



# THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE SUMMER 1992 NEWSLETTER

## You Are Charged This Day... Commencement 1992

Beginning with a Mass of the Holy Spirit and ending with a blessing, the 18th annual commencement at Thomas Aquinas College bore testimony to the strength and vitality of the Catholic intellectual and spiritual tradition. The June 6 event drew 700 family and friends to witness the conferring of degrees on the 38 graduating seniors, products of a curriculum the *National Review College Guide* called "one of the most rigorous of any school in the country."

The principal celebrant and homilist of the Mass was the Most Rev. Jerome J. Hastrich, retired bishop of Gallup, New Mexico. In his homily, Bishop Hastrich emphasized the necessity of having an intimate relationship with Christ. "Ours is a religion related to Jesus personally," he said, and he urged the graduates to meet Christ not only in the Eucharist and in the celebration of the liturgy but also in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and in confession. The latter two practices he lauded as "distinctively Catholic."

The college's own Schola Cantorum provided the choral music accompanying the Mass, with the added distinction that graduating senior Samuel A. Schmitt of Lancaster, Mass., composed the music for the Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus and Agnus Dei.

Following the Mass, the academic procession wound its way down from St. Joseph Commons, signaling the beginning of the commencement program itself. This year, Lynne V. Cheney, Ph.D., Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), delivered the commencement address.

Since taking office as NEH chairman in 1986, Cheney, wife of Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, has written five major reports dealing with various aspects of American education. One of these reports, *50 Hours: A Core Curriculum for College Students*, commends the Thomas Aquinas College curriculum as one which leads to an integrated vision of learning "based on the presumption that learning should

bring students to inquire into the perennial and fundamental matters than have preoccupied some of the world's greatest minds."

In introducing Cheney, William W. Smith, chairman of the Thomas Aquinas College Board of Governors, called her a champion in the battle to restore the quality of American education through genuinely liberal education.

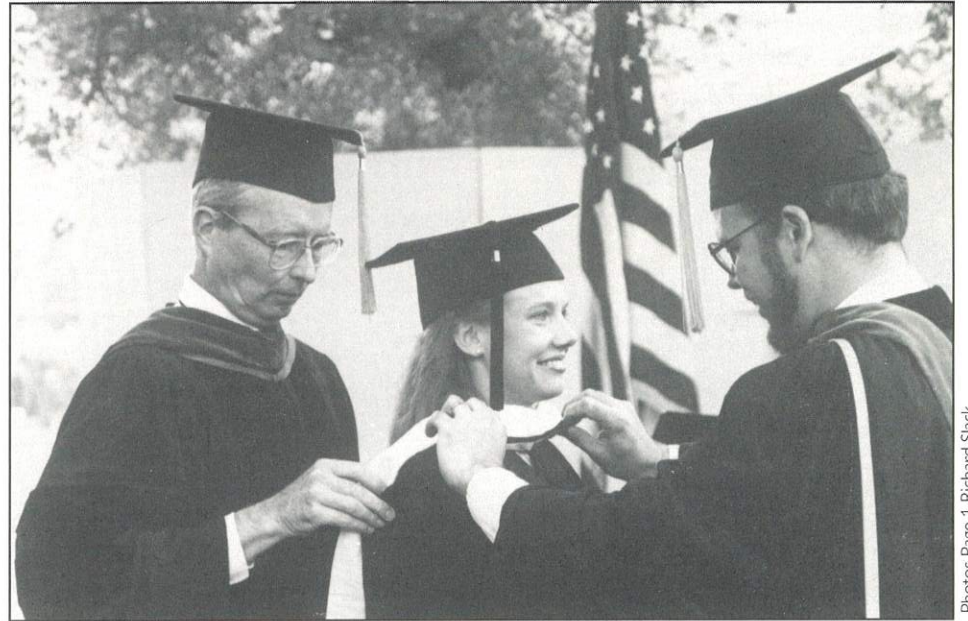
Stepping to the lectern, Cheney marvelled at the natural beauty of the Thomas Aquinas College campus. "I have spoken with admiration about the curriculum here," she said, "but I had no idea you are reading the best that has been thought and known in the world in one of the loveliest settings in the world."



Lynne V. Cheney

In the body of her address, Cheney described the five traits common to successful people she has known: One, they act like they know what they are doing; two, they actually do know what they are doing; three, they operate from a base of firmly held convictions; and four, they respect the convictions of others. Finally, and most importantly, they know what success really is: Working at something you love, quite apart from whatever rewards it might bring — work that unites you with something greater than yourself.

To find such work, she offered this practical advice: "Do whatever tasks that come along as well as they can be done. People learn what is satisfying,



Senior Tutor Marcus Berquist and Dean Kevin Kolbeck vest graduate Erica Wrzesinski with the hood.

Photos Page 1 Richard Slack

not by doing the job at hand halfheartedly and dreaming about what comes next, but by doing what there is to do now as well as possible. Scripture tells us, 'whatsoever thy hand findest to do, do it with thy might.'

College tutor Richard Ferrier said later, "Mrs. Cheney, in fact, gave us a contemporary restatement of Aristotle's dictum that happiness is a life of activity in accordance with virtue."

Each year, the senior class selects a member to deliver the senior address, and this year's choice was Sean A. Kelsey of Freehold, New Jersey. Kelsey happened to be one of 87 college students last year who won NEH Younger Scholars grants, described by Cheney at the time as a "unique opportunity to conduct serious humanities research and writing projects."

In his address, Kelsey reminded the graduates of what they had received at Thomas Aquinas College. "In our discussions, both inside and outside of class," he said, "we learned to dispute and persuade, and to form intelligent opinions of our own, rather than receive them indiscriminately and with no evidence. We exercised and developed powers and faculties which most of us never knew we had."

"We were also blessed," Kelsey said, "with a wonderful environment in which to develop the moral virtues, and to acquire those habits of living which shall serve us well in the years to come. We were surrounded by men and women with a common goal, who encouraged us when we were discouraged and with whom we shared our discoveries and frustrations."

"Finally," he said, "we owe the college many thanks for our spiritual

development. Never again will most of us have such ready access to the normal channels of divine grace which our Lord has left the Church for our sanctification."

"Yet though these things be ends in their own right," he continued, "there are nonetheless further ends to which they are ordered, which ends we must feel it our duty to strive for howsoever we can; namely, the good of both our country and of the Church. Let us work tirelessly towards these ends that they might bear some fruit, however humble, for those with whom we live. It is only by so doing that, on the last day, we will be able to render some just account of our time spent in this life, and so, by God's grace, assure ourselves of a place in the next."

*"You must strive in your lives to live for God alone"*

— from the President's Charge

After conferring the degrees, Thomas E. Dillon, president of the college, delivered the traditional charge to the graduates: "You are charged, beginning this day, with maintaining, advancing, defending, and protecting your Catholic heritage — its faith, its hope, its charity, and all its learning and culture . . ."

The graduates responded by singing "Non Nobis Domine" (Psalm 113), and then Rev. Vincent J. Young, assistant chaplain of the college, pronounced a final blessing. Fortified by the sacraments of the Church and nourished by its rich intellectual heritage, the Class of 1992 was sent out into the world. ♦

Thomas Aquinas College  
10000 N. Ojai Road  
Santa Paula, CA 93060-9980

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Santa Paula, CA  
Permit No. 222

Address Correction Requested

### Thomas Aquinas College: The First Choice

A look at the statistics reveals some interesting information about Thomas Aquinas College.

A comparison of SAT scores nationwide places Thomas Aquinas in the top five Catholic schools, along with the University of Notre Dame, Georgetown University, College of the Holy Cross, and Boston College.

Note that Thomas Aquinas College is the only school located west of

the Mississippi.

Of these five leading schools, two were selected by *The National Review College Guide* as being among America's 50 top liberal arts schools, Notre Dame and Thomas Aquinas College.

Of these two schools, only one appears in *Barron's 300 Best Buys in College Education*. That one school is Thomas Aquinas College.

## The Class of 1992 with Titles of the Senior Theses

Mariel Torres Aguinaldo  
Glendale, Arizona  
An Examination of *The Consolation of Philosophy* Regarding the Benefit of Adverse Fortune

Helene Marie Augros  
Merrimack, New Hampshire  
Whether Friendship is a Virtue

Michael Anthony Augros  
Merrimack, New Hampshire  
Subjectivism and the Internal Principles of Knowing

Donald Joseph Bauer  
Sturtevant, Wisconsin  
The Mode of Existence of the Sensible Form of Sight in the Medium

Anne Marie Brooks  
Clayton, Ohio  
Obedience: A Moral Virtue Which a Ruler Ought to Possess?

Julie Christine Burnham  
Farmington, New Mexico  
A Defense of the Roman Catholic Doctrine of Papal Infallibility in the Light of the Mystical Body

Rebecca Anne Burnham  
Lewiston, Maine  
The Role of the Fool in *King Lear*

Aletia Kaye Caughron  
Kansas City, Missouri  
*To Arm Her Reason Also*: Catholic Education of Women

Monica Marie Chavez  
La Mirada, California  
A Defense of Epigenesis Founded Upon Aristotle's Principles of Nature

Peter Fredric Colarelli, Jr.  
New Lenox, Illinois  
Whether the Death Penalty Is Justifiable

Anthony Crifasi  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
A Defense of the Principles of Subjective Philosophy

Brigitte Langenohl Curphey  
Zanesville, Ohio  
Man's Dignity as the Foundation of Human Rights

Edward Stuart Davidson  
Amador City, California  
The Purpose of the Offertory

Richard Patrick Diamond  
Placentia, California  
A Defense of Aristophanean Comedy

Patrick Joseph Finegan  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Whether Clarity Can Properly Be Said of God

Josef Charles Froula  
Yuba City, California  
On the Mystery of Faith: Whether the Lutheran Doctrine of Consubstantiation Be Inconsistent With the Words of Christian Scripture

Erika Jane Gray  
Rochester Hills, Michigan  
*Am I my Brother's Keeper?*: The Boys in *The Brothers Karamazov*

Jamie Lynn Hickey  
Chicago, Illinois  
Poetic Catharsis: An Aid to Disposing the Passions to Virtue

Theodore David Hidley  
Ojai, California  
*Don Quixote*: A Thesis Whose Subject Matter Will Be Known Upon Reading

Marie Elizabeth Jane Johnson  
Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin  
A Scriptural Justification of the Celibate Life

Jennifer Lauren Jude  
Santa Paula, California  
*War and Peace*: A Lesson in Resignation

John Anthony Jude  
Santa Paula, California  
Whether Rhetoric Is an Art Indissolubly Wed to the Study of Logic and Ethics

Sean Armel Kelsey  
Freehold, New Jersey  
Descartes' Lines: An Alternative to the Real Numbers?

Kevin Jason Khattar  
Farmington, New Mexico  
An Examination of the Morally Acceptable Modes of Deception

Christine Margaret Kjolsrud  
Sierra Vista, Arizona  
Virgin Bride or Wandering Harlot?: An Exposition of the Cantic of Canticles in Defense of the Church Fathers

Stephen Joseph Kretschmer  
Ventura, California  
A Critique of Karl Marx's *Das Kapital*

Alicia Michelle Lawless  
Los Altos, California  
*Don Quixote*: A True and Genuine Book of Knight Errantry

Thomas Joseph McNeill  
Portland, Maine  
An Examination and Comparison of Pope Leo XIII and James Madison Concerning the Ideal Relation of Church and State

Christopher Santino Manuele  
Brookfield, Illinois  
An Exposition of the Faithful's Active Participation at the Sacrifice of the Mass

Joseph Martin Q'Hara  
Blair, Wisconsin  
On the Relationship of Work and the Perfection of Man

James Mark Savage  
Simi Valley, California  
Which Has the Greater Claim to Realism — Classical Political Thought or Modern Political Thought?

Samuel Armstrong Schmitt  
Lancaster, Massachusetts  
That Natural Desire Cannot Be in Vain

David Laurence Shields  
Ojai, California  
A Comparison of Newton's and Aristotle's Notions of Time

Susanne Irene Stupar  
Thousand Oaks, California  
An Interpretation of *Gulliver's Travels*

Jerome Anthony Ullman  
Los Angeles, California  
On the Moral End of Poetic Imitation

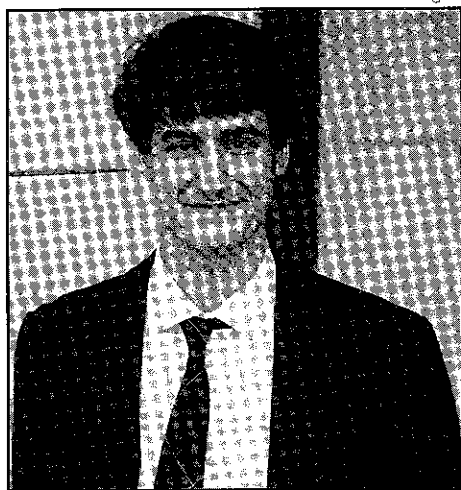
Tara Jean Walsh  
Saddle River, New Jersey  
An Application of John Cardinal Newman's Tests to the Development of the Liturgy

Elizabeth Margaret White  
River Forest, Illinois  
The Equality of Men: An Aspect of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates Revisited

Erica Cecile Wrzesinski  
Sherman Oaks, California  
Turn the Other Cheek or Cast the Merchants Out of the Temple?: Christian Prudence — A Source of Confusion

## Senior Sean Kelsey Awarded NSF Graduate Fellowship

Photo: Tim Teague



Sean Kelsey

Even before the National Science Foundation (NSF) itself could notify him, Princeton University was on the phone to tell senior Sean A. Kelsey that he had won an NSF Graduate Fellowship, a three-year award which carries a \$14,000 stipend per year plus an exemption from tuition and other fees. Nationwide, 740 students were selected, one out of every 100 that applied.

Princeton's interest in Mr. Kelsey is a result of his decision to pursue a Ph.D. in philosophy there. The NSF has lent its support because of his field of study, which is the history and philosophy of ancient science, with a primary focus on the first three books of Aristotle's *Physics*.

Accepted also at Notre Dame, Rutgers, and the University of Pittsburgh, Mr. Kelsey ultimately chose Princeton largely because of the depth of its program in classical philosophy and the number of graduate students attracted to it, factors which create a community of learning similar, in some ways, to that at Thomas Aquinas College.

What is not similar, however, is the freedom he will have at Princeton to design his own study program. "But," as Mr. Kelsey points out, "I don't think I could craft a course of studies worthy of pursuit if I hadn't received my formation here. The work I did at TAC gave me a good grounding. It's in enough detail so as not to be superfi-

cial, but not in so much detail that you don't have a sense of the whole — you develop a breadth in your knowledge. Through the program, especially with its emphasis on reading primary sources, you raise all the major questions and become acquainted with how they've been handled. Then, on a graduate level, you're ready to go into this material again with your head up and carefully map out smaller areas and penetrate them in some depth."

Mr. Kelsey attended Christian Brothers Academy, a private Catholic high school in Lincroft, New Jersey, before coming to Thomas Aquinas College. It was at the college that he was introduced to Aristotle as both philosopher and scientist, and it was here, too, that he met his wife, Christel Krause (Class of 1991), whom he married this summer. ♦

## A Spring Break Tradition, The Holy Week Retreat

In the popular American imagination, spring break and riotous student behavior go hand in hand, but at Thomas Aquinas College, things are different. As Mark Douglass, a junior at the college, recently told *Los Angeles Times* reporter Maja Radevich, "Here, during spring break, the school traditionally holds a student retreat, and a lot of us stay on campus and attend meetings and meditate upon Christ."

These retreats, Ignatian in character, were begun by present college chaplain Rev. Gerard Steckler, S. J., after his arrival at the college in 1982. This year 70 persons participated.

Beginning the morning of Holy Thursday and concluding the evening of Holy Saturday, the retreats interweave the liturgies of Holy Thursday and Good Friday with the talks and meditations which comprise the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius. "Every Ignatian retreat, if properly adhered to, is always successful — always," Father Steckler said. "Students are often overwhelmed to discover the rational nature of spirituality."

The success of a retreat depends not only on the spiritual exercises themselves but also on the skill of the retreat master. Robert Fromageot, a sophomore who made this year's retreat, said, "Father Steckler's retreat was excellent. He gave concrete examples about how to apply the Ignatian principles to daily life. The necessity of uniting oneself with Christ was

brought out time and again."

Margaret Forrester, a junior from England making an Ignatian retreat for the first time, said, "Father Steckler is serious and to the point, but at the same time, he has a good sense of humor. He keeps the process moving along, but he always makes sure you're hearing the things you should be hearing."

By its nature, an Ignatian retreat is closed, that is, it is silent except for necessities. "I had never before gone on a closed retreat," Miss Forrester said, "and I didn't know how much I could take. But now that I've done it, I have to say that the silence, probably more than any other aspect, was worthwhile for me. I found that when you stop talking, you really start listening, and that's how I learned a lot."

And to what were you listening? she was asked. "To Christ — is the most direct answer," she replied. "At the end of the retreat, when I was praying, I felt very consoled — it was wonderful. Everyone talks about the love of Christ, but I really felt it. I remember thinking how much I had progressed in three days."

Both students agreed that they would do the retreats again. "Union with Christ is the most important activity a person can be engaged in," Mr. Fromageot said. "To the degree you are in union with Christ, you are going to become holier, a better human being overall." ♦

## "Hard To Improve"—The Great Books Summer Seminar

by Michael F. McLean

Vice President for Development

Twenty-six people from around the country attended the college's third annual Great Books Summer Seminar Weekend, held July 24-26. Guests enjoyed stimulating readings and discussions, as well as fine food and fellowship. Time was provided, too, for Mass, prayer, confession, and quiet reflection amidst the natural beauty of the college campus.

"Can it be that I have not lived as I ought to have?" asks Ivan Ilyich in Tolstoy's great novella, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*. This question, along with Tolstoy's exquisite description of Ivan's physical and moral suffering, and his final turning of soul, was the focus of Friday evening's seminars. The lively discussions provided excellent points of departure for participants' weekend reflections on the nature of human happiness.

"I suggest, gentlemen, that the difficulty is not so much to escape death; the real difficulty is to escape from doing wrong," says Socrates in his eloquent defense to the citizens of Athens, which was the subject of the Saturday morning set of seminars. Socrates' trust in God, his respect for the law, and his profound commitment to the philosophic life were focal points for the conversations.

"Ultimate and perfect happiness can only be in the vision of the divine essence," St. Thomas Aquinas concludes in his *Treatise on Happiness*. His careful explanation and defense of this conclusion, his description of the active and contemplative lives, and the cooperation of knowledge and love in

the completely happy human life were of primary interest to participants in the final seminars Saturday evening.

"Excellent readings," commented one guest, "in that they provided wonderful balance for comparison and contrast." "They worked extremely well together," said another.

Participating in this year's seminars were Warren Anderson, Jacksonville Beach, Fla., Jim and Judy Barrett, Calistoga, Harry Browne, Nashville, Tenn., Linda Browne, Watsonville, Paul Clark, Paso Robles, Phillip Cronin, Visalia, John and Gayle DeGregori, Stockton, Catherine Dillon, Garden City, N.Y., Patricia Fawcett, Columbia, S.C., Frances Hilton, Los Angeles, Richard Holm, Truckee, George and Helen Jost, Lake in the Hills, Ill., Tom Krause, Ojai, Ed and Betty Martin, Pasadena, Francis and Marion Montgomery, Los Angeles, Byron and Nancy Pinckert, Long Beach, Bill and Gerry Smith, Los Angeles, and Don and Rita Swartz, Palos Verdes. The tutors and their wives who participated were Peter and Kay DeLuca, Thomas and Theresa Dillon, Kevin and Michelle Kolbeck, and Michael and Lynda McLean.

"It is going to be hard to improve upon your 1992 seminar," volunteered one guest at Sunday's farewell brunch at the president's residence. "The classes were inspiring, the tempo was perfect, the accommodations were excellent, and your students were intelligent, charming, and fun."

Next year's Great Books Summer Seminar Weekend is tentatively scheduled for July 23-25 on the college's Santa Paula campus. ♦

Photo Tim Teague



Ed and Betty Martin are engaged in conversation with President Thomas Dillon at the Sunday brunch, the final event of the seminar weekend.

## Baltic and Scandinavian Educators Visit the College

On July 20, a group of 14 university educators — including university presidents — from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland, Norway and Sweden visited Thomas Aquinas College. The members of the group were participants in the inaugural program of the recently established Scandinavian and Baltic Institute at California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks. The educators were accompanied by Leonard Smith, Ph.D., professor of history at Cal Lutheran, founder and co-director of the institute.

According to Smith, the institute was founded "to provide opportunities for university professors and administrators from Scandinavia and the Baltic countries to participate in an international and interdisciplinary seminar focusing on issues of common concern for university educators." The theme chosen for the first year's program was "Higher Education in a Changing Economic, Political and Cultural Environment," a topic especially relevant for the educators from the newly independent republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

During the course of the program, which lasted from July 3 through July 24, the participants visited UCLA, USC, UCSB, Pepperdine University, Thomas Aquinas College and other area institutions of higher learning. Professor Smith, who is familiar with the work of the college, included Thomas Aquinas in the program because, as he told the educators, "This school does a better job than any other school I know in teaching students how to think, in training their minds and in teaching them logic. It is one of the few colleges in the U.S. where you can have an intellectual discussion with a student."

To acquaint the visitors with the method of learning at the college, Dean Kevin Kolbeck and tutor John Neumayr co-led a seminar on de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*. For more than an hour, the foreign educators observed as the tutors and students who remained on campus during summer conducted what Dean Kolbeck later called "a typical seminar."

The first comment in the question and answer period afterwards came from a Scandinavian educator who

said, "I have never seen anything like this before." She followed with a practical question: "How do you get everyone to participate?" On hand to field such questions were President Thomas Dillon, Dean Kolbeck, Assistant Dean Thomas Kaiser, and tutors John Neumayr and Ronald Richard.



A Scandinavian educator asks a question.

A visitor from Lithuania said, "Personally, I would like to sit down and do forever what you do here," a comment echoed by a Latvian who said, "My heart agrees with your program, but I wouldn't know how to begin putting such a program in place."

In fact, many of the questions raised were of a practical nature, reflecting the technical and scientific backgrounds of the majority of the visiting educators. In the Baltic countries, liberal education ceased after Stalin forcibly annexed the countries at the beginning of WWII. Communist orthodoxy replaced open inquiry, and the educational system was skewed towards the assembly-line production of scientists and engineers.

Nevertheless, a sense of the importance of liberal education did not die out, as became clear in conversations with the visitors at a reception hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Dillon in their home. The educators declared themselves impressed by what they had observed; one Estonian said it was the most memorable thing he had experienced so far in America. What was not clear to them, however, was how and to what degree such a program could be established in their own countries. ♦

## 1991-92 Donations, A Year of Great Blessing

by Michael F. McLean

Vice President for Development

Thanks to the generosity of many individuals and foundations, the college completed the 1991-92 fiscal year with the highest contribution total in its history. Over \$2.1 million was received, enabling the college to make significant progress in its annual, building, and endowment funds.

The highest priority for 1991-92 was raising sufficient annual funds to provide for operating the college and for adequate financial assistance to students requiring it. The college was very successful in this effort, receiving nearly \$1.5 million in annual fund contributions.

Major annual fund gifts were received from the Fritz B. Burns, Andersen, and Lynde and Harry

Bradley foundations. Particular thanks are due, too, to Mrs. George V. Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Friedrich, Mr. and Mrs. James L. Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. Francis J. Montgomery, Dr. and Mrs. William W. Smith, and Rev. Msgr. John Connolly.

The college moved closer to completely funding its future library building by receiving a \$250,000 grant from the Dan Murphy Foundation and a \$100,000 challenge grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. Every effort will be made this year to raise the final amount needed.

The endowment fund more than doubled in 1991-92, thanks to major gifts from an anonymous donor, the Fletcher Jones Foundation, and Mr. Henry Salvatori. Efforts to strengthen the college's endowment will continue in 1992-93, especially through a pro-

### Major Individual Donors to Thomas Aquinas College 1991-92

Mr. and Mrs. James L. Barrett  
Calistoga, Calif.

Dr. Harry G. Browne  
Nashville, Tenn.

Mrs. George V. Caldwell  
Santa Monica, Calif.

Rev. Msgr. John Connolly  
Deceased (gift of the estate)

Mr. Corwin D. Denny  
Beverly Hill, Calif.

Rev. Msgr. Joseph Emmenegger  
Elm Grove, Wis.

Mr. and Mrs. John B. Friedrich  
Oxnard, Calif.

Mr. Joseph Jachimowski  
Chicago, Ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis J. Montgomery

Los Angeles, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Robter  
Montecito, Calif.

Mr. Henry Salvatori  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. John E. Schaeffer  
San Francisco, Calif.

Mrs. Margaret P. Sibert  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Steichen  
St. Cloud, Minn.

Mr. Ray Stark  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Waterbury  
St. Petersburg Beach, Fla.

Dr. and Mrs. Henry J. Zeiter  
Stockton, Calif.

gram to acquaint friends of the college with the many advantages of planned giving.

The college wishes to express its deepest appreciation to its many bene-

factors for their generosity and loyal support in 1991-92. With faith and hope in God, we look forward to even greater blessings in the year ahead. ♦

## The Friday Lecture and Concert Series

The second semester's Friday Lecture and Concert Series began with the all-college seminar held February 7. The reading was Tolstoy's *Death of Ivan Ilyich*, a text that proved so rich for discussion it was used again for the Alumni Day seminars and also as one of the readings for the Great Books Summer Seminar Weekend.

ROBERT AUGROS

This year the college selected Dr. Robert Augros, professor at St. Anselm College, to deliver the St. Thomas Day lecture. He spoke March 6 on the topic "Is Beauty in Things?"

"The problem," Dr. Augros said, "is not beauty's importance, which is evident; nor beauty's definition, which is generally agreed upon. The modern problem is how beauty exists: is it in the observer only, or is it first and foremost a characteristic of things themselves?"

Using careful reasoning and clear examples, Prof. Augros showed that the adage "beauty is in the eye of the beholder" is false and is based on the flawed logic of the radical individualism that has come to dominate modern Western thought and culture. Beauty, in fact, is in things and points to a God in whom beauty pre-exists in a sublime manner.

JOHN NIETO

On March 20, John Francis Nieto, who graduated from Thomas Aquinas College in 1989, gave a lecture on "The Divine Achilles." Citing the divine characteristics of Achilles in the *Iliad*, he argued that they are keys to understanding the divine nature in Homeric theology. Two interpretations were offered and compared. In the first, the gods are utterly unconcerned with man as they spin the web of fate. The other interpretation suggests that the gods' apparent lack of concern and love for men is, in fact, based on their understanding of human nature.

RONALD TACELLI

Fr. Ronald Tacelli, S. J., who teaches philosophy at Boston College, spoke April 3 on the question "Does the Thesis of an Everlasting Universe Entail the Existence of an Actual Infinite?" With passion and wry good humor, Fr. Tacelli argued that the answer is yes. "Because that infinity which comprises the entire past of this present world has been gone through, completed, traversed," he summed up, "it must be actual."

## First Orange County Brunch a Success, Next Event September 18

Catholics came from as far away as San Diego and Riverside to attend Thomas Aquinas College's first annual Orange County brunch, held May 30 at the Beverly Heritage Hotel in Costa Mesa.

The purpose of the brunch was to provide area residents, including friends of the college, parents of students, and new acquaintances, with an opportunity to meet informally with college president Thomas Dillon.

In discussing the importance of a Catholic liberal arts education, President Dillon described Thomas Aquinas College as "imparting to each

Richard McKirahan fields a question.



WILLIAM BALL

William Bentley Ball, a noted constitutional lawyer who has been involved in religious liberty cases in 22 states and has appeared eight times before the U. S. Supreme Court, spoke May 1 on "The Meaning of Religion in the American Constitution."

Mr. Ball described those legal cases that have led to an erosion of religious liberty in the United States, creating, he said, "an immense potential for a state-enforced regime of secularism affecting all our lives." He called Christians to a life of prayer, the sacraments, and disciplined study of those issues of greatest significance to them. "Then", he said, "resolute, joyous action in the legal and political order will surely please God as the only means for converting society to goodness and order."

RICHARD MCKIRAHAN

On May 8, Prof. Richard McKirahan of Pomona College lectured on "Aristotle's Principles and Euclid's Elements." Prof. McKirahan noted that Euclid's classification of principles in *Elements*, Book I, bears a relation to the kinds of scientific principles discussed by Aristotle in the *Posterior Analytics*, which itself seems to be based in part on Aristotle's reflection on pre-Euclidian mathematics. "This interaction between mathematics and philosophy was beneficial to both fields of thought," he said, "and was possible because of the stages of development in which geometry, natural science, and philosophy were situated in the time of Aristotle and Euclid."

MARIAN CONCERT

To celebrate Mary's month, the Thomas Aquinas College Choir, directed by alumnus Stephen Grimm, presented a concert of sacred music in honor of the Blessed Virgin on May 15. Joining the college choir in the final event of this year's lecture and concert series was the adult choir of Saints Felicitas and Perpetua Parish, San Marino. The largely Renaissance program included one contemporary work, "Hail Mary/Ave Maria," a piece composed by student Peter Kay (Class of 1994). ♦

of its students the broad range of secular learning informed by the wisdom of Catholic tradition." He went on to stress the harmony between faith and reason found at the college, noting that this harmony is a source of strength for the students during "these times of doubt and uncertainty."

The college will be hosting events in Orange County on an ongoing basis, with an early morning breakfast with Assemblyman Nolan Frizzelle scheduled for September 18, 7:30 a.m., at the Beverly Heritage Hotel. For further information, please contact Karen Walker, (714) 673-4654. ♦

## Celebrating the 10th Annual Alumni Day

Amidst the many activities on any given Alumni Day, the seminar gives weight and focus to the day's events; and so it was on the tenth annual Alumni Day, held Saturday, May 16, on the college campus.

This year, the seminar reading was Tolstoy's *Death of Ivan Ilyich*, a masterfully constructed narrative of a man who, under the guise of duty and respectability, lives solely for self, seeking only social status, comfort and pleasure. Tolstoy is careful not to portray Ivan as a monster, thereby forcing the reader to concede that at one point or another, in greater or lesser degree, Ivan's life resembles his own.



Tolstoy's *Death of Ivan Ilyich* was fertile ground for the Alumni Day seminars.

This year's seminar was divided into two sections, one led by college president Thomas Dillon and the other by tutor John Neumayr. Much of the discussion centered on the nature of Ivan Ilyich's apparent conversion just two hours before his death. A point of difference between the two sections concerned the efficacy of the confession and communion given to Ivan three days prior to his conversion.

As layer after layer of meaning was extracted from the text, it was obvious that *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* truly is a great book. It was also obvious that the alumni had not lost the capacity to

argue critically and to the point, all the while taking great delight in the process.

Complementing the life of the mind were a number of athletic events, with some of the fiercest competition taking place on the basketball court. In game one, the sophomores, winners of this year's campus tournament, defeated the alumni 25-19. Game two pitted the sophomores against the faculty, with the undergraduates again victorious, scoring a 25-20 win.

The life of the spirit was won by a trio of freshmen, Tim Cosgrove, Aaron Harder and Mark Moriarty. Alumnus Andrew Wrzesinski (Class of 1990) posted a win in the seventh annual cardboard yacht race.

The life of the spirit was also addressed, with a 10 a.m. Mass leading off the day's events. Following the Mass, Andrew Zepeda (Class of 1979) chaired a meeting of the Alumni Association.

Jerry Stets (Class of 1980) attended the first Alumni Day but missed the intervening ones until this, the tenth. "Not seeing fellow alumni for a long time and then discovering we still have the same principles — principles either formed or developed here at the college — was for me the heart of the day," he said. When asked which principles he meant, he listed faith, respect for the life of reason, and a deepening understanding of duty growing out of the responsibilities of family life.

The program at Thomas Aquinas College is meant to set those who experience it on the path to wisdom. Each successive Alumni Day proves the program's strength, and finds the alumni progressing farther along wisdom's way. ♦

## James Barrett Named to College Board of Governors

James L. Barrett of Calistoga, Calif., has been named to the Thomas Aquinas College Board of Governors. A graduate of UCLA and Loyola Law School, Mr. Barrett served as senior partner in the law firm Barrett, Stearns, Collins, Gleason & Kinney until 1979. From 1972 he has been the owner/operator of Chateau Montelena Winery, an award-winning winery in the Napa Valley.

Mr. Barrett and his wife Judy became interested in the work of Thomas Aquinas College through the school's ads in *National Review* and through Judy's pro-life work in the Santa Rosa Diocese, which led to a working and personal relationship with two Thomas Aquinas College alumnae, Regina Corley and Grace Mohun.

The Barretts' original interest has since grown into a genuine knowledge of the college's mission and method; both James and Judy have attended all three Great Books Summer Seminar Weekends. James Barrett also attended

the lecture given on campus in April 1991 by Mortimer Adler, an important intellectual progenitor of the college.

The Barretts' financial support of Thomas Aquinas College has been generous, and friends of the college can rejoice in the additional gift of James Barrett's time and talents. ♦

James and Judy Barrett



## Your Prayers Are Requested

Jon Syren (Class of 1987) died early August. His wife Angela (Anderson, Class of 1987) is left with their two young children.

Roberta and Valerie Soprano, a mother and daughter tragically killed in a car accident; the son Jonathan remains in a coma. The lived faith of the 11-member Soprano family has touched the lives of many in Ventura County.