

ParentScope

A Publication of the St. Lawrence University Parents Committee

Spring 2003

DREAMS TAKING SHAPE:

The New Student Center

By *Kassandra Reyell '06*

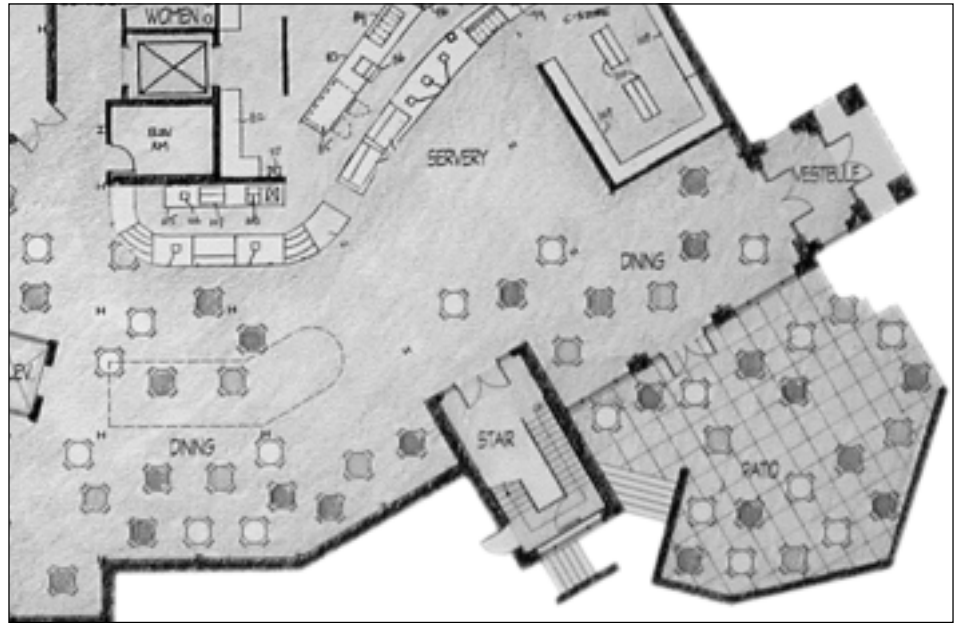
As a first-year student at

St. Lawrence, I have watched the development of the new student center knowing I will be able to benefit from its completion. It's exciting—having it centrally located will make life easier for all students, especially those who live on the edges of campus.

As I walk by the construction site, on the way to class or to Dana Dining Center for a meal, I try to imagine what the finished building will be like. I envision sitting with some friends on the

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patio or in the café, grabbing a bite to eat—which could take a while because of all the great new choices we will have in the “food court” atmosphere. Sitting in front of the warm fireplace studying or chatting with friends on a cold winter day will be a joy. The new offices for student organizations, such as Thelmo (our student government) and *The Hill News*, will offer great views across the campus and will be welcoming spaces.



This detail from the floor plan of the new student center shows part of the food court and patio, where writer Kassie Reyell '06 and her friends can already see themselves enjoying a bite to eat.

Some Features of the New Student Center

(Target completion date: January 2004)

- 60,000 gross square feet
- Open design with atrium, fireplace and cathedral ceiling
- Outdoor patio and amphitheater
- Post office
- Food court (pictured)
- Student organization offices
- Multipurpose room for movies, comics, musicians, etc.
- Career Planning and Leadership Education center

It is fascinating to watch such a large structure go up in a relatively short span, changing a little each time I pass by. During final exams last December, a small Christmas tree appeared at the top of the steel-beam skeleton, and as I write this in February an American flag waves from the top of the structure. I imagine a St. Lawrence flag will also fly there when the building opens—very appropriately, because the new student center will quickly become a landmark where the St. Lawrence community will unite with one another.

A first-year student from Saranac Lake, N.Y., Kassie Reyell is a third-generation Laurentian. Her father, Robert H. Reyell '76, and her grandparents, Robert J. '52 and Halsey Myers Reyell '53, also live in Saranac Lake.

Benefits for All

By Pam Farr P'03, '06

With the successful completion of Campaign St. Lawrence, which exceeded its goal of \$130 million by the end of 2002, we all read with interest the many ways in which these funds have been and will be put to use to enrich the lives of our children. With two St. Lawrence students, Daniel '03 and Melissa '06, our family is an example of how the broad distribution of these funds benefits a diverse University population.

As parents, we work hard to help our children develop their talents, pursue their interests, express their individuality and become the best people they can be. We start young with an endless round of dance and music lessons, scout meetings and athletic competitions, all the while taking great pride in their developing minds and bodies.

This can be challenging when one child is artistic while another is athletic, one outgoing and bold, one quiet. These different personalities call on all our parental resources. The goal is a happy, well-adjusted, responsible adult.

Our four children have some similar interests, but four distinct personalities, talents and of course their own distinct interests. When it came time to help Daniel pick a college, we went on many trips and toured many campuses. As parents we looked at all of them and asked the same questions: Does this one have what Daniel wants and needs? Most important, will he be happy here?

Daniel knew he wanted a small liberal arts school. He also knew he wanted to go north. When he saw St. Lawrence, he knew this was where he wanted to be. Upon arriving on campus he discovered there was no club ice hockey team, but with great support from administrators and coaches, he was able to start one. Three and a half years later, the club is still going strong. He also joined a fraternity, and spends many hours in the fitness center. He loves to take advantage of the



St. Lawrence's 133-station fitness center is but one of many positive outcomes of Campaign St. Lawrence, which concluded in December 2002 with over \$132 million raised. Jon Kent '04, Benton, Me., and Kate DePuy '03, Rochester, N.Y., give two of those stations some rigorous use.

many outdoor activities including biking, hiking and skiing. Daniel decided to major in government, and as we head toward graduation, we are the very proud parents of a responsible, confident young man who has plans for graduate school.

Although we could not have predicted our children would have chosen the same college, watching them grow, mature and thrive at St. Lawrence is most gratifying. They are pursuing their own interests, developing separate talents and discovering their future paths.

Our daughter's college search began with a focus on large city schools. Having grown up in a rural setting, Melissa felt she wanted to be in a different environment. No one would have predicted she would choose St. Lawrence. Just a couple of weeks after her arrival, we realized her

experience at St. Lawrence was going to be dramatically different from Daniel's. She immediately got involved in theater, auditioning and winning a part in a fall play. Melissa's involvement in student government began with her election to First-Year Council. Enthusiastic calls home include conversations about picking a major and plans to study abroad. As a runner, she is never without a beautiful place for her daily run, and takes advantage of the fitness center when the weather does not cooperate.

Although we could not have predicted our children would have chosen the same college, watching them grow, mature and thrive at St. Lawrence is most gratifying. They are pursuing their own interests, developing separate talents and discovering their future paths. Their year together at St. Lawrence is giving them a bond they will share as their lives unfold. They're developing that bond around the many positives Campaign St. Lawrence has made possible.

The Farris travel to St. Lawrence from their home in Hopewell, New Jersey.

Student Organizes Peace Conference on Campus

By Jessica Knapp '03

“If you care enough, you can do anything,” said Erin Cianchette '03, Falmouth, Maine, only days after the New York State Peace Conference was held at St. Lawrence in January. Cianchette was the principal organizer of the five-day event. She, and those who inspired and assisted her, put together a conference that included a keynote address, several panel discussions, an art exhibition, a multilingual poetry reading, book signings, a peace rally and a concert. They subtitled it “The Real Situation: A Peaceful Anti-War Uproar.”

All this was not originally in Cianchette’s plans for her senior year. That is, until she went to the Philippines with her Religion, Peace and Protest in Southeast Asia class and attended the



Erin Cianchette '03, with sign, turned her convictions into action when she organized a five-day peace conference on campus in January.

PHOTO: Kathleen Buckley

“While I was listening to the speakers in the Philippines, the idea to host a conference in the U.S. hit me, and I knew I had to do it. There were so many caring voices raised in the Philippines that needed to be heard here on campus.”

International Ecumenical Conference on Terrorism in a Globalized World. According to Cianchette, the trip was an extraordinary experience for her and the four other students. The five—she and Maria Bayona '04, New York City; Kelly O’Ryan '04, Clarkston, Mich.; Sarah Post '03, Hingham, Mass.; and Nicole Armbruster '05, Bedford, N.Y.—

constituted the student voice of the conference planning committee.

“While I was listening to the speakers in the Philippines, the idea to host a conference in the U.S. hit me, and I knew I had to do it,” Cianchette said. “There were so many caring voices raised in the Philippines that needed to be heard here on campus.”

Back at St. Lawrence in early October, Cianchette started a process that required a degree of coordination she was not used to. “I am not organized,” she said. “Not my apartment, not my car. I don’t always get to class on time. But I just put my heart into organizing this conference, etched the schedule into

my mind, and memorized more details than I ever imagined possible.”

Two key steps Cianchette took were enlisting the assistance of John Collins, assistant professor of global studies, and the support of Grant Cornwell '79, dean of academic affairs. She said she kept the conference quiet for a long time because she couldn’t gauge how successful it would be. In the end, she said, “About 300 different people attended the various events. At one point we had around 100 people crammed into the Noble Center Formal Lounge for the ‘Women and Peace’ panel discussion.”

With the assistance of fellow students and those who spoke, including many St. Lawrence professors, she hopes to transcribe, edit and publish all of the discussions.

Jessica Knapp, of Boulder, Col., is an intern in the University communications office during her final semester at St. Lawrence.

Selections from the Conference Schedule

- **Keynote Address**, Lester Ruiz, Associate Dean, Doctor of Ministry Program, New York Theological Seminary
- **Panel**, “Religion, Peace and Violence”
- **Panel**, “Total War, Globalization and Evil”
- **Performance**, Horn Please (Nepalese Drumming Band)
- **Book Signing**, *Collateral Damage: A User’s Guide to America’s New War* (the editors and many contributors are St. Lawrence faculty members)

What Parents Should (and Shouldn't) Do to Help

By Donna Fish

Associate Dean for Academic Administration

and Steve Horwitz

Associate Dean of the First Year

Sending a child away to

college, especially for the first time, can be as difficult for parents as it is for the child. However, it can also be a time for growth and development for the child and for the child-parent relationship. College is also a great opportunity for your children to learn how to deal with adults and peers in new situations. Of particular importance is how students learn to communicate effectively with faculty and staff, both as intellectual partners and co-learners, and when problems arise.

How parents can help:

- Encourage students to take responsibility for their learning and their relationships with faculty.

Ideally, students should come to the relationship self-confident, fully involved in their work, and prepared to be engaged in an intellectual partnership that will be both mutually enjoyable and challenging. College is a time for students to seek

The best way parents can foster good communication is to encourage students to take charge of their own lives and learning, seek out resources for assistance, and be their own best advocates.

counsel from a wide variety of mentors (from faculty to staff to peers) as they shape their own life-plans. Seeing these mentors as persons dedicated to the development of the whole student helps shape strong and effective relationships.



Munn Writing Center in ODY Library is one of many campus resources where students can get help with particular needs—if they take the initiative to seek these resources out. All it takes is a little communication!

- Tell students they need to be their own best advocates.

Balance your desire to help your children with your desire to see them take responsibility for becoming authors of their own intellectual and personal development.

- Ask your son or daughter about campus resources.

In order to help students to reach their highest potential, St. Lawrence offers academic skills support through the Writing Center, free peer-tutoring and time-management workshops, faculty office hours, accommodative services for students with special needs, and one-on-one academic counseling and assistance. Our most successful students use these services regularly.

- Be a good role model as a listener.

Hear what your son or daughter is saying and don't assume that what's on the surface is the real problem. Both parents and faculty need to be able to identify any underlying concerns in order to provide students the help they need.

What is generally less helpful:

- Resist the temptation to speak for your student without his or her permission.

Unsolicited involvement can breed distrust between you and your child, as well as between a faculty or staff member and your child. Encourage him or her to talk to a faculty or staff member first. Triangles are rarely an effective form of communication.

- Don't do your child's work.

Allow your child to make appointments, follow through on commitments, and notify others of special circumstances (e.g., illness, family issues, etc.). College is a time for independence, including acceptance of responsibility and the risk of failure. Growth will come from testing these skills in real situations, surviving crises and resolving difficult challenges.

- Avoid the other extreme of complete detachment.

There are times when it is appropriate for parents to be brought into conversation with faculty or administrators, and it is important for parents to have a general idea of how students are doing. Be supportive (also be aware that the University may have certain legal restrictions on what it can reveal regarding a particular student's academic progress; for details, request a copy of the Student Handbook from the office of student life and co-curricular education, 315-229-5311). If parents need to be involved, communication is more effective when students and parents have had an ongoing conversation about the challenges college students face.

The best way parents can foster good communication is to encourage students to take charge of their own lives and learning, seek out resources for assistance, and be their own best advocates.

Some Frequently Asked Questions

1) When should my son/daughter visit Career Services and Leadership Education?

Now! Please pass the word on to your son or daughter that career services and leadership education is **not just for seniors**. We offer services for first-year students through seniors (and beyond). It's wise to visit career services as soon as possible to arrange any of the following: take an assessment to determine skills, interests, and values; shadow an alumnus or parent to gain first-hand exposure to a career field; write a resume; apply to internships; write a cover letter; do a mock interview; research graduate programs; write a personal statement; learn how to search for jobs; get information about job fairs and recruiting events; apply for a job.

2) My student is undecided on a major and/or career field—can you help?

Yes. Please encourage your student to attend one of our values and decision-making workshops and to schedule an appointment with a professional advisor. We have a variety of formal and informal assessments to help students determine what major and/or career they might be happy in.

3) My student has just told me his/her major; how can we learn what she/he can do with it?

First, having a liberal arts degree in general will make your student a well-qualified and sought-after job candidate. To learn more about possible career fields in specific majors, your student should visit our Career Resource Library to look at our series of "Great Jobs for _____ Majors" books. The Career Services and Leadership Education Web site is also a good resource, specifically the "What Can I Do With A Major In?" section. It has a list of possible job titles as well as links to related job, internship, and career information Web sites.

4) I really want my student to do an internship. How soon can he/she get one?

First of all, thank you for encouraging your student to do an internship! It is an



St. Lawrence's Career Resource Library has a wide spectrum of tools for finding internships, jobs and graduate or professional schools. There's also a squad of people, both professional staff and trained peer tutors, to help students use those tools. The best thing parents can tell their students, though, is "Don't wait until you're a senior to get to know these folks!"

important way to become a competitive job candidate later. The most common time for students to do an internship is the sophomore or junior year. We have thousands of general and alumni-sponsored internship postings in our online recruiting system, Career SLUth. Not all internships take place a long way from campus; an intern in an SLU office wrote one of the articles in this newsletter.

5) How can you help my student find a job?

St. Lawrence University is a member of a number of consortia that allow our students access to a wealth of job postings and interview opportunities. This year, students had access to eight job fairs and recruiting events in places like New York City, Boston and Washington, DC. Next year there will be a ninth event, in Chicago. We also have on-campus interviews throughout the year. Our Career SLUth database is filled with job postings around the country and the world, and we have numerous Web sites

linked from the career services Web site that allow students to search for jobs based on geographic region, industry, or both. Our Career Resource Library is another important resource for students searching for a job.

6) My student wants to go to graduate or professional school. Can you help?

From researching programs to finding information on financing post-graduate study, we can help. We have books filled with program information in our Career Resource Library and links to the best graduate and professional school information Web sites. We can give information about required tests and test dates, we can help anyone determine how to select a program or a school, we can review personal statements and application essays, students can use facilities to compose applications, we can do mock interviews to help prepare for the real thing, and we can offer scholarship, fellowship, grant, and additional funding information.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Commencement Weekend—May 17-18, 2003

(For details and updates, watch your mail or go to www.stlawu.edu/commence/index.html)



As this graduate and his sister seem to be indicating, Commencement is first and foremost a time for family celebration.

Saturday, May 17

2:00 p.m.

Friends of the Libraries Lecture

3:00 p.m.

Phi Beta Kappa Induction

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

President's Reception for graduates, parents, faculty and trustees
—MacAllaster House (Brush Art Gallery in case of rain)

5:00 p.m.

Commencement Concert:
The Laurentian Singers
—Gulick Theatre

6:00 p.m.

Roman Catholic Mass
—Gunnison Chapel

6:30 p.m.

Senior Class Dinner Dance
—Leithead Field House

This annual event is planned entirely by the senior class, and is a chance to gather with other families for a great dinner and wonderful music. Reservation information will come from the senior class.

Sunday, May 18

8:15 a.m.

Baccalaureate Service of Celebration
—Gunnison Chapel

9:00 a.m.

Seniors begin robing and line-up.
—Quad or (if heavy rain) Appleton Arena

10:00 a.m.

Commencement
—Creasy Commencement Commons or (if heavy rain) Appleton Arena

Noon

All-Campus Reception
—Herring-Cole Grove or (if heavy rain) Leithead Field House

ROTC Commissioning

—Herring-Cole Hall

6:00 p.m.

Residences close

Services

Accessibility: Graduates with family members who require special assistance should contact University communications, 315-229-5585, to make arrangements on special seating and parking. If any graduate has a family member with a hearing impairment, contact 315-229-5585 or lcania@stlawu.edu as soon as possible.

Accommodations: St. Lawrence residence halls will be available for family accommodations and there's always plenty of room. Your St. Lawrence senior will be asked to make reservations for you after Spring Break, so that your family has had time to finalize travel plans. If you wish to reserve rooms at a local establishment, we provide a list of regional motels, inns and bed-and-breakfast venues. To review that list: www.stlawu.edu/accom.html. For a list of area residents who rent rooms or homes to visiting families, contact Sharon Henry at shenry@stlawu.edu.

Announcements: Brewer Bookstore (229-5460) sells graduation announcements during the spring semester.

Caps and Gowns: We do not order regalia individually. Caps and gowns are provided to seniors courtesy of St. Lawrence through Brewer Bookstore.

Dining: Campus dining halls will be open during the weekend and meals will be served on a pay-as-you-go basis. Information on hours and costs will be provided at Commencement time.

Parking: Parents and guests should use the parking facilities on the perimeter of campus and enjoy St. Lawrence's walking campus. No vehicles will be allowed inside the campus perimeter after Friday at 4:00 p.m. The University will provide shuttle service from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. from parking lot E to the Commencement site and from noon to 2:00 p.m. from the Commencement site to Parking Lot E, for those guests who have difficulty walking distances. Parking Lot E will be reserved for families with Special Access Parking passes. Please call 315-229-5555 to arrange a ride.

Photography: The University has engaged Genesee Photo Systems to capture the moment each student receives his or her diploma. Genesee Photo Systems will send proofs to students' home addresses and families may elect to purchase photos directly from this firm. Families are invited to videotape the awarding of degrees from the designated area at the left side of the stage.

Tickets: There are no tickets needed for graduation. Our facilities accommodate all guests.

Videotaping, Webcast and Television Broadcasting: Commencement ceremonies will be broadcast on campus channel 7. Students may program their VCRs to this channel to videotape the ceremonies at no cost. We will broadcast the ceremonies to the Northstar Pub in Noble University Center; those who do not wish to sit outdoors may watch the ceremonies live in this way. We also webcast the ceremony over www.stlawu.edu, with still photos reloaded every few minutes.

Weather: Commencement is held outdoors on the Creasy Commencement Commons, except in case of heavy rain. Check the weather reports to determine appropriate attire. If Commencement is moved to Appleton Arena, local radio stations will broadcast plans beginning at 7 a.m.

Questions? Contact Lisa M. Cania, Associate Vice President for University Relations and Chair, Commencement Committee, lcania@stlawu.edu.

Future Commencement Dates

May 15-16, 2004 • May 14-15, 2005

A Chance to Learn, a Chance to Serve

By Daria Bartolucci P'04

We were pleasantly surprised

when our daughter Nadia selected St. Lawrence University over the large urban university by which she had also been accepted. SLU offered a challenging academic curriculum and competitive athletic programs, and its future looked extraordinarily bright. Above all, though, was St. Lawrence's acceptance of Nadia, now a junior, as an individual. The warmth, hospitality and support systems in all areas of University life lured her (and us) to the North Country.

It was in Nadia's first semester that we were invited to join the Parents Committee, which we were happy to do. Our primary goal is to support St. Lawrence financially; all members of the group agree to pledge leadership support to the Parents Fund (our goal this year is to raise \$525,000), then are asked to help with fundraising, admissions and career planning as we are able. We meet twice a year, on campus, with the goal of learning more about our children's college. It has been a most fulfilling connection, and Nick and I are most pleased that we were asked to help and to learn.

Last fall, during Family Weekend, we couldn't help but observe the changes in the three years during which we have been affiliated with St. Lawrence, and feel significant pride that we played a part, if only a small one, in making them happen. The new field house and fitness center are enviable, and the new student center [see related article] will be as well. Academic initiatives, particularly in environmental areas and global issues, continue to break ground.

As a group, parent donors have played a major role in shaping today's St. Lawrence. In fact, when recent SLU parent giving is compared to that of schools with which we compete for students, ours is off the charts! This is not surprising, perhaps, given the quality of education St. Lawrence provides.

Nadia is in England this semester, studying on St. Lawrence's program there. We are comforted, via her communication with us, that she is in a safe environment with a wonderful homestay family and St. Lawrence representatives who are keeping sharp focus on political events and most especially on the safety of all SLU students. This close attention, as well as being a part of a community that continues to grow in positive directions, both physically and academically, confirms our original feeling, that St. Lawrence is the perfect match for our city kid—and that is a good feeling.

Whether school is in session or not, members of the Parents Committee are kept up to date on campus happenings through regular e-mails from Brad Catling, secretary to the Parents Committee. That too is a good feeling.

I hope you will consider joining the Parents Committee, if you are able. We have found it enjoyable, educational and gratifying. If you would like to learn more, you can look over the SLU Parents' Web site, <http://www.stlawu.edu/alumni/parents/parentspage.htm>, or call Brad Catling at 315-229-5915.

The Bartolucci family are residents of Boston, Mass.

CALENDAR:

Spring, Summerterm and Fall 2003

Spring

May

- 2 Friday, Classes end
- 5-10 Monday-Friday, Final examinations
- 18 Sunday, Commencement

Summerterm

May

- 28 Wednesday, Undergraduate Session I begins

June

- 28 Saturday, Undergraduate Session I ends
- 30 Monday, Undergraduate Session II and Graduate Session I begin

July

- 18 Friday, Graduate Session I ends
- 21 Monday, Graduate Session II begins

August

- 1 Friday, Undergraduate Session II ends
- 8 Friday, Graduate Session II ends

Fall

August

- 25 Monday, New student orientation begins
- 28 Thursday, Classes begin

September

- 5 Friday, Last day to add a course; last day to drop a course without petition or payment; no refund for course changes after this date

26-28 Friday-Sunday, Family Weekend

October

- 16-17 Thursday-Friday, Midsemester Break*
- 20 Monday, Midterm grades due

November

- 7 Friday, Last day to file a petition to withdraw from a semester course
- 21-30 Friday at 5 p.m.–Sunday, Thanksgiving Recess*

December

- 1 Monday, Classes resume
- 12 Friday, Classes end
- 15-19 Monday-Friday, Final examinations

This calendar is subject to revision by the University.

**Residences are open and meals are available during midsemester break; residences and meals are not available during Thanksgiving recess and spring break.*