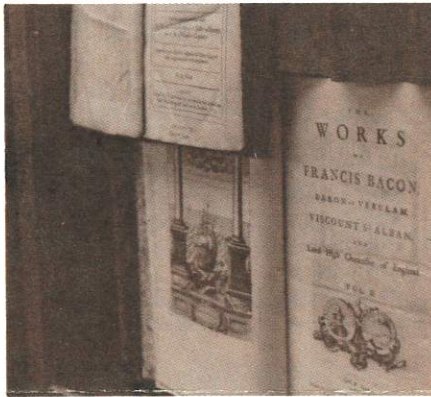
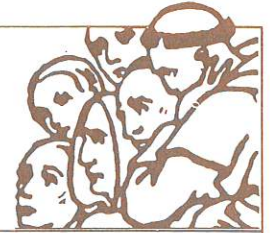




# Thomas Aquinas College NEWSLETTER

FALL-WINTER 1980 - 1981

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



## IMAGES AND ISSUES OF THE COLLEGE SEMINAR

Tutor Richard Ferrier is a graduate of St. John's College, Annapolis. He received his doctorate in the History of Science from the University of Indiana. In this article, he describes the "Seminar" and its place in the College curriculum.

As a tutor I am called on to give an account of the Thomas Aquinas College curriculum. Nothing I can say can convey a full, three dimensional picture of the intellectual life as lived through the orderly progression the curriculum lays out. And yet, with a few words of explanation, I can tolerably outline, in shadow, as it were, the shape and sequence of our tutorials. In them, the students, under the watchful guidance of the tutor, learn from the masters of our tradition those venerable arts and sciences recognizable to all: grammar, logic, geometry, physics, theology, and all the rest.

But what of the "Seminar"? What is its subject, and what do we do there? Here I can give no ready answer--no familiar subject title, like theology, no recognizable daily task, like demonstration or translation. Worse still, what I do say is likely to be misunderstood, for the very good reason that the word "seminar" is not used here in the ordinary sense--though I think, given its origin, it is used in a suitable and faithful sense.

To begin, our seminars are not the intensive training sessions familiar to many from the world of business and government (conducted by a highly paid expert from outside the community). In most ways, they are the opposite. The only experts we have are dead and cost nothing more than the price of a book. These seminars are led by members of the same community. The group does not meet for an occasion or two, but regularly. The activity is not narrow practical training, but theoretical inquiry into the great issues raised by classic works in philosophy, literature, history, economics, and political science.

Nor are they like the seminars of other schools, especially the graduate schools. Those seminars, which incidentally have first right to the word "seminar," (coined from the Latin "seminarium," a seed bed) were originally loose associations of advanced students studying related but not identical disciplines, under the direction of a professor, meeting to exchange information concerning their ongoing research. Perhaps the seminal term was employed for these groups with a botanical origin, "cross-fertilization," in mind. Be that as it may, they are not the model for the Thomas Aquinas College Seminar.

Our seminars are closer association of less advanced students, among whom the tutor is simply a leading student. We do not compare special and private research; rather, we jointly inquire into commonly read texts. Such a seminar is precisely designed for the liberal education of the undergraduate.

Now let me describe how it looks and works. Once a week in the first two years, twice a week after that, a group of about 15 students meet around a rectangular table in the evening. One or two tutors preside, opening the discussion of the assigned reading with a prayer and a question. The discussion which ensues is meant to be the pursuit of that question, guided but not led by the tutor. Often the argument falters or degenerates into the obscure or the irrelevant, but always there is a pull, exerted by text, tutor and student, drawing us back to the hard and penetrating thought which by its presence in some measure makes the book great. The tutor (and here I speak from all too frequent experience) must exert restraint on his own desire to correct or proclaim--not, however that he should not form or express judgements on the question. At the best, the whole seminar achieves a common understanding on matters of great consequence. Such is the aim, hoped for and sometimes achieved. It is held at night, let me note in passing, since leisurely conversation prospers after dark. Since it is leisurely and, in a sense, free, it has no determinate end, though it usually goes on for about two hours. Such is our seminar.

By way of conclusion let me make good on my promise to justify calling such a class a seminar, a seminal study. It is seminal in the texts read and in the manner of proceeding. The Latin original is used not only of seeds, but also of the elements, beginnings, and essences of things. To found a discussion upon such texts as Plato's *Republic*, St. Thomas' *On the Teacher* and Tolstoy's *War and Peace* is to launch an inquiry into the seeds, the sources, and first beginnings of justice, learning, and historical change. These conversations seek the seeds of the things that are. One may also seek the seeds of the opinions that move men and ground human institutions. Such a search, conducted with the guide of texts like the *Federalist Papers* or Marx's *Capital*, traces conclusions to their seeds. Again, the manner of inquiry, the courteous, ardent, sometimes quarrelsome argument, which we all attempt to follow in the seminar, this way of proceeding is itself seminal. It is the seed of a lifetime of liberal learnings carried out in common with others, and it is the image of that internal conversation which is the essence of the learning soul, thought itself.

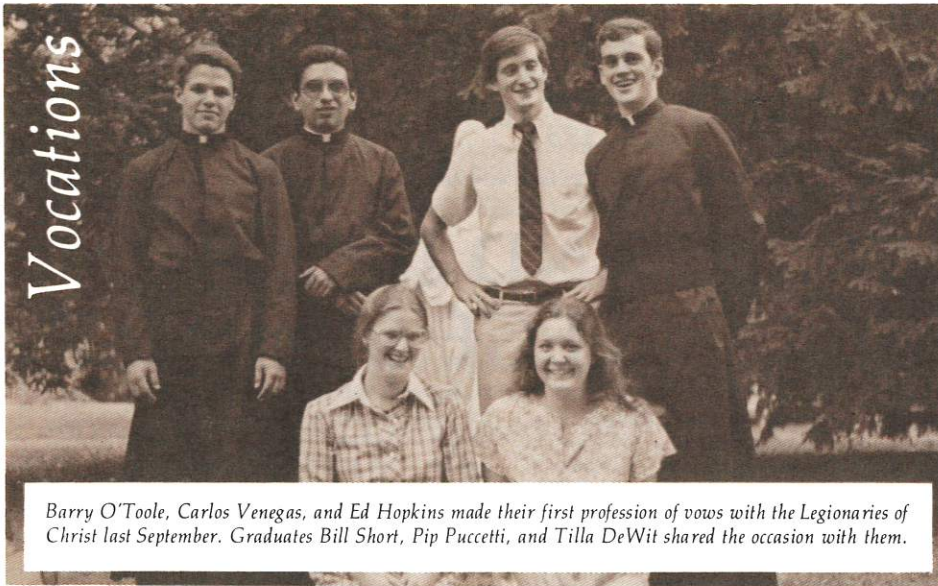
### SEMINAR READINGS:

**FRESHMAN YEAR:** Homer *Iliad, Odyssey*, Plato *Ion, Republic, Symposium* Aeschylus *Agamemnon, Choephoroe, Eumenides* Sophocles *Oedipus Rex, Oedipus at Colonus*, Antigonae Herodotus *Historias* Aristotle *Poetics* Plutarch *Lives of Lycurgus, Pericles, Alcibiades* Euripides *Hippolytus* Thucydides *History of the Peloponnesian War* Aristophanes *The Birds, The Clouds* Virgil *Aeneid*.

**SOPHOMORE YEAR:** Cicero *De Officiis, Friendship* Plutarch *Lives of Caesar, Pompey* Lucretius *De Rerum Natura*, Tacitus *Annals* Galen *On the Natural Faculties* Marcus Aurelius *Meditations* St. Augustine *Confessions* Boethius *Consolation of Philosophy* Dante *Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso* Chaucer *Canterbury Tales* Shakespeare *Julius Caesar, Richard II, Henry IV* St. Augustine *De Magistro* St. Thomas Aquinas *De Magistro*.

**JUNIOR YEAR:** St. Thomas *On Kingship* Machiavelli *The Prince*, Discourses Bacon *The Great Instauration, Novum Organum* Spenser *Faerie Queene* Shakespeare *Hamlet, Sonnets, King Lear, Othello, Macbeth, As You Like It, Tempest* Montaigne *Essais* Descartes *Discourse on Method, Rules for the Direction of the Mind* Pascal *Pensees* Cervantes *Don Quixote* Hobbes *Leviathan* Locke Berkeley Hume *Concerning Human Understanding* Swift *Gulliver's Travels* Milton *Paradise Lost* Gibbon *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* Corneille *Le Cid* Racine *Phedre* Locke *Civil Government* Rousseau *Social Contract* Spinoza *Theologico-Political Treatise* Declaration of Independence U.S. Constitution Federalist Papers Smith *Wealth of Nations* DeToqueville *Democracy in America* Vico *The New Science* Comte *Positive Philosophy*.

**SENIOR YEAR:** Leibnitz *Discourse on Metaphysics* Kant *Critique of Pure Reason, Metaphysics of Morals* Goethe *Faust* Hegel *Phenomenology of Mind, Philosophy of History* Tolstoy *War and Peace* Feuerbach *Essence of Christianity* Malthus *Principle of Population* Marx *Capital, Communist Manifesto* Engels *Dialectics, Political Philosophy* Darwin *Origin of Species* Mendel *Plant Hybridization* Nietzsche *Beyond Good and Evil, Genealogy of Morals, Use and Abuse of History* Austen *Emma* James *Varieties of Religious Experience* Freud *Psychoanalysis* Jung *Analytical Psychology* Newman *Christian Doctrine* Melville *Moby Dick* Kierkegaard *Fear and Trembling* Adams *Education of Henry Adams* Dostoyevski *Brothers Karamazov* Keynes *Employment Interest and Money* Wittgenstein *Philosophical Investigations* Pius X *Pascendi Dominici Gregis* Leo XIII *Aeterni Patris, Rerum Novarum* Pius XI *Quadragesimo Anno* Pius XII *Humani Generis* Plato *Theatetus, Sophist, Statesman*.



Barry O'Toole, Carlos Venegas, and Ed Hopkins made their first profession of vows with the Legionaries of Christ last September. Graduates Bill Short, Pip Puccetti, and Tilla DeWit shared the occasion with them.

## RELIGIOUS LIFE CALLS MANY AQUINAS GRADUATES AND FORMER STUDENTS

Because the fervor of campus spiritual life complements the intensity of academic life at Thomas Aquinas College, it is not surprising that many students answer the call to a religious vocation.

Many have chosen the Oblates of the Virgin Mary in Rome. James Montanaro, Class of 1979, and Patrick Martin, Class of 1978 are in that community with former students Mark Avila, Paul Ford, Mark Nemetz, and Peter Short. Also in Rome is former student Helen Williams with the Oblate Sisters. The order is led by the noted stigmatist Brother Gino Burresi, O.M.V. and is devoted to making known the message of Our Lady of Fatima. The Legionaries of Christ in Orange, Connecticut have been joined by Edward Hopkins of the Class of 1980 and former students Peter Hopkins, Barry O'Toole, and Carlos Venegas.

Former student Kathleen Blanding is now Sister Mary Catherine of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Wichita,

Kansas. Brother James Garceau of the Class of 1978 is with the Canons Regular of the Immaculate Conception in Pasadena. The task of the Canons Regular of the Immaculate Conception is primarily the "Cultus Dei"--the Communal worship of God by the Collective Celebration of the Eucharist and the Divine Office. Parallel to this is the task of caring for the souls in the parishes to which they are assigned.

Lora Calhoun, also of the Class of 1978, has entered the Monastery of the Sacred Passion in Erlanger, Kentucky. The Passionist Nuns are a group of contemplatives who spend a life of prayer, poverty, solitude, and penance--contemplating Christ and making His sufferings their own through love.

In seclusion with the New Camaldolese Monks of the Order of St. Benedict is former student Henry Teichert, now Brother Isaiah. The order's Sacred Heart Hermitage is located in Big Sur, California.

## EVA BRANN LECTURE AND SPECIAL SEMINAR

Long time St. John's tutor and author Eva Brann presented in her lecture a comprehensive account of "Socrates' Hypothesis of the Eida," or what is commonly known as the "Platonic theory of forms." In her account, Socrates does not hold to the forms (eida) as being necessary conclusions of argument, but instead, as "Hypotheses" whose actual existence is more a matter of trust or hope. The stimulating question and answer period that followed centered on the differences in Plato and Aristotle's approach to philosophy, and the consequences of those differences in relation to philosophic wonder and understanding.

The next day a seminar of tutors and students led by Miss Brann was conducted on the subject of her latest book: **Paradoxes of Education in a Republic**. The consensus of the interlocutors was that liberal education

must be pursued if a Republic such as ours is to survive.

### DR. MARGARET WHITE JOINS T.A.C. BOARD OF VISITORS

Following her special lecture appearance in October, English author-lecturer Dr. Margaret White graciously accepted an invitation to join the Thomas Aquinas College Board of Visitors. The Visitors are distinguished educators, business and professional people, journalists, and clergy who make use of their first-hand familiarity with the College in order to bear witness to its educational mission.

Her lecture was an update on the status of pro-life efforts in various countries around the world.



## Library Donations

In the little more than a year since the needs of the library figured prominently in this *Newsletter*, more than 2,800 books have been donated. This represents almost a twenty per cent increase in the total size of the library.

Mrs. Viltis Jatulis, librarian, estimates the dollar value of these donations at more than \$15,000.

Among the larger donations was a collection of books on art and history from the Joseph Montanaro family in New York; a collection of books on politics and economics from Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Durand of New Orleans; a collection of leather-bound classics from Dr. and Mrs. C.M. Durland in Oregon.

Dr. Paul Kocher donated a group of rare books, including a 1651 edition of Francis Bacon. Dr. G. James Jason has enriched the library's holdings in science and the history of science by systematically selecting more than four hundred books to complement the curriculum. Another regular donor of books is Mr. R.M. Waldron of Sonoma, California. Recently Miss Barbara Godard donated a complete set of the Great Books and the accompanying bookcase. Mr. Henry L. Clark sent a Hebrew Bible which he had specially leather-bound for the College.

Donations have also come from the following:

- Mrs. M. Reagan
- Mrs. P. Flannery
- Mr. and Mrs. J.H. McClenahan
- Miss P. Thompson
- Mr. and Mrs. John Schaeffer
- Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Teichert
- Reverend William Virtue
- Reverend R. Hayburn
- Mr. A. Bialicki
- Mr. J.D. Lawlor
- Mr. John Blewett
- Dr. Edward Warren
- Mr. John Cramer
- Mr. and Mrs. Paul Arnerich
- Honorable Barry M. Goldwater, Jr.
- Mrs. M. Porges
- St. Monica Church, New Boston, Ohio
- Cardinal Newman College
- Loyola-Marymount College
- Mt. St. Mary's College
- Don Bosco Technical
- Miss M.J. Kofran
- Miss Mary Ann Mandy
- Mrs. G.L. Young
- Mrs. Eloise Noble
- Mr. Edward Curran
- Mr. A.G. Kanka
- Miss Betty Thompson
- Dr. & Mrs. David Bomar, Jr.

Mrs. Jatulis extends her thanks to all who have assisted the library's growth over the years.

## FALL LECTURES FEATURE THEOLOGY, MUSIC, LITERATURE, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

"St. Thomas Aquinas' Organic Synthesis of Plato and Aristotle" was the descriptive title of a lecture by **Father Charles R. Hess, O.P.** of the Dominican Priory in San Francisco.

Father Hess stated that "Thomas took the insights of Plato and Aristotle which he saw as explaining our human experience and developed, corrected, and organized them in a complete and logical system which can take us from a blade of grass which we see moved by the wind to ideas of grass and wind and motion in the mind of God."

Copies of this lecture are available on request.

The irrepressible **Christopher Derrick**, introduced by President Ronald P. McArthur as "a cherished friend" of the College, discussed the sources and manifestation of C.S. Lewis' literary abilities.

Mr. Derrick discussed Lewis by references to his published literary theories, personal anecdotes about him, and examinations of passages from his works.

A wide-ranging discussion period touched on the poetic imagination, the creative role of a philosophic view, the publishing industry, Lewis' relationship to the Church of Rome (the subject of Mr. Derrick's latest book).

Due to technical difficulties this lecture could not be transcribed for reprinting.

The College was delightfully entertained on November 7, 1980 by baritone **Donald Wittig**. The solid core of his program, works by Bach, Beethoven and Brahms, was embellished with songs by Handel, Frescobaldi, Chaikovsky, Ravel, and others. His magnificent voice was accompanied on the piano by three talented Thomas Aquinas College students, Gregory Froelich, Anne

Schaeffer, and Mary Schaeffer, and also by pianist Karen Corbett from Ojai. The College group of madrigal singers also sang a choral passage for the Bach cantata included by Mr. Wittig for that very purpose.

On November 21, 1980, **Dr. Russell Kirk** informed and entertained the College by way of a talk on "The Supernatural in Literature." During both the lecture and the ensuing discussion period, considerations of what is and what ought to be included in "supernatural" literature were liberally interspersed with stories of encounters with seemingly spiritual phenomena.

The lecture was preceded by a festive Thanksgiving dinner, largely honoring Dr. Kirk for his years of unflinching and invaluable support of the College.

**Patrick James Kirby** presented a lecture on December 12, 1980, "Forty English Martyrs." As Mr. Kirby pointed out, this is a group of English and Welsh men and women who died for the Faith in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and who were canonized as a group in our own time.

In the talk, Mr. Kirby pointed out why and how some of these saints were martyred, including some of the legal considerations about which the English authorities were particularly scrupulous.

Mr. Kirby compared the academic and religious training of many of the martyrs in the English seminary at Douai to the education provided at Thomas Aquinas College in the face of a hostile secular humanist society.

Mrs. Bridget Neumayr, English-born wife of College Dean John Neumayr, closed the program reading a poem in praise of the martyrs.

## ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR VISITS PROSPECTS, URGES CAMPUS VISITS

"All the letters, pamphlets, bulletins, and newsletters we can print are less helpful to prospective students as an introduction to the College program than even a brief visit to the campus or an opportunity to speak in their own homes with a representative of the College." So says Director of Admissions Tom Susanka, adding as evidence that better than 70% of this year's student body had such personal contact with the school prior to applying for admission. "The school's literature frequently sparks initial interest in its program," said Mr. Susanka, "but it's the first-hand experience--attending classes and speaking with students and faculty--which provokes a real enthusiasm for what we're doing here." Few high schools or colleges offer programs even remotely similar to the four-year curriculum at Thomas Aquinas, and the effect is that prospective students have very little personal experience by which to evaluate it. A school where class-size rarely exceeds 15 students, where lectures are replaced by class discussions among students and tutors, and where students are required to grapple with the thoughts of the greatest minds of Civilization through their original writings is, putting it mildly, unfamiliar to most high school students. Accordingly, the College has always welcomed visits from prospective students.

However, since visiting the College is not possible for many interested students and their families, the Director of Admissions, the Director of College Relations, and other members of the faculty when opportunities arise, try to bring the College for a visit to them. The opportunity for a conversation with someone who is familiar with the activities at the College inside and outside of the classroom has proven to be valuable to students, parents, and teachers in their efforts to learn more about the Thomas Aquinas program. Such conversations--which this past autumn occurred in such diverse places as San Francisco, Seattle, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Chicago, and Erie--have included an introduction of the school's curriculum to classes of Juniors and Seniors in high schools, detailing the school's admissions and financial aid policies to students and parents in their homes, and formal presentations of the philosophy and curriculum of the College to groups of religious, teachers, parents, and students. When scheduling makes it impossible for the Director of Admissions himself to be available for such meetings, the College tries to arrange for a student or graduate living in the nearby area to visit those interested in a personal contact with the College.

While the College often initiates such contacts, it also depends heavily on teachers, parents, and pastors to be alert for prospective students and arrange for them to speak with College representatives.

A ready supply of *Bulletins* and informational materials is available upon request; those who would like to be more active in this student recruitment effort may receive multiple copies for convenient distribution.

## SPRING SEMESTER CALENDAR

February 9	Second Semester Begins	
February 20 Friday 8 p.m.	Harry Jaffa Claremont College	"The Moral Majority and the Future of American Politics"
February 27 Friday 8 p.m.	Alan Shewmon	Piano Concert
March 6 Friday 8 p.m.	Michael McLean Thomas Aquinas College	"Empiricism and Perception"
March 7 Saturday	St. Thomas Aquinas Day	
March 20 Friday 8 p.m.	Sabetai Unguru University of Oklahoma	"Algebra & History: Some Second Thoughts on Babylonian & Greek Mathematics"
April 3 Friday 8 p.m.	Edward Sparrow St. John's College	"The Prodigal Son"
April 16-22	Easter Vacation	
May 15 Friday 8 p.m.	Richard Ferrier Thomas Aquinas College	"Lucretius"
May 21	Ascension Thursday	
June 6	Graduation	

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's my turn to thank you again for your prayers, your interest, and your gifts. It is easy, in the academic life, to forget that were it not for you we would have no school, and as importantly no future. As it is, there is an ever-growing body of supporters who, because they are enthusiastic and generous, make our task so much easier than it might be.

That task remains fixed: We cooperate with our students in their attempt to become wise, and we play our part by developing their minds in the various ways the mind can be perfected. Our success continues because our students desire to know, because they are helped by the sacraments and by their prayers, and because we have recourse to the teaching Church as our guide.

We shall continue our work as you hopefully continue to play your role in our mutual endeavor.

I hope you have a good and blessed new year.

Ronald P. McArthur  
President

## COLLEGE IN THE NEWS

Through a variety of sources, the reputation of Thomas Aquinas College has been widely extended during the past year.

Canada's *Our Family* magazine featured a descriptive article on the College by freelance journalist Al Pomeroy. It included the observations of several Canadian students, who spoke as glowingly about the curriculum as about the weather.

Dr. Colin Clark's commencement address "Faith and Population in a Declining Civilization" was reported by the national wire services. It is definitely newsworthy when an economist nowadays urges people to have larger families. Dr. Clark's speech was also reprinted in the prestigious *Vital Speeches of the Day*, and has recently been the subject of a nationally circulated article by George W. Cornell, Religion Editor of the Associated Press.

*National Review* contributing editor Russell Kirk devoted much of his "From the Academy" column in August to the College and its enviable independence. He discussed the perils of similar programs restricted by the larger universities of which they are a very circumscribed part.

Thomas Aquinas graduates also made their journalistic mark, contributing numerous articles to the *Wanderer* and *National Catholic Register*. Jean Canning, of the Class of 1979, published two devastating articles on the women's liberation movement. She is training as a journalist with M. Stanton Evans' Journalism Center in Washington. Sabrina Ellis, also of the Class of 1979, is primarily a teacher, but has written insightful articles on the questionable popularity of Judi Blume books and the influence of the media in forming the opinions of children.

A thoughtful consideration of "The Feminine Role" was Terri Vorndran's recent contribution to the *Register*.

Most prolific of Aquinas journalists to date is 1977 graduate Kevin G. Long whose columns are a fairly regular feature of *The Wanderer*. He touches a range of subjects with wit and penetration--the role of Latin, judicial appointments, Soviet aggression, papal encyclicals, and Christmas as distinguished from "the festival of winter."

## FOUNDATION GRANTS ACKNOWLEDGED

A significant portion of the total financial support of Thomas Aquinas College comes from the benefaction of charitable foundations, trusts, and company charities or matching grants.

Thus far in the fiscal year 1980-81, the following grants have been received:

Achille Levy Foundation	1,500
Adolph Coors Foundation	7,500
Dan Murphy Foundation	25,000
Di Loreto Foundation	500
Dr. Scholl Foundation	7,500
Drum Foundation	5,000
George T. Cameron Educational Foundation	3,500
Homeland Foundation	20,000
Jaeger Society	1,000
John McShain Charities	5,000
Louisa Watson Trust	40,000
Mony Trust	1,000
Paper Products Foundation	2,000
Pepsico Foundation	500
Precision Punch and Plastics	1,000
Roselynn Company Foundation	1,000
Texas Educational Foundation	10,000
Von der Ahe Foundation	2,000
Western Gear Foundation	1,000

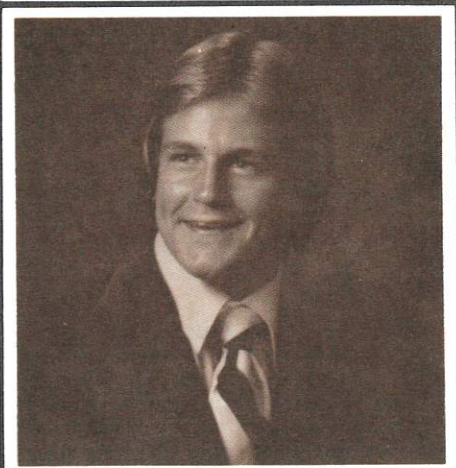
Significant foundation grants for construction are now being sought to enable the College to proceed with the building program begun three years ago on the new campus site.

## 1980 ANNUAL REPORT

Copies of the 1980 Annual Report--containing profiles of the Board of Governors, the audited financial statement for fiscal 1979-1980, and donor acknowledgements--are available upon request from the College. Write Dennis Koller, Vice-President for Development.

## KIRK REPRINTS

The portion of Dr. Russell Kirk's *Decadence and Renewal in the Higher Learning* which pertains to Thomas Aquinas College has been separately reprinted. Copies are available from Thomas Susanka, Director of Admissions.



*In Memoriam*  
**TIMOTHY TRAHMS**  
1961-1980

Sophomore Tim Trahms was killed in an auto accident October 18, 1980. Heading home late Friday night/Saturday morning, his car plunged into Santa Paula Canyon not far from the campus gate. Hidden by canyon rocks, the car was not discovered by searchers until Monday morning.

A memorial Requiem Mass on campus preceded funeral services by two days. Services were held at Zion Lutheran Church in Glendale, California, where Tim's father is pastor.

In addition to his dedication to the academic program, Tim was a fine athlete, active in intramural sports, and a cheerful, sociable asset to campus life.

The College's Board of Governors, in a message to Tim's family, stated that they "share the deep sorrow of the students and faculty at this tragedy and join them in offering their prayers for Timothy and for his family."

May he rest in peace.

## PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL TOPS HUNDRED MARK

Since the installation of Patrick James Kirby as National Chairman of the President's Council in October, fifteen new memberships have increased the President's Council to one hundred and two members.

The President's Council welcomes:

Mrs. Marian Hancock Barry  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter L. DeLuca, Sr.  
Mr. Don Karcher  
Mr. Carl Karcher, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel C. Montano  
Mr. George Montgomery  
Mr. William H. Savage  
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Shipstad  
Mr. Charles C. Kerwin  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Culhane  
Mrs. Philip Chandler  
Mrs. Gladys H. Jones  
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Morse  
Mr. Philip T. Crotty, Jr.  
Mr. Richard J. Wall, Jr.

Thus, the President's Council successfully attained the membership goal for 1980 announced in this *Newsletter* a year ago. For an informational brochure on the President's Council, call or write the College.