

Sun & Balance

THE RENNELAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION

VOL 52, NO. 2 — FALL 2017

Dear Alums, Family and Friends:

What a summer we have had here at RPI!~! The Class of 2021, Rensselaer's largest ever, has begun their academic journey. The orientation sessions, Navigating Rensselaer & Beyond activities, and all the other programs of introduction have shown us what the next few years have in store for the community here. It is going to be challenging, uplifting, and truly an exciting time for all. We participated in all areas, and there were many; including our warm welcome at the C+CC, the Chaplains' Office, and our parish of Christ Sun of Justice, which was very clear and so very well received. As I said, it is going to be a great four years!

In this fall issue of the Sun & Balance, you will read about an exciting year about to take place here. The C+CC will be celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of its' dedication. We will begin our year-long celebration in October of this year through October of 2018. Our regular programs are going to be "upgraded" during the year to highlight what we continue to see as our mission. In addition, the past will be remembered through our web site, Facebook page, and a couple of surprises being developed now. Please do check us out and follow us through the web and Facebook.

Fifty years of ministry continuing because of a vision held by Fr. Tom Phelan, Betty and Steve Wiberley, and Peter Levatich. Each had their role in the planning and the execution of this wonderful facility. The C+CC's philosophy and theology was and is very simple, "it is a building that allows people to come together in various

areas of their lives to build the kingdom of God". We pray, we talk, we worship, we have fun and we get to know each other making new friends and renewing old friendships. The building becomes alive when people gather here and use their individual gifts to uplift and inspire everyone.

This all occurs because of your on-going support. It is that simple and direct. We are here because you help us to be here and thus the living presence of God is manifested in and through us. We, the known and the unknown, thank you from the bottom of hearts. You are in our prayers and remembered daily at Mass.


Please accept our deepest gratitude and appreciation for the many hearts that have been touched by your presence in our lives, however it is demonstrated.


Sincerely,

Father Ed Kacerguis



The Rensselaer Newman Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

Marianne Monastero is a RPI graduate student from North Bellmore, NY completing her Ph.D. in Aeronautical Engineering by December 2017. She has been a student parishioner of Christ Sun of Justice throughout her undergraduate and graduate years. Both the RPI Newman Catholic Fellowship and the C+CC were important factors in the growth of her faith life, so she is excited for the opportunity to serve on the Rensselaer Newman Foundation Board and give back to the student body and parish. Her current academic focus is on experimental aerodynamic research, and when not in lab, she enjoys skiing and family vacations. She is planning to move to the Hartford, CT area after graduation to start a job with Pratt & Whitney. 

J. Eric Smith is a career public servant, with over 30 years experience in government, higher education, and the nonprofit sector, including service to the Rensselaer Newman Foundation as Director of the Chapel + Cultural Center from 2002 to 2007. He is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and the University at Albany with degrees in political science and public policy. He currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund (“TREE Fund”), a research trust established in 2002 to promote scientific advancements in arboriculture and urban forestry through an international grant-making program. Eric lives in Chicago with his wife, Marcia, who serves as Vice President and General Counsel for a state-wide Catholic health system in Iowa. 

Edward Staats began employment at Rensselaer in March 1980 as an architectural project manager in the Design & Construction group of the Facilities Planning Department. In 1984 he became Sr. project manager and in 1988 the manager of the Design & Construction group. By then the name of the department had changed to Campus Planning & Facilities Design. Ed supervised a group of seven project manager /designers in the architectural, mechanical and electrical disciplines. While managing the group he also was a project manager / designer himself for campus projects involving classrooms, laboratories, offices, etc. In recent years, with a reduction of staff, project design and management became the majority of his everyday responsibilities in order to keep up with the workload.


Prior to Rensselaer, Ed worked for Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., Consulting Environmental Engineers for 7 years as an office engineer and field inspector for the construction of wastewater treatment plants in Albany, Rensselaer and Saratoga counties and as resident engineer for a water treatment plant in Newport, RI.

Ed received the Pillar of Rensselaer award in 2010. He has been involved with fund raising for the United Way at Rensselaer for many years and has served on a variety of campus committees.

He retired from Rensselaer on April 21, 2017, after 37 years.

Ed and his wife Rhonda have been married for 42 years. They have been parishioners of Sacred Heart parish in Troy since 1980. Ed serves the parish on the finance committee and has also been a Eucharistic minister for over 30 years. They have 2 sons, both RPI graduates.

In his spare time Ed enjoys golf, gardening and fishing.

Ed received a BS degree in Construction Management from Utica College of Syracuse University in 1973. 

Throughout the year there will be additions to our schedule of events, as we celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Chapel + Cultural Center. Please become a friend on Facebook and/or continue to follow us on our web site: <http://www.chapelandculturalcenter.org/>



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**This list reflects all information available as of Friday, 18 August 2017.
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A Conversation with Joe DiStefano '62

Graduating from RPI in 1962, Joe DiStefano taught organizational behavior and international business at the University of Western Ontario in Canada and in management programs around the world. He also served on RPI's Board of Trustees for nearly 30 years. Joe and his wife Lynne have homes in Toronto, Ontario and Rougemont, Switzerland.

I came to know the Roman Catholic chaplaincy especially through music. I was a pianist with interests in composition and improvisation. I played for glee club, theater, and church events at RPI, and had my own trio. Fr. Tom Phelan, who arrived as chaplain in my sophomore year, encouraged me in all of these pursuits, so much so that he invited me to compose and present a jazz Mass at the Chapel + Cultural Center.

During my time at RPI, I met some wonderful professors—many of them in the arts—who greatly influenced my own teaching. To this day, I can recall very specific classroom moments from my student days and how I applied them in my own teaching. While I continued my education at Harvard Business School and Cornell, it is the time at RPI that keeps coming back. Ours is an extraordinary education and one with an extraordinary impact.

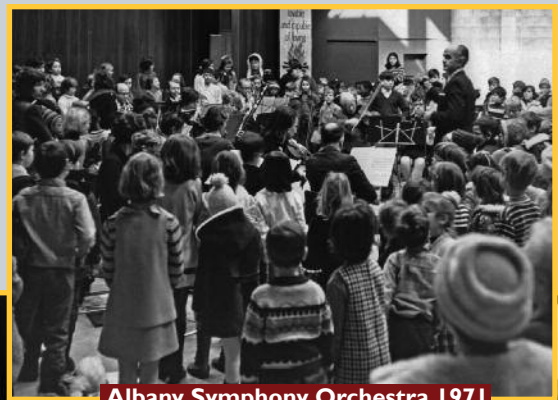
One of the great privileges of my life was knowing, and being impressed by Fr. Tom. He inspired so many of us. He officiated at our marriage in my home town and, later, travelled to Florence to be at our daughter's wedding. On my frequent trips to RPI as a trustee, I stayed with Fr. Tom. He was a gracious host and his home was filled with interesting people.

Tom Phelan's passions for religion, the arts, and for Rensselaer propelled him, as dean of humanities and social sciences, to build an important H&SS school and lay the foundations for the arts programs at RPI. He curated annual festivals of religion and the arts and he built the C+CC as a place to explore all these intersections.

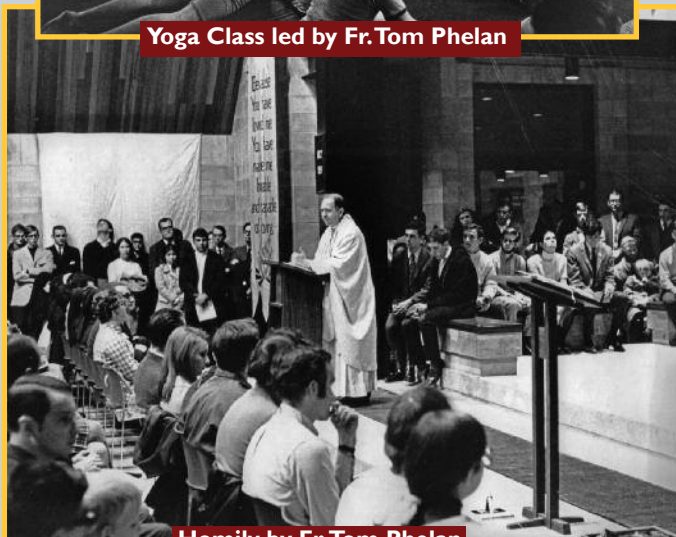
The C+CC is an extraordinary gathering place. While it opened after I graduated, I've come to the building many times over the years, and am always taken by the spirit of the Masses, the community there and the great ecumenical spirit that infuses the place. I've met some extraordinary people at the C+CC; Peter Levatich, the building's architect, Steve and Betty Wiberley, and the great baritone saxophonist Nick Brignola come to mind. Walking through the doors brings back so many vivid and wonderful moments, moments that truly formed my life!



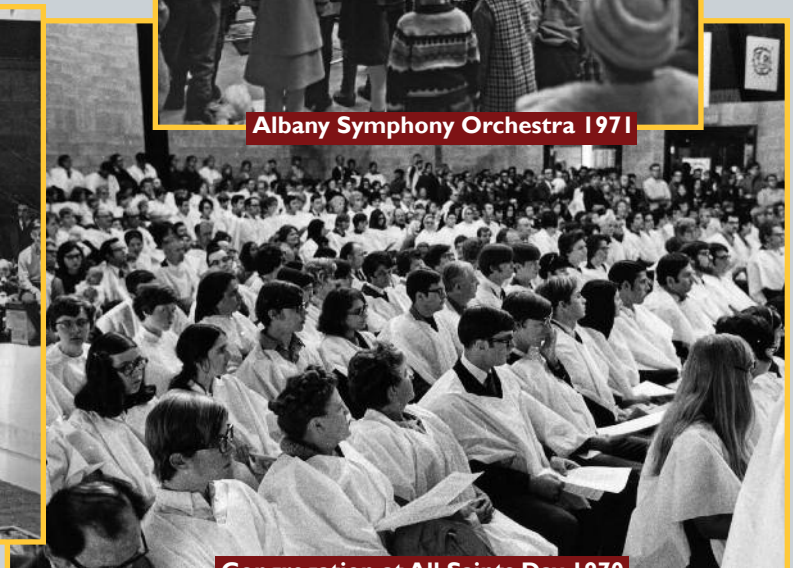
Yoga Class led by Fr. Tom Phelan



Albany Symphony Orchestra 1971



Homily by Fr. Tom Phelan



Congregation at All Saints Day 1970

The Rensselaer Newman Foundation

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chapelandculturalcenter

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

Upcoming Events

September

- 15 Friday, 6:30pm
Fruit of the Vine – Wine Appreciation 101
Join us for a priceless and fun wine education experience with Winemaker William Ouweleen. Premium Finger Lakes wines hand-crafted by O-Neh-Da and Eagle Crest Vineyards will be served
- 19 Tuesday, 7:30am
McCarthy-Wiberley Town/Gown Breakfast
Our presentation this year, "Breathing Lights to Breathing Life" will be led by Barbara Nelson
- TBD 6:30pm
David Sofer – Artist's Reception, Local artist from Albany
- 27 Wednesday, 7:00pm
Defense Against the Dark Arts: Wizardry and Theology in Harry Potter
Special talk led by Fr. William Reiser, SJ, Religious Studies Department, Professor, Department Chair, College of Holy Cross; Ph.D., Vanderbilt University

October

- 15 Sunday, 10:30am
Reunion and Homecoming - Coffee Hour
Join us for coffee and refreshments immediately following Mass
- 20 Friday, 5:15pm
Committee of 100 Dinner
Mass followed by dinner. We begin our 50th Anniversary Celebrations
- 28 Saturday, 5:15pm
Family Weekend - Reception
The Catholic Community at Rensselaer invites you to join us for Mass followed by a wine and cheese reception

- 29 Sunday, 10:30am
Family Weekend - Coffee Hour
Join us for coffee and refreshments immediately following Mass
- 31 Tuesday, 10:00pm
Halloween Party
Join us for an evening of frightful fun and feasting.
Mass for the feast of All Saints starts at Midnight

November

- 15 Wednesday, 7:00pm
Religion and the Arts:
Times Union Journalist Joe Dalton will lead this special dialogue
- 16 Thursday, 7:00pm
Capital Pride Singers Concert
Join the Capital Pride Singers at the C+CC for their fall performance
- 22 Wednesday, 6:00pm
Celebrate Thanksgiving
Mass at 6:00pm will be followed by a soup and salad dinner.
No Mass on Thanksgiving Day

*Please note that this schedule was current at the time of printing
Please check our website for our continuously updated version*

Some additional events to stayed tuned to include:

- Newman Catholic Fellowship Activities
- Movie Knights by Knights of Columbus
- RPI Acapella Performances
- RMA Performances and Activities
- Concert Choir and Chamber Ensembles Performances