

## RIVIER RECOGNIZES LEADERSHIP OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

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**Sister Therese Larochelle, pm** will step down from her position as Vice President for Academic Affairs at the end of this year, completing 15 years of distinguished service to the University.

Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM, President, emphasized Sister Therese's many contributions to the University. "River's academic initiatives have been uniquely strengthened by Sister Therese's academic philosophy, her work ethic, and her ability to create consensus."

She took on the role of Vice President for Academic Affairs in 1998, spearheading the first of the two core curriculum changes that she oversaw and, just this fall, the new *Journeys of Transformation* core. "The most important work of the Academic Vice President is to insure the integrity of the curriculum and the quality of the faculty," said Sister Therese. "Working with faculty, I have always striven to improve the curriculum, to seek innovative ways to deliver the curriculum, and above all to serve our students well." This is evident to all those that work closely with her. "She knows how to get things done and is driven by one agenda; what is best for students and what is best for the University," said Associate Vice President for Student Success Regina Shearer.

Sister Therese not only led faculty during the core revisions, she empowered them by providing the tools necessary to develop programs and the core, honoring the mission of the University. "Sister Therese steered the team during the creation of the new academic core," said Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Professor of English Dr. Brad Stull. "She sent the team to the Association of Colleges and Universities Conference in Chicago to get the training they would need for this task."

She has co-authored two New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) decennial self-studies for Rivier, led two reaccreditation processes, and served as a NEASC evaluator. "Having worked with Sister Therese on the NEASC self-study and looking at the institution as a whole over a ten-year period, the changes and accomplishments enumerated in that accreditation document related to mission, governance, planning and assessment, academic programs, and faculty are surely all a part of the legacy that Sister Therese leaves to Rivier University," said Dean of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Psychology Dr. Paul Cunningham.

Another significant legacy she leaves is that of a leader who develops leadership in others. "I have been 'transformed' because of her," said Co-Director of the Center for Faculty Excellence and Professor of English Dr. Tim Doherty. "I owe this person a lot. She provided experience, support, approval and encouragement. She made all the difference and transformed my career as a faculty member."

Her deep commitment to faculty is apparent in her development of the Center for Faculty Excellence, her attendance at all Faculty Commons events, and the establishment of a faculty

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governance and leadership structure. “I learned the personal, supportive ways of responding to everyone in our academic community from her example,” said Dean of Education, Director of the Doctoral Program in Leadership and Learning, and Professor of Education Dr. John Gleason. “Indeed, it is her communications and interactions that are emblematic of the prayerful and spiritual life of all that we do here.”

Sister Therese’s significant contributions to the academic vitality of the institution have left a lasting legacy at Rivier. “In my time at Rivier, I have never encountered a leader as positive, polite, and trustworthy as Sister Therese,” said Dean of Business Amir Toosi. She has truly lived Rivier’s mission of ‘transforming hearts and minds to serve the world.’

“She will be missed in her leadership role,” said Dean of Nursing and Assistant Professor of Nursing Dr. Paula Williams. “Sister Therese is a ‘teacher’s teacher,’ loved and respected by peers and students alike. She is a woman of great faith, insight, strength, integrity, good humor and compassion.” ■

*The Rivier University Alumni Association presented Sister Therese with the Sister Madeleine of Jesus Award this fall at Alumni Reunion Weekend.*