

After news broke about the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti January 12, the Assumption community jumped into action to coordinate a variety of fund raising initiatives. Named “Hounds for Haiti,” students began a four-day effort to collect funds to support the Catholic Relief Services’ efforts to ease the suffering of Haitians in desperate need of food, water and medical care.

Students staffed the Hagan Campus Center information booth to collect donations of any size and sold “Hounds for Haiti” red T-shirts for $5 each during the men’s and women’s basketball games during Winter Homecoming.

In addition, Sodexo, Assumption’s food services provider, donated the cost of all lunches purchased for a day in Taylor Dining Hall.

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From the Parents Chairs

It may sound like a cliché, but the last four years have flown by. Our affection for Assumption began at our son’s accepted students’ open house and hasn’t stopped. In addition to Austin receiving an excellent education we witnessed firsthand how the Assumption community works to develop the education and overall experience of our children.

Our participation on the Parents Committee gave us the unique ability to work closely with parents and administration on a variety of topics that directly affected the students’ and parents’ experience at Assumption.

There is an apathy that exists in our own towns on the subject of volunteerism and involvement, but it doesn’t exist at Assumption. Our contribution to Assumption was a natural occurrence; it is personally embraced from the president and could be seen and felt throughout the campus and functions we attended.

We were inspired at the President’s Council dinner last fall to see so many newly graduated alumni who were already giving back to their College and attending this wonderful affair. It confirmed what we had already discovered about Assumption students and the administration and made us proud of our contribution to the growth of this institution.

The Parents Committee is growing and is in good hands, but the need for new members and their input is paramount. Please consider the Parents Committee as a way for you to make a difference and be involved with your child’s education and future.

Cindy and I will miss college life, soccer games and the special friendships we made at Assumption, but we will continue our association as alumni parents in any way that the College can use our help. Go Hounds!

Sincerely,

Cindy and Paul Prete P’10
Co-chairs, Parents Committee
Students “Sleep Out” to raise awareness of homelessness

On a chilly night in late November, a hearty group of 19 Assumption students braved the outdoor temperature of 30 degrees and spent the night on the Hagan Campus Center lawn to show awareness of the problem of homelessness. Armed with sleeping bags, cardboard boxes for shelter and anything else they could carry, the students participated in the College’s first “Sleep Out.” Sponsored by the Reach Out Center, the event was planned in conjunction with National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week.

Last spring, Kim Cohen ’10 attended the National Student Conference on Service, Advocacy and Social Action, where she attended a workshop about sleep outs on college campuses around the country. Inspired by the idea, upon her return to campus she proposed the idea to Carleen Roy-Butler, director of the Reach Out Center. Roy-Butler, backed by other Assumption administrators, supported the proposal and began the planning process.

On the night of the Sleep Out, student participants began in Taylor Dining Hall, which served as a make-shift soup kitchen. During dinner, Cohen was joined by committee member Molly Eastman ’10 and Kim Cohen ’10 to explain details about the Sleep Out and the agenda for the evening. The students then headed to Hagan lawn to construct their shelter for the night.

Before long Cohen, Eastman and fellow committee members Sean Kennedy ’10 and Megan Coughlin ’11 asked the participants to join in a circle to share their feelings and opinions about the homeless. Cohen was impressed by the students’ honesty. Some shared that they rarely looked at people sitting on sidewalks or sleeping in doorways, or they felt uncomfortable getting close to a homeless person to give them money.

One sophomore student expressed that she has given money to a panhandler stating that “it all comes from the heart.” Whispers of agreement moved around the circle and several students nodded their heads in approval.

After the group dismissed, students continued the dialogue around their make-shift homes.

Later in the evening, the student participants entered Hagan Hall to view a 20-minute video presentation about hate crimes against the homeless. Participants were shocked to hear that college-age kids are responsible for many of these hate crimes.

The night grew colder, but many participants were determined to make it to morning. “You can’t sleep in that kind of cold,” Cohen said. “Everything gets wet. Now I understand why socks are the first thing they tell you to give to the homeless.”

In the morning Dean of Students Bob Ravenelle welcomed the student participants in from the cold and offered them breakfast. The shared reflection was that the Sleep Out was life altering!

The Reach Out Center is confident that the event will return because many students have expressed interest in participating next year.

Chemistry Dept. becomes American Chemical Society affiliate

The Assumption chemistry department has been approved as an affiliate of the American Chemical Society (ACS). Affiliation with the ACS is widely accepted as the “stamp of approval” for chemistry programs and graduates at colleges and universities across the nation. ACS-approved programs offer a broad-based and rigorous chemistry education that provides the knowledge and laboratory experience, and analytical and communication skills that students need to become effective science professionals.

To achieve ACS approval, a chemistry program must undergo a stringent review process, demonstrate staffing by accomplished faculty, contain a modern and well-maintained infrastructure and provide a coherent, comprehensive chemistry curriculum, among other requirements.

The American Chemical Society is the world’s largest professional scientific organization and a leading source of authoritative scientific information. A nonprofit organization chartered by Congress, the ACS publishes many scientific journals and databases, organizes major research conferences and provides educational, science policy and career programs in chemistry.

In surveys, employers have indicated that they find graduates of ACS-approved programs better prepared for careers in science and technology. In addition, Assumption students who major in chemistry and fulfill ACS requirements are eligible for admission into the Society after graduation. Membership enables the Assumption chemistry department, faculty and students to keep up with latest research and connect with leading chemists and institutions around the world.

Visit Assumption online at www.assumption.edu
Q & A with Eloise Knowlton, dean of undergraduate studies

What are your primary responsibilities?
I am responsible for all elements directly related to student progress to degree: advising and advisors, academic probation and academic support. I also cultivate special student opportunities: study abroad, internships for credit, special majors and minors, travel to present student/faculty research, post-baccalaureate scholarships.

In collaboration with a wonderful group of faculty and administrators, I’ve been developing The Tagaste Project, a first year learning-community model, now in its second pilot year. I serve on the Enrollment Management Council, the Academic Council, the Curriculum Committee, and chair the Merit Committee and the Academic Policy Board.

Describe a typical day in your office.
We have a dedicated and talented staff. Carol Ryan, my administrative assistant, is keeping us all organized and sane. juggling more people and projects than would appear to be humanly possible.

My associate dean Dr. Jennifer Morrow is solving the manifold issues of our first year students one at a time. I’m also meeting with students pretty much all day, when I’m not in meetings. The phone is ringing with students who have missed class because of illness, or to set up a meeting to talk about an issue with a course, or to follow up on a call I’ve put in to them. It’s a very busy office and we see a lot of activity.

How many students participate in the Study Abroad program?
We send between 65 and 90 students abroad every academic year, the larger group in the spring. The diversity of locations has increased during my four years at Assumption. The College has begun faculty-led, course-embedded experiences abroad. The President and Director of the Foundations program took a group to Rome as part of a Foundations special topics course; the history department is working on a course that involves a tour of Eastern Europe. The English department has for years hosted tours of England and Ireland, and will do so again this March. We are always seeking ways to send more students out of the country: it is one of the most transformative experiences a young person can have.

What is most rewarding about your job?
It is most rewarding when a student who walked through my door in tears walks out with a dry eye and a plan.

What keeps you awake at night?
Some of our students are dealing with things no person of their age should have to deal with, sometimes constellations of such things. Earning a college degree is hard enough without the strain and distraction of very adult problems. Thinking about those students and their problems can lead to insomnia.

FBI golf tournament provides scholarships

The 37th annual golf tournament will be held on Monday, June 21 at Worcester Country Club.

The Father Bissonnette Invitational (FBI) Golf Tournament provides scholarship funds to Assumption students and supports the Department of Athletics. More than $1 million has been raised since its inception in 1974.

Please consider supporting the FBI in one or more of the following ways:
• Become a sponsor (packages available begin at $3,000)
• Play in the tournament ($500 per individual)
• Purchase an ad in the program book ($100, $200 and $400 levels)
• Donate an item for the live and silent auctions (popular items are Red Sox, Celtics and Patriots tickets, weekend stays in New England, Broadway shows, restaurant gift certificates)

For more information contact Linda Rosenlund ’82 at 508-767-7026 or e-mail lrosenlund@assumption.edu.

Hounds for Haiti

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Overall, the Assumption community contributed more than $6,300 to the Catholic Relief Services’ organization.

In a memo to the College community, President Cesareo stated, “As a community, we have connected in a real and meaningful way with the people of Haiti. They have suffered what the United Nations has called, ‘the worst loss of life ever.’ They will continue to need our concern for them and our prayers for their recovery in the difficult days ahead.”

Spring calendar

Apr. 1-5 .........................Easter recess
Apr. 11 ..................Accepted Students Open House
Apr. 17 ....Parents Committee meeting
Apr. 19 .................Honors Convocation
Apr. 23-25 ....Oliver! @ Hanover Theatre
May 3 .............Last day of classes
May 5-11 ..................Final exams
May 14 ...............Baccalaureate Mass
May 15 ...............Commencement
June 4-6 .............Reunion Weekend
June 21 ............FBI Golf tournament

For the full College calendar, visit www.assumption.edu
Participate in the Parents Fund and join us at upcoming events

It is hard to believe we are almost halfway through the spring semester. Before long, families of seniors will be making plans for Commencement in May and all other families will be counting the days until their student returns home for the summer.

The Parents Fund, a component of the Annual Fund, has steadily increased the amount of total dollars raised for six consecutive years. This year, the parents are well on their way to raising $100,000 in current-use Annual Fund dollars. Current-use giving allows the College to direct funds to the greatest area of need. This year, Assumption will focus on providing additional financial aid for students. Currently, more than 78 percent of the student body receives some form of financial aid.

The Fund’s fiscal year runs from June through May 31 and gifts are tax-deductible for the calendar year in which they are made. Please participate by using the enclosed envelope to join other parents in support of the 2010 Parents Fund. To give online, visit www.assumption.edu and click “Gift a Gift”. Your support, at any level, is greatly appreciated.

We also have several events planned for the spring semester. You are welcome to join us.

**Sunday, April 11:** Accepted Students Open House. Parent volunteers are needed to welcome perspective Assumption families, share what it is like to be an Assumption parent, and answer any questions they may have about the Assumption experience.

**Saturday, April 17:** Spring Parents Committee Meeting in the Marriott Room in Taylor Dining Hall. Social time will begin at 10 am with the meeting commencing at 10:30 am. Coffee and danish will be served.

**Ongoing:** Alumni/Parent Shadow Program. Register to be a part of the Mentoring Network, also known as Hound Explorer. Visit www.collegecentral.com/assumption and follow the five easy steps; 1) select Alumni, 2) select Mentoring Network, 3) join our Mentoring Network, 4) password: Alumni, 5) add My Mentoring Profile.

When surveyed, 100% of 2009 alumni/parents said they would participate again, and 100% of 2009 student participants would recommend the program to their peers.

For more information, please e-mail me at dkonicki@assumption.edu or call 508-767-7104.

Sincerely,

Deb Konicki P’08
Director of Parent Programs