



Our Future Spiritual Spaces

December 18, 2024

Dear Students, Colleagues, and Friends:

I am pleased to share with you our plans to further the purpose of the Salameno Spiritual Center and rejuvenate the surrounding areas along Kameron Pond and the Padovano Commons.

The Center opened its doors in 2011, following the generous support of several donors. For several years, it served as a space our students could visit to step back from the pressures and stressors of their day to reflect and restore. The Center hosted religious services, spiritual and contemplative gatherings, instruction, and private ceremonies. Further, and in keeping with our mission and the Center's founding, it served as "a meeting place for dialogue on values, meaning, and interfaith concerns."

Unfortunately, in recent years, despite our efforts to steward and repair the three buildings of the Center, water infiltration, decay, and other safety issues have made the structures uninhabitable and sadly unrepairable. In light of these issues, in 2017, the College established a temporary indoor spiritual space on campus in the H-Wing, which our students continue to use. After careful assessment and consideration, we will be dismantling the existing Center structures and [rejuvenating the outdoor area](#) in such a way that fulfills the Center's original intent of supporting the religious, spiritual, and well-being needs of our students and campus community.

Maintaining spaces where all members of the College can find solace in nature and opportunities for reflection advances our mission. Rev. Dr. Vernon Walton, former Chair of our Board of Trustees, early on articulated the vision of the Center as a place "where joy can be celebrated, where our hearts can be healed, and where love can be shared"—we remain committed to this vision. We will honor the natural beauty along the edge of Kameron Pond, repurpose some components of the Center and Padovano Peace Pavilion, and better link the area to the nearby Padovano Commons. In place of the Center's largest building, our plans include a gazebo-like structure that will allow for open-air views on every side. In addition, outdoor seating and gathering areas will replace the McBride and Marino Meditation Pods. During this work, the Center's temporary indoor home in H-Wing will continue to be available for use. Further, thanks to a grant from the State of New Jersey, the significant renovation and repurposing of [Linden Hall](#) will soon kick off, which will enable Ramapo to eventually move and expand the indoor Center to a more student-facing location near the rejuvenated outdoor space.

Best wishes on finals. I look forward to welcoming these changes alongside you in the new year and wish you a warm and restful winter break.

Sincerely,

Cindy R. Jebb
President

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- This message was sent by or on behalf of: Cindy R. Jebb, President, [Ramapo College of New Jersey](#)
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