Francis Lazarus, Ph.D. appointed provost/v.p. for academic affairs

Francis Lazarus, Ph.D. joined Assumption in June as provost and vice president for academic affairs.

“Dr. Lazarus brings extensive academic leadership experience to Assumption,” President Cesareo said. “We are excited that our national search has brought to the community an accomplished academic leader of Dr. Lazarus’ stature at a time when our visibility is increasing beyond New England. He brings to this pivotal role on our campus more than 16 years of experience as a provost and vice president for academic affairs from his previous appointments at outstanding universities.”

Dr. Lazarus, president of the University of Dallas from 2004 to 2009, also served as provost and vice president of academic affairs for eight years at the University of San Diego and another eight years at Marquette University. In addition, he was dean of the University of Dayton’s College of Arts and Sciences from 1980 to 1988. He held teaching positions early in his career as a professor of classical literature at several colleges.

“I am delighted to join the Assumption community and I look forward to contributing to the College’s continuing academic and institutional development,” Dr. Lazarus said. “Assumption’s strong tradition in liberal arts education and its Catholic, Assumptionist character are very attractive qualities.”

A summa cum laude graduate of Canisius College, Dr. Lazarus earned a master of arts and a doctorate in Classics at Cornell University, where he concentrated in Latin and Greek, as well as Latin literature and Greek archeology. He holds a certificate from the American Academy in Rome for his work in the monuments and topography of ancient Rome.

In addition to his scholarly interests, he has published and presented widely on civic engagement, service learning, faith and mission from the perspective of an involved academic administrator. His publications also include a book he edited on the character of Jesuit education.

From the Parents Chairs

“Welcome to the Assumption College family!” is the greeting we received when our daughter was an incoming freshman. As you’ve probably already noticed, Assumption College has a strong sense of community and the Parents Committee is an extension of that welcoming environment. It is part of what makes Assumption such a unique and special place.

We meet just twice a year to share ideas about how to enhance the experience of our children as well as that of future students. We learn about programs offered at the College, such as tutoring at the Academic Support Center, opportunities for mentoring and assisting in job placement. We also assist the college in hosting admissions events, welcoming incoming students and parents at orientation and on Move-in Day. Some of us also assist in raising funds for the College, as we recognize that more funds translates into building new facilities, attracting talented faculty and staff, and providing scholarships – ultimately enhancing students’ experiences and ensuring a strong future for Assumption.

One of the benefits of participating in the Parents Committee is getting to know our peers, making new friends and sharing stories. We have found this aspect of the Parents Committee especially satisfying; we have made many new friends through our participation.

Our daughter Lauren is entering her junior year at Assumption and has loved her first two years. She has taken advantage of the many academic and extracurricular programs offered.

For parents of incoming freshmen, we hope you realize that the next four years can be a great experience for both your son or daughter and you. Through the Parents Committee you can help improve the Assumption experience for all students. One piece of advice, we highly recommend that you make hotel reservations for Family Weekend (October 23–24) soon, as Worcester hotel rooms can be hard to come by with the many colleges in the area.

Please consider attending our first meeting during Family Weekend on Saturday, October 23. We hope you’ll find that we are a welcoming and friendly group and you’ll have the opportunity to learn about programs offered, share some of your own experiences and have fun. We look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,
Terry and Becky Milka P’12
Co-chairs, Parents Committee
Career Services assists with career planning and the job search

To David Kowalczyk P’06, it’s a ‘no-brainer.’ A co-director of the Office of Career Services with Carol McGuiggan P’90, Kowalczyk said, “We have the best jobs on campus, because virtually every student that walks in here wants to work with us to advance their professional goals.”

The Office of Career Services helps students establish career and life planning goals, evaluate skills and interests and prepare for a successful full-time job search.

Career Services boasts a wide range of advising and counseling services, including inventories to assess career interests, career fairs and videos, and an on-campus recruiting program. Other services include career planning workshops such as resume and cover letter writing, interviewing skills and practice, as well as job information services, such as referrals, internship listings and online job postings.

Both Kowalczyk and McGuiggan are parents of Assumption alumni and veterans in their field. McGuiggan came to Assumption in 1985, while Kowalczyk joined the staff in 1991.

Suellen Lazarek Dean ’88 coordinates the CALLS (Career, Academic, Lifetime Learning Skills) Program, in which first-year students and sophomores are encouraged to participate. The students collect materials and build a plan around three areas – career, academic and personal goals.

“Students are challenged to ask themselves, ‘What can I do this year to build my portfolio?’” said Lazarek Dean. Through career assessment exercises, focused effort on academic accomplishment and participation in co-curricular activities, underclassmen prepare themselves for possible internship placements during their junior and senior years.

Highly successful programs have grown from the CALLS program, according to Lazarek Dean. The first-year mentor program pairs upperclassmen with first-year students to encourage their involvement in extracurricular activities and ease the transition to life on campus. More than 45 students have been trained to assist first-year students this fall.

The majors fair attracts more than 300 students annually to explore options for various fields of study. Also, a summer jobs program helps students prepare to market themselves and secure employment.

Students who have utilized the career planning services of the office have been successful in landing positions. In a survey of 241 members of the Class of 2009, 65% of the respondents used Career Services and 56% completed an internship.

Parents are welcomed and encouraged to register online to assist Career Services through HoundExplorer, Assumption’s mentoring network. Visit www.collegecentral.com/assumption. To create an account, select the Alumni module, then “Mentoring Network.” Identify yourself as an Assumption parent and then select activities in which you wish participate (e.g. shadowing, internships and/or networking).

The Alumni/Parent Shadow Program was developed by the Parents Committee in 2009 and has proved to be an effective way to introduce students into various professional fields. Typically held during the semester break in January, participating sophomore students are matched with a parent or alumnus/a and “shadow” a professional in his/her work environment for a day. Students learn about the company prior to visiting and are encouraged to follow-up and network with their contacts afterward.

For more info, call 508-767-7409 or e-mail careerservices@assumption.edu

Class of 2014: Facts

Applications: 4,364
Prospective student visitors: 4,013
Class size: 605
Average high school GPA: 3.25
Average SAT score: 1,103
Geographic representation:
Students hail from 22 states and 15 students are from foreign countries.
Q & A with Jaron Rider, director of Campus Recreation

What is your role in Campus Recreation?
As director, I oversee the operation, budgets and programs the Plourde Recreation Center facility and supervise our staff. I also oversee the Student Recreation Council and participate in student leader training.

Please explain the recent Plourde renovations and new exercise equipment.
The indoor track was updated last January from a poured urethane, which was very slick, to a vulcanized rubber floor called Mondo Super-X. It has grooves for better traction and a high energy return, making it more comfortable on the legs and joints.

In May we replaced the carpet in both the fitness and athletic weight rooms with a Mondo rubber weight room flooring with Assumption’s school colors. The new floor better absorbs the impact of the weights and is easier to clean than carpet.

Several new pieces of equipment have replaced older ones, including six treadmills from Life Fitness, each with a personal viewing screen, and free weights. A new design for the room both in look and in functionality was created. We plan to replace equipment each year.

What types of fitness and wellness programs do you offer and is staff available to demonstrate how to use the equipment?
We offer a number of fitness and wellness programs including Yoga, step and strength, Spinning and Zumba. We also offer a health fair and a number of other fitness incentive programs.

Life Fitness is coming in at the beginning of the fall semester to help train our student employees how to use, maintain and clean the new equipment. After this training each staff member should be able to demonstrate the proper use of the equipment. Until then my assistant directors and I will be available to assist visitors.

How many intramural sports and activities are offered and how many students participate?
Last year, 23 intramural activities were offered, in which a total of 3,000 participants were involved, including nearly 1,300 different individuals.

Family Weekend’s Fall Festival: Oct. 22–24
Family Weekend’s Fall Festival will be held October 22–24. Weekend events will include a Harvest Fair with a variety of vendors, the homecoming football game vs. Saint Anselm, women’s and men’s soccer games, performances by the Assumption College Band and Chorale, and a live, one-hour improvisational musical by “Baby Wants Candy,” which will create and perform a musical based upon a random suggestion from a member of the audience.

Booking hotel reservations early is highly recommended. Group rates are offered at four local hotels (see below). For further info, contact Lili Zannotti in Student Affairs at 508-767-7403 or e-mail lzannott@assumption.edu.

Recommended Worcester hotels
Courtyard Marriott • 800-321-2211
Hilton Garden Inn • 508-753-5700
Hampton Inn • 508-757-0400
Quality Inn • 508-852-2800

Mention Assumption College Family Weekend to receive a reduced rate, which are limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis.
Parents Committee: Something for Everyone

The Parents Committee is an active organization on campus that allows the parents of Assumption students to become involved in the College. The Parents Committee coordinates parent involvement in a variety of campus activities, including:

- Assisting in recruiting students to Assumption by participating in college fairs, contacting prospective parents or hosting regional parent receptions.
- Welcoming new parents to the College and proving input for parents activities
- Proving career advice for students and developing internship opportunities.

The Parents Committee is also involved in the Parents Fund – a component of the Assumption College Annual Fund, which raises unrestricted funds to support the areas within the College where the need is the greatest, such as facility improvements, academic programs, student activities, athletics, Campus Ministry and financial aid.

Last year parents of current students contributed more than $132,000 to the College. These gifts were made by 700 parents for a participation rate of 32%. Contributions and participation from parents remained constant from the previous fiscal year. Assumption College is fortunate to have such generous support from the parents of our students.

The Parents Committee truly has something for everyone. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend the Committee’s next meeting on Saturday, October 23 (Family Weekend) at 9 a.m. in the Marriott Room of Taylor Dining Hall. The Parents Committee is a great way to become more involved with the College and meet other parents.

2010-11 calendar

Aug. 27 .................. New students arrive
Aug. 29 ........... Returning students arrive
Aug. 30 ......................... Fall classes begin
Oct. 9-12 .... Columbus Day (no classes)
Oct. 23 ...... Parents Committee meeting
Oct. 23-24 ... Family Weekend
Nov. 24-28 ...... Thanksgiving (no classes)
Dec. 8 ................... Last day of fall classes
Dec. 10-16 ................. Final exams
Jan. 18 ................. Spring classes begin
Mar. 5-13 ........ Spring Break (no classes)
Apr. 21-25 ....... Easter recess (no classes)
May 2 .................. Last day of classes
May 14 ................. Commencement

For the full College calendar, visit www.assumption.edu