



# ACS

## Assumption's Current Sharings

Assumption College for Sisters ♣ June 2017

## Assumption College for Sisters Commencement 2017

On Saturday, May 13, Assumption College for Sisters held Commencement ceremonies where seven students earned AA degrees and four students were awarded Certificates in Theological Studies. Commencement exercises took place in the Christopher H. Thomas Gymnasium in Morris Catholic High School followed by a reception in the MCHS Dining Hall. Rev. Richard Tartaglia, Parochial Vicar of Saint Mary's, Denville, gave the invocation.

Mr. Andrew Anselmi, a long-time and loyal friend of Assumption College for Sisters and first lay Chair of the Board of Trustees, delivered the commencement address.



Mr. Andrew Anselmi

Andrew Anselmi received his law degree at Georgetown University Law Center in 1990 after doing his undergraduate work at Williams College

in Massachusetts and at the Long School of Economics and Political Science in London, England.

Currently Mr. Anselmi is co-founder, director and trial attorney of McCusker, Anselmi, Rosen, and Carvelli Law Firm, chair of the Board of Trustees at St. Paul Inside the Walls, member of Delbarton School Alumni Board, and co-founder and Trustee of HopeTree Foundation dedicated to underprivileged children.

He is the recipient of numerous awards: AV Preminent™ rating of 5

out of 5 for professional excellence, *Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great*, *Advocati Christi Award*, *Vivere Christus Award*, distinguished service recognition for work at Programs for Parents, and National Head Start Association *Humanitarian of the Year Award*.

Mr. Anselmi is also a published author of, *The Autumn Crush*, which is the first in a trilogy of novels that explores the hardships and triumphs of first generation Americans in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He lives in Chester, NJ, with his wife M. Soledad and three children, Gabrielle, Luke, and Nicholas.

In his commencement address Mr. Anselmi spoke of the graduates as, "the true heroes of our Catholic religion," and continued, "They act in public with the same charity and kindness as they do when no one is watching."

At the conclusion of his remarks, Mr. Anselmi spoke to the graduates, "Sisters, although you are graduating today, it is you who have taught us. We will always heed your lesson that we all are born with original innocence, and that we must have the courage to act upon it."

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Graduates pictured from left to right: Sister Monica Nakawala, LSOSE, Sister Cecilia Foleng, SST, Sister Robertha Mmole, OSB, Sister Eusebia Nicholaus Urassa, CPS, Sister Mary Mai Nguyen, LHC-TT, Sister Thea Tarimo, CPS, Sister Mary Kieu Nguyen, FMSR

Each year during the graduation program a member of the graduating class shares some personal reflections on her class' experiences during their three years of study at ACS. Sister Eusebia Nicholaus Urassa a member of the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood community, offered this year's remarks. Sr. Eusebia remarked, "Our time at Assumption College for Sisters was not only for intellectual knowledge, it was also a time to be formed spiritually and socially as we tried to form a new community with different family, culture, political, and social backgrounds from different nationalities. It is not easy to adjust from one culture to another and yet



Students earning the Certificate in Theological Studies pictured from left to right: Sister Melissa Benitez, FMA, Sister Quynh Pham, FMA, Luciana D'Cruze, MPF, Edward Sawey

## ACS Class of 2017

### Associate in Arts Degree recipients:

**Sister Cecilia Foleng, SST:**

*Divine Word College, Epworth, IA*

**Sister Robertha Mmole, OSB:**

*Mount Marty College, Yankton, SD*

**Sister Monica Nakawala, LSOF:**

*Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ*

**Sister Mary Kieu Nguyen, FMSR:**

*Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ*

**Sister Mary Mai Nguyen, LHC-TT:**

*Returning to Vietnam for Community Ministry*

**Sister Thea Tarimo, CPS:**

*Siena College, Loudonville, NY*

**Sister Eusebia Nicholaus Urassa, CPS:**

*Silver Lake College, Manitowoc, WI*

### Certificate in Theological Studies recipients:

**Sister Melissa Benitez, FMA**

**Luciana D'Cruze, MPF**

**Sister Quynh Pham, FMA**

**Edward Sawey**

### Life-long Learner Recognition recipients:

**Purita Legaspi**

**Carla Murphy**

we were able to share our different talents from the four continents of Asia, Africa, North America, and South America.

This is God's plan to bring us together at Assumption College and he chose us for his own purpose and we cannot take it for granted."

## ACS Honors 2017 Alumna of the Year

Sister Elizabeth Kovacs, SCC, who graduated from ACS in 2006, was the recipient of the 2017 Alumna of the Year award.

Sister Elizabeth grew up in Allentown, PA where her parents and brother Steven still reside. She graduated from Allentown Central Catholic High School in 2003 from which she entered the Postulancy of the Sisters of Christian Charity.

After graduating from Assumption College for Sisters in 2006, she attended Pennsylvania College of Technology where she received her BSN in 2009. After working as a nurse for 7 years in the emergency department at Holy Spirit Hospital, she continued her studies at Widener University and obtained her MSN as Family Nurse Practitioner in 2016.

Her ministry with the Sisters of Christian Charity has included service as Nurse Extender/Emergency Department Technician at Susquehanna Health, Emergency Room RN at Holy Spirit Hospital and most recently as Certified Nurse Practitioner in the Emergency Room at what is now Geisinger Holy Spirit.

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**Sister Elizabeth Kovacs, SCC**



# Sixteenth Annual Caring Basket Raises the Roof!

## *Scholarship Funds Raised for 19 Sisters*



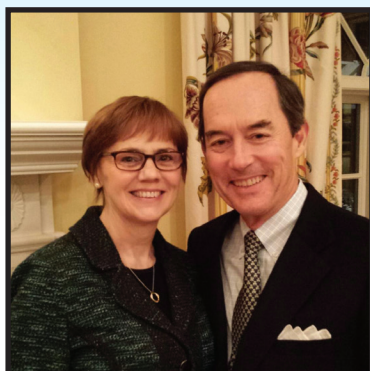
Close to 400 attendees gathered on March 23, 2017 to celebrate the Sixteenth Annual Caring Basket Gala of Assumption College for Sisters. The College honored Terrence and Prudence Pigott,



*Prudence & Terry Pigott*

Reverend Brian G. Plate and Les and Eileen Quick in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Church and the greater community. The College was honored as His Excellency, The Most Reverend Bernardito C. Auza, Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations arrived to offer his well wishes to the College. ACS is grateful to Archbishop Auza for his support of the College over the years. The Gala committee, co-chaired by Patricia McGrady, Judy Milanaik, and Louis Scarpa, orchestrated a festive evening filled with exciting silent auction items, brimming gift baskets, and a lightning-paced live auction conducted by Andrew E. Anselmi, Chair of the Assumption

College for Sisters' Board of Trustees. Gala volunteers included members of the ACS Young Professionals Committee, coordinated by Ted Lawless, chair. Guests cheered each honoree and expressed an outpouring of generosity and appreciation to the Sister students for their pursuit of higher education



*Eileen & Les Quick*

in service to all of humanity. The Gala, the major funding event for the College, aims to raise scholarship funds for international Sister students who do not have the opportunity of a higher education in their homelands. The event netted \$236,000, the highest amount in the Gala's 16-year history, which will provide one-year scholarships for 19 Sisters. Enrollment currently includes members of 15 different religious congregations representing 14 countries of origin. Upon completion of their degrees, Sisters return to

their homelands to engage in health care, education, pastoral work, and varied ministries. Sisters from congregations in the United States remain here in active ministry. Lay persons may also enroll in courses at the College. College President, Sister Joseph Spring, SCC, said: "The honorees and those who supported the event assist the College in providing sound academic development rooted in Catholic identity." Sponsored by the Sisters of Christian Charity, Mendham, NJ, ACS remains true to its motto: "Teach a Sister...Touch the World!" Information about the College, including our new video, is found at [www.acs350.org](http://www.acs350.org). Thank you for supporting our Sisters!



*L to R: The Most Reverend Bernardito C. Auza, Reverend Brian G. Plate*



# Young Professionals Committee Formed at ACS

To advance the mission of Assumption College for Sisters, a Young Professionals Committee, which is a sub-committee of Institutional Advancement, has recently been established. Committee members learn about the challenges which face non-profits, develop the skills

to address these issues, and are afforded the opportunity for personal development. This dynamic group of professionals possesses considerable skills and resources, enabling them to help solve

these problems. Ted Lawless, committee chair, says: "The College is a wonderful instrument for creating good in the world, and serving on the committee is an

opportunity for young professionals to collaborate with international sisters to multiply the impact of the College far beyond the campus in Denville." Young professionals will initially utilize their skills in serving as ambassadors of the College through relationship building with the

community at large and through hands-on efforts such as social media development and marketing. Sister Joseph remarked on the newly formed committee, "The young professionals not only offer

their time and talent in service to the College, but they bring a positive energy which encourages our sisters in their ministry of learning and service."



*Assumption College for Sisters Young Professionals (left to right): Connor Milanaik, Cait Yackus, Jackie Doddy, Ted Lawless, Patty Betz, Kim Pereira, Cara McGrady and Ryan Milanaik.*

## First Aid Practice

Students of the Ed 101 Health and Wellness I class broaden their understanding of personal, communal, and global health and wellness issues from a holistic perspective. A unique feature of this course is practicing simple first aid techniques as demonstrated by instructor Una Doddy.

Pictured here is Sister Mary Cecilia Akol, LSOSF from Uganda applying compresses to Sister Lucia Nguyen, SPP from Vietnam.



## WELCOME New Faculty & Staff

**Craig Davis:**

*Philosophy Instructor*

**Sister Janice Jolin, SMIC, RN:**

*Nurse*

**Louis Scarpa:**

*Director of Institutional Advancement*

**Jean Wedemeier:**

*Technology Consultant/Computer Instructor*



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

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 donate or make a pledge, there is still time. Donations may be made by check, payable to Assumption College for Sisters; credit card by calling the college at 973-957-0188 x 101; or online at [acs350.org](http://acs350.org).

## Board of Trustees: *Time of Transitioning*

At the annual Board of Trustees Retreat conducted at Fiddler's Elbow, Bedminster, on May 3, Sister Joseph led the board in paying tribute and gratitude to those trustees whose terms expired and to welcome and provide orientation to new Trustees.

### ***OUT-GOING TRUSTEES ARE:***

Michael Critchley, Esq.  
Msgr. John Fell  
Sister Teresa Ann Jacobs, SCC  
Frank Petrucci  
Sister Cynthia Vives, SHCJ



### ***NEWLY APPOINTED TRUSTEES ARE:***

Rev. Martin Glynn  
Kristy Goulart  
Sheila O'Leary  
Ellen Sandman  
Angelo Sansano  
Louis Scarpa  
Anthony Sturla

## SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNAE: Sister Mary Joseph Thuoc Le, FMSR



*Sister Mary Joseph Thuoc Le, FMSR*

Sister Mary Joseph Thuoc Le, a member of the Congregation of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary of Chi Hoa Vietnam, graduated from ACS in 2013 before continuing her education at Felician

Some of Sister Mary Joseph's responsibilities include: assisting her sisters in their document preparation, upkeep of civil and religious files, writing reports for the Provincial Superior, and collecting, editing, and printing articles from her sisters about special occasions of the Province. Sister also has the opportunity to use her creativity by designing book covers, greeting cards, and paperbacks as well as assisting with photography, videography, and website management for the Province.

University in Lodi, New Jersey where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications. Returning to Vietnam in January of 2016, Sister Mary Joseph serves her congregation as a provincial secretary.

On reflecting at her time at ACS, Sister Mary Joseph shared, "What I have learned at ACS is bearing fruit in my mission. Thank you so much for having given me the great opportunity to be a member of ACS. I am always proud of that."

# Fine Arts Appreciation Drawing Field Trip

This spring, students from Fine Arts 101-Drawing visited the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, Summit, NJ. There, a docent helped the Sisters to understand the aims of the contemporary artists whose exhibits are currently on view. All of the installations prompted



thought and introspection; for example, Matt Jenson's "Park Wonder" inspired one student to remark on how much the average person doesn't notice in his or her environment. Alice Momm's "A Conversation with Trees" was also popular for its whimsical and fragile forms from nature; as was Jessica Rohrer's "Neighborhood Watch," a group of meticulously drawn bird's-eye-views of suburban neighborhoods made from copying photographs taken from drones. Probably most inspiring to the Sisters, however, were the student projects on view (the Center also offers classes). These focused on biographical and cultural aspects of the lives of a group of students from a nearby school. In all, the field trip allowed the Sisters to appreciate the vast possibilities of art, and its ability to communicate much more than simply beauty.

## Students Visit the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, NJ

On Wednesday, April 5, 2017, Sr. Marie Cecilia Landis, SCC, Mrs. Jean Wedemeier, Dr. Jo Anne Sylva, and Mr. Eugene Sylva accompanied the second-year students on a field trip to Newark, New Jersey. The first objective was to visit the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, a French Gothic structure which has been designated an historic landmark by the New Jersey Historical Society and a National Historic Site. In 1995, then Pope John Paul II gave it the honorary title of "minor basilica" for its outstanding beauty.

During the tour which was ably led by veteran docent, Patrick Pontoriero, the group learned that the Basilica is much more than its



physical beauty and that it expresses in architecture and art the faith which is its foundation. They were fascinated to go into the five chapels which honor patron saints of the major ethnic groups represented in the Newark archdiocese in the 1950s: Saint Patrick (Irish and British); Saint Lucy Filipini (Italian); Saint Boniface

(German); Saint Stanislaus (Slav-Magyar); and Saint Anne (African, Spanish, and Asian). The group then continued its outing with a luncheon at Casa Seabra Restaurant in the Ironbound section of Newark. This new experience solidified the fact that people from all over the globe are always coming to the United States, and the students very much enjoyed the Portuguese-Brazilian food and

atmosphere. In fact, one of the ACS students mentioned that her own grandparents had spoken Portuguese because the Portuguese missionaries were the forerunners in expanding Christianity in Bangladesh. A field trip is a learning opportunity for everyone!

## Ministries in the United States

Each year, first year international Sister students learn about parish ministries in the United States as showcased at Corpus Christi parish and explained by Sister Margaret Dincher, SCC.

This is an integral part of their Th 098 Fundamentals of the Catholic Faith course.



## Saluting our Volunteers

In our last newsletter, we highlighted all of the facilities volunteers who help keep our building and grounds attractive and functional.

We now want to recognize all those who serve as tutors/mentors for the academic needs of our students:

**Sister Jean Amore, SMIC**

**Mrs. Christine Berlen**

**Sister Kathryn Conti, SMIC**

**Sister Marcia Huber, SMIC**

**Sister Janice Jolin, SMIC**

**Sister Pierre Koesters, SCC**

**Sister Joanne Korn, SCC**

**Sister Sheila Madden, SMIC**

**Mrs. DJ McCabe**

**Mrs. Mary Ann Mihalski**

**Sister Margaret Reid, SMIC**

**Mrs. Eve Shea**

**Ms. Frances Spillman**

**Sister Frances Wrenn, SSM**

These women come once or twice a week and meet one-on-one with students to assist in language and writing skills. The administration, faculty, and students are so grateful for this support.

### *Gratitude to Former Faculty and Staff*

ACS is grateful to the following faculty and staff for their contributions, expertise and faithful service.

**Sister Gabrielle Nguyen, SCC**

**Una Doddy, RN**

*Alumna cont. from Page 2*

Director of the Emergency Center, Dr. James Leaming states: "Sister Elizabeth brings the same enthusiasm, intellectual curiosity, and collaborative spirit that distinguished her as an exemplary nurse for more than 7 years. Her dedication to improving the lives of those she touches is a daily reminder of our mission at Holy Spirit. The Emergency Department can be an arduous place to provide care, but Sister Elizabeth continues to embrace the opportunity to provide patient-centered quality care as guided by her faith. In a time of an ever-changing healthcare environment, it is important that we do not lose the unique Catholic mission that distinguishes Holy Spirit Hospital in our community. Sister Elizabeth Kovacs gives me the confidence that we can ensure that the basis of our faith is the focus of our care."

Of her ministry, former CEO Sister Romaine states: "Sister Elizabeth is an outstanding nurse and a true leader in all aspects of her life embracing both her professional life and religious life. Her accomplishment in attaining the Family Nurse Practitioner status only enhances her desire and ability to serve in an even greater capacity. .. Her unsurpassing energy and her love for God and others drives her incessantly. Sister is very knowledgeable and is an excellent diagnostician. She takes a leadership role in committees and in creating new ideas for the Emergency Department. She imparts a wonderful joyful spirit among her co-workers and inspires them by living her SCC mission and values and she loves parties and celebrations honoring her co-workers and initiates many of the celebrations. She is a central figure in the life and service of the Emergency Department here at Geisinger- Holy Spirit."

Sister Elizabeth has been involved in a number of local and religious community volunteer experiences including coordinator of the local Companions of Pauline associate program, giving religious vocation talks, and serving as organist and choir and bell choir director at Holy Spirit Hospital Convent.

Sister Elizabeth maintains certifications in numerous health related associations: American Heart, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Surgeons, Emergency Nurses Association and American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Assumption College for Sisters and the entire SCC community are grateful for Sister Elizabeth's service and wish her congratulations!

# STAY CONNECTED WITH ACS!



ACS has a website, blog, facebook, twitter and YouTube! Visit [acs350.org](http://acs350.org) to view all of our social media links. We would also like to invite you to provide us with your email address, so that we can update our records and send occasional news happenings. Please send an email to [secretary@acs350.org](mailto:secretary@acs350.org) with the subject Add Email and we will add you to our list. Thanks for helping us go green!

## ASSUMPTION COLLEGE *for Sisters*

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200 A MORRIS AVENUE  
DENVER, NJ 07834

## SAVE THE DATE! *The Seventeenth Annual Caring Basket Gala*



**March 22, 2018**

**The Hanover Marriott**

**Whippany, NJ**