Renovation to begin on Sports Complex

The computerized version of the sports complex's floor plan displays the planned renovations.

"Extreme makeover Aquinas edition": which is expected to complete its present building's square footage. This two building phases in 22 months that boasts more than three times the current facilities in a facility that simultaneously - we could be building a mathematically precise game while others are in the fitness center and others are running on the track, with interspersed football going on, built into more econimizations in scheduling these things. That is why this renovation is necessary," he said.

Construction was originally scheduled to begin in May of 2010 but due to low building costs and available supplies, the college will be saving money by starting to build on what was initially not planned to be there. Assistant said, "Several major gifts of over $1 million dollars or more have been accumulated in the last year, which will allow us to begin construction.

"We have a history of saying we are going to take off again, and we're not, we want it to go forward. Our decision is to prevent substance abuse. There are several new initiatives to this project, yet because of various financial and logistic reasons, both attempts were unsuccessul. This time, however, Residence Hall said there would be no more attempts to ignore this policy.

The athletic offices have been moved into the Brown Center, and can be accessed from the south side of the building. The facility itself was designed for all basketball and volleyball games to be played at Grand Rapids Community College and Centre Hall.

"The team that worked on the new athletic program will be working on developing a new, holistic alcohol policy that would take effect over the summer. The Alcohol Policy was implemented last year, and is now the official policy of both drugs and alcohol on the Aquinas College Campus.

The policy had been a project for nearly two years. A collaboration of Bowes Area Coordinator Terry Keller, and Dean of Students Patrick Chase brought forth the new policy.

The team worked on the new undergraduate alcohol and drug policy that would give our students the supportive behavioral skills and knowledge they need to monitor their own drinking and have developed a non-judgmental program that educates, informs, and supports," said Dr. Chase.

In a presentation to the 2007-2010 Orientation Leaders and Resident Assistants, Terry Keller and Campus Safety Officer Mark McLean explained the changes in the policy.

"We looked at Grand Valley State University's policy and we researched our own policy and saw what we were doing in other schools, and Mr. Keller and McLean continued to break down the changes in the policy for the students.

"For the first offender, if you are caught in the possession of alcohol or drugs, you will be sent home for a 10-day intervention and will have to call a family member to access their support. For second offenders, you will be required to meet with Canvas and Counseling for an understandling of number of sessions. They could also be assigned to community service, receive residential probation, or be required to sign a behavioral contract. Third offenders could be removed from campus if they live on-campus, and fourth offenders could be removed from campus for either a 30-day intervention if they live off-campus.

Even though binge drinking rates vary by college, most college administrators agree that binge drinking is the most serious behavioral problem on campus, she said.  

"It has only been recently that we have quantified the impact of alcohol on dropout rates, accidents, death rates and arrest rates, and we now know that frequent binge drinkers are 21 times more likely than non-binge drinkers to struggle academically and have depression and anxiety," she said.

"However, one thing that is clear is that students believe that the changes are necessary. They are having a difficult time grasping the idea that their parents will receive a letter about their standing.

An Aquinas student said, "I think if you are under 21 it is a good idea to have the policy changed. I think they should be able to make their own decision."  

For more information about their during the college Alcohol Policy, visit your Residential Assistant, your Area Coordinator, or the Provost Office. 

Don’t feed the squirrels

Orientation provides new perspective and old memories

Staff writer Doug Series discusses the controversy over the shrine area.

Welcome back to Saint Aquinas Column!

Of course, I know you have been busy this summer. I was, too. From July 1st until the day before yesterday, my friends and I had moved to the college campus to work. It was a hard job. We had to take care of the weed and trees and keep the place clean.

On the second day of the new year, however, I was feeling a bit more relaxed. I was ready to get back to school. I was excited to see my friends and all the new students.

I'll know that getting to Campus Safety will be very easy again. I'll know that getting to class will be easy again.

Yes, I am no longer a freshman, and that is something I never thought I would be. I am no longer a student of the college, but I do not know that the college is a part of my life and the college is a part of my life.

But all those things are true, and I am feeling a bit better about the future of the next year. I am not going to rush into things this year while it lasts and don't rush into things. I will ride the train of the future and be forward to the same thing next year.
Film: Inglourious Basterds offers to race reviews
Guests Terrence's latest masterpiece circles around a Jewish, Nazi-hunting, terror-utilizing WWII military unit known as "The Basterds." Critics and viewers alike have praised the film for its intensity and humor.

Theater: Rent auditions come to Grand Valley
Master Pave, actor in the original Broadway production of Rent, will be producing the musical at Grand Valley using local actors and actresses. Auditions will take place September 10-12, and can be scheduled by calling 616-331-2390.

Books: The Very Hungry Caterpillar turns 40, author turns 80
Eric Carle's most famous story has become a kindergarden classic. August 30 marks the 40th anniversary of the book's publication. Carle, the author, turned 80 on June 23.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Stefanie Loper
Talulah writer Stephanie Merick-Lesher publishes a plagiarism lawsuit from fellow author Ford Scudder, demanding Scudder remove his key points from his online novel to create Bound Dark. Merick-Lesher says that Scudder should be punished for the series, regardless if changes hold up in court.

Mute Math breaks new ground

By Becca Kirk
Staff Writer
T he Grammy-nominated Mute Math performs on their first tour in 2009 with David Crowder, in the summer of 2009 at Cometsound Music Festival, and then in the fall on their "The Music is Too Loud" Music Festival, and then in the fall on their "The Music is Too Loud"

Get into the swing of things

Contemporary writers come to AQ

By Matt Kuczyski
Arts and Entertainment Editor
F eatures of books are sure to find an author they will like in the 2009 season of Aquinas College Writers Series. The series, which has been an annual program since 1997, has welcomed their current crop of contemporary writers that have given workshops and public readings in the past. Among the writers are Stephenie Meyer, who recently attended the annual NAACP convention. She has released the last two books in the Twilight series of the popular women's genre. Joan Didion was also a Fall Festival favorite for her novel "A Place in the World."
What's in a name? More than you

By Greg Salter
Staff Writer

If you should find yourself asking around for a good place to eat, you might try Frattie or read a good book, many people would tell you to go check out "Touchdown Mary" at the center of campus. Like the Aquinas college basketball team, Touchdown Mary is a large green area on-campus that is always a topic of conversation among the student body. Our Lady. But you may not be able to call it that anymore. For the college has been pushing to name this area as "Holmdene Lawn," named after our Lady, St. Mary of the Assumption. That is a place too laced with your time with the sun and rain together. Touchdown Mary is a part of all of us that have gone to school and continue to help Aquinas.

Part of the reason for the switch is Holmdene Lawn is in the area a common name and ease connection. But as someone who used to lay there in the sun and read a good book, I knew that Touchdown Mary was the name that made more sense. Have you ever missed a class, not had a friend to retrieve your assignment for you, and consequently had to walk imperiously for a return email from your professor, which usually zooms about 20 minutes before class? Well, as long as you are familiar with a classmate's name, you are easily able to find that individual as they are frolicking about within thirty minutes or so. There are some other options such as Facebook, allowing us to find the person we want to meet and information to inform their friends instantly on new changes in their life.

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Volleyball

The Men’s volleyball team has a new coach this season in Tim O’Leary. The Saints open play this season against the Avila University Saints at 7:30 PM on Friday, August 7th at the Calvin Sports Center.

Hockey

The Saints Women’s hockey team will be led by Mandy VanderMeer. The team opens their season against the Grand Valley Golden Grizzlies on Friday, September 11th at 7:30 PM.

SOCCER

The Men’s soccer team is returning from last year’s season with many of the same players. The Men’s team is returning three to four starters and six upperclassmen on the team, which will make the team very experienced. The team returns upperclassman Sam Parkinson, who was one of Calvin’s leading scorers last season.

The Women’s team is returning all but one player from last year’s team. The team is returning three to four starters and six upperclassmen on the team, which will make the team very experienced. The team returns upperclassman Sam Parkinson, who was one of Calvin’s leading scorers last season.

Soccer

The Men’s soccer team will look to build on that success next year as they move into the 2010 season. The team returns a number of valuable starters including Senior midfielder/two way defender Cory Zick, Senior forward/two way defender Matthew Miller, Van and Robert in the midfield and Junior forward/two way defender Pall. These players bring back a lot of talent and experience along with the return of the top two scorers from last year. This will enable the team to be a lot stronger this season.

The Women’s soccer team will look to build on their late success. You can see the improvement this year that will pay off in the future. The Women’s team is returning all but one player from last year’s team. The team is returning three to four starters and six upperclassmen on the team, which will make the team very experienced. The team returns upperclassman Sam Parkinson, who was one of Calvin’s leading scorers last season.

Tennis

The Men’s tennis team returns from last year’s season with many of the same players. The Men’s team is returning three to four starters and six upperclassmen on the team, which will make the team very experienced. The team returns upperclassman Sam Parkinson, who was one of Calvin’s leading scorers last season.

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