



An Open Letter to My Parents

“You Knew me Better than I Knew Myself”

By **Coco Asjes ('20)**

Dear Mom and Dad,

Four years ago, you proved your immense patience as I cast about for a “practical” education close to

Love,



Coco

“Today I hardly recognize the social-media-addicted freshman I once was.”

Diving In

Parents Angela and Jack Connelly Restore Aquatics Center on New England Campus

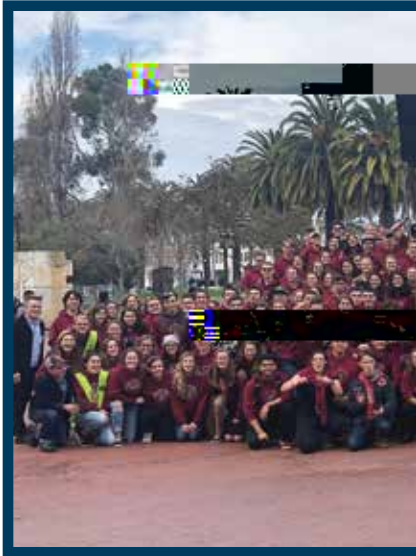
Campus Life

Turkey Bowl



Walk for Life

... the next day some 300 of their California counterparts, all clad in red sweatshirts, made the case for life on the streets of San Francisco at the Walk for Life West Coast. TAC students have



Epiphany Dance



Trivial and Quadrivial Pursuits



March for Life



On January 24 every available student on the New England campus was in the nation's capital for the National March for Life. They could be seen singing and praying all along the Mall, easily identified by their crimson TAC ski hats. ...



... of St. Thomas with a winning combination of prayer, scholarship, and fun. After participating in the annual game of Trivial & Quadrivial Pursuits. In California (le...), ... approve an answer.

Mt. Lafayette Hike

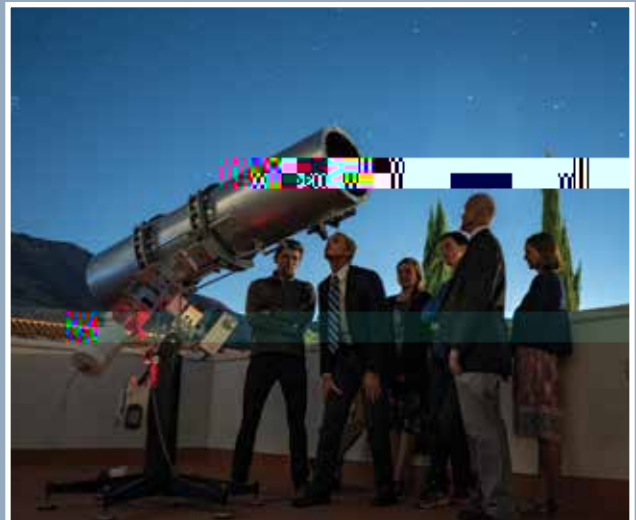


When the first snow of the season fell on the New England campus in November, students made the 150-mile trek to New Hampshire's White Mountains to scale Mount Lafayette (elev. 5,249 ft.), where they saw plenty more of the usually white stuff.

New Telescope



Thanks to a recently installed telescope on the balcony of St. Thomas Hall — the gift of a local astronomy club — students on the California campus were able to watch Mercury pass between the earth and the sun on November 11.



“We Need You”

Alumni Professionals Offer Advice, Encouragement to Students

Attorney Andrew Emrich ('93)

Alumnus attorney Andrew Emrich ('93) returned to the California campus last fall to offer advice to students who hope to pursue careers in law or public policy.

In a presentation that covered topics ranging from choosing the right law school to law-school admissions, Mr. Emrich shared how, despite his early plans to enter criminal law, he



made a career, first, in public service and, later, in representing corporate clients. “You can have a perfect idea of what your trajectory is going to be, and it may not turn out that way — and that’s fine,” he advised. “Sometimes those experiences you don’t

expect and don’t chart out turn out to be the most valuable.”

A partner at Holland & Hart LLP in Denver, Mr. Emrich earned his law degree from the University of Wyoming College of Law in 1996. He then went on to serve for four years as legislative counsel for Sen. Michael Enzi, followed by four more as counsel to the assistant attorney general at the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. In 2005 he left public policy for private practice.

In the course of his discussion, Mr. Emrich outlined six “traits of good lawyers,” — all of which, he observed, are the fruits of liberal education. “You are getting one of the best educations in all of academia,” he said. “And from it I acquired six traits essential for the practice of law: integrity, good listening, problem-solving, good judgment, effective advocacy, and resilience.”

As students discern their professional paths, Mr. Emrich urged, they should above all else seek to do God’s will in their lives. “Realize that you are here because the God of the universe intended you to be here from all eternity,” he said. “All these other things will work out. Make good choices and be prudent, but always keep that in mind.”

Therapist Marie Grumbine ('14)

“We need ethical therapists, and this is why I have come to talk to you today,” Marie Grumbine ('14) told a group of students

at Aquinas College, California, students at a fall talk about psychology and counseling, sponsored by the Office of Career Services. “I have been where you are, and I know the formation that you have had. We need you.”



In the last year of a three-year Marriage and Family Therapy master’s program at Fuller Theological Seminary, Miss Grumbine is a counseling intern at the Phoenix Rescue Mission, a homeless shelter and addiction-recovery center where, she reports, she is blessed to perform daily three Spiritual Works of Mercy — “counseling the doubtful, comforting the afflicted or the sorrowful, and instructing the ignorant.”

The work of a therapist, however, “is not pretty, it’s not glamorous, and it’s heartbreaking sometimes,” Miss Grumbine cautioned. “Being a therapist is looking at all those things no one wants to look at — trauma, abuse, neglect, addiction — no one wants to look at those things. . . . But we were told to do that. We were told to wash one another’s feet. We were told to look at the ugly things and serve. Being a therapist is that. It’s being a foot-washer.”

In the course of her hour-long presentation, Miss Grumbine answered students’ questions about graduate-school options, various kinds of therapeutic practice, and the ethical challenges that a Catholic therapist may encounter. Counseling, she continued, serves an essential human need. “Everyone needs mental-health care, because we are human beings, just as everyone needs to be taken care of physically sometimes,” she explained. Because clients are often vulnerable, and the information they disclose can expose them to exploitation and manipulation, therapists must possess the highest ethical standards.

“There is a lot of beautiful work that can be done in therapy,” Miss Grumbine said. “But in order to do that work, you need to be trustworthy with people’s lives in your hands. That’s why I’m talking to you, because I’m hoping that you are those people, and I want to convince you to go be therapists.”

