Campus Message from President England  
October 6, 2010

Two weeks ago Regis College experienced a great challenge - an incident of violence that was totally heartbreaking for the family of Elhadji Ndiaye, age 18, of Waltham, who died of a stabbing wound in the Angela Hall parking lot. He was not a Regis student; nor is the young man accused of the murder. But the incident deeply shocked all of us and all who know Regis.

I want to commend the personnel of this College, note the maturity of student leaders in the wake of this tragedy, and share with you photographs that show how the student body has been moving through the event with a lot of support from faculty and staff. I am very proud of all of you and very proud of our students.

Virtually everyone has been engaged in the process of reflection and recovery. High praise is in order for the resident director and resident assistants of Angela Hall, for the members of Campus Police, and for the whole Student Affairs team. With them, members of the Administrative Council immediately responded when I called them at 4:15 a.m. on September 24 and have essentially been on the front lines of responding and on duty throughout the past two weeks, weekends included, in their various areas of responsibility. Numerous Regis College staff and faculty showed up early and stayed late that Friday, even though classes had been cancelled, and they have been faithfully helping students process the impact of this tragedy. Board Chair Ellen O’Connor ’67, arrived by 9 a.m. and spent the whole day with us. Aramark had the wonderful idea to serve breakfast and lunch in College Hall Foyer that day, and Housekeeping immediately set the scene to accommodate everyone. Faculty, staff, students, resident Sisters and police officers felt the spirit of unity in that wonderful space, the original campus community room, and again in the FAC when the campus gathered there at 9 a.m. Let us keep that spirit; it is one of our great strengths.

Everyone has quietly rallied to keep the campus going, reach out to students, understand what had happened, and sustain the good relational spirit of this new semester despite the shock and sorrow affecting us. The highly professional and supportive interaction of Chief Sean Maher and the Regis Campus Police with Weston Police, State Police, the Wellesley College Campus Police and the Middlesex County District Attorney’s Office must be specially credited, and I am also personally grateful to the faculty members who have stopped by my office or e-mailed me offering to help.

Since September 24, Student Affairs deans, staff and campus ministers have been working non-stop to guide the College’s response in student life. Academic deans have been working with their faculties, consolidating ways to go forward with discussion, scheduling, and support. As the week unfolded, trauma counselor Bruce Cedar continued meetings with students and also met with AC and the faculty to advise us on what to expect among student reactions and in our own feelings and thoughts.

Regis is a peaceful place with zero tolerance for violence or any behavior that places the safety of the community at risk, and we have all been absorbing the significance
of this incident and responding with an assertion of our core values. This community has worked hard to restore normalcy to the campus.

Two weeks into campus recovery, we are also sensitive to the fact that different constituent groups in our community, including different student groups, have different needs, different rhythms of assimilating and processing what happened. Today, many students want to move on and fully resume their college lives. They don’t want to talk about what happened anymore, not now, but need to absorb it. We respect this instinct.

At the same time I say to students, you may want to talk more about it later, and we are available to help you both move forward and process the significance of this incident in the coming months. We should all be prepared that, in the coming weeks and months, there will be a trial that will, once again, evoke memories and concerns by repeating the story of this incident in the press and in the courtroom.

My administrative team continues to assess what we may need in community awareness development and in campus security and to implement modifications as we move forward. I shall keep you informed.

Yes, at heart Regis is a peaceful and peacemaking place. More importantly, Regis is a loving community. That has come through with clarity, most especially in our traditional Founders’ Day celebration, Hoop Rolling, Cap and Gown, and the games of Homecoming, as the following photographs will illustrate.

Thank you all. Let us continue to fulfill our mission of higher education with awareness, sensitivity and a strong sense of purpose.

Mary Jane England ’59, MD
President
On the morning of Thursday, September 29, 2010, the Regis College Community celebrated Founders’ Day in honor of the arrival in Boston of the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1873. All alums know that the official date, October 2, is also the Feast of the Angel Guardians, and generations have entered College Hall through “the AG door” across from the library. There, a prayerful Angel Guardian still watches over Regis students and all of us.

By all reports the Founders’ Day gathering was spirited and students well spoken as they told their experiences in realizing and applying the values of the Sisters of St. Joseph to their lives and actions. Here are the student speakers in the photograph below, left to right: Shannon Tonelli, ’10, Nathan Fagundo,’12, Victoria Pappas, ’12, Emily Melo, ‘12, Jonathan Josselin ’12, Kandely Val ‘12

Photos are by Heather Ciras of the Institutional Advancement staff.

Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs, Sarah Barrett coordinated the event and was fired up with enthusiasm. The news came in during the program that someone had been arrested for the murder, and Father Paul Kilroy of Campus Ministry delivered the message to student applause. Students were claiming this campus and its peace as their own.
In the photo at the left, Emily Melo is holding the microphone, and (L-R) standing are Shannon, Nathan, Victoria, Jonathan and Kandely.

The audience was highly responsive and signaled its affirmation of the personal narratives students presented.
That evening the College celebrated Hoop Rolling indoors (because of the rain). Students were not daunted by the change of location to the FAC Atrium.

The FAC Atrium was able to accommodate the hoops, and some Regis men participated in the tradition as well as Regis women. Many parents were on hand for the celebration, too.

The traditional Cap and Gown ceremony with the senior class and their families followed later on Thursday evening. Parents were visibly impressed by the accomplishments of their daughters/sons. Next stop: Graduation 2011!

Faculty members chosen by the seniors invested the Class of 2011 in their new caps and academic robes. On the left, senior class vice-president Liz Lawlor smiles at her parents in the audience after being invested with her cap and gown by Professor Florio. Above, you can see some of the faculty watching the hoop rolling.
Below you should be able to pick out Professors Mary Smalarz, Mary Lombard, Jim Lane, Kathy Kautzer, Raffaele Florio and Mark Clemente. Sister Rosemary was coordinating the event, and Father Paul Kilroy climbed a ladder to illustrate the steps of accomplishment the seniors had taken and to encourage them to give a hand to the classes coming along belong them. Pastor Adrienne Berry-Burton engaged the whole audience in giving a blessing to the seniors.

Throughout the week of September 27-October 2, Regis College Homecoming went ahead with a lot of verve. Student athletic teams had various games, as the photos below will show. And the weather for THE day, October 2, was perfect. A number of trustees and parents joined us for the celebration, and Regis student athletes were in great form.
Here one of the Regis women’s teams gets ready for its game on October 2.

Photos of the games by Brad Moore.

Regis women’s field hockey at work...

And women’s soccer...
Men’s soccer...

and the mascots of the Pride:

Go Regis!