

## Calumet College of St. Joseph Opens New Building

History was made on September 17, 2009 as Calumet College of St. Joseph held the grand opening of the Student Activity Center. This facility is the first new building for the college, which began in church basements and empty storefronts. The current six floor "vertical campus" was donated to the college by Amoco in 1973.

The beautiful fall day only enhanced the excitement of students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the college who gathered to celebrate the important occasion. At a cost of \$3.5 million, the new 26,000 square foot facility will include a new gymnasium, weight room, locker rooms, offices and a conference room. The cost of having a place to call home – priceless!

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*From left to right: Ashley KIELTYKA; Hammond Councilman and alum Mark Kalwinski; Thomas McDermott, Jr., Mayor of Hammond; Dr. Dennis RITTENMEYER; Very Rev. Angelo Anthony, C.P.P.S. Provincial; Chairman of the Board of Trustees Thomas Katshahnias; Mr. Mark Lopez, Chief of Staff of Congressman Peter Visclosky's office*

## SEASON'S GREETINGS



I am joined by the Calumet College of St. Joseph administration, staff and faculty in wishing you, our alumni and friends, peace and God's blessings this Christmas season. Your support throughout the year has helped to sustain our institution and ideals and to provide our students with a quality education in the Catholic tradition. We thank you. May the new year of 2010 bring you and yours peace, love and prosperity.

Dr. Dennis C. Rittenmeyer  
President of Calumet College of St. Joseph

## UPDATE

is a publication produced by the Development Office of Calumet College of St. Joseph for its alumni and friends.

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Thanksgiving allows us time to reflect on the past year and Calumet College of St. Joseph has much for which to be thankful. Perhaps the most historic event of the year is the opening of the first new building in the college's history – the Student Activity Center. This new facility has enabled our athletes to have the wonderful experience of a gym full of fans cheering – for them. At the first game I heard the comment, "We're just like a regular school!"

An alumnus who attended said, "We've come a long way from our East Chicago roots." Physically we have, but our mission continues. It is exhibited in the many projects the college family participates in every year. Some of them are:

"We Are Family" – Our Guatemala Mission. This project is closest to my heart and this past May our group of eight students, alumni, faculty and staff traveled to Guatemala to see in person the results of our sewing project. This project enables local women to learn the art of sewing and in turn sell their products to help their families. Our group completed needed maintenance projects in the church and school. We also provided pencils and crayons, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and low dose aspirin.

Operation Helping Hands - Sr. Michele Dvorak and a group of 13 Education students traveled for a week in early November to New Orleans in conjunction with Catholic Charities. Their mission included working on rehabbing houses and spending time in several of the local schools. Though Katrina is no longer in the news, the need is still great in New Orleans.

Meals on Wheels – Every Monday Calumet College staff and faculty members deliver meals in the Whiting-Robertsdale area. This program allows senior citizens to receive a hot meal and a friendly face no matter what the weather.

Camp U Can – Each summer the college provides tutoring and mentoring for local at-risk students who have had a truancy problem. The statistics show that these students show a marked improvement the next school year.

Whiting-Robertsdale Food Pantry – Since April, 2009, the college family has raised over \$2800 for this much-needed organization. We have also donated boxes and boxes of food stuffs. During this difficult economic time, we are determined to help those who struggle to feed themselves and their families.

I could go on and on because every student organization and department finds a need and seeks to help. Because of the caring exhibited by our students, faculty and staff, we touch countless lives. In short, our blessings are many and we continue to look for ways to share our blessings with others.

During this time of reflection, we are grateful for our alumni and friends who are so supportive of these projects and of the college. You, too, touch countless lives through your generosity. You make a difference in our community, the Region, and the world. May the upcoming season of Christmas grant you peace, love and God's many blessings.

*Jim*

## Raffle Replaced

President Dennis Rittenmeyer thanked everyone for their vision and participation in the campaign which made the new facility possible. He introduced the following speakers:

- \* Mark Lopez, Chief of Staff of the Office of Rep. Peter Viscloskey.
- \* Thomas Katsahnias, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the College.
- \* The Very Rev. Angelo Anthony, C.P.P.S., Provincial Director of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, the religious order who sponsors the college.
- \* Mayor Thomas McDermott of Hammond.
- \* Mark Kalwinski, First District Councilman of Hammond and alumnus of CCSJ.
- \* Timothy Vick, member of the Board of Trustees of the college.
- \* Larry Behling, President of Gil Behling and Son, general contractors for the building
- \* Daniel Szany of Carras-Szany-Kuhn & Associates, architects of the building.

Bishop Dale Melczek of the Diocese of Gary provided the blessing of the new facility. A reception was held afterward which was attended by over 400 people.

A wonderful surprise was the attendance of Rev. Ronald Schiml, past president of the college.

A schedule for upcoming games can be found on the college's website, [www.ccsj.edu](http://www.ccsj.edu).

### Calling Photogenic Alumni!

Are you working in a legal field with a degree from Calumet College of St. Joseph? If you are, then we need your help! We would like you to be in a photo shoot to be used in marketing our paralegal and prelaw programs.

If you are interested, please contact Darren Jasieniecki at (219) 473-4292 or [djasieniecki@ccsj.edu](mailto:djasieniecki@ccsj.edu).

As many of you know, every year Calumet College of St. Joseph has a raffle as a fundraiser for student scholarships with tickets selling for \$100. We have decided to forego the raffle this year and ask you to buy something much more valuable than a raffle ticket – a chance for a student to go to college. This year everyone is a winner. In these economic times, everyone is looking for a sure bet. Education is that bet.

It is up to you to lead the way in supporting the future alumni of Calumet College of St. Joseph so that one day they can contribute to your community and our college the way you have. Your contribution will make an enormous difference to some deserving student - a student who is the first to attend college in his family or an adult student who is trying to better his/her life and the life of his/her family.

Bet on someone's success. Bet on someone's future. Bet on education. **Can we count on you for a \$100 tax deductible gift - the cost of your usual raffle ticket purchase?** We can give them a quality education. You can give them what they need financially to achieve a better life.

If you would like to participate or need additional information, please contact Gabrielle Manson at 219-473-4325 or send email inquiries to [gmanson@ccsj.edu](mailto:gmanson@ccsj.edu)

### New Books from the CCSJ Faculty

Faculty members James Pastor and Eugene Finnegan each have a new book on the market.

*Terrorism & Public Safety Policing--Implications for the Obama Presidency* by James Pastor is available through CRC Press. *What is Fair? The Foundations of Social Justice in the Twenty-First Century* was written by Eugene Finnegan and can be purchased through the CCSJ Bookstore.

Congratulations to these faculty members on their literary prowess!

# Alumni News

- '07 **Joe Prenaitis** is the author of "Infinite Possibilities," a science fiction novel published this year by Eloquent Books. It is available at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and on the publisher's website, [www.eloquentbooks.com](http://www.eloquentbooks.com).
- '78, '95 **Mark Ashman** was named "Teacher of the Year" in April 2009 for the School Town of Highland.
- '79 **Carmen Lomellin**, a former Appointee in the Clinton Administration, was appointed by Secretary General Cesar Gaviria in May, 1998 to her current position as the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) for the Organization of American States (OAS). She provides guidance on hemispheric policy advancing issues affecting women, particularly in the areas of human rights and gender equality to the OAS member states and Permanent Secretariat.

*Are you experiencing some exciting changes in your life - perhaps a new job, engagement, marriage, or a new baby? We would love to hear about it and share it in an upcoming Update! Send your news to Herb Yekel, Director of Alumni, at [hyekel@ccsj.edu](mailto:hyekel@ccsj.edu).*

## In Memorium

- '89 Ruth Blanche (Hedrick) Biggs of Bountiful, UT. Passed away July 8, 2009.
- '76 Richard L. Phillips of Merrillville, IN. Passed away September 1, 2009.

## Fun Times at RailCats Outing

For the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year the Gary RailCats Outing was a huge success, even though the RailCats lost 3 to 1 to Winnipeg. The weather, the picnic food, and the fireworks were great. Alumni, staff, and friends were able to share experiences before game time with one another. Since the RailCats were tied with Winnipeg for 1<sup>st</sup> place, the stadium had 5,000 fans that evening and the stadium only holds 6,000. It was a great turnout of fans. The Alumni Association is looking forward to planning next year's event—hope you can make it!



*Alum Annie Johnson (far right, class of 2000) and friends at the RailCats Outing*

## BP Fabric of America Fund

BP has offered their employees a unique opportunity to benefit the community through their Fabric of America program. All eligible BP employees may designate an organization to receive \$500. No matching funds by the employee are necessary. If you know someone who is a BP employee (maybe it's you!), ask them to designate their \$500 go to CCSJ. The contact person for the college is Gabrielle Manson, 219-473-4325 or [gmanson@ccsj.edu](mailto:gmanson@ccsj.edu). Contact your employer or visit the BP website at BP Fabric of America for more information. Thank you for helping us grow!

# Do Good with GoodSearch & GoodShop

We're excited to announce that Calumet College of St Joseph has joined GoodSearch and GoodShop! More than 84,000 nonprofits and schools are now participating in this program. CCSJ is up and running on both GoodSearch.com and GoodShop.com.

GoodSearch is the search engine with a unique social mission: It's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great search results, and each time you search, GoodSearch makes a donation to CCSJ!

GoodShop.com is an online marketplace that donates a percentage of your purchase to CCSJ. You can choose from hundreds of popular merchants and the experience of shopping through GoodShop is exactly the same as going to the retailer's websites directly.

To make this work to its fullest potential, we're asking you to download the GoodSearch and GoodShop Toolbar from <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar>. The GoodSearch Toolbar works with your browser to ensure that your cause earns money every time you shop and search - even if you skip coming to GoodShop or GoodSearch first. Just think about it—the holiday season is here, so what better way to help raise money for Calumet College than by searching and shopping for your normal holiday items?

## Crimson Wave News

### **CRIMSON WAVE HONORED WITH TWO NAIA DISTINCTIONS**

The Crimson Wave earned two scholastic distinctions for the 2008-09 season: Women's Tennis, Women's Volleyball and Men's Basketball collectively earned a team GPA of 3.0 or higher, making them a NAIA Scholar Team. This is the third season in a row that our women's tennis program earned this scholarly distinction. It is the first time for both women's volleyball and men's basketball.

Calumet College of St. Joseph has also earned the distinction as a "Champions of Character" institution for 2008-09. It is a wonderful honor to be selected along with the other 230 NAIA schools. To be a Champion of Character is to exemplify core values in the campus community as well as within athletics and to demonstrate integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership in everyday situations.

### **VOLLEYBALL TEAM VICTORIOUS**

On October 20th our Crimson Wave volleyball team battled conference rival Cardinal St. Joseph University in our new athletic/recreation building. The first four games were back-and-forth, with no team able to pull ahead by more than one game. We finally won the fifth match **16-14** and the game **3-2**. This marks the **FIRST** conference victory in the volleyball program's eight year history. It is also marked the **FIRST** home victory in our new gym.

### **BASKETBALL BLASTS OFF**

Men's and Women's Basketball started off strong, with both teams going home with a victory over Silver Lake College (WI). The women's team ended with a final score of 112-38. The team as whole played a quality game to begin the season 1-0.

The men's team had a little more work ahead of them, but they also defeated SLC. Silver Lake was challenging our men's team early in the second half and actually tied the game at 45-45 with sixteen minutes to play in the game, but the Wave won the game 83-71.

# Campus Bookstore has New Alumni Gear

Calumet College of St. Joseph's Campus Bookstore has recently been restocked with new alumni merchandise. If you live locally, feel free to stop by and check it out! The bookstore is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

If you do not live locally or cannot visit during the Bookstore hours, you can browse the selection online at [www.ccsj.edu/bookstore/index.html](http://www.ccsj.edu/bookstore/index.html). If you find something you want, email me at [hyekel@ccsj.edu](mailto:hyekel@ccsj.edu) with what the item is and I can quote you the price plus tax as well as shipping costs. Spread the school spirit—show your pride in CCSJ and wear your school gear!

Herb Yekel  
Director of Alumni  
Class of 1975



*New alumni gear for sale*



## Upcoming Alumni Events

**HOMECOMING:** February 20, 2010  
Campus events scheduled all week prior. Women's basketball is 1 p.m., Men's is 3 p.m. Dinner to follow at Dynasty Banquets at 6 p.m.

**SIXTH ANNUAL BOWLING CHALLENGE:**  
Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

**45th ANNUAL BALL:** Saturday, April 24th

**ANNUAL RAILCATS BASEBALL OUTING:**  
August 2010

**ALUMNI TRIP TO ITALY:** October 2010

For more information, contact Herb at (219) 473-4227 or [hyekel@ccsj.edu](mailto:hyekel@ccsj.edu).

## Veteran's Day Ceremony

The college's annual Veterans Day ceremony began on November 11 at 11:30 in the first floor lobby. Speakers included James Adduci, Vice President of Mission Advancement and Development for CCSJ and Ernie Dillon, Past Commander of Hammond American Legion Victory Post #168. The honor guard from Hammond Legion Victory Post #168 also participated in the ceremony, and visitors were able to view the college's newest tribute to our veterans, a locally produced video and collection of still photos documenting an aircraft that operated from every continent in the world and participated in every major battle in WWII. It is still flying today, thanks to local volunteers.

## Looking for Instruments to Start Pep Band

We are in the process of organizing a Pep Band to really get the new gym rockin'. We have a director and some people have come forward and expressed an interest in participating. If you are interested, please contact Becky Leevey at ext. 218 a.s.a.p.

Some people have expressed an interest but no longer have their own instruments. So, do you have an instrument at home gathering dust? Perhaps when your child was 10 he/she begged to play the (fill in the blank!) and lost interest in a few months? I'm sure that instrument would love to see the light of day again. Please consider donating it to the college. We would be happy to give you a donation receipt for it and you would be adding to the spirit of our home games. And think of the room you will free up in your house!

# Alumni Assist in Workforce Preparedness

Beginning with the fall 2009 semester, Career Services began rolling out a three-year career/workforce preparedness program that targets CCSJ juniors and seniors. Marsennia Wells, Employment Planning Coordinator in the Career Services Office in facilitation with Herb Yekel, Director of Alumni Relations, developed and hosted the first Alumni Panel Discussion event entitled, "What Employers Want: Knowledge, Skills and Attitude." The alumni involved were mid- or senior-level management professionals in the areas of banking, education, business ownership, steel manufacturing and healthcare. The event was an activity that is part of the Career Services Office Junior/Senior Workforce Readiness Series created to educate junior and senior students on preparation for career position acquisition, transition to and success in the world of work. The series provides opportunity for facilitated student-employer direct linkage, educates on what employers and managers want, need and expect of employees and provides scheduled workshop offerings designed to greatly assist in developing employability.

Some future activities that are planned include career/workforce topical workshops, a panel presentation, networking/roundtable luncheon and mock interviews. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Herb Yekel, the Director of Alumni, at [hyekel@ccsj.edu](mailto:hyekel@ccsj.edu) or (219) 473-4227.



*Alumni Panel from left to right: Duane Childers ('84), Mitchell Gaffigan ('91), Harold Junker ('74), James Pawlowicz ('81), Mike Skowronek ('77), and Marilyn Tomko ('74)*

## Rittenmeyer Named "Distinguished Hoosier"

On the "Lakeshore Focus" television show this past July, Dr. Dennis Rittenmeyer, President of Calumet College, was presented with the "Distinguished Hoosier Award". This is the highest award given by the State of Indiana to its citizens. He was honored for his tireless work on behalf of public transportation in a surprise presentation at the end of the show.

"We are very proud of Dennis, his passion and perseverance in contributing to the quality of life in Northwest Indiana by advocating transportation services," said Tim Brown, Executive Director of the Regional Bus Authority. "We're grateful for Dennis and his personal sacrifice to help us work towards the betterment of our region."

Actions truly do speak louder than words and Dr. Rittenmeyer demonstrates the mission of the college every day. Thanks to him for being an example that one person can, and does, make a difference.

## New Bishop Grutka Archives

The first display for the Bishop Grutka Collection is ready and available for viewing. It is located by the copier across from the Circulation desk in the Specker Memorial Library. Feel free to visit and take a look at the beginning of this continuing project.

Specker Library is open for the Fall Semester through December 21st from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

## Do You Like Email? So Do We!

If you would like to start receiving email Updates, announcements and more, let us know! Send an email to [development@ccsj.edu](mailto:development@ccsj.edu) and we will make sure to add your email to our list. As an added bonus, if you send us your current email you get to sleep more soundly knowing that you may have just saved a tree or two.



# UPDATE

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*Visit us on the web - [www.ccsj.edu](http://www.ccsj.edu)*

**Remember CCSJ  
in your will!**

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