

From the Parents Chairs

For Assumption, Christmas came early this year ... in October. That is when the College learned that it had been awarded an \$800,000 challenge grant for the new Science Center from the renowned Kresge Foundation.

Let us assure you, receiving this grant was no small task (only one out of four proposals are funded) and meeting the Kresge Challenge will require a collective effort. In order to receive the grant, Assumption needs to raise another \$2.3 million by December 31, 2003 to meet the \$11 million fundraising goal for the Science Center.

The faculty and staff were the first groups asked to support this effort and they have responded with a resounding 90% participation rate, more than \$121,000 for the Science Center and \$277,000 overall to The Centennial Campaign. This level of support speaks volumes about the employees' belief in this project and the importance of the Campaign.

Now it's our turn. At the recent Parents Committee meeting, V.P. for Institutional Advancement Tom Ryan and Trustee Paul MacKinnon P'02, '05 spoke about the Kresge Challenge. The Committee unanimously endorsed contacting all parents to ask for their support of this project, since our children will directly benefit from the Science Center.

We hope that we can count on your support of the Kresge Challenge. Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely yours,
Bob and Pat Laut P'00, '02, '03
Co-chairs, Parents Committee

Centennial Campaign launched in October; College awarded Kresge challenge grant



The Assumption College Chorale, directed by Kevin Cotellese, performed at the President's Council Dinner in Mechanics Hall.

On October 19, President Tom Plough announced the \$30 million Assumption College Centennial Campaign at the annual President's Council Dinner, held at Worcester's elegant Mechanics Hall.

President Plough explained, "the Centennial Campaign is designed to strengthen and sustain our mission, not to change it. The College is designed to graduate individuals whose values and behaviors are true to our 'Learn. Achieve. Contribute.' theme."

"We push our students harder than they might like to study and to serve others, but we also strongly support them in their efforts. We are very successful in taking good students and giving them a great education. We are very proud that our alumni are characterized as good neighbors, involved citizens in their

communities, faith-based individuals and hard-working professionals."

President Plough outlined the goals of the Campaign, which represent the College's top priorities: \$15 million for capital improvements (including \$11 million for the new Science Center); \$10 million for the endowment (including student scholarships and financial

aid); and \$5 million for the Annual Fund.

Through the generosity of trustees, alumni, parents, friends, and foundations, over \$14.6 million was raised during the two-year

quiet phase toward the \$30 million goal. Gifts directed to the Campaign by trustees and honorary trustees have exceeded \$5.5 million.

National Campaign Chair David Grenon H'86 shared the wonderful news **see Kresge Challenge, back page**

**"The Centennial Campaign is designed to strengthen and sustain our mission, not to change it."
-President Tom Plough**

Laut family hosts orientation for first-year students and parents

The fear of the unknown is a very real one for first-year college students. At Assumption, some parents have taken an active role to help new students more easily conquer the initial fear of going to college.

On a Sunday evening in August, Parents Committee Co-chairs Bob and Pat Laut, hosted a casual backyard gathering at their Hopkinton (MA) home for first-year students and their parents from the



First-year students and parents enjoy the informal gathering.

Middlesex County area. The Lauts are the

parents of two Assumption alumni—Bryan '00 and Matt '02—and one current student, Chris '03.

More than 30 guests attended the event, which was an opportunity for first-year students and parents to meet other local families who may be sharing the same anxieties about the college experience.

This was the second event of this type hosted by Parents

Committee members. Gerri and Paul MacKinnon, along with sons Brian '02 and Tim '05, hosted a similar orientation during the summer of 2001 at the Norwell (MA) Science Center. Nearly 100 guests from Boston's South Shore attended the successful event, which inspired the Lauts to host a gathering.

If you are interested in hosting a future students/parents gathering, or if you have any other ideas to involve parents with the College, please contact Vickie Thebeau '86, director of Parent Programs, at 508-767-7011 or e-mail vthebeau@assumption.edu.

2nd Career Networking Dinner is March 25

The second annual Parents Career Networking Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25 in Hagan Hall.

Last year, members of the Junior and Senior Classes had dinner with 14 professionals representing various fields of employment. Students were able to network with the professionals, who provided insight into career options.

Employment fields included banking, bio-technology, global sales, insurance, law, medicine, pastoral counseling, publishing, psychology, special education,

teaching, and volunteerism.

As a result of this event, five students landed jobs, several obtained internships, while others gained valuable insights, interview tips, and professional contacts. Some professionals invited groups of students to tour their place of business and meet young employees.

If you are interested in participating in this year's event as a table host, contact Vickie Thebeau '86, director of Parent Programs, at 508-767-7011.

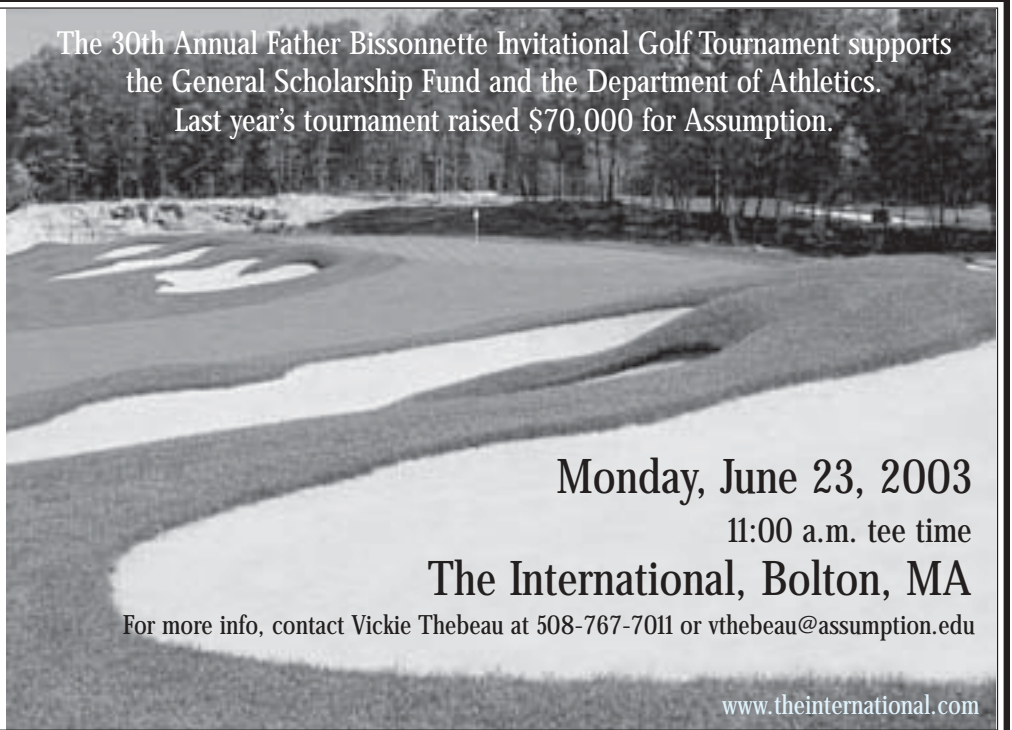


Please consider donating a prize for the auction or raffle, such as:

- sports memorabilia
- tickets to athletic events or performances
- gift certificates to restaurants, spas, etc.
- weekend getaway packages

Corporate sponsorships start at \$3,000, individual foursomes at \$1,700.

The 30th Annual Father Bissonnette Invitational Golf Tournament supports the General Scholarship Fund and the Department of Athletics. Last year's tournament raised \$70,000 for Assumption.



Monday, June 23, 2003

11:00 a.m. tee time

The International, Bolton, MA

For more info, contact Vickie Thebeau at 508-767-7011 or vthebeau@assumption.edu

www.theinternational.com

Reach Out Center encourages students to 'become someone's hero'

In August 2001, the College's Reach Out Center (ROC), guided by Director Debbie Lynch, adopted a new theme: 'become someone's hero...'. Little did they know how fitting it would become after the events of 9/11.

"It serves as both a call to service, and to challenge the students who serve," says Lynch.

The Mission

The Center provides members of the Assumption community with opportunities for positive and rewarding experiences through volunteering. "Volunteering is not mandated here, but last year 800 individuals participated in service work through the ROC," Lynch explained. Getting involved in service helps students gain leadership skills and learn the value of civic responsibility while making a positive impact in the community.

The Center seeks to enhance the students' liberal arts education through meaningful service, as well as creating a campus environment that inspires and supports civic responsibility and community action. It also strives to encourage and cultivate student leaders as they develop programs, recruit volunteers, and assess effectiveness.

"This campus is very generous," says Lynch. "The students are very generous people. We find and coordinate the volunteer opportunities, but the students do all the work. If you want to volunteer, we will make it happen."

Leadership

The ROC program is run by a staff of approximately 40 student leaders—service directors and project coordinators. They develop and enhance leadership skills, organizational abilities, interpersonal skills, and more. Student leaders are recognized for their efforts with opportunities to participate in retreats, leadership

development programs, inservice projects as well as local and national conferences.

Lynch explained, "Much of my time is spent in student leadership development. The students establish goals, they complete self-evaluations and we review those regularly." They also recommend students for service director positions. Each director is hired or reappointed each



Debbie Lynch meets with students in the Reach Out Center.

year, based on interviews, recommendations, and evaluations.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers can participate in weekly ongoing activities or get involved in a one-time service experience. Students can volunteer in group projects or the ROC staff can make an individualized placement to meet almost any interest and time frame.

Some of the Center's most popular projects are: tutoring and after-school programs, activities with children in local shelters, soup kitchen assistance, and visiting residents at nursing homes.

Popular programs include: Little Buddies, a model program working with the local Big Brothers/Big Sisters Association; Best Buddies, Assumption's chapter of this national program matches volunteers with local special needs individuals; and Book Buddies, a one-on-one reading program for local school children, created by Lindsey McCarthy '03.

Seasonal Opportunities

The holiday season is the most popular time for people to reach out. The Assumption chapter of Omnicron Delta Kappa, the honor society for students involved in leadership activities, coordinates the annual 'Giving Tree' for the College. A list of needy children's names and ages are collected from four local shelters and hung on the tree in Hagan Campus Center. Members of the campus community take a name from the Tree and purchase a new toy for each child.

'Coats for Kids' is organized through the Worcester Public Schools. The WPS provides children's names and coat sizes, and the community purchases new coats for these needy children.

Why Volunteer?

Students have shared that volunteering in the local community has helped them: meet people with similar interests, explore career opportunities and help others, among other benefits. Volunteers learn more about themselves and reinforce the values they have learned from their parents.

"You don't volunteer because you want a pat on the back or a 'thank you,' you do it because you care about people or a cause," says Lynch. "It's about being a force for change. We encourage students to volunteer with the proper mind set. It's very easy to criticize, so we try to teach the students to look for the good in people, and to show respect for those they are working with."

Parents who are interested in learning more about the ROC should visit the Web site at www.assumption.edu and click on "Campus Life," or contact Debbie Lynch at 508-767-7142.



ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

PARENTS NEWS

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Kresge Challenge highlights Campaign

continued from the front page

of an \$800,000 challenge grant for the Science Center from the world-renowned Kresge Foundation. This is the second largest Kresge grant ever awarded to a Worcester institution.

“To receive a Kresge Challenge is like receiving the ‘Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval’ or a J.D. Power and Associates ‘Top Rating’ for the institution and its fundraising plan,” he said.

Money raised through the Campaign will finance continued growth in capital improvements, and will provide funds for additional program enhancements.

Assumption’s popularity among potential students has increased significantly with recent improvements to the physical plant. Enrollment has reached a record 2,053 students as the College

approaches its target capacity of 2,150.

The recruitment and retention of students from outside the region will increase as the science program develops and funds are secured for additional capital projects, the endowment, and the annual fund.

Plans include the enhancement of athletic and recreational fields, as well as renovations to student dining facilities, the Kennedy Science Building and the Chapel of the Holy Spirit.

Endowment funds will support student scholarships as well as faculty and student programs such as a visiting lecture series and institutes for specialized studies. The Campaign concludes May 31, 2006.

For more info, visit the Campaign Web site at www.assumption.edu.

Spring 2003 calendar

- Jan. 20 Spring semester registration
- Jan. 21 Spring classes begin
- Feb. 17 President’s Day (no classes)
- Mar. 1-9 Spring Break (no classes)
- Mar. 21-23 Siblings Weekend
- Mar. 25 Career Networking Dinner
- Apr. 17-21 Easter Recess (no classes)
- April 24 Honors Convocation
- May 7 Last day of classes
- May 9-10, 12-17 Final exams
- May 24 Commencement

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