

# Sun & Balance

THE RENSSELAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION

VOL 50, NO. 3 — WINTER 2015

## Dear Alums, Family and Friends:

In his Encyclical Letter 'LAUDATO SI', On Care For Our Common Home, Francis, Bishop of Rome, called all of us to be good stewards of our planet and reminded us that we must "renew the face of the earth". The excitement and challenge of the Holy Father's visit to the United States lingers with all of us and we are encouraged by the words and deeds his life gives evidence to.

The excitement of welcoming the Class of 2019 over these past several weeks allows us to experience the renewal of RPI each fall. Chatting with parents, as they visit their young women and men on campus, gives us even more enthusiasm for our presence here. Some parents were students here, when I arrived some 26 years ago and they remember when. I must admit to failure of memory a time or two but as the stories unfolded, it all came back to me. The "oral tradition" is alive and well here at the C+CC and I'm an avid listener to the heartwarming messages or testimony.

In October, at the Committee of One Hundred Dinner, the Foundation honored Richard M. Hartt, '70 with the Sun & Balance Medal. Rick spent some time here as the C+CC Director and later served as Director of the Student Union for 29 years. Also, Rick was a former President of the Rensselaer Newman Foundation Board of Trustees and continues his leadership on the Board as a member of the Finance Committee. Rick's presence and advice have made my ministry and that of others far richer. Our students have been incredibly enriched by Rick's wisdom, encouragement, and



Fr. Ed received a token from Patrick Aselin '18 who attended the Pope's Mass in NYC.

inspiration. Rick continues to serve as a model for many.

Please know how grateful I am for your continued financial and spiritual support. May all of you and your families receive, once again, the joy of "the Word made Flesh" at Christmas and have a healthy, safe and happy 2016 ~!~

May God's peace and blessings be shed upon each of you.

Sincerely,

Father Ed Kacerguis



# J. Eric Smith, Keynote Speaker at the Committee of 100 Dinner

It is an honor and a privilege to return to the Chapel + Cultural Center tonight and I am especially delighted to be here as Rick Hartt is honored as this year's Sun and Balance Award winner. Rick's work has positively touched so many people over the years, all of whom would no doubt applaud his award here. Thank you, Rick, for all you do.

I always found it aesthetically pleasing that the Chapel + Cultural Center's formal name and mark included neither the word "and" nor an ampersand, but rather a stylized symbol of the Christian Cross. I also recognize and appreciate that elegant, additive mark as a plus sign. Tonight, I would like to talk about the special power of that mathematical plus sign, and how important it is in the history and ongoing life of this campus community. First off the building itself: it is a chapel, plus it is a cultural center. In the early 1960s, as the Second Vatican Council was working to redefine the relationship between the Church and the modern world, our founding Trustees specifically worked to create a space that would satisfy the Council's most transformative spiritual aspirations. The able guidance plus hard work and belief and financial support of so many others all added up to this amazing, versatile building. We are a campus facility, plus an important part of the greater community around us. We bring many constituencies together to experience art and culture, to learn and to worship.

What about the award we're giving to Rick tonight? We call it the Sun plus Balance Award – where the Sun represents God, and the Balance represents justice. It's the pursuit of fairness anchored in the glow of something greater than ourselves that changes the world for the better, and helps us truly glimpse the divine.

We look around the room tonight and we are young plus (shall we politely say) not-so-young. That's the power of plus. The Hebrew plus Roman plus Greek letters on the floor remind us that we engage with a multiplicity of cultures. Again, the power of plus. I'm prepared to take my mathematical statement to a higher power to prove my point. What is the cornerstone axiom of this higher power math? Let me refer you to the text that surrounds the Sun and Balance logo on Rick's award: God is the Measure of All Things.

We may think we know the value of variable A, and we may think we can define the limit of curve B – but our tools for measuring such things are weak and of limited computational value. However, when we hold our viewing lenses up before the light of God's Sun, and when we weigh things in the pans of His scale, and when we open our minds and our hearts to His math, then the formula that proves the power of plus here is simple:  $A + B$  is less than  $C + CC$ , Q.E.D. 

## THE RENNELLAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION

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## Upcoming Events

Nov 7 – Dec 30	Art Exhibit – Capital Region Textile Artists	Daily
Dec 9	Capital Pride Singers Concert	7:30pm
Dec 12	RMA Small Group Holiday Concert	1-3pm
Jan - March	Art Exhibit – The Reunion Show/ Perceptions, Mary Udell	Daily
Feb 9	Mardi Gras, Dinner and Skip Parson Concert followed by Midnight Mass	8pm
Feb 10	Ash Wednesday	12am, 12:10pm, 5:15pm, 7:30pm
Feb 13	Pysanky Workshop	9:30am – 3pm
Feb 17 – March 16	Lenten Speaker Series featuring Mass at 5:30pm, Supper at 6:15pm, and Guest Speaker at 7pm	5 Consecutive Wednesdays
April 15	Mary Simoni – Kim Dolanski Concert	7:30pm

Please check our website for more information about upcoming events. All are welcome.

# Excerpts of remarks by Rick Hartt at the Committee of 100 Dinner

The C+CC, the Christ Sun of Justice Parish and The Rensselaer Newman Foundation; the first thing that comes to mind is you made my career, gave me my big break and the opportunity to learn and succeed. In 1972, the assistant to RPI's President, Charles Moravec, wrote in his letter of recommendation, "Ask him a question, though he may seem like he is sleeping, he really is thinking." The support of Dave Aiken and Betty and Steve Wiberley on the selection committee made it possible for me, at 24 years old, to become Director of the C+CC. The volunteers were tremendous and the students were the focus. Fast forward to the 25th anniversary celebration of the C+CC, I worked with Father Tom Phelan, the new guy, Father Ed, and Catherine Waibel. Students continue to be the focus. The dedication of volunteers never wavered. Now it has been 13 years on the Board of the Foundation with many great contributors. At the beginning AnneMarie Ferraro assured me it was a good fit; David Haviland mentored me; Jim Ljunglin passed the torch 8 years ago in the most caring way; Sharon Valiquette took the torch



Rick Hartt addresses the Committee of 100

4 years ago, moving us forward and today passes it on to Fran Hyde in preparation for the C+CC's 50th anniversary. The support we all receive from Mary Holbritter, Diane Waters, and C+CC Directors, including our keynote Eric Smith and especially Father Ed is invaluable. There are so many great volunteers to name that it would take the evening and I have already exceeded my time limit. Know that you are truly appreciated.

We are unique, chartered through the State Education Department as an educational institution, similar to every school in New York State. The Foundation provides spiritual and cultural enrichment to students, faculty, staff, and alumni at Rensselaer, as well as the community around RPI, supports the Roman Catholic chaplaincy at RPI, owns and manages the C+CC as a multipurpose performing arts and spiritual space; and is the home to the Christ Sun of Justice Parish. Most important is that students continue to be our focus.

All of you who are here tonight and all the volunteers not in attendance, uniquely support the Foundation. I am humbled to be presented the Sun and Balance Award and accept knowing it is your devotion to the Foundation, the C+CC and the parish, that really make it happen. 



RPI alums gathered for Alumni Weekend at the C+CC

The Rensselaer Newman Foundation would like to express their sincere thanks to Nielsen Direct, Inc. for their sponsorship of our 2015 Committee of 100 Dinner.

# Funding an Ethical, Moral and Spiritual Presence at RPI

At the end of each summer, when the students return to campus for a fresh start, we begin a new fiscal year at RNF. While our half million dollar operating budget is not large, the impact made in the community and on the campus of this great college is significant.

As you can see, based on what has been received in the past, it is projected that two thirds of our support will come from alumni, parents, friends, and parish. You are vital to what we are able to accomplish every day. Your involvement, by way of your philanthropy, directly impacts the spiritual and cultural growth of the outstanding students at RPI. These outcomes are accomplished through planned programs and celebration of daily Mass. But what is harder to measure is the impact of our actual physical presence of the C+CC. We are

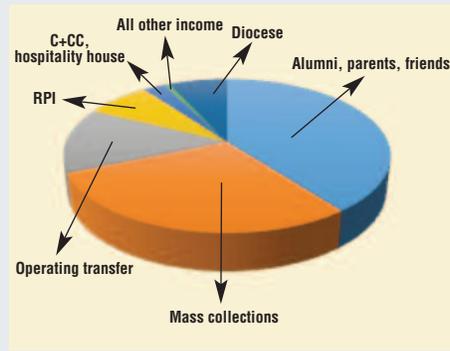
- a spiritual presence on a campus that is so focused on intellectual growth.
- an organization whose full-time responsibility is to support students ethically, morally, and spiritually.
- a body where guidance is provided for those searching to learn and understand the path of Christ.
- a place for counseling and nurturing in a religious grounding.

The cost of operating our 13,000 square foot building day-to-day appears in the line labeled C+CC and program. Over the last two years, the building received many replacements and improvements triggered by use for nearly fifty years. These special capital costs were funded through a separate, successful capital campaign that began in 2012.

The Human Resources is where expenses for mission are captured. Additionally, our Director and staff are responsible for creating and managing programs and events that add to the RPI experience. Your support is allowing RNF to continue to offer students the cultural and spiritual enrichment traditionally not found in the classroom. Thank you for your part in their experience and growth.

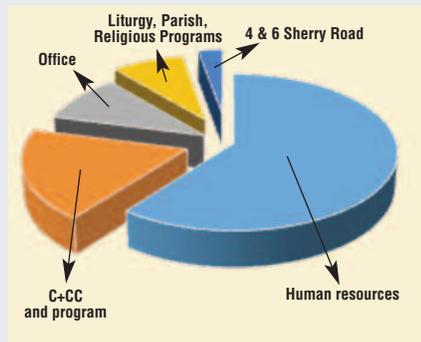


## RNF 2015-16 Operating Budget Summary



### PROJECTED INCOME

Alumni, parents, friends	177,800
Mass collections	130,000
Operating transfer	61,826
RPI	34,000
Diocese	11,500
C+CC, hospitality house	2,350
All other income	31,410
<b>Total</b>	<b>448,886</b>



### EXPENSES

Human resources	270,651
C+CC and program	84,186
Office	44,323
Liturgy, Parish, Religious Programs	37,125
4 & 6 Sherry Road	12,601
<b>Total</b>	<b>448,886</b>

## The Phelan Wiberley Society

The Phelan-Wiberley Society is a community who shares the vision of our early leaders, Fr. Thomas Phelan and Steve & Betty Wiberley. It consists of alumni, parishioners, friends, faculty and staff who support the vision of The Rensselaer Newman Foundation by including the Foundation in their long-term financial and estate plans. Members of the Society belong to a select group of individuals who have chosen to extend their legacies while furthering the work of Foundation.

If you would like to share your name and intentions with us or learn more about the Phelan Wiberley Society, please contact Diane Waters at [waterd3@rpi.edu](mailto:waterd3@rpi.edu) or (518) 276-6517.

# Patrick Aselin '18 attends Papal Mass in N.Y.C.

On September 25, I had the opportunity to attend the Mass for the Preservation of Peace and Justice, celebrated by His Holiness Pope Francis in New York City's Madison Square Garden.

Upon arrival in Penn Station, the magnitude of the event was immediately evident in the security presence; fully armed soldiers in battle dress patrolled the station, while above and around Madison Square Garden, security forces lined the barricades. From there, I joined the crowd heading eleven blocks and two streets away to the beginning of the line. We were all complete strangers, yet everyone welcomed each other and engaged in conversation, taking in the beautiful weather and the mounting excitement.

At around 5:00 PM and after passing through security, I finally entered the Cathedral of Madison Square Garden with its wooden ceiling, white draperies, massive crucifix, and custom altar, chair, and ambo. The stadium floor was laid out with rows of chairs facing the altar at one end, behind which were the choir and orchestra. Behind them in the lower bowl were priests and deacons whose white chasubles provided a backdrop for the Mass.

The Mass was beautiful in all respects: between the grandeur of the celebration, the music composed solely for this Mass, the excitement of the congregation, and the responsiveness to the Holy Father's every word. The meaning of "one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church" became quite tangible that evening between the attendance of the spiritual and temporal leadership of the

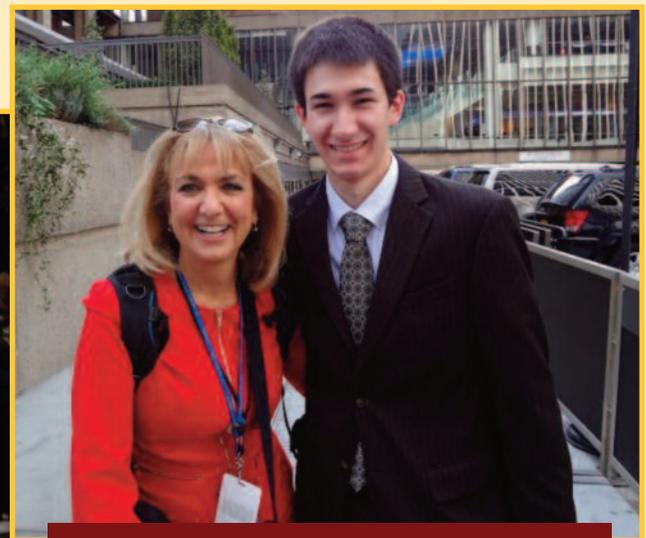
Church, as well as such a diverse assembly.

"The people who walk, breathe and live in the midst of smog, have seen a great light, have experienced a breath of fresh air."

This defined Pope Francis' homily as he praised the city's resilience and rich collection of cultures, but reminded us that such places conceal those who "don't appear to belong, or are second-class citizens...they have no 'right' to be there". He urged us to seek God within our cities, because He walks among us, and we must learn to "see" and respond to Him in those we encounter. The Holy Father's point that they are lost in the "rapid pace of change" resonates with me as an RPI student because as we advance the world, we cannot forget those who are left behind.

Cardinal Dolan's valediction distinguished this Mass from any other and revealed the spirit of those gathered. "Papa Francesco, at every single Mass, every single day, we pray for, and in union with, Francis our Pope, and now here you are", which was met with tremendous applause and a standing ovation.

The experience of seeing Pope Francis, the context of his message, being one among the nineteen thousand gathered, the venue, and the city made for truly special memories that I will always keep with me and for which I will be forever grateful.



Patrick Aselin '18 with Benita Zahn, NewsChannel 13

## The Rensselaer Newman Foundation

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**Please visit our website or follow us on Facebook to view a full list of upcoming events.**

# The Jefferson Project at Lake George

It was our pleasure to have Rensselaer Professor Rick Relyea, the director of the Jefferson Project, speak at the annual McCarthy-Wiberley Town/Gown Breakfast. The Jefferson Project is a partnership between Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, IBM, and The Fund for Lake George. It combines cutting-edge technology with science to create a new model for environmental monitoring and prediction. The project is building a computer platform that captures, pools, and analyzes data from a network of sensors tracking water quality and movement. These sensor data are combined with other monitoring and experimental data to create a thorough understanding of the factors that drive the lake's food web and overall water quality. This collaborative endeavor will allow scientists to accurately predict the impact of human activities on Lake George and the approach can ultimately be applied to lakes around the world.



**RNF Board Member Bob McCarthy (above) introduces Rick Relyea (left)**