

# NEWS OF THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

OCTOBER 1974

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Though it seems impossible, Thomas Aquinas College will graduate its first class this coming June; we will graduate twenty-one of the original thirty-three students who came when we started classes in 1971. So June will be both joyful and sad - joyful because we will take great pleasure in the achievements of our first class, but sad because we will lose those extraordinary people who helped us start the college.

The school, this year, seems finally established now that we have students in all the four years, and the education continues to be excellent beyond our hopes. The students get better as they participate in the program, and we continue to develop the possibilities of the program itself. So we can take some small comfort in knowing that at least a few excellent Christians are receiving a serious Christian education which is at once theological and intellectual.

But none of this could have been possible without the extraordinary help of many, and we will continue to need that help if we are to finally succeed in our effort to provide a college for three hundred and fifty students.

So I ask you to continue praying for us and to help us further in any other way you can. We, on our part, will continue to work as hard as we can to educate our students.

Thank you all.

Most sincerely,

*Ronald P. McArthur*

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President



## NEW GOVERNORS ELECTED

At its annual meeting on June 11, the Board of Governors resolved to expand its membership. First steps to implement this policy were taken during the summer with the election of four new members. Mr. Chauncey Stillman of New York, Major General Elias C. Townsend (USA Retired) of San Francisco, Mrs. Francis E. Browne of Los Angeles and Mr. Felix S. McGinnis, Jr., also of Los Angeles, were elected to membership for three year terms.

Mr. Stillman is Director of the Freeport Sulphur Company in New York and Chairman of the Homeland Foundation. He was appointed Privy Chamberlain to Pope Paul VI in 1964. Mr. Stillman endowed the Christopher Dawson Chair of Roman Catholic Studies at Harvard University.

Major General Townsend is the former Chief of Staff in Vietnam for the late General Creighton W. Abrams. His last active duty assignment was as Commanding General, U.S. Army Intelligence Command. General Townsend is now active in business in the San Francisco area.

Mrs. Browne is the wife of a prominent Los Angeles surgeon. She has been active for many years in Catholic organizations in the Los Angeles area.

A graduate of the University of San Francisco, Mr. McGinnis is former President of the Southwestern Portland Cement Company and is currently President of the Leonardt Foundation.

## MILESTONES REACHED

With the addition of this year's freshman class two milestones were reached in the history of the college. For the first time the college has all four classes in operation and is looking forward to its first graduation this spring. In addition to this, the student enrollment level has reached one hundred. Given the present facilities, this figure represents optimum enrollment.

The one hundred students come from twenty states and two foreign countries. California leads all states with fifty students followed by Missouri with six and Colorado and Connecticut with five each.



## NEW TUTORS APPOINTED

Dr. John W. Neumayr, Dean of the College, has announced the appointment of two new tutors to the faculty. Dr. Richard J. George is one of the original Governors of the college and until this year was Professor of Philosophy at the University of San Diego. Dr. George's first year teaching assignments include the freshman science laboratory, the sophomore philosophy tutorial and the senior seminar. Dr. George, his wife Breda and their four children reside in Agoura.

Mr. John Schmitt, after receiving his A.B. and Master's Degree from Harvard University, founded and was Headmaster of Thomas More School in New Hampshire. Mr. Schmitt's teaching assignments include the freshman mathematics tutorial, the freshman latin tutorial and the sophomore seminar. Mr. Schmitt, his wife Louise and their eight children have taken up residence in Westlake Village.

Dr. Neumayr also announced the appointment of Mrs. Deanne Forgette to the faculty as Registrar and Business Manager. Mrs. Forgette received her B.S. degree from Dominican College in San Rafael, California and has been with the college as an administrative assistant since its inception.

## ARCHBISHOP NICHOLAS ELKO AND CHRISTOPHER DERRICK APPOINTED VISITORS

President Ronald P. McArthur has announced the appointment of the Most Reverend Nicholas T. Elko, Auxiliary Archbishop of Cincinnati, Ohio and author Christopher Derrick to the College Board of Visitors.

Archbishop Elko graduated from Duquesne University and completed his theological studies in the Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Uzhorod, Czechoslovakia and Louvain University in Belgium. In 1955, Eugene Cardinal Tisserant consecrated him Bishop and in 1971 Pope Paul VI appointed him as Auxiliary Archbishop of Cincinnati. Prominent among his activities as Bishop has been his work in the rehabilitation of Iron Curtain peoples and priests. Archbishop Elko founded a new community of women religious in 1958 called The Sisters of Christ the Teacher.

Christopher Derrick was educated by the Benedictines at Douai Abbey and at Magdalen College, Oxford, under C.S. Lewis. He has worked as writer, critic, editor, publisher's consultant, and lecturer. During 1964 he was Visiting Fellow at Wesleyan



University and from 1964 to 1967 he was editor of *Good Work*, the publication of the Catholic Art Association in the United States. His articles have been published widely on both sides of the Atlantic, and his books include *Trimming the Ark*, *The Moral and Social Teaching of the Church* and *Honest Love and Human Life*.

#### LOUISA WATSON TRUST GRANTS SCHOLARSHIP

During the summer, Mr. William T. Huston informed the college that two grants totaling \$12,000 had been made to the college by the Louisa Watson Trust. These grants are for the assistance of students who have a demonstrated financial need.

Mr. Dennis Koller, Director of Financial Aid, announced the award, through the regular financial aid program of the college, of six Louisa Watson Trust Scholarships. These went to seniors Michael Fox, Maryann Montanaro and Francis Poon, and to sophomores Toni Burgireno, Priscilla Smith and Douglas Alexander.

The college attempts to meet the demonstrated need of qualified students through financial aid programs supported entirely by private contributions. Gifts such as those of the Louisa Watson Trust are extremely important and very much appreciated by the college and its students.

#### LUAU TO RAISE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS SUCCESSFUL

A check in the amount of \$3,000 has been presented to Dr. McArthur by Mrs. Edwin H. Shipstad, President of the Thomas Aquinas College Auxiliary, for deposit in the College Scholarship Fund. The check represented the proceeds from the Auxiliary sponsored second annual scholarship luau. This year the luau was held in the gardens of Mr. and Mrs. Fritz B. Burns of Los Angeles on the evening of Saturday, July 27. Over three hundred people were in attendance. Dr. McArthur expressed the college's appreciation to the members of the Auxiliary, to Mr. and Mrs. Burns, and to all who attended.

## ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR URGES EARLY APPLICATION

The Director of Admissions, Mr. Dennis Koller, announced that the 1974 freshman class was full by July 31, a month earlier than last year. Because he expects this trend to continue, Mr. Koller urges students interested in attending the college to apply as soon as possible so that they will be assured a space.

Mr. Koller also said that the college has published a booklet containing student evaluations of the program and life at Thomas Aquinas College. He asks that friends of the college distribute this and other college literature to interested and qualified students. Copies of these materials may be obtained by returning the enclosed student referral card.

## TUITION INCREASE SET

The Board of Governors of Thomas Aquinas College held its annual meeting on campus on June 11, 1974. One of the results of this meeting was the decision to increase charges for tuition, room and board.

As part of his annual report to the Board, Dr. Ronald P. McArthur outlined certain financial facts about the college. He stated that tuition, room and board charges cover slightly more than half of operating costs. The remainder must be met through voluntary contributions. Dr. McArthur noted that even with the increase in charges, the cost of attending the college will still be substantially below the average of private colleges in California. The increase, effective September, 1975, will add \$175 to the tuition and \$50 to the room and board. This brings the tuition to \$2,000 per year and room and board to \$1,300.