

Notable newcomers

Introducing a few members of the Class of 2018

Assumption welcomed 573 first-year students to campus this fall—a significant increase over last academic year. The Class of 2018 hails from 18 states—some as far away as California, Florida and Hawaii—and seven foreign countries.

President Francesco Cesareo noted during the September Matriculation Ceremony that while the students' four years at Assumption will quickly pass, the impact of their college experiences—including the discovery of their respective, unique

vocation—will last a lifetime.

“The next four years is all about discovering who you are meant to be and how you will share your gifts and talents with the world around you,” he told the students. “It is the discovery of your vocation. Your vocation is who you are, and who you are intended to become—and the mechanism of this discovery will be your experience at Assumption College.”



For Erynne Arvaisis '18, bagpiping is a family trait

Having grown up in Attleboro, MA, with a pair of bagpipe-playing parents, **Erynne Arvaisis '18** is now carrying on a dignified (and loud) family tradition. In the sixth grade she received a set of bagpipes from her grandmother and took private lessons for a year before joining The Colonial Bagpipers, a children's bagpipe band, as a seventh grader.

Since then she has performed with

the band for several years, at the Irish festival in Worcester, and various other parades and events in southern New England.

Arvaisis was drawn to Assumption for its optometry program (offered through affiliations with Worcester's MCPHS University and the New England College of Optometry in Boston). “I fell in love with the campus during a tour,” Arvaisis said. “It's a pretty campus, the students are really nice and welcoming, the teachers are approachable and understanding and the classes are challenging, which I enjoy.”

Arvaisis plans to major in biology and intends to pursue graduate school and a degree in optometry after graduation.

Opera singer Shant Eghian '18 shares musical gift

A talented singer, **Shant Eghian '18** has performed in four Opera Providence productions at the Providence Performing Arts Center, singing in both English and Italian. (He is also fluent in Arabic.) “I've met many professional singers and

witnessed how much goes into the production of an opera, from staging to costumes,” he says. “It's fascinating. Each show is a challenge to reflect the intentions of the composer.” A member of church choirs while growing up, Shant progressed into opera, and has joined the AC Chorale and VOCE, the campus a cappella group. He is also among the College's first six vocal scholars.

He was attracted to Assumption by its Worcester location, its campus and proximity to his home in Seekonk. “I like the campus atmosphere, the students in my dorm and the way that I was able to set up my class schedule to have free time to do homework and pursue personal interests.”

Eghian plans to major in history with a possible minor in political science and is excited to discover what he wants to do after graduating from college.



Video game app developer Cody Lynn '18 creates “Quilly's Quest”

In addition to scoring touchdowns at Thornton Academy in Saco, ME, **Cody Lynn '18** also became well known for another skill: video game app development. Featured in a WCSH-TV (Portland's NBC affiliate) segment in the spring, Lynn turned an idea into a video game app with the assistance of

his assistant coach, Josh Pursifel, who

also teaches computer animation at the Academy. Pursifel cautioned Lynn about the amount of work required to pursue development, but Lynn proved he was up for the challenge. His friends served as test subjects for the game before it was released.

Called Quilly's Quest, the gaming app was downloaded more than 1,000 times in the first week it was available in March on the Apple App Store. Lynn is succeeding on campus as well. He played tight end for the Greyhounds football team this fall.



Synchronized skater Dorothy Rogers '18 trades the rink for the classroom

A figure skater since the age of seven, **Dorothy Rogers '18** has been a member of a synchronized skating team for eight years. An active member of the U.S. Figure Skating Association, last year she competed with the Lexettes, a Lexington-based internationally competitive team at the junior level. After skating nearly 25 hours

with her team, and about six hours a week on her own, she is taking a break to focus on college.

The Mansfield native was drawn to Assumption by its beautiful campus and its close proximity to her home. "My professors are helpful and interested and excited about what they are teaching," she said. "And I made friends quickly on campus in the first few weeks." With plans to major in both secondary education and Spanish, Rogers is making time to participate in activities and clubs on campus. "Next year, I could try out to join an intercollegiate synchronized skating team out of Boston," she said. "For now, I am skating once or twice a week. I've passed my gold skating tests for moves in the field and ice dance, so I'm focusing on freestyle and to finish landing all my double jumps!"

After college, Rogers hopes to become a Spanish teacher. "Teaching seems like a perfect fit after teaching kids how to skate at my home rink, and I've also thought about creating my own synchronized skating team or becoming a skating coach."



Zach Shepard '18 brings his fencing skills to campus

A native of Richmond, RI, fencer **Zachary Shepard '18** brought to campus an impressive academic background and unique skill set. He started fencing at a young age and joined the local competitive circuit as a freshman in high school, traveling throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts and as far away as Montreal, Canada.

The experience has helped him develop and grow. "After a few years of lacking confidence at tournaments, I committed myself to it," he explained. "I trained harder and was rewarded for it. My physical strength grew, and with it a level of confidence that I had not previously possessed. By putting in so much extra effort, I built up the confidence I needed, not only to be successful in fencing, but in every aspect of my life. While competing during fencing, I learned to believe in myself."

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-President Cesareo

Shepard won an event at nearby Worcester Fencing Club last September and hopes to continue practicing and competing.

A Presidential Scholar (the top scholarship offered to incoming first-year students), on campus Shepard values Assumption's close-knit community. "Everyone here cares about the person standing next to them," he says. "My professors have displayed care for every student. They want the students to understand class discussions and master the course material."

Shepard plans to major in biology with a concentration in physical therapy and hopes to enroll in the University of Rhode Island's physical therapy program after graduating.

Tampa Prep swimmer Carylyn Waite '18 making waves for Greyhounds

For **Carylyn Waite '18** swimming is a way of life. Abandoned on a bench in a train station in Wuhu, China, at the age of six months, her adoptive parents, Bill Waite and Lynda McDermott, enrolled Carylyn in her first swim lesson at the age of two. She swam constantly, up to six hours a day, honing her skills and improving her competitive swimming times in New York City clubs, as well as swim programs like Tampa Bay (FL) Aquatics and Academy Aquatic Club, which Carylyn attended while living on her father's boat for 18 months in St. Petersburg, FL. As a Tampa Prep high school student she broke a 20-year old school record in the 100 breaststroke and earned a scholarship to swim at Assumption.



"I fell in love with the Assumption atmosphere on my official recruiting trip," Carylyn said. "My professors are knowledgeable and engaging and Coach (Stuart) Cromarty understands the rigorous training and studying we have to do. I knew that he would help me grow as a person as well as a student-athlete."

Carylyn is off to a fast start on the Greyhounds swim team, posting several wins as the team defends its Northeast-10 Championship. She is still deciding upon a major area of study and a career path. "I'm keeping my eyes and mind open," she said. ❖