



# ACS

## Assumption's Current Sharings



Assumption College for Sisters ✦ June 2013

### ACS Commencement 2013

Graduation Day, May 11, found the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Christian Charity virtually vibrating with the excitement of our nine young women receiving their AA degrees. Truly a multicultural atmosphere, the opening liturgy at 8 am began with an entrance song sung in Swahili, with participants from the three cultures represented: Tanzanian, Vietnamese and American. The Offertory Procession, too, featured the three cultures with the offering of handmade flowers and candles, a basket of flowers, and the bread and wine to be consecrated, while participants sang a hymn in Vietnamese. The communion song and recessional were sung in English.

The Commencement ceremonies began in the chapel of Mary Immaculate, Motherhouse of the Sisters of Christian Charity, at 2 pm with an invocation by a friend of one of the graduates, Rev. Abraham Ha, assistant pastor, St. Anne Parish, Bethlehem, PA. Dr. Jo Anne Sylva, ACS trustee and faculty member, delivered the commencement address speaking personally to the graduating class, reminding them of St. John Newman's slogan, "Cor ad Cor Loquitur," heart speaks to heart. Sister of Christian



*From left to right: Sister Mary Joseph Thuoc Le, FMSR; Sister M. Godeliva Subyeki, DM; Sister Mary Therese Hoa Nguyen, LHC; Sister M. Veronica Wade, DM; Katherine DeLucy, SCC; Sister Clara Mwanyalila, ISRA; Sister Germana Senye, ISRA; Sister Alfreda Ngonyani, OSB; Sister Martha Thuy Huynh, LHC.*



*Four students were awarded Certificates in Theological Studies: From left to right: Sister Sydney Moss, FMA; Sister Elfie Del Rosario, FMA; Sister Jennifer Kane, FMA; Mrs. Kathleen Zayatz*

Charity, Sister Joseph Spring, ACS president, conferred Associate in Arts degrees on the following students pictured above. Before the close of the ceremonies with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Sister Mary Therese Hoa Nguyen offered some reflections on behalf of the graduating class. A lively reception followed in St. Joseph Hall.

### Assumption College for Sisters Honors 2013 Alumna of the Year

Sister Anna Nguyen, SCC, (ACS '82) was the recipient of the 2013 Alumna of the Year Award given at the 2013 Commencement exercises. Sister was a refugee to the United States in 1975 and resettled in York, PA with her family that same year.

After obtaining her AA from Assumption College for Sisters in 1982, she received a BA in Education from Felician College, Lodi, NJ, and a MA in Social Work from Marywood University, Scranton, PA. She also holds a twenty-year license in social work for the state of Pennsylvania.

In the spring of 2012, she joined the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church as Assistant Director for the Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Previously, she served as Field Support Coordinator in the Diocesan Development Services, a division of Migration and Refugee Services at USCCB. She eagerly leads the Asian and Pacific family spreading across the United States to greater sharing of their gifts and promoting harmony in the new evangelization.

Sister Anna was unable to be at Graduation on May 11 because, true to her ministry, she was overseeing the Asians and Pacific Islanders for Mary Pilgrimage at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC. Receiving this award in her stead was Sister Joan Daniel Healy, Provincial Superior of the Sisters of Christian Charity.

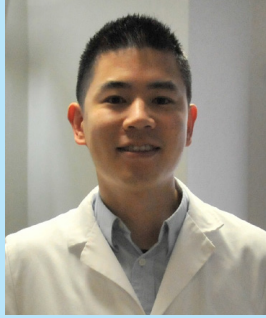
The entire Assumption College for Sisters community is grateful for Sister Anna's service and wishes her congratulations!



# Service, Education, and Family Life Awards Presented at 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Caring Basket Gala

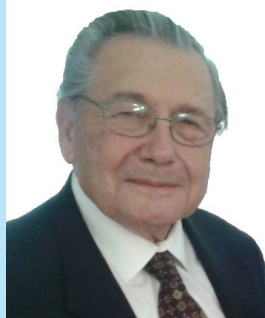
On March 21, 2013, ACS awarded individuals and families who have been exemplary in the areas of service, education and family life. This year's recipients were:

## Service Award:



Andy Chang, DMD

## Education Award:



Eustace "Gus" Anselmi

## Family Life Award:



Dorian and Kevin  
Corcoran Family

Giving back to local and global communities has always been important to Dr. Chang and his wife, Jennifer. They are actively involved in the Metro Community Church in Englewood, NJ and have served as volunteer leaders for YoungLife, an organization that mentors local high school students. They continue to support various causes worldwide including an international Christian mission organization known as SIM (Serving In Mission), Zimele community groups in Africa, as well as orphanages in Thailand. Dr. Chang has volunteered at the dental clinic inside Eva's Village in Paterson, NJ and is the co-founder and a current board member of Covenant Community Clinics. Dr. Chang also provides dental care for the ACS international sister students for which we are very grateful.

Every builder knows the importance of the cornerstone. For Eustace "Gus" Anselmi, a leader in the construction industry, the cornerstone is not just about stone but about the Lord. Recognizing Christ as the cornerstone, Mr. Anselmi has been an ardent supporter of higher education and is dedicated to his Church, faith and family. In addition to his busy schedule as the owner and Secretary-Treasurer of Anselmi & DeCicco, Inc., he has committed his time and energy in various educational endeavors: participation on the President's Advisory Committee at Seton Hall University, Caldwell College Board of Trustee Emeritus and Trustee of St. Philomena's Church in Livingston, where he serves as a Eucharistic minister as well. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Livingston chapter of UNICO, and has served on the Delbarton School Board of Trustees from 1998 to 2004.

When approached to be Assumption College for Sisters 2013 Family Life Award Honorees, Dorian and Kevin Corcoran insisted that the award be bestowed not only on them, but to also include their children—Kathryn, Caragh, Jack, Joseph and Liam. The couple explained that their lives have always revolved around family and that this award should be no exception.

Dorian and Kevin Corcoran have sought to be actively involved in their parish community, St. Joseph, Mendham, in a variety of ways. The Corcorans are firm believers in the extraordinary value of a Catholic education. They have volunteered for 14 years at St. Joseph School and have actively participated in the Education Council, the Spiritual Life program, school plays and coaching.

The Corcoran children, led by their parents' example, have led and participated in various activities including: the American Cancer Society's *Relay for Life*; student retreats; service trips to Appalachia and tornado-ravaged Joplin, MO; Operation Stocking Stuffer; stocking the food pantry and working at the soup kitchen in Morristown.

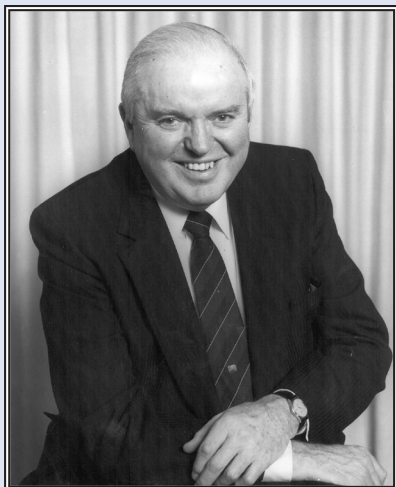
Please visit our website at [acs350.org](http://acs350.org) to view a slideshow of highlights from the 12th Annual Caring Basket Gala.



## Tribute to a Friend of Assumption College for Sisters

Carmel Tintle, retired public relations executive and active participant in Catholic organizations and causes, died February 14, 2013.

Carmel was a volunteer publicist for Assumption College for Sisters in Mendham, and wrote for *The Beacon*, the newspaper of the Paterson Diocese. He also was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the St. Patrick Guard of Honor, the Sons of the American Revolution, the U.S. Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II, the Irish American Cultural Institute, the New York Press Club and Fordham University's Golden Rams. He actively participated in the movement to canonize Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen and was instrumental in having a premier showing of the documentary on Sheen's life, "Servant of All" presented here at the College.



His presence and his literary contributions to the College will always be remembered. Rest in peace, Carmel!

## ACS Alumna Participates in Surgical Mission to the Philippines

Sister Martin Haubrich (ACS '67) recently participated in the World Surgical Mission (WSM) to Coron, Palawan, Philippines, located in the South China Sea, about one hour from Manila via plane. A group of 47 WSM performed 224 procedures including 110 minor surgeries, 50 OB/GYN, 41 general, 16 plastic and 7 pediatric.

Sister Martin explains her reaction to the Mission: "We began our Mission with Mass at the local church St. Augustine's, which was full to capacity with local Catholics. The priest blessed us and said prayers for the Mission. Everything is seen in perspective in the Mission and absolutely no one complains. The Philippine nurses were great to work with and considered me the expert (probably because of my age!) and I, in turn, marveled at how they work together. Both patients and staff were warm, gracious and exceptionally patient. Although there was extreme poverty, the people I met were joy filled. I was so impressed with their deep respect and appreciation for everything we did for them, even the littlest thing. The people we cared for came from homes that were little more than huts with minimal running water and yet their clothes were clean and when we walked to the hospital you could see each hut had a line outside

with clothes drying in the sun. I must say I was surrounded by people who showed me deep affection and love. I have memories that will last a life time and carried more away from this than I could ever give."



*Sister Martin is pictured third from left*

## Fine Arts Come Alive!



The Fine Arts 101 class, accompanied by their instructors, Ms. Barbara Kelly-Vergona, Sister Mary Edward Spohrer, SCC, and Dr. Katherine Doyle, attended the New Jersey Ballet presenting Balanchine/Robbins Evening at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, Morristown, on March 16. The performance consisted of an eclectic array of pieces to showcase the work of these two most influential choreographers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

One of George Balanchine's major contributions to the world of dance is the creation of New York City Ballet in the 1940's. One of his NYCB dancers, Edward Villella, a former Kennedy Center Honoree, and an Artistic Advisor to New Jersey Ballet worked with the NJB dancers to ensure the authenticity of the Balanchine choreography. Villella was introduced as a special guest to much applause from the audience. Carolyn Clark, former ballerina with American Ballet Theatre as well as Founder and Director of New Jersey Ballet since 1958, visited the ACS group before the show to introduce herself and extend her warm wishes for an enjoyable show.

On April 25<sup>th</sup> the Fine Arts instructors hosted an art exhibit featuring artwork by third year Fine Arts students. In Drawing, the students boldly tackled landscape, still life, portraiture, and the figure. These varied genres enabled them to practice the mechanics of drawing including value, perspective, line, and composition. Residents of the motherhouse along with faculty and staff enjoyed the students' artwork and the students themselves appreciated each other's creations.

To experience a culturally enriching live theater performance as well as having the opportunity to exhibit their own artwork will surely be remembered by the students for years to come!

## Hands-On Science: Biology Class Field Trip to Liberty Science Center

During April, second year ACS students completed their studies of the fundamentals of chemistry and biology with an exciting field trip to Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, New Jersey. They explored contemporary science issues through a variety of exhibits, interactive demonstrations, and video presentations.

The students related their experiences to their own studies this semester. One student found a “useful video” that presented timelines of vaccines and infectious diseases, so visitors can “take better care of their health and that of their children.” Exhibits on antibodies and pathogens reinforced class lectures in immunology. Another observed that this experience helps visitors to “understand how individual actions affect global health issues.”

During the field trip, the students also independently explored topics in science and technology. Students investigated the “communication process,” and learned about sign language and the history of writing. They enjoyed the technology exhibits, particularly “walking round the skyscrapers” and examining the inner workings of water pumps and solar panels.

This field trip offered a hands-on look at science, prompting a student to observe, “I felt grateful and happy because of what I saw and learned at the Liberty Science Center. I find the subjects very interesting and practical. They are very helpful for my studies and my mission.” The students gratefully acknowledge the support and prayers of all the benefactors of the college who help make enriching field trips possible.

*Pictured Tam Le, SCC and Sister Mary James, FMSR*



## Celebrating Hildegard of Bingen... Teacher of Sacred Wisdom, Doctor of the Church



On April 13 several students in the Philosophy of the Human Person class, accompanied by their instructor, Sister Gabrielle Nguyen, SCC, joined the Iona Spirituality Institute and the Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue to celebrate the elevation of Hildegard of Bingen to the honorary title of Teacher of Sacred Wisdom, Doctor of the Church. Through Hildegard’s feminine poetry, artistic depictions of her visions, exegesis of scripture and the natural world, sacred music, holistic medicine, and delectable recipes, the participants experienced a “multi-sensory” encounter with the Divine.

Sr. Kathleen Deignan, C.N.D., Professor of Religious Studies at Iona College, noted that as early as the age of three Hildegard lived in a “steady state of theophany.” Attuned to the Spirit within, she courageously discerned the signs of the times and spoke out against the misuse of power and wealth within the Church.

In 1141 at the age of forty-two, Hildegard received a life-changing vision. God demanded that she write down and illustrate her visions. With the blessing of Pope Eugenius, Hildegard penned her visions in her *summa*, entitled *Scivias (Know the Ways of the Lord)*. This work contained her theology on such topics as creation, redemption, and the Trinity.

The participants left the St. Hildegard event imbued with the Divine. It was an honor and a grace to celebrate this multi-faceted Doctor of the Church. Saint Hildegard of Bingen, pray for us and for our Church!

## A Gothic Cathedral Revisited

On April 9, the students of the World Civilization Class and the ESL 108 Class, together with their Instructors, Dr. Jo Anne Sylva and Sr. Mary Veronica, enjoyed a joint enrichment trip to the Cathedral/Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, NJ. A splendid lecture-tour of this outstanding French gothic architectural structure provided historical, cultural, religious, architectural, and artistic information that led to deep ascetic appreciation.

The trip concluded with a different type of cultural experience-- lunch at a Portuguese Restaurant in the Ironbound section of Newark as guests of Dr. and Mr. Sylva. Following the trip, Sr. Mary Veronica and Dr. Sylva held a combined class during which the students indicated what they had learned about the integration of the various disciplines in the humanities.





# Assumption College for Sisters Welcomes a Special Visitor

Mayor Cory Booker of the City of Newark, was invited to visit Assumption College for Sisters in Mendham. He was welcomed by the International student body who shared songs and dances of welcome.

Mayor Booker addressed the assembled administration, faculty, staff, and students as well as the Sisters of Christian Charity, applauding Assumption College for Sisters for continuing the mission of the foundress, Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt. He spoke about the importance of doing small acts of goodness consistently. The young women in formation for the Sisters of Christian Charity concluded the welcome by singing a song of blessing for the Mayor.

The brief visit concluded with a tour of the college and a reception during which those present could greet Mayor Booker personally.

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## Vatican II: Fifty Years Later

Msgr. Raymond Kupke, Diocesan Archivist, presented “Vatican II: Fifty Years Later” to Sisters, students, and the public at Assumption College for Sisters on Sunday, February 24. As he highlighted some of the little known facts before, during and after the Council, he enthralled his audience with an actual copy of one of the documents that the Council Fathers had in their hands to review during the council. This was of special interest to the audience because it was prepared by James J. Norris, a New Jersey native, appointed by Pope Paul VI to be one of the lay auditors at the Second Vatican Council. He also showed the audience a medal given to a lay participant at Vatican Council II. Msgr. Kupke is shown here exhibiting the two artifacts.



## April... Genocide Awareness Month

Several Tanzanian Sister students attended the presentation at the College of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, entitled “The Last Survivor” on April 18. The program included a viewing of the award-winning feature-length documentary film that presented the stories of four survivors and their struggle to make sense of tragedy by working to educate a new generation, inspire tolerance and spark a civic response to mass atrocity crimes. Following the lives of survivors of four different genocides and mass atrocities—the Holocaust, Rwanda, Darfur, and Congo—“The Last Survivor” presented a unique opportunity to learn from the lessons and mistakes of our past in order to have a lasting social impact on how we act collectively in the face of similar issues which still exist today.



Consolee Nishimwe

Students had the opportunity to hear firsthand the story of Consolee Nishimwe, survivor of the genocide in Rwanda, who spoke of her experiences when she was 14 years of age. After speaking of the atrocities she and her family witnessed and endured, she concluded with the message, “Never lose hope.” All in attendance were visibly moved.

Once again, ACS  
is thrilled to present...  
Irish Tenor Ronan Tynan  
Benefit Concert  
Assumption College for Sisters  
Mendham, NJ  
November 1, 2013  
7:00 pm



The Annual Fund seeks to enhance the educational and spiritual formation programs offered at the college. All contributions to the Annual Fund assist the college and its students in achieving measurable success as they prepare for a life of service.  
THANK YOU to the many who have responded with a pledge. If you have not had the opportunity to pledge, there is still time. Donations may be made by check, payable to Assumption College for Sisters; credit card by calling the college at 973-543-6528 x 227; or online giving at [acs350.org](http://acs350.org).

**The Annual Fund: Teach a Sister  
Touch the World!**

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