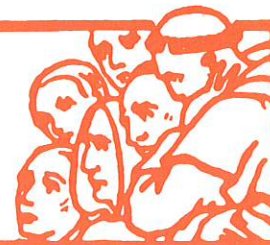




Thomas Aquinas College NEWSLETTER

FALL 1979

10000 N. Ojai Rd., Santa Paula, California 93060



LIBRARY EXPANSION UNDERWAY

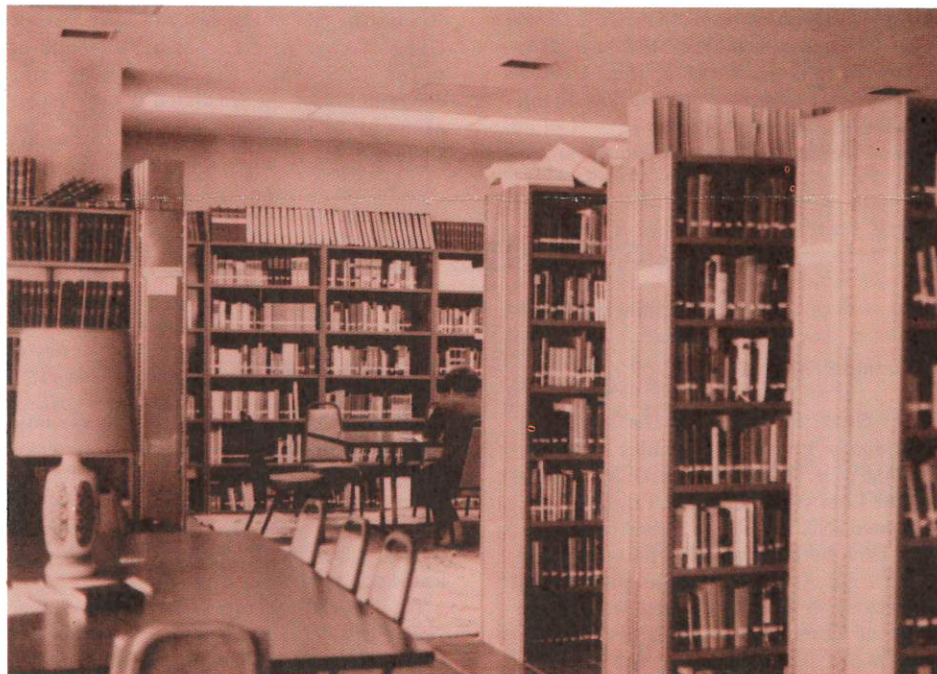
The Thomas Aquinas College library was greatly contracted during the move last year to the new campus. It suffered from lack of space, and much of the collection had to be put in storage. The completion of St. Joseph Commons has changed all that.

In the current year the library has come to life again in much larger quarters (1,534 square feet) in the Commons. Two glass-walled rooms house a collection of 11,000 volumes, chosen with the educational purposes of the College curriculum in mind.

In support of the curriculum, the library holdings provide the students with material for Junior papers and Senior theses, the only independent research in the program. It also is a quiet place for study and recreational reading. The library's collection of recordings is available in the student lounge adjacent to the library reading room.

The most important holdings are good translations and original language editions of works studied in the program, together with commentaries on them. Next come the other works of these same authors and related authors even if not studied in the program.

The library boasts an extensive collection in philosophy and in the theological tradition of the Catholic Church.



The library reading room opens directly onto the tiled walkway connecting it to the reference room, lounge, classroom, and bookstore in the east wing of St. Joseph Commons.



Mrs. Viltis Jatulis (M.L.S., Rosary College, Chicago) has built the library collection since the founding of Thomas Aquinas College. Her new assistant (seated) is Mrs. Lynda McLean, a graduate of Mills College, Oakland.

NEW ACQUISITIONS SOUGHT

The following list is a guideline to the type of books we still could use in our library:

Latin or Greek classics and grammars in English and in the original language; e.g., Virgil, Cicero, Demosthenes, Sophocles, Euripides, Catullus, Horace, Livy, Plautus, Aristophanes, Aristotle, Plato, etc.

Shakespeare, or any other of the English and American classics.

Any of the French, German, Russian and other classics.

Anything of C.S. Lewis, George MacDonald, J.R.R. Tolkien, C. Dawson, G.K. Chesterton, H. Belloc, Cardinal Newman, Evelyn Waugh, R. Knox.

Any Fathers of the Church - especially St. Augustine, Boethius, Cyril, Clement, St. Ambrose - in translation or in Latin or Greek, St. John of Damascus, St. Athanasius.

Anything of the great Doctors -- St. Bonaventure, St. Albert, Canisius, St. Thomas, Bellarmine, etc.

Any works by St. Thomas Aquinas and good commentaries about him.

We need desperately *St. Thomas Aquinas' Commentary on Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics*, vol. 1 and 2 in English as well as *St. Thomas Aquinas' Commentary on Aristotle's Physics* in English.

Some works in Fine Arts: painting, sculpture, music.

Seminal works (not textbooks) in history, economics, political science, psychology, law, physics, chemistry, biology, optics, electromagnetics, mathematics.

Periodical subscriptions, including scholarly journals and mass-circulation magazines.

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STUDENT PROFILE

This year, the second at the permanent campus, opened with 115 students, fifty-nine women and fifty-six men.

Students here represent twenty-four states, from Alaska to Florida, Maine to California. Canada is represented by twelve students from British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario.

One student, freshman Gordianus Nwozor, comes from Southern Nigeria. Originally accepted for admission in 1977, Mr. Nwozor encountered so much resistance and red tape from the Nigerian government and the American consulate that his enrollment was delayed until this fall.

Despite the many sacrifices he had to make, Gordianus believes, "the education I'll have here is much better than I could hope for at a Nigerian university, being educated in a technical specialty."

In the freshman class as a whole, sixty-

seven percent come directly from high school, while the remainder have previously attended other colleges or universities. Damien Gallop, for example, received his Bachelor of Science in Physics in 1976 from the University of Manitoba, and now begins the Thomas Aquinas program as a freshman. He says that the solid education in the Catholic tradition provides the most important reason for studying here.

As is true of forty percent of the freshmen, Mr. Gallop first considered Aquinas because another member of the family had attended the College. This fact partly accounts for the ease with which the class fit in with the rest of the student body. Senior Greg Becher of Lancaster, Wisconsin, notes also that "the enthusiasm and congeniality of the freshmen is very much attuned to the academic spirit of the College."

ADMISSIONS REPORT

The quality of the student body should remain outstanding in the coming year as well. Admissions Director Thomas Susanka reports that some 350 inquiries had been received by mid-December. Actual applications submitted leave space available now; but, considering the number of requests for information, the class (51 maximum) could fill quickly.

Mr. Susanka has visited prospective students in California and the Pacific Northwest. Mr. Dennis Koller has taken time from his development efforts to visit students in Illinois, Texas, and Florida.

Campus visitors have come from as far away as New York, Minnesota, and Idaho, as well as the Pacific Coast.

This level of interest will help the College maintain the highest academic and moral standards for which it was founded.

FALL LECTURES MEMORABLE FOR QUALITY, VARIETY

Dr. Ronald P. McArthur

The first lecture of the year is traditionally given by a faculty member. This year, Dr. Ronald P. McArthur spoke on "The Lost World of Liberal Education." He argued that there is no liberal education in our time because we have no concept of leisure time. Instead of a contemplative understanding of a God-given world, our world of constant work and frenetic amusements seeks to remake the world in our own image.

Dr. McArthur traced this refusal of the given to sloth, "a kind of spiritual sadness at the good in us." He compared our state to that of the fallen angels who, seeing the good with unimpeded clarity yet chose to turn away toward their own private good; thus, they consumed and lost what, left as a good common to all, is inexhaustible.

Dr. George Tennyson

Second in the series was a poetry reading with commentary by Professor George Tennyson of UCLA. "Tennyson Reads Tennyson" has been a popular presentation for several years. Dr. McArthur, among others, considers Professor Tennyson the finest poetry reader he has heard.

This year's readings followed the theme "Well-kept secrets: Christian poetry in the 20th Century." Dr. Tennyson took the opportunity to concentrate on some lesser-known poets worthy of recognition.

Dr. Donald Scholz

Dr. Scholz of Benedictine College, Kansas, discussed Aristotle's definition of continuous quantity in light of Euclid's definitions of line, point, and angle. The lecture prompted the longest question and answer session of the semester, lasting until after midnight.

Dr. Ronda Chervin

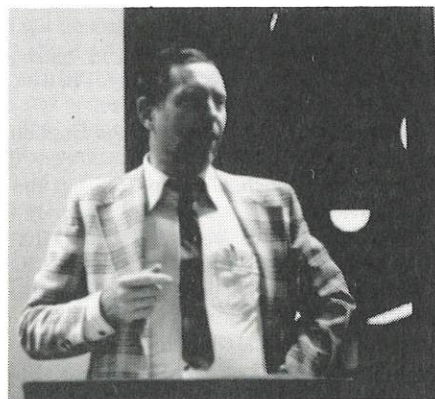


"A Christian Philosophy of Woman" was detailed by Dr. Ronda Chervin of Loyola-Marymount University. By presenting "images" of woman with varying family, professional and personal characteristics, Dr. Chervin illustrated the difference between those lives which were distinctly Christian as opposed to those founded on some other principle. Among those other principles, she outlined the hedonistic, based on self-love; the autonomous (women's liberation), based on separation from others; the statist, based on productive capacity. The Christian principle by contrast is happily dependent upon love of God, family, and neighbor.

NEW ACQUISITIONS...

Other Library and Commons items needed include:

- A new *Encyclopedia Britannica*
- The *Dictionary of Scientific Biography* (14 volumes)
- Cassette players and recorders, record turntable, and headphones, quality recordings (music and drama)
- Record and cassette storage cabinets
- Study carrels, periodical and new book display shelves
- A color television set
- A concert grand piano
- A cassette dictaphone



Friends of the College are welcome to attend the lectures. Call (805) 525-4417 for information.

NEW BOOK FEATURES COLLEGE FOUNDERS

Dr. Ronald P. McArthur and tutor Marcus Berquist are prominent interlocutors in *Three Dialogues on Liberal Education*, just released by St. John's Press (Annapolis).

Based on three days conversation at St. John's Santa Fe campus in April, 1977, the dialogues consider the most serious curricula to emerge from the "great books" movements at Columbia and Chicago in the period between the World Wars. Represented were the programs of St. John's, St. Mary's of California (Integral Liberal Arts), U.C. Berkeley (philosophy department), Notre Dame (General Program of Liberal Studies), and Thomas Aquinas College.

The book's introduction categorically states, "these programs continue to provide both in educational philosophy and practice the only serious alternative to the chaos of elective proliferation which has all but suffocated liberal education in America."

As should be expected, the Thomas Aquinas College Program is distinguished in fact, as well as in these dialogues, by its insistence on the centrality and pre-eminence of philosophy and theology in relation to the rest of the program.

Copies of *Three Dialogues on Liberal Education* may be obtained from Thomas Aquinas College or directly from the St. John's College bookstore, Annapolis, Maryland 21404.

The discussions were funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

LAURENCE SHIELDS — PROFILE OF A THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE TUTOR

This June, Mr. Larry Shields completes his eighth year as a Thomas Aquinas College Tutor.

Mr. Shields began his undergraduate studies at St. Mary's College of California in the fall of 1962. During his freshman year there, he was attracted to its Integral Liberal Arts program which he transferred into his sophomore year. In 1966, he received his B.A. degree in Liberal Arts, and, in virtue of taking extra courses in mathematics, he also received a degree in mathematics at the same time. It was during these years at St. Mary's College that he resolved to prepare himself to teach in a "great books" program like that of the Integral Liberal Arts program to which he had been initiated.

"I had begun to see the real excellence and importance of the type of liberal studies to which I had been led, and I became desirous of pursuing them more intensively and of working with others to do the same. I was particularly anxious, as a result of our reading and discussion of the works of Galileo and Newton in the program, to study the sciences and their foundations more fully."

EVANS ADDRESSES CHICAGO COUNCIL

Syndicated Columnist, M. Stanton Evans, spoke at the organizational dinner of the Chicago Chapter of the Thomas Aquinas College President's Council. President Ronald P. McArthur also addressed council members and their guests.

This inaugural event took place Wednesday evening December 5th at the Cliff Dwellers Club under the chairmanship of Board members Francis Milligan and William Isaacson.

The President's Council nationally is in its second year. With a current membership nearing seventy, this year's goal is one hundred members and the formation of two new chapters. Members pledge annual gifts of \$1,000 or more, which sustains the scholarship and operating budget of the College.

Mr. Evans featured the College in his syndicated column last year in an article entitled "College Teaches Art of Thinking." He described the College as "unblushingly Christian where Christian ideas are promoted and studied, and where the rampant secularism of the age is openly combated."

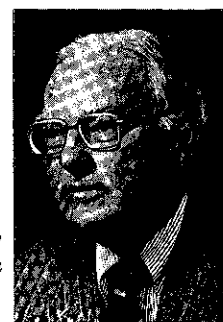
"To this end", he wrote, "all students attending Thomas Aquinas College pursue a curriculum organized around the great books concept, reading Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, St. Augustine, St. Thomas, Newton, Adam Smith, and other major figures, in full expectation that they will be held accountable for understanding what they read."

Accordingly, upon graduation he enrolled in Princeton University's doctoral program in the History and Philosophy of Science. Mr. Shields studied physical and biological sciences in that program for four years, passed his comprehensive examinations, and began the writing of his doctoral thesis.

In 1970, while yet residing in Princeton with his expanding family, Mr. Shields accepted a position as an Instructor in the History of Science at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. During his second year there he was asked to join the faculty of Thomas Aquinas College "which was," he said, "just getting under way on the other side of the country in an unlikely place called 'Calabasas'."

At that same time the New Jersey Institute of Technology was itself laying plans to open a master's degree program in the History of Science, which Mr. Shields was helping to organize. A choice had to be made. Thomas Aquinas College was brand new and struggling, naive and small in the academic world's eyes, and especially subject at that time to financial extinction. Yet still it offered the kind of education that prepared people to think well about religious, moral, and intellectual matters.

KIRBY JOINS BOARD



Patrick James Kirby
Pasadena, California

The Board of Governors welcomed Pasadena attorney Patrick James Kirby at their October meeting in Los Angeles.

A graduate of the University of Southern California, Mr. Kirby was admitted to the bar of the State of California in 1937, the bar of U.S. Supreme Court in 1956, and the bar of New Mexico in 1974. He has been Chairman of the Los Angeles Bar Association Committee on Oil and Gas Law, and a member of the State Bar of California Committee on Adoptions.

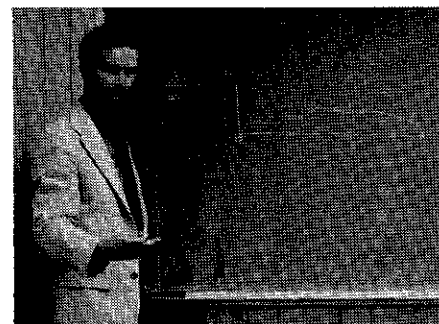
During World War II, he served in the Military Intelligence Service. He is a member of the American Legion and is on the National Advisory Council of the Americanism Educational League.

He and his wife Betty have been active in numerous charitable and civic organizations including the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Girls Club of Pasadena, and the Catholic Welfare Bureau.

Mr. Kirby was one of the first supporters of the College and a founding member of the Thomas Aquinas College Board of Visitors. Last year, he participated in the Campus Lecture Series, speaking on the topic "The Courts Redefine Religion."

After prayer, deliberation, talks with his wife and respected friends, and more prayers, Mr. Shields decided to make the move to Thomas Aquinas College—a decision which, when the actual day came to make it, he found surprisingly easy. "My being at the College," he says, "brought many blessings of lasting value right away to me and my family and we felt, even then, that were the College to close after two years that it still would have been worth coming."

Since coming to the College he has taught Mathematics and Science, as well as Theology, Philosophy, and Seminar at various levels.





Newly restored by sophomore Ellen George of Ojai, California, is this four foot Italian-made statue of St. Thomas Aquinas. It was donated to the College by Father David O'Rourke, O.P., Pastor of St. Mary Magdalen parish, Berkeley, California.

Independence Fund

COLLEGE RECEIVES MAJOR GRANT

Thomas Aquinas College, Santa Paula, California has been awarded a \$275,000 grant from the Roselynn Company Foundation of Los Angeles. College President Ronald P. McArthur accepted the grant from Mr. Fritz Baumgarten, administrator of the foundation. The grant, given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Foristall, will be applied to the Thomas Aquinas College Independence Fund, a 16 million dollar campaign to provide operating and scholarship funds and build the first nine permanent buildings on the College's developing campus.

Dr. McArthur, in accepting the grant, stated, "This gift has come to the College at a particularly important time. It has helped make possible the College's establishment on its own campus and the continuation of its work of Catholic liberal education. We have every expectation that the College will continue to grow toward genuine permanence and independence."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A year ago our campus site looked like the first increment of a new Army installation; today it looks like the rather auspicious beginning of a very beautiful campus. The transition, though quite striking, is due to a relatively few factors—the new building, the paths around it, and the newly planted grass which covers almost the whole site.

All this, important for the whole community, is yet secondary to the excellent freshman class, and the continued effort of everyone here—faculty and students alike. The faculty is now, given our new additions to it, the best it has ever been, and we can look forward to an even more competent implementation of our curriculum.

While our expenses, given inflation and the needs of the College, continue to mount, we are yet better and better supported so that we can meet our obligations—all of which makes possible the very existence of the College.

We are (more good news) becoming better and better known throughout the country, and, given that more colleges and universities are now concerned with reversing the trends towards electives and specialization, we are looked upon with some approbation.

It would be nice to say that the future of American education lies in our direction, but even though there will be anquished crisis within the faculties of our institutions, little will be done to present our students with the greatest books and the wisest minds. Only a small college, solely dedicated to that task, can, in the face of all the opposition, maintain this kind of education.

Your support, then, has not only enabled us to start and maintain a college, but has provided that place where "the habitual vision of greatness," without which there can be no high civilizations, is held up for the vision of all who care to see.

You have not only our thanks, but the thanks of all who do see.

—Ronald P. McArthur

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL CHAPTERS MEET MONSIGNOR KELLY

Monsignor George A. Kelly, author of the bestselling *Battle for the American Church* spoke to the Thomas Aquinas College President's Council on January 9, 1980, at the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles. A press conference preceded the afternoon reception.

On January 11, Monsignor was the guest of honor at the annual dinner of the Ventura County Chapter of the President's Council. Monsignor Kelly is a prominent spokesman for the traditional mainstream of the Catholic Church. He devotes a chapter of his book, for example, to counter attacking the controversial opinions of Hans Küng, the German modernist recently ordered by Vatican authorities to stop teaching non-Catholic positions while calling himself a Catholic theologian.

Holding a Ph.D. in Social Sciences from Catholic University, Monsignor Kelly also develops his highly publicized views on birth control, marriage for priests, and Catholic education. This is his direct connection to Thomas Aquinas College, founded in 1971 as a challenge to deteriorating Catholicity in higher education and a fulfillment of the great Catholic intellectual tradition.

As a Professor of Contemporary Catholic Problems and Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Catholic Doctrine (St. John's, New York City), Monsignor Kelly has a uniquely qualified perspective on the issues which have divided the Church in America. A number of Thomas Aquinas College graduates have completed their master's degrees at the Institute or are currently studying there.

LANDSCAPING CONTRIBUTIONS GO TO WORK

Since mid-August, a landscaping crew has been grading, clearing, installing sprinklers, planting trees, and seeding lawns. Most of the current phase of the work is complete and the campus appearance has been greatly enhanced.

Eighteen months ago, the site was still an open pasture; a year ago, students and staff were walking on makeshift gravel pathways bordered by mud; just last summer, though the Commons was finished, its setting was dry and dusty. With this perspective, it is easier to see the importance of this landscaping project. The landscaping fund drive secured the money to accomplish this needed work now rather than postponing it indefinitely.

Mr. Dennis Koller, Assistant to the President, commented that "the students never complained, never despaired. They deserved something better and many gifts have made it possible."

Mr. Koller pointed out that the number of active contributors to the College has almost doubled in the past year. These regular planned donations, as well as special gifts for specific projects, are essential to the continuation and moderate growth of Thomas Aquinas College.