



## History

At the turn of the century Fr. Thomas Darbois, A.A.; Fr. Isidore Gayraud, A.A.; and others left their homeland and traveled to New England. With the help of French-speaking American clergymen, they purchased a three-decker home on Fales Street in Worcester, MA, converted it into a school, and opened its doors to students in October 1904. Father Isidore was headmaster for the first year.

Assumption Prep (originally known as

Assumption High School) grew in size and reputation, sharing its campus with Assumption College until 1953. The presence of the College brought the Prep School prestige and guaranteed a lively intellectual pace. At its height, the Prep School's enrollment exceeded 400. After a devastating tornado

destroyed the campus in June 1953, the College was re-established on Salisbury Street, while the Prep School rebuilt on the original site.

In the late 1960s the Prep School faced a perilous situation. Enrollment numbers were shrinking and elderly religious were approaching retirement age. Due to financial challenges and dwindling enrollments the Prep School closed in June 1970.

Assumption College has welcomed

Assumption Prep graduates as part of its extended family. The College hosts the annual Assumption Prep Reunion on campus each fall and Prep graduates receive the College magazine (including Class Notes from Prep alumni) and invitations to regional alumni events.



The Prep's main academic building, circa 1950

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## Assumption Prep Campaign Committee

Peter Deckers '58, chair

Charlie Bibaud '55, honorary chair

Ron Coutu '58

Tony Feeherry '65

Bill Fox '66

Steve Granger '70

Jim Igoe '65

Ed Laperriere '64

Ray Laporte '69

Bob Longden '67

Norm Marois '53

Bob Mercier '64

Richard St. Pierre '64

John Salmon '66

Joe Simoneau '60

Jim Wilson '68

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## Assumption Prep 1904-1970



Creating a legacy for Assumption Prep  
at Assumption College

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## Creating a legacy

Assumption Prep is gone, but its legacy rests in the collective hearts and memories of those touched by their Prep education. In 2005, Peter Deckers, M.D. AP'58 and Charlie Bibaud AP'51 are co-chairing an effort to create a tangible legacy of Assumption Prep at Assumption College. The proposed project is a renovation of an existing Auditorium in Kennedy Memorial Hall to a 70-seat, multi-media, high-tech,



A rendering of the Assumption Prep Auditorium

e-learning facility. It will include Prep memorabilia and renamed for Assumption Prep to honor all alumni as well as the lay and religious teachers.

The goal is to raise \$500,000 for the naming opportunity which will assist in the educational mission of Assumption College.

## The Assumption Prep experience

For years, Assumption Prep was recognized as New England's oldest Catholic college preparatory boarding school for boys.

The names synonymous with the Prep are legendary. Fr. Edgar Bourque, A.A. preached his SQ3R theory. Fr. Donat Durand, A.A. enforced a commitment to perseverance. Bro. Armand "Sugar" Goffard, A.A., our campus mother, provided a welcomed break from cafeteria food by making candy available at his "Sugar Shack." Fr. Gilbert Chabot, A.A. was remembered for his singing lessons and resounding organ music.



"Sugar" Goffard

## From Peter's perspective

Peter Deckers, M.D. AP'58 is the Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of UConn School of Medicine.

Forty-six years after graduating from the Prep in 1958, Dr. Deckers recognized his indebtedness to the Prep.

He considers his four years at the Prep as "the most important and most formative.

Nothing even close!" Peter credits the critical core competencies that were taught and continuously lived.

He recalls, "To be sure, my fund of knowledge was expanded, but more important, I learned skills that endured.

- I learned to read – fast and with comprehension (Fr. Edgar Bourque, A.A.);
- I learned to listen, to take relevant notes;
- I learned study methods (SQ3Rs);
- I learned to debate from a knowledge base well studied and prepared;
- I learned to speak publicly,
- I learned to write succinctly and intelligently;
- I learned to act and enjoy audience dynamics.

Moreover, I learned discipline, personal, intellectual and moral worth, careful and exact time management, the value of preparation and team dynamics and the critical and necessary contributions that so many others make to the good of the whole."



Dr. Peter Deckers

## From Charlie's perspective

Charlie Bibaud AP'51 is a former math teacher, basketball coach, and Director of Athletics at Assumption Prep.

"Thanks to Joe Simoneau AP'60 and his efforts to create Prep School reunions, we found out that the flame of the Prep did not die out in 1970, but that it was still flickering and just needed to be fanned to shine brightly again," says Charlie.

"The Prep School was an incredible educational experience for the formation of young men. It was indeed an era of wooden ships and iron men. We were all very lucky to have experienced it.

"The Prep teachers were outstanding educators. They practiced tough love.

Their mission was to educate the boys into fine young professional men. The Prep became the moral center of our souls.

"I am thrilled to partner with Peter Deckers as the honorary chairman of this campaign, and am so pleased that we will be creating an excellent teaching facility which will memorialize these great teachers, while educating the youth of Assumption today."



Charlie Bibaud