From the Parents Chairs

Welcome to our new and returning parents. Your sons and daughters will soon be off to college and settling into their college routine. It’s an exciting time for everyone.

For the last two years we have been active in many parts of the Assumption community. In particular, the Parents Committee. We became involved when our son was a freshman and it has been a great opportunity to meet many of the College’s faculty, staff and parents. This dedicated group of people directly contributes in the development of the Assumption experience for students and parents and we have enjoyed every minute. As a result of our experience we enthusiastically accepted the opportunity to co-chair the committee when we were approached last year.

As Committee members, we volunteer our time to assist the Offices of Career Services, Annual Giving and Admissions. The opportunity to give back while helping to shape the Assumption experience is very rewarding and we strongly encourage you to become involved.

We look forward to an opportunity to meet you and wish you a happy 2008–09 academic year.

Sincerely,
Cindy and Paul Prete P’10
Co-chairs, Parents Committee

New Alumni/Parent Shadow Program

Is your son/daughter interested in a specific career? Do you wish that he/she could learn more about that type of job? Assumption is committed to making that task easier.

The CALLS (Career, Academic, Lifetime Learning Skills) Program, in conjunction with the Alumni Relations Office and the Parents Committee will begin a Shadow Program to be held January 11–16, 2009.

Sophomore students will be invited and student participation will be encouraged, but not mandatory.

Suellen Lazarek Dean ’88, coordinator of CALLS, works with all first-year and sophomore students.

The program will offer students an opportunity to experience the workplace and network with parents/alumni and will offer parents and alumni an exciting way to contribute to the students’ professional development.

Participating sophomores will be matched with a parent or alumnus/a and will be exposed to a specific occupation for a day. Students will shadow a professional and will get to view some of the daily tasks performed in the workplace in their occupation of interest. Students will also have an opportunity to ask questions about the skills and experience needed to succeed in the workplace environment that they are observing.

“We will prepare the students for the placement and try to find an opportunity for them close to home,” said Lazarek Dean. “We’ll make sure they research the company, have an updated resume and that they dress appropriately for the workplace.” This training will be mandatory for participation. Students will also be taught about networking and following-up with their contacts.

Guidebooks will be created with expectations of all parties involved, an itinerary for the day and a contract for the site supervisor to sign, assuring all parties of their commitment to participate and understanding the program. Evaluations will also be required by all parties to improve and expand upon the program for the future.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Parent Programs Director Deb Konicki P’08 (508-767-7104 or dkonicki@assumption.edu).
What is the role of your office?

The role of the Academic Support Center (ASC) is three-fold. First, we want to assist students in reaching their academic potential. For some students their potential in a subject is an "A," so tutors and the learning specialist will help students who are striving to attain that type of academic performance. However, many of us would be hard-pressed to get an "A" in all subjects.

For instance, I am not a concrete-sequential thinker, I am more an abstract-random thinker. Therefore, mathematics has always been a challenge for me. My academic potential in math is probably not an "A," but with tutorial support I can probably get a "B." In a subject with a lot of writing my potential is probably an "A."

Second, the ASC assists first-year students to acclimate from high-school-level work to college-level work. We do this by helping students understand how to read textbooks, how to take good notes, how to utilize one's reading and class notes to predict test questions and how to reduce test anxiety. Peer tutors assist students with the course-content. They help students understand how much work is necessary to become productive academic students.

Third, the ASC wants to help students become independent learners. We do not want students to rely on the tutors or the professional staff. We want them to be able to work independently of the ASC. Ultimately, students must write the papers and take the exams, so we want to help students feel confident in the abilities and understand underlying principles so when they see a problem they can identify it as an example of a certain principle.

What academic support programs are offered to students?

Students can work with peer tutors on course-content and writing papers and they can work with either the learning specialist, the graduate assistant or the director on skills-based issues like reading and notetaking and perhaps most importantly, time management.

The ASC offers time management workshops for students and special workshops in time management for student-athletes. The ASC, with a lot of support from many departments on campus, also offers an hour-long academic expectations workshop for all first-year students during fall orientation. Usually after mid-term progress reports come out in October, the dean of first year and dean of studies with the ASC staff target first-year students who may be struggling academically. We offer those students another opportunity to work with the ASC on time management and other related study skills strategies.

How does a student become a tutor?

Students become tutors by applying to the director to become a tutor or through faculty recommendations. Each department submits names of students who they feel would be academically strong enough to become a tutor. I contact these students and those students who have requested to become a tutor and who have received a faculty recommendation. All students are offered a chance to interview for a tutoring position. After the interviewing process, I sit down and decide the make-up of the ASC for the following year.

What is a typical day at the ASC?

There is no typical day here. The ASC opens at 8:30 Monday–Friday and closes at 10 pm. On Friday we close at 4:30 pm. We are also open 6–10 pm on Sunday. Most days we are doing one-on-one tutoring and on select days we have group tutoring sessions scheduled.

For instance, every Wednesday evening we run two group review sessions in organic chemistry, yet we are also offering group sessions in economics, math and accounting as well as group math reviews for continuing education students on Sunday evenings. Faculty support these group review sessions by providing study sheets and meeting with the tutors who are in charge of the sessions. Every day the ASC professional staff members are working one-on-one with students who are on conditional enrollment and/or academic probation. Sometimes the professional staff meet with students on a walk-in basis who are feeling overwhelmed with their work.

What part of your job is most satisfying?

The most satisfying part of my job is to experience students gaining confidence and enjoying the academic pursuit of knowledge. I love working with the tutors to help them become effective teachers/tutors and working with all the various departments on campus. We work closely with the academic deans, the faculty, the student life staff and athletics. I also really enjoy starting a new academic year with new tutors, new faculty and most of all new first-year students. For more information, contact Allen Bruehl at 508-767-7311 or e-mail abruhl@assumption.edu.

Q & A with Allen Bruehl, director of Academic Support Center
Opportunities abound for parents to participate at Assumption

Welcome to the family members of the Class of 2012. I hope you and your student find the Assumption College experience challenging, rewarding, and full of good surprises. Congratulations to those of you who made it through your student’s first year! I know you are looking forward to this fall semester.

Like most parents, you have probably been actively involved in the life of your student during their school years. The Parents Committee provides an opportunity for you to become more closely involved in the life of the College, while at the same time preserving and improving the quality of the Assumption experience for your student and his/her classmates. Committee members act as ambassadors of the College by volunteering to answer questions of prospective parents during Accepted Students Day or hosting regional parent receptions for the Admissions Office.

In addition, many parents participate in the Career Networking Dinner and we hope that many more will participate in the newly developed Alumni/Parent Shadow Program (article on front page). The Parents Committee meets twice annually. This year’s first meeting will be held October 25 (during Family Weekend). I hope you will join us and stay for the President’s Reception immediately following the meeting.

Another way you participate is by supporting the 2008–09 Parents Fund. Assumption parents have proven to be a loyal constituency and are committed to their students’ experience. Gifts to the Parents Fund help provide much needed financial aid assistance to admit and retain the brightest students and support programs including CALLS (Career, Academic, Lifetime, Learning, Skills), which helps prepare students for a career.

Thank you for your support and best wishes to you and your Assumption student!

– Deb Konicki P’08
Director of Parent Programs

Annual Fund powered by student callers

The Student Calling Program plays a significant role in Assumption’s annual giving efforts. Student callers are proud representatives of the College and enjoy sharing the news from campus with parents, alumni and friends; receiving feedback from the community on College efforts; and encouraging everyone to participate in the Annual Fund.

2008–09 calendar

Aug. 30 .............New students arrive
Sept. 1...........Returning students arrive
Sept. 2 ...........Fall classes begin
Sept. 8............. Drop/Add deadline
Oct. 13–14......Columbus Day (no classes)
Oct. 24–25......... Family Weekend
Oct. 25 .......Parents Committee meeting
Nov. 21...Course withdrawal deadline
Nov. 26–30..Thanksgiving (no classes)
Dec. 10...............Last day of classes
Dec. 12–18............. Final exams
Jan. 20 .............Spring classes begin
Jan. 27............. Drop/Add deadline
Mar. 7–15...........Spring Break (no classes)
Apr. 9–13 ... Easter recess (no classes)
Apr. 24...Course withdrawal deadline
May 4................Last day of classes
May 7–13 ............. Final exams
May 15............... Baccalaureate Mass
May 16...............Commencement

For the full College calendar, visit www.socialweb.net/assumption
Parents Committee Career Networking Dinner is October 15

The Parents Committee will host its 7th annual Career Networking Dinner on Wednesday, October 15 in Hagan Campus Center Hall. This past spring, sophomores, juniors, and seniors had dinner with 11 professionals representing various career fields. Students were asked to dress as if they were going on an interview and were given the chance to have dinner and network with a host in a career field that was of interest to them. The table hosts fielded many important questions and shared “their story” with the students. After dessert, the hosts sat in a panel and gave students valuable tips on making connections, resume writing, and creating a memorable interview experience.

One parent offered to critique each student’s resume at his table and provided them with suggestions to make their resume stand out. The students were asked to evaluate the event and they overwhelmingly called the Career Networking Dinner a success!

If you are interested in participating in this year’s event as a table host, please contact Deb Konicki P’08, director of Parent Programs at 508-767-7011 or e-mail dkonicki@assumption.edu.

Published by the Office of Institutional Advancement at Assumption College (phone 508-767-7464). PARENTS NEWS is distributed free of charge to parents and guardians of undergraduate students. Writing & Design Director of Development Publications Troy Watkins, President Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D., VP for Institutional Advancement Thomas E. Ryan, Parents Committee Co-chairs Cindy and Paul Prete P’10, Director of Parent Programs Deb Konicki P’08