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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1-28	"Divine Vessels" – The Art of Carolyn Abrams	DAILY
December 5	Rensselaer Concert Choir-Annual Winter Concert	7:00 PM
December 6	Holy Hour	6:30 PM
December 7	Bertrand Fay– "A Christmas Carole" A Celebration of Charles Dickens' Bicentennial	7:30 PM
December 13	"Tales Well Told" – Selected Short Stories Read by Actors of Troy Civic Theater	7:30 PM
January 1-February 28	Art Exhibit- Handmade Books And Other Artifacts by Erica Veil	DAILY
February 7	"Babbette's Feast" – a Film by Gabriel Axel followed by Talk-Back Reception	8:00 PM
February 12	Mardi Gras, followed by a Midnight Mass with Blessing and Distribution of Ashes	10:00 PM
February 13	Ash Wednesday	12:00 AM, 12:10 PM, 5:15 PM, 7:30 PM
February 20-March 20	Lenten Speaker Series, featuring Mass and guest speakers at 7:00 PM	5 Consecutive Wednesdays at 5:30 PM, a meatless potluck supper at 6:15 PM and guest speakers at 7:00 PM
March 1-April 30	Art Exhibit- The HIGH-LOW Project	DAILY
March 24	Palm Sunday	9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 5:00 PM
March 28	Holy Thursday Agape and Mass	6:30 PM
March 29	Good Friday Dramatic Reading of The Passion of Jesus and Communion Service	7:30 PM
March 30	Holy Saturday, The Great Easter Vigil	8:00 PM
March 31	Easter Sunday	9:00 AM 10:30 AM (focus on the children) 5:00 PM

HOW TO SUPPORT OUR WORK

If you work for a matching gift company: Please make your check payable to "Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute" and write "C+CC" on the memo line. Also make out your matching gift form to RPI, which will send us a gift equaling your contribution, plus the matching gift value.

If you do not work for a matching gift company: Please make your check payable to "Rensselaer Newman Foundation".

Pledges: Gifts made over a number of months or years may allow you to increase your overall contribution.
Gifts of Securities: Gifts of appreciated securities are tax-deductible. Please call 518-276-6518 for transfer instructions.

Bequests: By including the Chapel + Cultural Center in your will you can ensure the continuation of quality events and programs and receive a savings on your estate taxes.

Online Donations: Please visit our website at www.chapelandculturalcenter.org and click the DONATE NOW button.

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Vol 47, No. 3
THE RENSSELAER
NEWMAN FOUNDATION
December 2012

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Dear Alums, Family and Friends:

This year on the evening of 26 October, at The Committee of One Hundred Dinner, The Rensselaer Newman Foundation awarded the Sun and Balance Medal to Lawrence F. Mitter '55 and to Rosanne M. Rose for their contribution to the ministry of the Foundation. Each of them has given to our program a unique presence that has allowed the purpose of our ministry here to shine forth. All of us are the better for their efforts and words cannot express the gratitude we have for their efforts.

Also, that evening, we announced "Preserving a Presence, Nurturing a Future", our \$2.4 million capital campaign. This campaign is of major importance to our community.

Pres-ence (noun) physical existence or detectability of something in a place at a particular time

fu-ture (noun) time that has yet to come

These two words have become defining words for RNF, as we undertake our \$2.4 million capital campaign. Prior to announcing the capital campaign and the theme, in our interactions with many, we were reminded the importance of the Foundation's "presence" here on campus. In addition, we emphasize our commitment to the students of the "future", who arrive at Rensselaer each year and for years to come. Encompassing these beliefs, henceforth, the theme of our capital campaign was named.

The campaign will enhance The Rensselaer Newman Foundation's strength by addressing four initiatives:

- To make careful and responsible repairs to maintain the C+CC building before it falls into despair resulting in escalating costs,
- to establish an endowed program fund,
 - to grow the investment fund,
 - and, to maintain the annual fund program over the three years during this capital campaign.

We have a group of volunteers dedicated to meeting our campaign goals. Over the next twelve months, you will see and hear more about this effort. Please help make a difference in the Rensselaer community by contributing to the success of The Rensselaer Newman Foundation's \$2.4 million capital campaign, "Preserving a Presence, Nurturing a Future", when the time comes.

I would like to share with you a story of a young female student who came to my office one day simply to chat. She had questions about her relationship with her family, school in general and so much more. This young lady is in her second year here at Rensselaer and things are happening in her life. As an aside, so often the second year raises the big questions. We are chatting regularly now and the sorting process is happening in a beautiful way. One of my great joys is to listen to her questions and then respond with a question. So often, it is at that moment, the eyes light up and the hope for integration is taking place. These conversations are happening because I am able to be available to this student and others because of your support ... THANK YOU! We have a building and we have a staff that sees the lives of students in light of the Gospel and we all have a caring heart and ears willing to listen. Sometimes that is all it takes - a little listening, a question or two, and the clouds of confusion or hurts are helped. We've all been there and appreciated someone with a caring heart and listening ears.

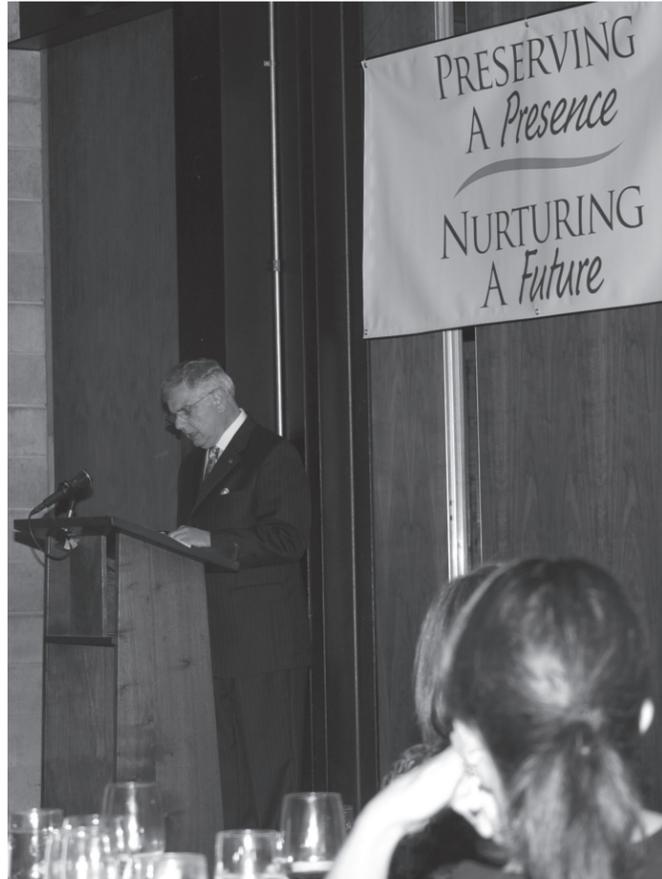
Lastly, we are in the season of celebrations (Thanksgiving, Advent, Hanukah, Christmas, a New Year and a couple of others). May the season bring you a peace of mind, peace of heart and joy that comes from these sacred moments of our year. During these days, best wishes are sent from all of us here at the C+CC, the Parish and the Chaplaincy at RPI for holy, happy, life giving celebrations.

Sincerely,

Fr. Ed Kacerguis

“THE CONTINUING RELEVANCE OF THE RENSSELAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION”

Remarks at the Rensselaer Newman Foundation Committee of 100 Dinner
Chapel + Cultural Center, October 26, 2012
Charles F. Carletta, J.D.,
Secretary of the Institute and General Counsel
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute



Mr. Charles F. Carletta, Secretary of the Institute and General Council, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute addresses attendees of the 2012 Committee of 100 Dinner on the “Continuing Relevance of the Rensselaer Newman Foundation”.

We celebrate this event this evening even as our host, Rensselaer, itself reflects on its history and prepares for its two-hundredth anniversary. We here can proudly proclaim that we have been a part of that legacy for over one hundred of its one hundred eighty-eight years.

And by modern benchmarks, what an incredible legacy it is. Just last month, Rensselaer was publicly heralded as a top-tier, world-class research university on the *Today Show*, by *Wall Street and Technology*, *Forbes*, and *Business Insider* magazines. It also elevated its standings in the *US News and World Report* annual rating.

Central to appreciating the accomplishments of the Newman Foundation, I find it relevant to look at them in the context of a long tradition of continual excellence at Rensselaer.

Is there a person in this room who is not familiar with the image of the Ferris Wheel or the Brooklyn Bridge? The

reputation of the RPI of yesterday was well earned by the iconic bridges, railroads and other constructed monuments of the 18th and 19th centuries. The Rensselaer of the 20th century gave us television, the astounding phenomenon of the microprocessor, modern aviation, the Internet protocol, the discovery of the genome sequence, the digital camera and early space travel. This century, Rensselaer scientists are well on their way to remarkable discoveries in the life sciences including new pharmaceuticals and light-based research leading to the amelioration of the scourge of Alzheimer’s. I point out to you that our own David Haviland was the originator of The Lighting Research Center at Rensselaer where this latest effort has its roots.

Additionally, I brought a film clip about NASA’s Rover Curiosity expedition on Mars, mankind’s greatest scientific/engineering adventure so far this century. After you watch this, I will explain the significant role played by our colleagues at Rensselaer.

Dr. Laurie Leshin, the Dean of our School of Science, was one of the original scientists who, eleven years ago helped design the scientific experiments being implemented by Rover Curiosity as we speak. Dean Leshin currently helps NASA manage Curiosity’s work right here from Troy. Her friend and NASA lead scientist, Michael Meyer, Rensselaer class of ’74, works with her in this amazing endeavor. They in turn, got their amazing ride to the red planet through the efforts of, Fred Serricchio, Rensselaer class of ’94, a NASA senior staff engineer, and Kobie Boykins, Rensselaer class of ’96, a NASA staff mechanical engineer. You can follow their work on a daily basis on NASA’s website and I encourage you to enjoy this latest exhilarating account of RPI’s contributions to the knowledge of mankind.

Incidentally, since I have led you on something of a “then and now” experience, Fred Serricchio ’94, from NASA, like many of his predecessors, met his future wife while a student here at Rensselaer. The difference is that unlike his forbearers, his future mate, like our own Jennifer Hutton who is here with us tonight, was one of the equally accomplished female students comprising approximately 30% of our student body. This is definitely not “your father’s RPI”.

I often like to reflect on life in Troy as it must have been experienced by the young residents of our City who, while learning their calculus, never dared to dream of their subsequent contributions to their country or the world at large. More amusing perhaps, is pondering how many residents of the Capital Region have ever considered the presence amongst them of the budding geniuses that went on to design the Ferris Wheel or the Brooklyn Bridge. Later, as Rensselaer evolved beyond the expertise of civil engineering, Troy hosted the minds that invented sunscreen, designed and built amazing buildings, put men on the moon and, as we have seen, helped implement mankind’s latest scientific engineering marvel.

Rarely, does any one community bear witness to such sustained greatness.

An obvious exception to any local indifference would be those of us here tonight. We not only comprehend the vitality of this presence amongst us, but we embrace and seek to enhance the ability of these young minds. We encourage them to continue to disrupt our lives with their magnificent imaginations and persistence. We are comfortable with the recognition that the awkward young boy and strong-willed girl who lives across the street and with whom we share the greeter at Wal-Mart, is already a gift to our community.

What you might not appreciate however, is all that it takes to get them to the threshold of their personal success. What we in higher education essentially offer students are structured opportunities to learn. Some of these talented youngsters are quite capable of navigating that experience in a seemingly effortless manner. After all, are not 66% of them in the top 10% of their high school class? Does not each incoming class achieve higher SAT’s than their predecessors, with several of them annually achieving perfect scores? Are not 74% of them currently involved in some form of organized athletic activity while pursuing their studies at Rensselaer? The answers are: a resounding yes.

But all is not as it seems. This evolution from high school student to budding intellectual revolutionary does not just happen. It truly does “take a village”; it really does take all of us. Our Foundation and this C+CC really do make a difference.

Here, as everywhere, an ever increasing percentage of today’s inbound college students are children with significant social needs. Indeed, this phenomenon is probably one of the most compelling reasons for the continued demand for the residential education model despite its rising costs. The fact is, the question of how we facilitate the overall transition from potential to actual, from rough to polished, and from child to young adult is what challenges Rensselaer professionals such as myself more than anything else.

Meeting that challenge is what this evening is really all about. For all of their remarkable gifts, these are still someone’s children: still growing, becoming aware, uncertain and insecure and, on occasion, very afraid. Many are emotionally distraught or learning disabled and come to us with prescription medications to maintain their ability to cope with the stress of this competitive and rigorous experience we call a Rensselaer education.

They, even more than their predecessors, very much need a support structure not found in the classroom; one that is not rooted in calculus or a lab experiment. They need an escort into adulthood: a person or forum that is both supportive and trustworthy; something that ties together rapid intellectual growth with sometimes-painful emotional confusion. Our students crave opportunities for leadership as well as moments of intense self-reflection.

Ladies and gentlemen, that structure, that program, that place, is us. That is what the Rensselaer Newman Foundation has always been about; that is what was so effectively brought to life under the tutelage of Father Tom Phelan and implemented so energetically by Steve Wiberley. It is this added value

that contributes to our Catholic students’ confidence and psychological well being. And by providing the forum, society and mentoring here at the C+CC, it is we who are often the key to their overall satisfaction with their personal Rensselaer experience.

Some of what we do is in a traditional mode: liturgy, retreats, and organized community service. Some involves personal counseling and mentoring. Sometimes, the presence of the C+CC is enough: that all too rare place for quiet reflection or meditation that’s available seven-days-a-week.

Rensselaer has a long legacy of providing support for its students of various religious denominations. Its first presidents were Protestant ministers and, over the years, a great many of its students have been from Roman Catholic and other Christian families. The Institute was and proudly continues to be a home for young Jewish men and women who were not necessarily welcome elsewhere in the greater sciences academy. On our campus today, we comfortably host a considerable cohort of students who practice Islam as well as other religions.

It is therefore appropriate and consistent with the established traditions of our alma mater that we here at the Rensselaer Newman Foundation have deliberately established a place and program of spiritual significance focused on intellectual growth that points our students towards the essential areas of ethics, morals, and spiritual strength. For those so inclined or for those searching for a religious grounding, the Rensselaer Newman Foundation and this Chapel and Cultural Center are here to provide support: a Way through the Truth and Light of following the path of Christ.

I am reminded of the commencement remarks of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, himself a devout Catholic, who admonished our assembled graduates to always place more emphasis on their own character rather than their intelligence. He told them that “You can always buy brains”.

As the campaign brochure at your place emphasizes, this effort and therefore its results, will not be serendipitously sustained. When I graduated from Manhattan College, its President, himself from a poor family right here in Grafton, reminded us that we had been touched by the Christian Brothers; and then, with a wink, he suggested that from time-to-time we should expect to continue to be “touched” by the Christian Brothers.

And so it is our opportunity this evening and in the coming months to continue to be of assistance in the preparation of

Rensselaer students to become responsible decision makers. Leaders who not only command the sciences and technology but who also understand the world in which they work. Leaders who will be persistent in pursuit of truth, possess a moral and ethical framework to act as a compass, and comprehend the importance of critical and reflective analysis of their own world as well as that of others.

¹Where Were You When Curiosity Landed?
<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/multimedia/videos/index.cfm?v=71>