

MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND ACADEMIC CONVOCATION (September 7, 2010)*

Jennifer J. Liskow'02G**

Convocation introduces first-year students to academic life at Rivier



Dr. Naomi Schoenfeld delivers the Convocation address.

On September 7, 2010, members of the College's newest class got their first taste of life in the Rivier community. Vice President for Academic Affairs **Sr. Therese Larochelle** welcomed students to Academic Convocation and the Mass of the Holy Spirit, a celebration of the College's mission and the start of the new academic year.

Associate Professor of Religious Studies **Dr. Virginia Ryan** read a prayer by Fr. Pedro Arrupe, who was the Jesuit Superior General from 1965 to 1983. "Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in a love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the mornings, what you will do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything," Dr. Ryan said. "Let us remember this prayer as we begin a new academic year and a new experience for many of you: college."

Student Government Association president **Lauren Hall** introduced the Convocation speaker, **Dr. Naomi Schoenfeld**, Assistant Professor of Education. "This summer, you were asked to read *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time* by Greg Mortenson. I'd like to begin by reading the opening of a very different story," Dr. Schoenfeld said.

Dr. Schoenfeld read the first lines of *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, one of the earliest works of literature known to man. Based on a real ruler 6,000 years ago in what is now Iraq, the story was passed down for three thousand years before a young Mesopotamian priest named Sin-liqe-unninni wrote his version on clay tablets which were buried in the ruins of Nineveh, and discovered by archeologists in 1849. Dr. Schoenfeld emphasized that the story survived because the priest wrote it down, capturing it for future generations.

“This is the power of written language. When one learns to read, the first and most profound effect is that one is suddenly part of a global conversation – able to tell one’s own story, and to learn from the stories of others whom we will never meet. These stories provide windows into worlds that would otherwise vanish with their deaths of their authors,” Dr. Schoenfeld said, citing the Diary of Anne Frank and Helen Keller’s autobiography as examples.

In *Three Cups of Tea*, Greg Mortenson travels to the lands of Gilgamesh on a quest to bring schools to an area of Pakistan experiencing political unrest. Dr. Schoenfeld explained that access—or lack of access—to education is often used as a means of controlling social power. She cited Rivier College and the many schools established by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary as evidence that school projects make a difference.

“The school-builders in *Three Cups of Tea* are at the start of their journey. They can only imagine the effect that the children and grandchildren of these first pupils arriving in their schools will have in restoring their country. We do not have to imagine. We are the effect, and the most recent chapter of Anne-Marie Rivier’s legacy. Like the power of the written word, our very presence reaches across the boundaries of time and place to remind each other that change for the better, no matter how hard, is possible,” Dr. Schoenfeld said.

The readings at the Mass of the Holy Spirit tied into the themes in *Three Cups of Tea*. A reading from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, who tended to value some gifts more than others, serves as a reminder that all gifts come from God and that we are responsible for using our gifts well and sharing them with the community. The parable of the good Samaritan emphasizes the importance of being a good neighbor and taking action to help those in need. The Mass celebrated Rivier’s mission in a special way, introducing it to the Class of 2014. ■

* Retrieved November 15, 2010, from the Rivier College Website, <http://www.rivier.edu/news/Default.aspx?ID=17268>

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Mass of the Holy Spirit and Academic Convocation

*Transforming Hearts and Minds
to Serve the World*

September 7, 2010

Welcome first-year students



Convocation schedule of events

9:30 a.m.

Students and faculty line up

10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Sr. Therese Larochelle, Ph.D.

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Opening Prayer

Virginia Ryan, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Religious Studies

Introduction of Speaker

Lauren Hall, President of the Student Government Association

Academic Convocation Speaker

Naomi Schoenfeld, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Education

Interlude

Mass of the Holy Spirit

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

11:15 a.m.

Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Seminar Sessions

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

About the speaker



An Assistant Professor of Education, Dr. Naomi Schoenfeld earned her Ph.D. from Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ. She currently teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in special education, her area of research and expertise.

She is the author of several journal articles in *Education Review* and *Education and Treatment of Children*, and she presents regularly at national conferences. Dr. Schoenfeld is the Director of Undergraduate General Special Education and Graduate Emotional and Behavioral Disorders programs.



Mass of the Holy Spirit

Gathering Song *All Are Welcome*

Let us build a house where love can dwell, and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of
grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and
stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach and live the Word
they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image
of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions
heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words
within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers
of faith and songs of grace. Let this house proclaim from floor to
rafter:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

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Opening Prayer
Brother Paul Demers, s.c., D.Min., Chaplain

First Reading
1 Corinthians 12:1-12

Psalm Response
Your words are spirit and life, O Lord: richer than gold, stronger than
death. Your words are spirit and life, O Lord; life everlasting.

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gospel
Luke 10:29-37

General Intercessions

Preparation and Presentation of Gifts

Prayer of St. Francis
Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring
your love. Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's
doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let
me bring hope. Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's
sadness ever joy.

O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to
console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with
all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are
pardoned, in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're
born to eternal life.

Text based on the prayer traditionally ascribed to St. Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226;
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Eucharistic Acclamations
Mass of Creation

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Amen, Amen, Amen!

Our Father and Sign of Peace
(over)

Communion Song

One Bread, One Body

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentle or Jew, servant or free, woman or man no more.
2. Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.
3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all.

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Post Communion Prayer

Sending Song

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voices, let us sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Bright burning sun with golden beams, soft silver
moon that gently gleams. O praise him! O praise him! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness.
O praise him! Alleluia! Praise God the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One: O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Text: LM with additions; St. Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. by Wm. Drapez, 1855-1933, © 1923.
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College song

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 evermore
In memory of these days.

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.

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