

## CONVOCATION IMMERSSES NEW STUDENTS INTO ACADEMIC LIFE

Jennifer J. Liskow '02G\*  
(From: *Campus Forum*, September 14, 2007)



Students head to lunch after Convocation.


Many of Rivier's newest students got their first sense of Rivier's mission at Academic Convocation on Tuesday, September 4, 2007. During the Mass of the Holy Spirit, Sr. Jeanne Perreault explained, "Rivier has a legacy of reaching out to the poor, the needy, the powerless," as a basket full of supplies for Anne-Marie House was brought up to the altar.

Dr. Sharon Dean, Professor of English, gave students background on Louisa May Alcott's novel *Little Women*, the Alcott family, and the community of Concord, Mass., which influenced Geraldine Brooks' novel, *March*, the common reading for first-year students. "March is a fictional account of a fictional account—Brooks takes many liberties with historical records," Dean told the audience. "What are you to make of this fictional account?"

Dean said that the book can help us see the world through the eyes of others and help us engage in conversation about issues that are relevant in our world today. "Relevance to the current war in Iraq runs loudly through *March*," Dean said, citing questions the book raises about torture, the use of rape as a weapon, and how to differentiate between enemies and friends. "What is a just war?" Dean asked.

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Convocation concluded with the College song. Students proceeded to the Dion Center for lunch, and then participated in first-year seminar sessions where faculty and students discussed the issues brought up in March and in Dean's address. Academic Dean Dr. Al DeCiccio attended several of the sessions and said, "I can tell you the faculty and the students were indeed engaged. It was a great way to begin the year." ■



*Mass of the Holy Spirit  
&  
Academic Convocation*

*Welcome first-year students*

*September 4, 2007*



### *Schedule of Events*

*9:30 a.m.*

Students and Faculty Line-up

*10:00 a.m.*

Mass of the Holy Spirit  
Brother Paul Demers, s.c., D. Min.  
Celebrant

Introduction of the Speaker  
Cassidy Swanson, Class of 2010

Academic Convocation  
Dr. Sharon Dean  
Keynote Speaker

College Song  
Sr. Marie Couture, p.m.

*11:45 a.m.*  
Lunch in Dion Center

*1:00–2:00 p.m.*  
Seminar Sessions

Offices will be open for business from 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Mass of the Holy Spirit is a Catholic liturgy during which the Rivier community asks for God's blessing for a successful academic year.

Convocation is an academic assembly in which the values of the academic community are affirmed.

## *Mass of the Holy Spirit*

### *Welcome*

William Farrell, Ph.D., President

### *Gathering Hymn*

*Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the  
darkness vanished away;*

*See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought  
here to you in the light of this day.*

*Gather us in the lost and forsaken, Gather us in the blind  
and the lame;*

*Call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the  
sound of our name.*

*We are the young --- our lives are a myst'ry, we are the  
old --- who yearn for your face,*

*We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be  
light for the whole human race.*

*Gather us in the rich and the haughty, Gather us in the  
proud and the strong;*

*Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage  
to enter the song.*

*Here we will take the wine and water, here we will take  
the bread of new birth,*

*Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us  
anew to be salt for the earth.*

*Give us to drink the wine of compassion, Give us to eat  
the bread that is you;*

*Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are  
holy and hearts that are true.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some  
heaven, light years away,*

*But here in this place the new light is shining now is the  
Kingdom, now is the day.*

*Gather us in and hold us forever, Gather us in and make  
us your own;*

*Gather us in --- all peoples together, fire of love in our  
flesh and our bones.*

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### *Opening Prayer*

Br. Paul Demers, s.c., D.Min., Chaplain

Reading from Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:12-17

Cassidy Swanson, Class of 2010

### *Psalm Response and Alleluia*

*Lord, ev'ry nation on earth, will adore you, O God. (2)*

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Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 12: 1-12

Reading from Luke's Gospel 4: 14-21

Br. Paul Demers, s.c.

Prayers of the Faithful and Preparation of the Table

Sr. Jeanne Perreault, p.m.

Eucharistic Prayer and Acclamations

Our Father and Handshake of Peace

### *Communion*

*Here I am, Lord, is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.*

*I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

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### *Post Communion Prayer*

Br. Paul Demers, s.c.

### *Recessional*

*So, carry your candle, run to the darkness, seek  
out the hopeless, confused and torn.*

*Hold out your candle for all to see it. Take your  
candle and go light your world.*

*Take your candle and go light your world.*

*So carry your candle, run to the darkness, seek out  
the lonely, the tired and worn.*

*Hold out your candle for all to see it. Take your  
candle and go light your world.*

*Take your candle and go light your world.*

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Music by Bernie Chotiere

*Dr. Sharon Dean*



One of Sharon Dean's colleagues calls her his "Yankee friend." She grew up in Massachusetts, where her parents loved to take the family to visit historical and literary sites. She breathed in the Yankee inheritance of places like Concord and Salem and Plymouth. She left Massachusetts for another of the 13 original colonies: New Hampshire, where she has lived most of her adult life. She surrounds herself with books and gardens in the 19th-century farmhouse that is now her home. She integrates her passions into

her teaching and scholarship, writing books about landscape and narrative and teaching courses that emphasize the Colonial roots of American literature. As indicated, she has published her ideas in books (*Constance Fenimore Woolson: Homeward Bound; Constance Fenimore Woolson and Edith Wharton: Perspectives on Landscape and Art; Constance Fenimore Woolson: Selected Stories and Travel Narratives*) and in articles, the latest of which is entitled "History and Representation in [Joyce Carol Oates's] 'The Falls.'" She takes advantage of the beautiful New England landscape by hiking or biking or skiing. But if the winds pick up and the temperature plunges below zero, she heads for the gym and the quiet intensity of a yoga or a pilates class. She also travels, especially to see her children in faraway places. On those long plane flights, she expands her tendency to think, in Emily Dickson's words, "New Englandly" and uses the power of literature to discover other landscapes and cultures.

*College Song*

Refrain

Rivier, to you we proudly sing,  
Our hearts with love brim o'er,  
Our voices rise in praise.

For you we'll make the echoes ring,  
Faithful forevermore in memory of these days.

Verse 1

Within your halls we've found  
A noble lasting truth,  
An ideal great and strong:  
For this receive our thanks  
And accept from our youth  
This pledge, our loyal song.

Refrain

Verse 2

For higher things, then daily  
Let us pray and strive,  
No matter what life's frays.  
So, through it all, Rivier,  
We'll ever keep alive  
Your lessons of God's ways.

Refrain



*Rivier College Mission*

Transforming hearts and minds to serve the world.

Founded in 1933 by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary, Rivier College is a Catholic institution of higher education dedicated to transforming hearts and minds to serve the world. As a co-educational institution of higher learning, the College is dedicated to the education of undergraduate and graduate students in both the liberal arts and professional courses of study.

Committed to the faith heritage, intellectual tradition, and social teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, the College educates the whole person in the context of an academic community that cultivates critical thought, sound judgment, and respect for all people. This community supports the intellectual growth of all its members while offering them opportunities for social, cultural, moral, and spiritual development. The challenge to the College community is to search for truth through the dialogue between faith and reason.

Rivier creates an environment in which integrated learning is the shared responsibility of students, faculty, staff, and administrators, and is pursued in all the curricular and co-curricular programs of the College. To participate in the life of Rivier College is to strive for academic excellence, to take responsibility for ourselves and for others, and to engage in dialogue about basic human issues facing society, especially the plight of the poor and powerless. The College extends to all of its members and also to the greater community an invitation to join in intellectual inquiry and dialogue.

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\* **JENNIFER LISKOW** works as a Public Relations and Web Writer in the Office of Marketing and Communications and teaches in Rivier's Professional Communications program. Jenn earned her bachelor's in English and communications from Notre Dame College in Manchester, N.H. in 1996. In 2002, she completed her master's in writing and literature at Rivier. She began writing in junior high school; since then, she has had poems, short stories, features, and essays published. In her free time, Jenn enjoys practicing yoga, ten-pin bowling, and listening to live music with her husband, Tim.