



THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

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Two Nights to Remember

Campus Celebration and Beverly Hills Gala Mark 35th Anniversary

On September 16, 2006, students, faculty, and staff gathered in St. Joseph's Square next to the Commons to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of Thomas Aquinas College. The first of two special events to mark this milestone in the College's history, the campus celebration consisted of a Mass of Thanksgiving followed by a banquet under a spacious canopy where even an ominous orange glow in the sky and falling ash from a nearby major California brush fire could not dampen the enthusiasm.

The College is deeply grateful to His Excellency the Most Reverend Fabian Bruskewitz, Bishop of Lincoln, Nebraska, who presided over the day's events as the principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass and keynote speaker at the dinner later on that evening. He began his dinner talk with a ringing endorsement of Thomas Aquinas College, saying, "It is no flattery, but a fact, to point out that for many Catholics, throughout the United States, Thomas Aquinas College has become the prophet Jeremiah's proverbial 'wall of brass, pillar of iron, and fortified city' in the present condition of Catholic higher education in the United States." He then went on to discuss the relationship between faith and reason in Catholic higher education, referring to the University of Regensburg lecture that Pope Benedict XVI had given just days before.



"Thomas Aquinas College is a witness to a strong synthesis of philosophy and theology in its academic undertakings. In a certain sense, it stands as an icon of the encyclical *Fides et Ratio* of Pope John Paul II."
- Bishop Bruskewitz

President Dillon was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening and began the dinner program with an optimistic look at the future of Thomas Aquinas College. He then introduced in turn four of the College's founders—Dr. Ronald McArthur, Mr. Marc Berquist, Dr. Jack Neumayr, and Mr. Peter DeLuca—who addressed the gathering. They reminisced about their experiences over 35 years as they worked to found and firmly establish Thomas Aquinas



"The world is at risk of coming apart in the 21st century because of false ideas about the human condition. Thomas Aquinas College prepares students who are not only equipped to critique these bad ideas; it prepares men and women of character whose lives, as well as their arguments, put the good ideas, the true ideas, the ideas that reflect the Logos as the creative agent of history, into play."
- George Weigel

College as an institution committed to genuine Catholic liberal education. Following dinner, students, faculty, and staff danced the night away to the music of a Dixieland band headed by member of the Board of Governors Mr. Tom Sullivan.

Two weeks later, on September 30, the College held a more formal, black-tie gala event at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills.

The evening began with a Mass of Thanksgiving in one of the hotel's smaller ballrooms. Msgr. Francis Weber, Archivist for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and Director of the San Fernando Mission, was the principal

Continued on page 10

Faculty Center Takes Shape

Common Spaces to Encourage Unity of Purpose

Construction of the faculty center progresses steadily toward completion, which is scheduled for early summer. Soon the College will have an official front door for the campus, unified workspace for its faculty and staff, and a center for important student services such as mail and the bookstore. Like the other campus buildings, it will feature a number of common areas, most notably a spacious rotunda beyond the entry lobby where visitors will be welcomed to the campus and College personnel will come and go throughout the day.

Throughout its 35-year history, Thomas Aquinas College has sought to nurture an intimate intellectual and social environment—a genuine community of learners and friends. As it has constructed its permanent buildings, care has been taken, therefore, to include in their designs certain common areas to promote informal meetings and conversations that in turn help strengthen the community.

Perhaps ironically, the temporary trailers that served as dormitories for more than 25 years were a model in one respect for the College's permanent residence halls. Due to the long and narrow shape of each 12' x 60' trailer (a number of which were joined together to form a single dormitory), rooms in these temporary structures could be located only on the ends, resulting in large public areas in the centers of the buildings onto which private dorm rooms opened. Thus situated, the "common rooms" proved to be effective locations for promoting friendship among the students; even the shyest students came into daily contact with fellow students of all classes.

The six permanent residence halls called for by the College's Master Plan (three for men and three for women) have now been completed. Comfortable lounges, centrally-located in each of these halls, help promote camaraderie and collegiality among the students. On occasion, these also serve as inviting venues for receptions with Board members, benefactors, and friends of the College.

St. Bernardine of Siena Library and Albertus Magnus Science Hall also feature unique common areas. Though generally a place of quiet, the library houses a nave-like common space beyond its entrance that welcomes both visitors and students for occasional events. It is given added ambience by the wood-carved, 17th-century Spanish ceiling donated to the College by the Honorable and Mrs. William P. Clark. Co-chairman of the College's Compre-

hensive Campaign and National Security Adviser in the Reagan Administration, Bill Clark and his wife, Joan, obtained the ceiling from the estate of William Randolph Hearst, and the building was designed to showcase it. Now, underneath this

Continued on page 4



A cupola covered with gold leaf glass tiles will sit atop the conical roofline of the faculty center's rotunda.



St. Bernardine of Siena Library

In This Issue

- ◆ From the Desk of the President.....2
- ◆ Comprehensive Campaign Update.....2
- ◆ Chapel Update.....3
A Manager for the Crown Jewel
Columns from Italy Installed
- ◆ The Virtue of Thankfulness.....4
- ◆ Music for the Season5
- ◆ A Salute to Benefactors5
- ◆ Regent Profile:6
Chairman, James Scanlon
- ◆ What to Do with Harvard's
Missing \$390 Million?.....6
- ◆ "Don Rags"7
- ◆ High School Great Books
Summer Program7
- ◆ New Governor: Mark Ryland8
- ◆ An Expression of Faith and Confidence8
- ◆ Governor Profile:9
Margaret Brooks-Llamas
- ◆ Alumni Updates.....10
Commerce with Compassion
Committed to the Craftsman's Task
- ◆ In Memoriam10
- ◆ Alumni Profile:11
A Puerto Rican Connection

From the Desk of the President

Some Reflections on our 35th Anniversary



Over a century ago, John Henry Cardinal Newman opened the School of Philosophy and Letters at his newly-founded Catholic University of Ireland with a lecture addressed to its faculty and students. In this

lecture, Cardinal Newman explained that a common civilization has developed in the West which, though nurtured in various soils, is most strongly rooted in Ancient Greece and Palestine. Especially noteworthy is the fact that the Word of God became incarnate within this civilization which, in consequence, has been further cultivated and formed by Christianity. According to Newman, this civilization is based upon common principles, views, teachings, and especially books: indeed, the classics and the liberal studies to which they give rise have always been, he said, what the civilized world has adopted as the instruments of education.

Sustaining Civilization

Cardinal Newman's purpose in his opening lecture was to invest the inauguration of the School of Philosophy and Letters with a solemnity and moment of a peculiar kind. Those who were embarking upon the endeavor were, in his words, "but re-iterating an old tradition in carrying on those august methods of enlarging the mind, cultivating the intellect, and refining the feelings in which the process of civilization ever consisted."

As we celebrate Thomas Aquinas College's 35th anniversary, I am mindful of Newman's lecture for two reasons: first, we at the College are doing the same kind of thing that Newman so vigorously espoused. For 35 years, our students have engaged in those venerable studies which shape the intelligence and lead to a knowledge of the highest truths. It is right to say that such studies serve to perpetuate what is best in our civilization. Indeed, if Newman is right, such studies make civilization possible.

Holding Firm

Secondly, within his lecture Newman exhorted his listeners to hold firm in the face of what he understood to be a movement in his day against the classics. He saw clearly that practical exigencies are one thing, the cultivation of the intellect quite another, and he resolutely upheld the importance of liberal education. For 35 years, Thomas Aquinas College has withstood similar movements, and this milestone year in our history is an occasion to recommit ourselves to our noble work.

While a consideration of the seven liberal arts and the studies to which they lead reveals their intrinsic superiority both for forming the mind and for fostering true wisdom, no school exists in the abstract. Thomas Aquinas College exists at a particular time and in a particular educational climate. In our own day we are witnessing a sustained and vigorous attack against the classics and against the whole of liberal learning. We are being urged from every quarter to abandon what is perennial and worthwhile in itself in favor of what is said to be practically or politically advantageous.

This is, of course, shortsighted at best. For, as Newman rightly pointed out, if our civilization is to survive, we cannot ignore those studies which have nourished and sustained it. No matter how glorious the bloom of civilization may seem, if it be cut off from its roots, it can only wither and die.

At Thomas Aquinas College, we are conducting our studies at a time when there are pressures from

all sides to cast away what is seen as old and outdated and to reject the substantial in favor of the expedient. These pressures can be powerful, but we continue to stand firm against them and wholeheartedly embrace our program of liberal studies.

The Road to Wisdom

Socrates tells us that the unexamined life is not worth living. In their four years here, our students live the *examined* life. They consider nature, the human soul, and God. They wonder about quantity, about motion, and about the heavens. Plato helps them to see what they do not know and quickens their desire to seek the true and the good. Aristotle distinguishes and makes more accessible to them the things that can be naturally known. Augustine brings them face to face with Christ, and Aquinas introduces them to the sublime mysteries of the Trinity. Through our program, they wonder about the most important

For 35 years, our students have engaged in those venerable studies which shape the intelligence and lead to a knowledge of the highest truths. Such studies make civilization possible.

questions facing any person in any age. By nurturing their sense of wonder and taking their studies seriously, these young people make a firm beginning on the road to wisdom.

Our intelligence is our greatest gift from God, and our minds are meant to know. In undertaking the program of liberal studies offered here, our students have an opportunity to engage in the highest kind of activity and the most worthwhile in itself. By putting away for a while the transient, the inconsequential, and the mundane, they reach for the enduring, the noble, and the divine.

The Light of Faith

We are heirs of a precious intellectual patrimony. The Catholic tradition of liberal learning is the greatest the world has seen. For not only does it respect the deepest thinkers through the ages, it finally rests on the Word of God Himself. Our Catholic faith is a sure guide in our intellectual endeavors, and as it elevates our studies, it invests them with a wisdom that is divine in its origin and therefore sure in its direction and resplendent in its end.

On the recent feast of our patron, St. Thomas Aquinas, Pope Benedict XVI reflected on the relationship of faith and reason, saying, "It is urgent...to rediscover...human rationality open to the light of the divine *Logos* and to its perfect revelation that is Jesus Christ, Son of God made man." "Faith implies reason and perfects it," the Holy Father continued, "and reason, illuminated by faith, finds the strength to rise to knowledge of God and of spiritual realities..."

This is the work in which we engage at Thomas Aquinas College. We are dedicated to helping form well the minds and souls of our young people so that throughout their lives they will seek and uphold the truth as it is illuminated by the twin beacons of faith and reason.

A Noble Task

As we celebrate our 35th anniversary, I invite you to join us in our noble task by renewing your commitment to genuine Catholic liberal education. First and foremost, I ask that you support Thomas Aquinas College and our students with your prayers, because only by the grace of God shall we

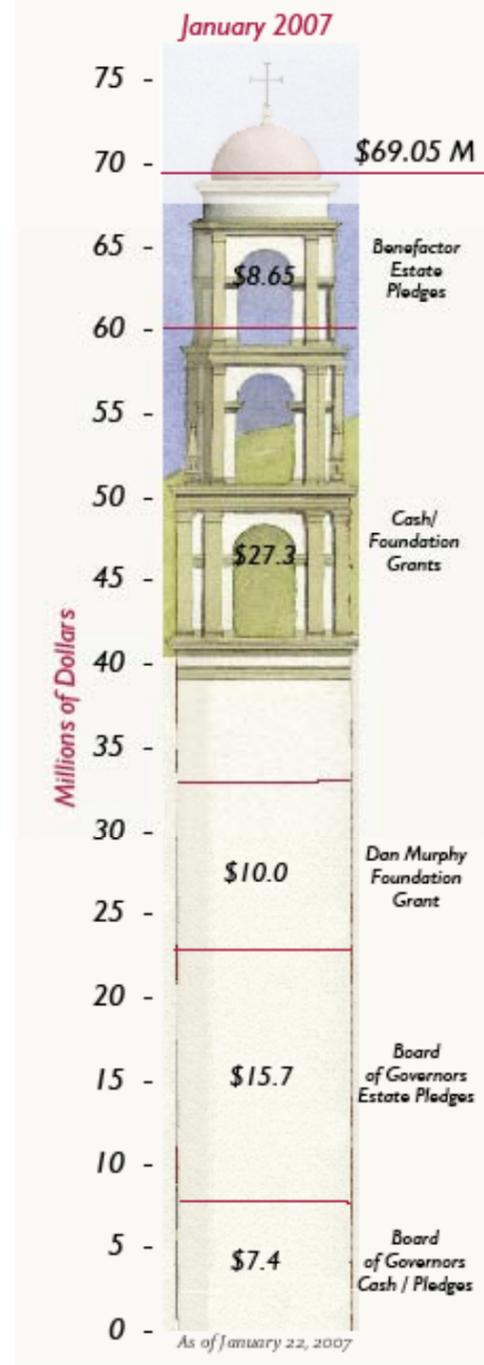
succeed in our task.

Second, I ask that you help the College financially to the extent you are able. Elsewhere in the pages of this newsletter you will read about two building projects taking place on our campus—our faculty center and the crown jewel of the campus, Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel. We have received to date nearly \$20



Venerable John Henry Cardinal Newman

Campaign Update



million in funding for these projects, and I am deeply grateful to the many generous friends and alumni who have stepped forward to help. To complete these buildings, however, an additional \$8 million is needed. Moreover, an additional \$3.7 million for financial aid and operational costs is needed this year.

As you can see, the challenge is great. Yet, not only will your generosity directly influence the lives of our students, it will be far-reaching in its effects as these young people take the formation they receive at the College into the world.

Many of our graduates are already in positions of leadership. They are having a profound influence for good as teachers in colleges, universities, and seminaries both in the United States and abroad. One is the president of her Dominican Order's college in Nashville; another is the Superior General of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, in charge of over 300 priests and seminarians worldwide; still another (story on page 11) has responsibility for the deans, department heads, and faculty for 10,000 students at six of the colleges of the Pontifical University of Puerto Rico.

Some of our alumni are praying for the world from within their cloisters, while others are teaching in seminaries, helping to form scores of young men preparing for the priesthood. Even more alumni are teaching in classrooms from kindergarten to graduate school across the country, and still more are faithful Catholic parents raising children to be similarly faithful. Those who have gone into law, business, military or public service, journalism, and medicine are having an influence for good in their workplaces.

Your generosity accomplishes great good here on our campus, in our country, and in the Church. Please help us as we seek to more firmly establish Thomas Aquinas College so that future generations of young people will have the opportunity to be well-formed intellectually, morally, and spiritually through our program of genuine Catholic liberal education.

Managing Construction of the Campus' Crown Jewel

CHAPEL



UPDATE

The walls of the apse of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel now rise more than 40 feet over the surrounding treetops. Each passing day brings this crown jewel closer to the time when it will preside over the Thomas Aquinas College campus as a treasure of beauty, grandeur, permanence, and tradition.

A project of this scope requires a manager to see it through to completion. The College has been fortunate to enlist the services of Mr. Randy

Fulton, Executive Vice President of Stegman and Kastner Inc., a construction management firm based in Santa Monica, California, to play this critical role in the construction process. Mr. Fulton is also overseeing the construction of the adjacent faculty center, begun simultaneously, with that of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel.

Mr. Fulton's firm seeks out projects in the Los Angeles area that are complex and interesting, including the expansion of the California Science Center in Exposition Park, the construction of a new resort in Beverly Hills, and the building of a hands-on recreational complex adjacent to the Los Angeles Children's Museum. Mr. Fulton was introduced to the College by Chairman of the Board of Governors Mrs. Maria Grant, whose husband, Richard, the Executive Director of the Dan Murphy Foundation, served on the steering committee for the construction of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles. In that capacity, Mr. Grant became familiar with the services of Stegman and Kastner and with Mr. Fulton, who managed the Cathedral project.

Says Mr. Peter DeLuca, Vice President for Finance and Administration, "Since 1989 we have built 10 buildings on the campus, and I have been happy to have the opportunity to oversee the construction of a number of them. This time, not only because of the far more complex nature of the Chapel, but also due to the concurrent construction of the faculty center, we thought it best to employ Mr. Fulton to assist us."

From the beginning, Mr. Fulton has worked closely with Mr. DeLuca on budget, cost, and construction issues, staying in close touch by phone and email throughout the week and spending at least one day a week on campus meeting with the architect, Rasmussen & Associates, and the contractor, HMH. He also confers periodically with the design architect, Duncan Stroik, at the University of Notre Dame. In addition, he apprises at regular intervals the President and the Chairman and members of the Board of Governors.

"My primary responsibility," explains Randy, "is to keep Mr. DeLuca, President Dillon, and the members of the Board as well-informed of project status and issues as I can. I try to take complicated issues and simplify them, using laymen's terminology if necessary, and then recommend courses of action or decisions. From there, I implement those decisions and move the project in the direction I'm provided."

Mr. Fulton's firm chose to work on the Chapel project in part because of its unique architecture. As Randy explains, "Though it may be an oxymoron to say that Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity's traditional Romanesque architecture is unique, it is certainly the case that to do something like this today is unique. It's a wonderful thing to see this architecture coming back for this facility."

In addition, the structural systems

chosen for the Chapel were of special interest

to Randy and his firm. "This sort of masonry sheer wall construction for the perimeter and the steel and wood support systems for the interior, including the roof and the dome, are unusual for a building of this type," he says. "It's a very cost-effective, permanent type of construction. Frequently, on this scale, there is a desire to go to other materials that might be cheaper, but only in the short run. When you look at the life-cycle/cost-analysis of a structure like this that is intended to be permanent, you have to balance durability of systems, looking

50 years down the road, with cost. In my opinion, you have a very permanent building here."

Mr. Fulton was also attracted to the project because it incorporates liturgical architecture rarely seen today such as the baldacchino over the altar and the cruciform shape.

Like nearly every other project with which Randy has been associated, there have been some unexpected costs. As he explains, "It was impossible to predict three years ago what would transpire in the global economy in terms of costs of materials as well as local influences that have affected the availability of labor, but with 75% of the Chapel's outer construction complete, the risk of unexpected costs is significantly diminished."

Soon the east façade of the Chapel will be adorned with Indiana limestone, and the color choices made in the planning stages will be manifest. Contrasting hues will be found in the marble statues of the Blessed Mother, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Augustine that will be placed in prominent locations on the façade.

The College is grateful to Mr. Fulton for his expertise and his good management of this singular project and looks forward to working with him to bring it to completion.



Randy Fulton, Executive Vice President of Stegman and Kastner, Inc.



South side of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel

Chapel Columns Installed

The Botticino marble columns that line the nave of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel have posed an interesting, and in some ways, unique set of challenges for Mr. Randy Fulton of Stegman and Kastner, Inc., the company managing the construction of the Chapel (see story above), and the whole construction team.

In most cases with which Mr. Fulton is familiar, marble columns are made from segments that can be installed with relative ease. However, desiring the integrity and strength that whole columns provide and wishing to avoid unsightly seams between segments, the College decided instead to have whole columns fabricated from solid blocks of marble; they would then be cored and placed over steel shafts.

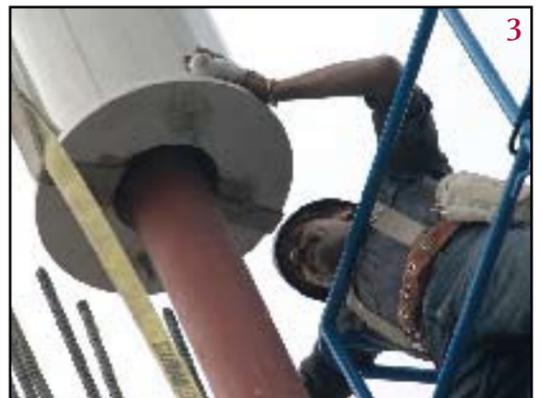
"The procurement of marble can be a tricky thing: structurally-suitable marble and aesthetically-pleasing marble may have competing requirements," explains Randy. "Marble's natural beauty is frequently related to the veining found in it," he continues, "but that veining is also where it is often most structurally unsound. To try to create the correct aesthetic of the marble while still maintaining materials that are suitable for fabricating solid, one-piece columns is a real challenge." Having some experience in this area, he accompanied Dr. Dillon to Italy to help select appropriate marble.

In the fall, the 14-foot polished columns were delivered to the campus. Installing them required the finely-tuned coordination of various sub-contractors on the project, orchestrated by Mr. Rick

Littman, the construction superintendent for HMH Construction. Even before the columns arrived on campus, the cores bored from both ends through the centers of the columns by fabricators in Italy had to match precisely with the steel support shafts made by contractors thousands of miles away. Once the marble columns were on site, careful planning took place among the workmen who would actually put them in place. Never having been called upon for work of this nature, they pooled their many years of construction experience and came up with a procedure to help ensure that the columns would reach their destinations safely.

Over a period of days, as students and faculty looked on in wonder, each of the 20 columns was hoisted more than 50 feet into the air, slowly passed over the walls of the Chapel, and carefully guided into place over the steel shafts already in place (see photos).

The marble columns have now been covered with protective, steel-reinforced wooden cases that will remain in place until interior work begins.



To view up-to-the-hour progress on Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel captured by our Webcam, please go to www.thomasaquinas.edu.

The Virtue of Thankfulness

Dean Delivers Thanksgiving Address

Each year on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving, students, faculty, and staff gather to give thanks at a formal dinner. This year Dean Michael McLean addressed the College community.

Dr. Dillon regrets not being with us this evening. He is attending an important conference of Church leaders in Italy on the subject of “The University and the Social Doctrine of the Church.” He has asked me to stand in for him and to make a few remarks appropriate to Thanksgiving.

When looking for something to say at Thomas Aquinas College, it is not a bad idea to look to St. Thomas himself for inspiration and guidance. I did that, and it came as no surprise that, reflecting on the words of 1 Thessalonians, “in all things give thanks,” St. Thomas had some interesting things to say about the virtue of thankfulness, aided in no small part by the pagan philosophers Cicero and Seneca. I thought I would share a few of his observations with you on this occasion in the hope that you will find them as edifying and instructive as I did.

To Whom Gratitude is Owed

St. Thomas begins his discussion of gratitude by noting that our greatest thanks are due to God, for He is the first principle of all our goods; secondly, thanks are due to our parents, for they are the proximate principles of our begetting and upbringing; thirdly, to our country, from which general favors proceed; and finally, to our benefactors, from whom we have received particular and private favors. The gratitude due God (which St. Thomas calls excelling gratitude) is an act of the virtue of religion; the gratitude due our parents is an act of the virtue of piety; the gratitude due our country is an act of the virtue of observance; but the gratitude due our benefactors is a special virtue, distinct from the other virtues. My comments this evening are drawn from St. Thomas’ discussion of this latter virtue, but they apply, I think, to all acts of gratitude, even when those acts of gratitude are acts of the other virtues I have mentioned.

The Degree of our Gratitude

The degree of thankfulness in the recipient should correspond to the degree of favor in the giver—when there is greater favor on the part of the giver, greater thanks are due on the part of the recipient. On the part of the giver, St. Thomas says the favor may be greater on two counts: first, owing

to the quantity of the thing given, and second, owing to its being given more gratuitously—i.e., without claim or merit on the part of the recipient.

By way of illustration, St. Thomas says an innocent man owes greater thanks to God due to the quantity of the grace he has received, while the penitent owes greater thanks because he is deserving of punishment but has instead received forgiveness and grace. The gift bestowed on the innocent is, absolutely speaking, greater; yet the gift bestowed on the penitent is greater in relation to him, just as a small gift bestowed on a poor man is greater to him than a great gift is to a rich man.

We should proportion our gratitude, then, not only to the magnitude, absolutely speaking, of the gift we have received but to the magnitude of the gift relative to our own condition of neediness and incapacity.

St. Thomas says we ought to consider the gift in relation to the giver as well. He quotes Seneca who says, “We are sometimes under a greater obligation to one who has given little with a large heart, and has bestowed a small favor, yet willingly.”

This is clear from the Gospels as well: “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living.”

Repayment of Generosity

Just as in judging the magnitude of a favor two things are to be considered, namely, the affection of the heart and the gift itself, so also must these things be considered in repaying the favor. As regards the affection of the heart, repayment should be made at once: “Do you wish to repay a favor?” asks Seneca. “Then receive it graciously...he who receives a favor gratefully, has already begun to pay it back.” St. Thomas does not say much about the gift which should be given, except that one ought to wait for a time that will be convenient to the benefactor. Again quoting Seneca, “He that wishes to repay too soon is an unwilling debtor, and an unwilling debtor is ungrateful.” Favors should be conferred at a time convenient to the one in need and should not be delayed if the need arises; the same is true when it comes to the repayment of the favor bestowed.

“A kindly action consists not in deed or gift, but in the disposition of the giver or doer,” says

Seneca, and so our gratitude is measured more by our disposition than by the magnitude of the gift we make in return. “Every moral act depends on the will,” says St. Thomas, “and so a kindly action consists materially in the thing done, but formally and chiefly in the will” of the one performing the kindly action. Gratitude always inclines, as far as possible, to pay back something more than has been received—so long as one repays less or an equivalent, he would seem to do nothing gratuitous, but only to return what he has received. The debt of gratitude flows from charity, which the more it is paid the more it is due, says St. Thomas, citing Romans 13, “Owe no man anything, but to love one another.”

Every one of us can make heroic contributions to the kingdom of God. Whether we are rich or poor, powerful or powerless, healthy or sick, we can give what we have in thanksgiving and service to God and to others. “It is not the size of the check,” one writer has said, “but the size of the heart” that matters and makes it possible to return something more than has been given.

“Among all our many and great vices,” says Seneca, “none is as common as ingratitude...and the most ungrateful of all is the man who has forgotten a benefit.” Thanksgiving is a good time to recall our many blessings and to express our gratitude for them with a full heart, not only with our words but with our deeds as well, especially now as the semester draws to a close.

Expressing Gratitude to our Benefactors

For all of us this means praying for the welfare and salvation of our benefactors. For some of us this means resolving to make better use of the gifts we have been given and of the opportunities the College and its benefactors provide. It may mean studying harder and doing more to contribute to the success of your classes. For others of us it may mean resolving to make continued good use of those same gifts and opportunities. I encourage all of you to do your very best from now until the end of the semester and to recall and to rededicate yourselves to what you came here in search of in the first place—not high grades or A’s on examinations, not the triumph of your own opinions or the esteem of tutors and students, but rather something of far greater worth and lasting value: the beginnings of Catholic wisdom and virtue. If we do these things, all of which are spiritual works and involve great spiritual goods, we will, I think, be paying back more than we have received to those who have made our lives at the College possible.



Common Spaces Encourage Unity of Purpose

Continued from page 1

relic of a glorious past, students, faculty, and friends of the College meet for public events such as choir recitals, *Schubertiades*, and even, on occasion, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The Burns Atrium situated at the entrance to Albertus Magnus Science Hall is another common area on campus that both welcomes visitors and encourages conversation among students and faculty in the course of the school day. Named in honor of a major contributor to the science hall, the Fritz B. Burns Foundation of Los Angeles, this bright, two-story space houses a Foucault pendulum that swings in a plane which appears to rotate continuously due to the daily rotation of the earth. A graceful, curved staircase rises from it to the second floor, alongside of which, in a spotlighted alcove, stands a hand-carved crucifix from Oberammergau, Germany. These two symbols, so closely displayed to one another—one of religion and the other of natural science—speak to all who enter of the complementarity of faith and reason, the foundation on which the curriculum of Thomas Aquinas College has been built.

Now with its very design uniting under one roof the administration and the faculty of the College, the faculty center will reinforce a sense of common purpose between what are too often disparate elements in institutions of higher learning. It will also greatly reduce the

amount of time spent each day by faculty and staff in going between temporary buildings and other office spaces spread across the campus throughout the day. As President Dillon says, “The faculty center’s design will not only foster unity on our campus, it will greatly improve our efficiency.”

As for common areas in this latest structure, there are a number of them. Guests will find a warm welcome in the 42-foot high rotunda beyond the entrance lobby of the faculty center, off of which is a parlor for small meetings and receptions. On the upper level of the building, a large faculty lounge opens up to an exterior terrace which, when furnished with umbrella tables, will afford privacy and a communal atmosphere. Other outside terraces will allow the faculty and staff to have lunches together in the open air. They will also serve as special venues for fundraising events and receptions for visiting dignitaries.

The College is deeply grateful to the Fritz B. Burns Foundation, the Samuel L. Noble Foundation, and the Fletcher Jones Foundation, all of which have contributed generously to the construction of the faculty center. To date the College has raised approximately \$5 million of the needed \$7.1 million to complete this project, so even as construction approaches completion, there remain gift opportunities. If you would like to contribute to this building that both improves the campus and strengthens the Thomas Aquinas College community, please contact Mr. John Q. Masteller at 800-634-9797, ext. 327.



The Foucault pendulum in Albertus Magnus Science Hall



A computer-generated rendering of the Rotunda in the faculty center

Music for the Season

Sounds of Christmas Heard at Advent Concert and *Schubertiade*

Under the direction of choirmaster Daniel Grimm ('76), the Thomas Aquinas College Choir performed its annual Advent Concert on December 1st. Those assembled in St. Joseph Commons were treated to a festive offering of sacred music by two of the great masters of composition, Johann Sebastian Bach and Antonio Vivaldi. "I wondered, for a second or two, if we were doing too much sacred music for our concerts," Mr. Grimm reflected. "Yet, we are always supposed to be praising God, whatever we do, and these days the more explicit, the better to counteract so much apathy and blasphemy. Too often, Church music sounds like second-rate secular music. So why not, in at least one place, have concerts of first-rate sacred music?"

To set the tone for the evening, the choir began by chanting the Introit of the third Mass of Christmas Day, *Puer Natus Est Nobis* (*A Child is Born to Us*). A rendition of Bach's Cantata No. 142, *Uns ist ein Kind geboren* followed, featuring solo performances by sophomores Simon Noster (bass) and David Kaiser (tenor) and freshman Jacob Mason (baritone). In addition to showcasing choir and soloists, the Cantata is scored for two flutes, two oboes, strings, and bass continuo. For this performance, the continuo was played by cello, string bass, and a harpsichord graciously loaned to the College by The Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara and played by sophomore Joel Morehouse. The concert concluded with Vivaldi's *Gloria in D* with solos by sopranos Thérèse Grimm ('04), sophomore Rosalind Grimm, and senior Bailey Fator, and alto Maria Forshaw, a senior.

Students who comprise the College's chamber orchestra that

accompanied the choir were joined by several local musicians, including an oboist who teaches at the California Institute of the Arts, a violinist who directs the Ojai Youth Symphony, and a trumpeter who supervises the music program at Nordhoff High School in Ojai.

Mr. Grimm commented on the choir's work saying, "Here at the College we aim to form good tastes as well as clear thinking. That is done best, in music as in other aspects of education, by focusing on the great works which are universally acknowledged as masterpieces. It just so happens," he continued, "that the music of the Renaissance and Baroque periods is also ideally suited for young singers. Their bright, clear, young voices sound wonderful in this literature."

More fine music was heard inside St. Bernardine of Siena Library on December 6th when students presented an informal recital—a *Schubertiade*—for the Advent season. The first part of this year's program consisted of vocal and instrumental pieces by composers such as Handel and Praetorius. It concluded with freshman Paula Matthews on flute and junior Thomas Duffy on piano, performing the first movement of Poulenc's *Sonata for Flute and Piano*. During the second half of the *Schubertiade*, a new vocal ensemble, *Chrysostomos*, under the direction of junior John Pakaluk, delighted the audience with familiar Christmas songs ranging from traditional American works such as *I Wonder as I Wander*, to Tomas Luis de Victoria's *O Magnum Mysterium*.

Musicians and vocalists alike were grateful for the use of both St. Joseph Commons and St. Bernardine of Siena Library during the Advent Season. As student musical programs, professional recitals, and formal lectures continue to draw more visitors to the campus, the College community looks forward to having an auditorium—complete with proper acoustics—to give these important cultural and academic events a more fitting home.

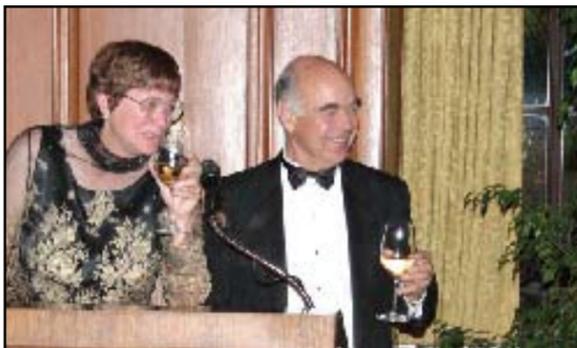


Top Left: Violinist Gina Eid ('08); Top Right: Soloist Paula Grimm ('08); Center: Choir accompanied by College's chamber orchestra; Bottom Left: Baritone Jacob Mason ('10) performs *Uns ist ein Kind geboren*; Bottom Right: Harpsichordist Joel Morehouse ('09) takes a bow.

A Salute to Generous Benefactors

California Club Hosts Appreciation Dinner

Thomas Aquinas College could not continue to prosper as the model of Catholic liberal education it has become without the concerted efforts of many generous benefactors. On December 2, 2006, the College expressed its deep appreciation to many of these special friends who have given most generously to the College and its students by hosting an appreciation dinner. Together, benefactors and members of the College's senior administration enjoyed excellent food, fine music, and good company on the eve of the first Sunday of Advent.



Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mrs. Maria Grant, and President Dillon toast the benefactors.

Through the courtesy of the Chairman of the College's Board of Governors, Mrs. Maria Grant, and her husband, Richard, the California Club, an historic and stately downtown Los Angeles



Musicians perform an original composition by Thomas Aquinas College graduate David Isaac (Hong) ('05).

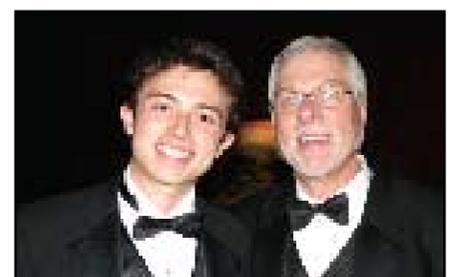
landmark, was once again made available to the College as the venue for this year's event.

After a cocktail reception under the stars and a full moon on the Club's third-floor terrace, Mr. John Q. Masteller, Vice President for Development and Master of Ceremonies for the evening, invited guests into the wood-paneled dining room where they were welcomed by Mrs. Grant. Monsignor Francis J. Weber, Archivist for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and Director of the San Fernando Mission, delivered the invocation and blessing before dinner. During the meal, local musician Carol Robbins delighted guests with the soft strains of her harp.

As in years past, a member of the Board of Governors, this year Vice-Chairman James Barrett,

read aloud the story of the very first Christmas according to St. Luke. A musical interlude followed featuring an original composition entitled *For Eve, Violin Sonata in One Movement in F# Major*, composed by College alumnus David Isaac (Hong) ('05), who was on hand for the performance. The evening concluded with a final blessing bestowed by College chaplain, Rev. Cornelius Buckley, S.J.

President of the College, Dr. Thomas E. Dillon, thanked all in attendance for their constancy, loyalty, and commitment to Thomas Aquinas College. "Thomas Aquinas College exists," he said, "through the grace of God and the generosity of benefactors who make it possible for so many young men and women to be formed in the truth of Christ. On behalf of the College, its students, and its alumni, I thank you all for your continuing support. May you and all those you love have a blessed Christmas."



Composer and graduate David Isaac (Hong) ('05) with Dean Michael McLean

“Under-Promise, and Over-Deliver”

An Interview with Chairman of the Board of Regents, James N. Scanlon

After graduating from Loyola Marymount University with a B.A. in history in 1981, James N. Scanlon entered the insurance business, taking over as manager at James C. Scanlon Company and successfully guiding this family business after the death of his father. He is now Chairman of Scanlon, Guerra, Jacobsen & Burke Insurance Brokers in Woodland Hills, California, a firm he founded in 1985 to undertake comprehensive risk management and insurance consulting.

Jim and his wife Maureen have eleven children, 8 daughters and 3 sons. Their oldest, Brenna graduated from Thomas Aquinas College in 2006. The Scanlons are also members of *Legatus*, an organization of Catholic business leaders.

Established in 2004, the Thomas Aquinas College Board of Regents was created to both enable business leaders to take an active part in the College’s financial development, and to help raise awareness about the College’s unique program of Catholic liberal education. Having joined the Board of Regents in its inaugural year, Jim Scanlon now serves as its Chairman.

Q. How did you become involved with Thomas Aquinas College?

A. A classmate of mine from high school, Matt Gebken ('81), went to the College, so I knew a little bit about it from him. Then I met Tom and Terri Dillon through *Legatus* and really got to know the College better. My daughter Brenna had a great experience there, and we hope many more of the Scanlon children will attend Thomas Aquinas College.

Q. Brenna wasn't always so keen on attending the College was she?

A. In the summer between her junior and senior years of high school, Brenna, who was an exceptional soccer player, was getting recruiting letters from all the schools she wanted to attend. It just so happened that the Thomas Aquinas College high school summer program coincided with a soccer tournament in which many of the college coaches who were recruiting her would be out to see her play. When we insisted that she attend the summer program instead, she was not very happy. Well, after the two weeks of the summer program, Brenna came home and announced she didn't want to play college

soccer anymore. She wanted to go to Thomas Aquinas College. To this day, she's had no regrets.

Q. How does the College's Board of Regents differ from the Board of Governors?

A. The Board of Regents is a fairly new organization in the history of Thomas Aquinas College. We are a group that has been called to action, and our role should bring a lot of value to the College. The Board of Regents is not as consultative perhaps as the Board of Governors, but we work closely with the Governors

and the President to further the College's mission. For instance, the Regents' upcoming golf tournament, to be held this May 21st at the Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, California, has a two-fold purpose. First, since one of our main priorities is to raise money for the school, proceeds from the event will be earmarked for scholarships. Secondly, a golf tournament of this caliber will raise the public profile of the College and increase awareness of it in the local community. The summer intern program that Mark Kretschmer ('99) runs so well accomplishes the same thing.

Q. Do you participate in that program?

A. Yes. And I'll tell you why: The single biggest problem we have today is

finding qualified employees who can think. So, not only do I participate in the Thomas Aquinas College intern program, I encourage other businesses in the area to do likewise. Business owners, if they're good leaders of their firms, need to be looking over the horizon for the next good employee. I now have two Thomas Aquinas College graduates working for me full-time, and I would like to hire more because they are really outstanding.

Q. How do you envision the Board of Regents in the future?

A. I hope we can continue to make bigger contributions in our fundraising activities, in promoting awareness of the College, and in whatever tasks the Board of Governors and the President may ask us to carry out. Our unofficial motto is “under-promise, and over-deliver.” We are trying to stick to that, move steadily forward, and build a strong foundation for the Regents so we in turn can really contribute to the College.



What To Do With Harvard's Missing \$390 Million?

The Teagle Foundation Wants to Know

Last year, the Teagle Foundation, a New York-based philanthropic organization that supports leadership in liberal education in America, recognized Thomas Aquinas College as one of its “Baker’s Dozen” of “over-achieving” academic institutions. Inclusion on this list was based on the College’s exceptionally high graduation rates, its high percentage of students who go on to earn doctoral degrees, and its having accomplished all of this through the efficient use of limited resources. Endowments at these 13 “over-achieving” institutions range from Thomas Aquinas College’s approximately \$9.5 million to \$430 million.

Committed to doing its part to help strengthen liberal education in our country, the Teagle Foundation, through its president Mr. Robert Connor, often consults academic leaders for their insights into the challenges faced by small colleges that offer the liberal arts. Intrigued by an article in *The Wall Street Journal* which described how a controversy at Harvard University caused disaffected donors to withhold \$390 million in pledges, Mr. Connor queried the leaders of the Teagle Foundation’s “Baker’s Dozen” about what these institutions might do with \$30 million, representing each of the 13 institution’s imaginary share of that \$390 million Harvard failed to collect. He then posted his query and their responses on the Teagle Foundation’s website: www.teaglefoundation.org.

Thomas Aquinas College President, Dr. Thomas E. Dillon, responded to Mr. Connor that a hypothetical windfall of \$30 million would immediately secure the College’s financial foundation.

As he explained, “\$15 million would go toward endowing student financial aid, which would be especially helpful since the College has a need-blind admissions policy.” Another \$10 million would go toward endowing

the College’s faculty development program. “Thomas Aquinas College,” President Dillon explained, “does not present the standard academic fare, with a multiplicity of departments and programs, but offers only one required curriculum in the Great Books, spanning the principal disciplines. Therefore, if we are to help our students see the integration and order among the academic disciplines, it is essential the College develop each faculty member in the breadth of the disciplines.”

In the four years of the College’s astronomy sequence, for example, students read and work through the original texts of Ptolemy, Copernicus, Tyco, Brahe, Kepler, Galileo, Newton, and Einstein. “Over time,” Dr. Dillon continued, “we expect our entire faculty to be able to conduct tutorials in which they lead students through a first, but rigorous reading of these texts.” Endowing the six-week summer faculty development program, therefore, would ensure the

continual strengthening of the faculty.

Lastly, Dr. Dillon would allocate the remaining \$5 million to assist with faculty housing in the Southern California real estate market that commands prices well over \$500,000 for barely adequate housing. “It is one thing for the College to require that its faculty have the ability to teach in the breadth of the disciplines and be able to skillfully lead Socratic seminars and tutorials,” Dr. Dillon said, “but it is asking too much to require—in effect—that faculty also be independently wealthy.”

Harvard University’s endowment of over \$25 billion—minus \$390 million, of course—is remarkable. Yet, by the grace of God and the generosity of its friends, Thomas Aquinas College continues to flourish, uphold its principles of Catholic liberal education, and produce graduates who become leaders in education, law, medicine, the priesthood, and many other walks of life.



Teagle Foundation

“Don Rags”

An Inside Look at Assessment

Freshmen at Thomas Aquinas College are known to tremble at the thought of their first “Don Rags.” When they experience this unusual form of assessment though, most agree that rather than a fearsome encounter with faculty, the Don Rag is a useful appraisal of progress.

According to Dean of the College Dr. Michael McLean, Don Rags are part of the Oxford model of education whereby professors, known as Dons, would review the academic progress of their students, or “rag” on their lack thereof. At Thomas Aquinas College, the Don Rag is likewise a forum for members of the teaching faculty (“tutors”) to review student work. The focus, however, is on giving constructive criticism so as to encourage better performance in the classroom.

Members of each class at the College are divided into “sections” of between 15 and 18 students who take classes together throughout the year. Rather quickly, each section develops its own characteristics, reflecting those of its members. Explains Dean McLean, “Since our classes depend on the dynamic of a section, good student participation is essential. Yet, that doesn’t necessarily come naturally. There are ways in which tutors can help students participate better, and the Don Rag is a great forum for doing that.”

Twice a year, freshmen, sophomores, and juniors take part in Don Rags. A student and his or her tutors meet together in a classroom where tutors discuss among themselves the student’s performance. “What is unusual and may be daunting in the beginning,” says Dr. McLean, “is that the conversation

proceeds as though the student were not present in the room; all comments are made in the third-person.”



Don Rags are held over a period of three days once a semester. While daytime classes are cancelled, evening seminars meet as scheduled.

During the course of the 10-20 minute meeting, tutors converse about a student’s performance. Says Dr. McLean, “It really works very well to have the tutors assembled together. They can work off one another’s comments, and they sometimes amend their reports to reflect what a colleague has said; not infrequently, one tutor’s comment may trigger something in the mind of another.” When the tutors have completed their remarks, the student is then asked if he or she has any comments or suggestions, and a short discussion may ensue.

Timing of Don Rags is crucial. They are held once a semester, but scheduled so they occur neither too early in the term, when faculty members do not yet have a clear picture of a student’s strengths and weaknesses, nor so late that the student does not have time to implement the suggestions for improvement.

The results, according to the Dean, are generally good. “After Don Rags,” he says, “tutors often report improvement in the overall dynamic of a section. They also see changes in the performance and behavior of individual students.” Dean McLean continues, “The practice of Don Rags has been very helpful to the College through the years. Because the student is asked to comment on his tutors’ evaluation, it is very much in the mode of the school as a community of learners and friends.”



Great Books, Great Discussions, Great Fun!

High School Great Books Summer Program

From July 22 to August 4, rising seniors from across the country and beyond will participate in the eleventh High School Summer Program at Thomas Aquinas College. For two weeks, 120 high school students will stay in student housing, have their meals in St. Joseph Commons, and live, study, and recreate in much the same way as students of the College do during the regular academic year.

Director of Admissions Mr. Jon Daly ('99) is once again supervising the program and expects the 120 slots to be filled with 60 male and 60 female high school students by early spring. Last year 40% of the students originated from California with the rest coming from various parts of the United States, and one from France. Similar demographics are expected for this year’s program, the primary goal of which is to expose young people to the academic, spiritual, and social life of the College. For many, this introduction leads to greater things: in past years 35% - 45% of summer program attendees have enrolled at Thomas Aquinas College the following year.

During the program, young people who will have completed their junior year in high school, will attend seminars twice a day about works by thinkers such as Plato, Boethius, Sophocles, Euclid, Pascal, and St. Thomas Aquinas. Guided by members of the teaching faculty using the Socratic Method, groups of no more than 16 students will engage in discussions about topics such as the relationship of faith and reason, order in nature, and political and religious authority.

Mr. Daly reminds potential participants that although there will be serious in-depth discussions in class, there will also be plenty of opportunities

to enjoy the many outdoor activities that summer in Southern California offers. “Students can take full advantage of the recreational activities we offer here on campus, in the nearby Los Padres National Forest, at our wonderful beaches, and on field trips.” Daily Mass, confession, and other devotions are also available to participants provided by the program’s full-time chaplain.

Typically, more high school students apply for the summer program than there is room to accommodate. Mr. Daly, therefore, strongly encourages those interested in exploring some of the great texts of Western Civilization, to contact the Admission Office now to secure a spot in this year’s High School Summer Great Books Program.

For more information about the High School Summer Great Books Program, please contact the Admission Office at 1-800-634-9797 or admission@thomasaquinas.edu.



Thomas Aquinas College Golf Classic at Sherwood Country Club

On May 21, 2007, you have an opportunity to help the College as the Board of Regents invites you to its Inaugural Thomas Aquinas College Golf Tournament at the prestigious Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, California. Designed by Jack Nicklaus and the site of Tiger Woods’ Target Challenge Golf Tournament, Sherwood has an international reputation as a challenging but “playable” golf course.

BE A PLAYER! \$1,000 per golfer. BE A SPONSOR! Opportunities begin at \$1,000.
For further information, contact Hope Martin at hmartin@sgjb.com or (818) 449-0276.

Board of Governors Adds to its Ranks

Mark Ryland Elected in October 2006

Mark Ryland is the Founder and President of the Institute for the Study of Nature, a think-tank in Washington, D.C., aimed at the reawakening of natural philosophy in dialogue with natural science. He is also the Chief Technology Officer of Mpower Media, a technology company providing video and Internet media management tools for families. Prior to that, he served as Vice President and Director in the Washington, D.C., office of the Discovery Institute, a Seattle-based think-tank and public policy organization that he had also served as a board member since the mid 1990s. He is a 10-year veteran of Microsoft Corporation where he served in a number of capacities which included his becoming Microsoft's first Director of Standards Strategy. Before joining Microsoft in 1991, he was an attorney in private practice with the law firm of Latham & Watkins in Washington, D.C. He sits on the Boards of Directors of various educational and philanthropic institutions including the International Theological Institute in Gaming, Austria. Mr. Ryland was elected to the Board of Governors in October of 2006.

Though born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Mark spent most of his childhood in Southern California, where his father taught at the University of San Diego. The family's journey from the Great Plains to the West Coast was precipitated by a life-altering event in the lives of Mark's parents: When he was three years old, they entered the Catholic Church. Making this event all the more profound was the fact Mark's father was a priest in the Episcopal church. Needing to find a way to support the family, his father earned a doctorate in theology from Marquette University and entered a tenure-track teaching position at the University of San Diego. In 1983, some twenty years after entering the Church, Mark's father was ordained a Catholic priest with a dispensation from the rule of celibacy under the "Pastoral Provision."

Mark graduated *magna cum laude* with a B.A. in philosophy from the University of San Diego in 1983. He went on to obtain a law degree from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley in 1986, earning membership in the Order of the Coif, a national society for law school graduates. Its purpose is to encourage excellence in legal education by fostering a spirit of careful study, recognizing those who as law students attained a high grade of scholarship.

While at the Discovery Institute, and after founding and directing its Washington, D.C., office, Mark became very interested in countering the prevailing winds of Darwinism and materialism. He gravitated toward the Intelligent Design argument, but found that, like Darwinism, it had its deficiencies. His continual scientific and philosophical inquiry at the Discovery



Institute brought him into contact with former Thomas Aquinas College faculty member Benjamin Wiker. "Dr. Wiker was the first person who pointed out to me that the Intelligent Design movement, while vastly better than materialism and reductionism, still has a modern, mechanistic view of nature. Therefore, while it has done a lot of good, it does not offer a sufficiently radical critique of modern scientific reductionism." Mr. Ryland credits Dr. Wiker with starting him on a long intellectual journey and introducing him to the natural philosophy of Aristotle and St. Thomas Aquinas.

Mark's interest in Thomas Aquinas College deepened significantly when his son Patrick entered the freshman class last year. "Often, when you are experienced with educational institutions," he recalls, "they look great from a distance, but the more you get involved, the more you see the issues and problems." Mark's experience with the College has been different. "I was actually more impressed with Thomas Aquinas College the more I got to know about it and the more I learned from Patrick about his experience as a student." He finds it a fascinating coincidence that just when he was becoming more convinced that the lack of a proper understanding of nature was the root of many of the problems in our culture, one of his children chose to attend Thomas Aquinas College.

"Thomas Aquinas College, in a very significant way, is a natural philosophy school," Mr. Ryland explains. "It's not a liberal arts school. That's one of the most common misconceptions of the College. Yes, you learn the liberal arts there, but you really learn the sciences in the broad sense, both the natural sciences and the science of philosophy and theology. I think natural philosophy is a very unique aspect of Thomas Aquinas College's curriculum. There's no other Catholic college that does anything like that, and that's why I am so happy to be a part of it."

Mark, his wife, Katy, and their nine children live in Great Falls, Virginia.

The Legacy Society

An Expression of Faith and Confidence

The Legacy Society is an honorary association of men and women whose planned gifts will sustain Thomas Aquinas College well into the future. As the College continues to prosper well into its fourth decade of existence, it is deeply grateful to all who have given so generously from their hearts and their pocketbooks, especially those who have exhibited their support in the form of a legacy gift.



Mr. Tom Susanka served for 25 years as Director of Admissions. He is now Director of Gift Planning for the College.

Founded by the Board of Governors, the Legacy Society helps support the College in its mission and responsibility to help form well the minds and souls of young people so that they will uphold the truth, maintain and protect their Catholic heritage, and live lives of exemplary virtue. Evidence that the College is achieving its mission is abundant and gratifying: 42 alumni are priests,

and 40 are studying for the priesthood; more than 20 alumni serve the Church as fully professed religious; and many more are raising strong families faithful to Catholic moral teaching. Our lay graduates are becoming leaders in a wide variety of fields including education, law, journalism, business, public service, and medicine.

The Legacy Society offers a variety of financial services that benefit both the College and the individual benefactor. As such, it has become an association that not only provides funding for the College, but also allows participants to express their faith and confidence in the graduates of Thomas Aquinas College, so many of whom go on to profoundly benefit the Church and our country.

Though the principal motive for a legacy gift is a desire to support the College, there are also significant financial incentives and benefits for donors. Legacy gifts may provide federal and state charitable income tax deductions. They may reduce or eliminate capital gains and estate tax liability. They may pay income for life: Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Remainder Trusts can produce substantial income streams. The College offers several planned gift options through its Legacy Society that can be tailored to fit the individual financial and personal needs of participants.

The most frequent planned gift is a *bequest* made to the College through

a will or family trust. A bequest may be for a specific amount, for a specific percentage, or for the remainder of a donor's estate. The next most popular planned gift is the *Charitable Gift Annuity* which is, in essence, a contract between a donor and the College. It guarantees a fixed annual payment to the donor for his lifetime, for his and his spouse's lifetimes, or for the lifetime of another beneficiary. When the last beneficiary passes away, the College receives a substantial portion of the initial donation. The *Charitable Gift Annuity* is backed by all the assets of the College and provides an immediate charitable tax deduction for the participant.

Planned gifts may also be made through *Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRTs)*. Cash, appreciated securities, real property, and other resources can fund *CRTs*. Like a *Charitable Gift Annuity*, benefits of a *CRT* include tax relief for the donor and steady annual income for one or more beneficiaries. Depending on the needs and financial parameters of a given member of the Legacy Society, an "annuity trust" (*CRAT*) makes a pre-determined set payment. In a "unitrust" (*CRUT*), the annual payout is determined by the performance of the investment made of the trust's funds.

Regardless of what plan might be chosen, "planned givers" to Thomas Aquinas College can count on their investments being carefully monitored and augmented by financial experts. Resources that come to the College in the form of *Charitable Gift Annuities* and *CRTs* are diligently shepherded by an investment strategy team of well-established and historically successful financial advisers. Mr. David Clark, Vice President of the Los Angeles-based investment counsel firm Everett Harris & Co., advises the College on what financial opportunities to pursue and helps the College monitor these choices, insuring that not a penny is placed in an investment that is in conflict with Catholic social or moral teaching. John Privitelli, a friend and benefactor of the College himself, is the College's representative with Morgan Stanley Co. which manages nearly \$700 billion in personal and institutional assets. Mr. Privitelli lends his financial expertise to the Legacy Society in the transactions phase of the investment process.

A legacy gift is an investment in the future of young men and women—our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren—whose lives will be blessed by the wisdom and virtues Thomas Aquinas College will help them attain.

Mr. Tom Susanka, Director of Gift Planning for the College, would be happy to answer any questions you might have and supply you with information regarding the various options for investing in the future of Thomas Aquinas College. You may call or email him at 1-800-634-9797, ext. 350, tsusanka@thomasaquinas.edu.

Mrs. Margaret Brooks-Llamas

Margaret Brooks - Llamas was born in San Juan, Rizal, Philippines, and raised in that country's summer capital of Baguio City. A high achiever from an early age, she graduated from high school at the age of only 14. She then traveled the 250 kilometers from Baguio City to Manila to attend the University of *Santo Tomas*, the oldest university in Asia and, in terms of student population, the largest Catholic university in the world located on one campus.

Her mother had always stressed the importance of education, and fondly hoped Margaret might some day become a doctor. Thinking she wanted that too, Margaret took pre-med courses at the University of *Santo Tomas*. However, with her first year of studies completed, she realized her relative lack of interest in organic chemistry would be an obstacle to a medical degree. After some negotiation with her disappointed mother, Margaret switched her major to psychology and graduated from the University of *Santo Tomas magna cum laude* at the age of 19.

While in graduate school at *Ateneo de Manila* University, a job offer side-tracked Margaret's completion of a clinical psychology degree. A local firm that sold cemetery plots hired her to apply her psychology training to their human resources department. Not long after taking this position though, Margaret found herself in the middle of a serious labor dispute. A dire situation even for a veteran labor negotiator, it was especially challenging to Margaret who, fresh out of college, had no experience in arbitrating a volatile labor crisis. To make matters worse, the company she represented paid its workers poorly, had outdated labor practices, and the union representing the workers was headed by an avid Marxist. "Soon after the strike was called, Marcos declared martial law in the Philippines, and strikes were outlawed," Margaret recalls. "So I guess I was saved by martial law from failing at my first labor negotiation job."

Still only in her early twenties, Margaret was hired by Citibank in Manila to run its Human Resources Department. Not long after, her husband took a position with a London firm, and Margaret moved with him and their young son to the United Kingdom to attend the London Business School



where she earned an MBA. Citibank in London then hired her as head of its management training center for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. "That was one of my favorite jobs," Margaret recalls. "It was like running a mini-university for bankers. We covered the whole range from credit to marketing to technology to management operations."

What was to have been a two-year stint in London turned into 14 years. During that time, Mrs. Brooks-Llamas held a variety of positions with Citicorp that took her back and forth from the United States to London, and into Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. She served as head of Citicorp's university relations department, targeting business schools and liberal arts institutions to identify and mentor future banking and business executives. Then, after a short period as head of Human Resources for Citibank's European Investment Bank, she ran Citicorp's Human Resources for emerging markets in third world, developing, and former Soviet-bloc countries.

In the early 90s, Margaret served on one of ten task forces to help bring Citicorp back from the brink of failure. She worked closely with the chairman of the company to implement recommended changes to the corporate center and then stayed on to head executive resources. She was responsible for designing and supervising Citicorp's leadership staffing and development processes, and the staffing of the top 300 positions

in the corporation.

At this juncture, Mrs. Brooks-Llamas began to realize that though she liked her job, its costs were taking a toll on her—16-hour days and so much travel. "I realized it was time to readjust the balance equation of my life," she explains. So, in 1998, Margaret took a 3-year leave of absence during which she thought and prayed about the direction her life should take.

Having made retreats and done the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius, it became clear to her that she could make the best contribution by doing the work she both loved and did well, but doing it in a different way. Instead of offering her services in an enormous corporate environment, Margaret decided she would do consulting work for individuals and organizations. This would give her an opportunity to do more in terms of giving back to others.

With this new goal in mind, Mrs. Brooks-Llamas retired from Citicorp and founded her own company, Veris International in New York. Her international consulting firm focuses on four areas of corporate human resources: strengthening the leadership team, developing a leadership pipeline, aligning organizational values and individual/team performance and development, and developing business-responsive human resources strategies and practices. Margaret now consults with a whole range of companies in a variety of fields, from hospitality to media; some are Fortune 50 companies, while others have just a few dozen employees.

For some years Margaret had been aware of and impressed by Thomas Aquinas College through her friendship with College faculty member Mark Clark, who had taught her son at the Portsmouth Abbey School in Rhode Island. She was formally introduced to the College at a weekend seminar, similar to classes at the College, given by President Dillon at a Board member's home in New York. When she experienced firsthand the substance and rigor of the kind of discussions that take place at Thomas Aquinas College, Margaret felt a pang of envy and wished she had had that kind and quality of education for herself.

Margaret Brooks-Llamas was elected to the Board of Governors in November of 2004.

An Interview with Margaret Brooks-Llamas

Q. What attracted you to Thomas Aquinas College?

A. It's a college that lives its faith. There's a certain serenity about Thomas Aquinas College, and there's a certain consistency between what they say and what they do. I had met Dr. Dillon and had attended his seminar in New York, which I truly loved. But it was when my younger son visited the College that I really began to consider it a place that needed my support. My son had come out to the College to visit Mark Clark, a faculty member. Mark arranged for him to stay on campus where he roomed with some of the seniors. When my son came home, he told me his visit to Thomas Aquinas College was the first time he experienced a genuine Catholic community. He said it was the real deal. He met other young people who not only talked openly about their faith, but lived it as well. It made him consider, quite seriously, whether he was living his life as they had been living theirs. He was 21 at the time, and I thought that any institution that had the power to cause a young man to re-examine his own life was very impressive and worth supporting.

Q. How does your experience as a human resources (HR) executive make you an effective member of the Board of Governors?

A. I believe that when Dr. Dillon first approached me about joining the Board, my experience in corporate management and my HR background were certainly deciding factors. The Col-

lege itself is an organization with its own managerial requirements and challenges. I think the Board believed I could bring that kind of perspective. Clearly, when you enter any organization you take yourself with you and you take your experiences,



Margaret's son, Gabriel, on his 22nd birthday, surrounded by his dog, Chane, his mother, older brother, Albert, and his grandmother.

your own lenses with which you see the world and see how you can help an organization. I can bring a certain global perspective from having lived and worked in very different cultures. I've also worked in organizations where true equality was possible, and I see myself as a role model for female students.

Q. As a patron of the arts in New York, what are your thoughts about music at Thomas Aquinas College?

A. Though I have yet to be on campus for a *Schubertiade*, I have experienced many impromptu musical performances during my visits. There is certainly a lot of talent at the College. Sometimes when I come for Board meetings, I sit back and listen when they are having a musical performance. That's what I like about the College. It seems to develop the whole person. It's not just about academic achievement or achievement of the mind. It's achievement of the spirit, of culture, and of the arts—a cultivation of all things beautiful.

Q. Is the educational experience at the College different from other institutions with which you have dealt?

A. Very different. The students at the College are committed to their studies and committed to living good lives. It is so refreshing because in other settings I find people much more self-absorbed and keen about succeeding and measuring success in terms of who will get ahead. What I find in the students at Thomas Aquinas College is keenness toward using their talents for the greater good. I have found these students devoted to their work and to one another.

Sometimes I have informal dinners and meet with other faculty members and meet with former students. I'm always fascinated by the quality of the conversation and by what they seek to do with their lives. Thomas Aquinas College is a wonderful microcosm of what the world could be if it weren't so fallen.

Alumni Updates

Commerce with Compassion



Little did J-Vann McCoy realize when he enrolled at Thomas Aquinas College in the mid-1980s that he would not only convert to the Catholic faith during his freshman year, but also discern a vocation as a contemplative monk before his graduation in 1988. As unlikely as it may

have seemed back then, Fr. Bernard McCoy is now a Cistercian monk and the Superior of the Abbey of Our Lady of Spring Bank in Sparta, Wisconsin.

In 2001, searching for ways to support the Abbey, Fr. Bernard, who is also the Steward for Temporal Affairs, combined his business acumen with Catholic social teaching and founded LaserMonks.com, an internet-based business that sells printing and imaging supplies at reduced prices. Operated by the Abbey of Our Lady of Spring Bank, with Fr. Bernard as CEO, LaserMonks.com's gross annual sales have increased from only \$2,000 in its inaugural year to \$3.5 million just five years later. Its unique profile and rapid growth have attracted the attention of a variety of media, including CNN, *ABC World News Tonight*, Reuters, *USA Today*, *Entrepreneur* magazine, National Public Radio, Zenit, the *National Catholic Register*, and EWTN.

In addition to sustaining the Abbey, profits from LaserMonks.com are now providing funding for Fr. Bernard's new charitable project called The Torchlight Foundation. The idea for this non-profit organization came to Fr. Bernard while he was at prayer and thinking about how much better it is to teach a man to fish than to give him a fish. "What if we could push that envelope one step further?" he mused. "Instead of just teaching them how to fish, what if we could help them teach others how to fish?" That idea was the genesis of his whole plan—to encourage good in the world by helping others to do good, not simply doing it for them. Torchlight now provides either programming or resources to encourage people to help other people. "We're subtly teaching people how to love other people," Fr. Bernard explains, "to seek the good of others. We liked the idea from a monastic standpoint as well, since monks, by and large, tend to be quiet, behind-the-scenes folks."

It may be that a group of seventh graders from a cash-strapped Catholic school in Minneapolis want to raise awareness of Celiac disease, or that abused girls in a group home want to help girls like themselves in another domestic abuse shelter. The Torchlight Foundation requires only that an organization prepare a fully-written business plan for its charitable venture, that it stipulate the resources the group has and doesn't have, and that it document how it will be accountable for the entire project. Under the guidance of Fr. Bernard and his small staff of monks, business advice is then given, funds are dispersed, and good works ensue.

In addition to observing his daily duties as Superior of the Abbey, including four hours of chanting the Divine Office, teaching mystical theology and monastic spirituality, and contemplative prayer, Fr. Bernard is preparing two books. One is about the LaserMonks.com success story, and the other about the Abbey's retired Abbot who escaped Hungary during the revolution in 1956. Fr. Bernard also travels across the country giving talks about social entrepreneurship and "commerce with compassion" to business executives and groups such as *Legatus*, an organization of Catholic CEOs and business leaders.

Committed to the Craftsman's Task



The year Maria Rangel ('99) entered the senior class at Thomas Aquinas College, her growing interest in art as a profession coincided with the publication of *The Letter of His Holiness John Paul II to Artists*. As she prepared her senior thesis concerning art and the adornment of churches, Maria contemplated how the love of truth and beauty that had been nurtured by her life and studies at the College would take shape in her post-graduate life. Especially touched by the Holy Father's insight that "God called man into existence, committing him to the craftsman's task," she decided to dedicate herself to the pursuit of art that glorifies God.

After graduating from the College, Maria attended Laguna College of Art and Design in Laguna Beach, California. There, she majored in drawing and painting and obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Having already satisfied the school's liberal studies requirement with her courses at the College, Maria was able to spend a semester abroad at the Angel Academy of Art in Florence. During those months, she concentrated on her craft and traveled throughout Italy, immersing herself in the great works of the Italian masters.

Since her return to California, Maria has been working as a professional muralist and is employed as an architectural illustration artist at Focus 360, an architectural communications company in Laguna Niguel. She has also established her own studio where she creates works ranging from *plein air* landscapes to narrative compositions with figures or still life.

Miss Rangel now has works displayed in a few Southern California galleries and has organized or participated in a number of exhibits in the region. She has also been commissioned to provide decorative work for the interiors of small chapels and private homes. In the future, she hopes to do more of this kind of work and to become involved, as well, in Catholic publishing, providing artwork for both books and magazines.

In his *Letter to Artists*, Pope John Paul II wrote, "Beauty is a key to the mystery and a call to transcendence. It is an invitation to savor life and dream of the future." At Maria's Website, www.Rangelstudios.com, one can see examples of how this emerging artist has accepted the invitation and is indeed glorifying God through her craft.



Miss Rangel's still-life "Divine Love" employs traditional Christian symbolism: The apple and lily are signs of the New Eve, Our Lady; the pear is a symbol of Christ, and the chain wrapped around it represents men's sins; the nails recall the Passion which brought about man's salvation.

35th Anniversary Celebrated

Continued from page 1

celebrant, and Rev. Sebastian Walshe, O.Praem., a graduate of the College's class of 1994, preached the sermon.

Following Mass, the doors to the Wintergarden Ballroom were opened, and guests began to celebrate in style with excellent food, warm camaraderie, and the music of the Johnny Crawford Dance Orchestra.

The evening was emceed by Mr. Jim Newman, a veteran business news reporter for both ABC7 and KTLA television, and Cardinal Roger Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles, gave the invocation. Throughout the evening, guests heard heart-felt testimonials and congratulations from prominent friends of the College including President of the Western Association of the Order of Malta, Richard Madden, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors, Maria Grant and James Barrett, Los Angeles County Mayor and Supervisor Mike Antonovich, and noted Catholic author George Weigel, who delivered the keynote address.

President Dillon thanked all in attendance from the podium of the ballroom as he reflected on the past and looked forward with hope to the future. "So long as the love of truth burns in our souls," he said, "so long as we cherish and revere our faith and devote ourselves to Christ, the College will flourish."

More photographs and the complete texts of the talks presented at both the campus celebration and the gala dinner will be included in a forthcoming special 35th Anniversary edition of the College newsletter.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. M. Frances Hilton - May 30, 2006
Benefactor, widow of Conrad N. Hilton

Mrs. Vivian Keber - November 2, 2006
*Grandmother of Megan ('02)
and Andrew Baird ('04)*

Peter Vincent Galahad Blatty - November 7, 2006
*Son of friends and benefactors
William and Julie Blatty*

Mr. John A. Macik - November 27, 2006
*Benefactor and father of Luke Macik ('87)
and grandfather of Kathryn Duda ('03)*

Mrs. Zelda White and Mrs. Lois Anderson - January 27, 2007
*Mother and grandmother of
Elijah ('06), Arielle ('08), and Maxwell White ('09)*

A Puerto Rican Connection

In 1982, the College was singularly graced to have as its Commencement Speaker Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, M.C., who not long before had received the Nobel Peace Prize. In high demand that year for graduation ceremonies by colleges and universities around the country, she appeared nevertheless on only three American campuses—those of Harvard, Georgetown, and Thomas Aquinas College.

Also at that 1982 commencement was His Excellency the Most Reverend Juan Fremiot Torres Oliver of Ponce, Puerto Rico, who served as principal celebrant and homilist of the Mass of the Holy Spirit preceding commencement. It was on that day that he met the “Saint of the Gutters,” forging a friendship that eventually bore fruit in his native country when the Missionaries of Charity established a residence in his diocese, and began to practice the corporal works of mercy among the “poorest of the poor.”

Even before the Missionaries of Charity arrived, Bishop Torres had invited one of the College’s graduates, Carl Sauder, to live in Puerto Rico with his family. Carl recalls what it took to get Mother Teresa to agree to send her sisters to Bishop Torres’ diocese. “Originally, she had turned him down,” he recounts. “Bishop Torres was rather shocked. Later, on meeting Mother in Rome, he inquired as to why she hadn’t accepted his invitation, especially since he was taking care of everything financially. She told him that the neighborhood and the house he had chosen were too nice. She wanted a house in the poorest neighborhood: a wood house, with a tin roof, and the only furniture, four wooden chairs and a table. So Bishop Torres sold that nice house that had been given to him—very well-built, solid concrete, like a bunker—and he purchased one in a very poor neighborhood in Ponce. Mother came, and she sent her sisters. An amazing story.”

There are plenty of poor neighborhoods in Ponce, as Carl and his wife, Kathy (Kraychy) ('78), have learned during their past 26 years living in Puerto Rico. Like the Missionaries of Charity, the Sauders moved to this island territory of the United States so that Carl could perform a work of mercy, only his was to be a spiritual work.

At that time, the now-retired Bishop Torres had jurisdiction over the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, an institution with a 60-year history of fidelity to the Church’s *Magisterium*, to which its pontifical designation attests. In 1980, hoping to engage for the University professors devoted to the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas, the bishop turned to one of the founders of Thomas Aquinas College, Colonel William Lawton, to ask for leads. Knowing Carl’s situation and that he was indeed a devoted Thomist, the Colonel put him in touch with Bishop Torres. After an interview, Carl was hired to teach philosophy and began his 27-year tenure at the Pontifical University.

Carl Sauder is now the Vice President for Academic Affairs, overseeing six colleges that enroll 10,000 students—a far cry from the relatively unencumbered life of a simple professor that Carl had aspired to when he first moved his family to Puerto Rico.

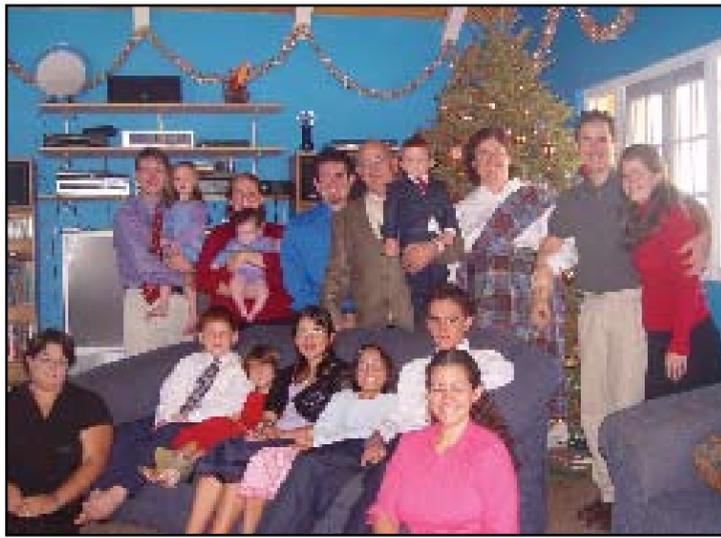
The Journey Begins

The Sauders’ journey to Ponce began at Thomas Aquinas College when it was a fledgling school located on leased property in Calabasas. A native of nearby Woodland Hills, Carl began his studies at the College in 1971, its first year of operation. After two years of the rigorous program, he took a break to study literature with Dr. John Senior in the Pearson Program at the University of Kansas. Soon though, he longed to return to the College’s more formal, rigorous program.

In the meantime, Kathy Kraychy had come to the College from the Chicago area. Carl returned as a junior at the beginning of her sophomore year, and the two met. During Carl’s senior year, they were engaged to be married, but with Kathy

having another year left, Carl recalls, the two decided to delay the wedding. “We didn’t want to have any regrets later on. We agreed that Kathy would complete the program, and we would marry the following year.”

By now, Carl had a deep love of learning and a desire to teach, so during that year, while taking science courses at nearby California State University of Northridge, he prepared for post-graduate work in philosophy at *Université Laval* in Quebec by immersing himself in the study of French.



The Sauder family celebrates a Caribbean Christmas.

From Canada to the Caribbean

Because Laval was renowned as a center of genuine Thomistic thought, College founders Dr. Ron McArthur, Dr. Jack Neumayr, and Mr. Marc Berquist had all done their graduate work there, studying under Charles De Koninck. After marrying in the summer of 1978, Carl and his new wife moved to Quebec to begin Carl’s studies under De Koninck’s student Dr. Warren Murray. In 1980, after completing his thesis on the definition of nature, Carl received a Master’s degree in philosophy.

The Sauder family had now doubled in size, with two children being born during their time in Quebec. Though Carl was working on his doctoral dissertation, it was necessary for him to seek employment to support his growing family. To him, the opportunity in Puerto Rico at the Pontifical University seemed providential.

Thus, Carl moved his family from the frigid climate of the 17th-century city of Willa Cather’s *Shadows on the Rock* to the balmy temperatures of a Caribbean island, and he took up his post as a professor of philosophy at Ponce’s Pontifical University. The Sauders spent the better part of that first year adjusting to the new culture and mastering Spanish in order to conduct life both in and out of the classroom. In particular, though he knew the language, Carl had to learn the whole technical vocabulary of philosophy and theology in Spanish.

Tapped for Administration

At the beginning of only his second year at the University, Carl was appointed to an administrative position as Director of the Interfaculty Department of Theology and Philosophy. He continued his teaching duties while managing a department consisting of nearly thirty professors, many of them priests. Carl explains, “I couldn’t have done it had it not been for my formation at Thomas Aquinas College. I had been very well-prepared both by having studied original texts and by having been well-practiced in the Socratic Method. My ability to defend positions helped me tremendously in the administrative aspects of the job and in explaining the mission of the university.”

After holding that post for nine years, Carl hoped to leave administration behind and return full-time to teaching. He was appointed, instead, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, a position he held for six years. After that, he served as Vice President for Student Affairs for two years, and then as Vice President for Mission.

Defending the University’s Catholic Character

In this capacity, recounts Carl, “I was able to defend the Catholicity of the University against the prevailing secularism and the various accrediting agencies that simply do not understand the nature of the pursuit of truth. I owe my ability to do this to my training at Thomas Aquinas College.”

“For example,” he explains, “the Council on Social Work considered that the University was discriminating by teaching that homosexual acts are wrong. I had to explain the Church’s teaching about loving the person while rejecting the sin, making distinctions along the way, in order to preserve our mission as a Catholic institution in accordance with the Church’s moral teaching. In the end, they were convinced.”

Also during his tenure as Vice President for Mission, Carl recounts, “The American Philosophical Association of College Professors sued the University over its nearly unique norm that any professor or employee of the school who is married in the Church but divorces and remarries, is automatically terminated. The Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges, our accrediting body, even got involved. It was difficult, but in the end, we won all the cases.”

A Teacher at Heart

In 2003 Carl took up his current post as Vice President for Academic Affairs, but only on the condition that he be allowed to teach one class. Though he now oversees the deans, the department directors, and the faculty of six schools on the University’s three campuses—the College of Arts and Humanities, the Law School, the Business School, the School of Education, the Science School, and the Graduate School—Carl makes time for his ethics course.

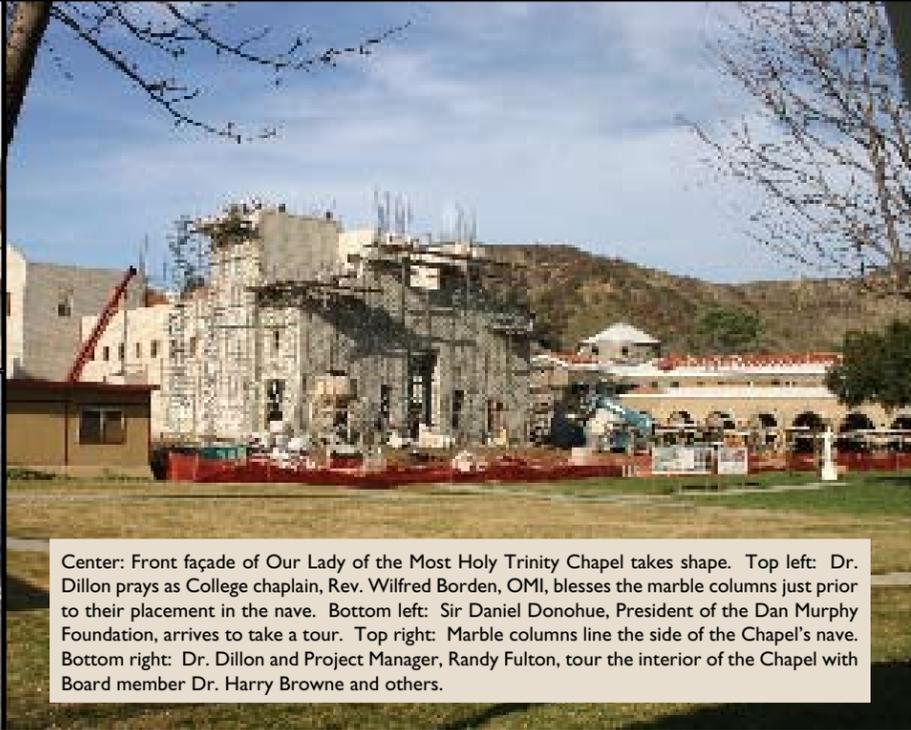
In fact, Carl has never strayed from teaching. “I’ve taught professional ethics to medical students as well as classes on the natural law. Thomas Aquinas College puts one in good standing to distinguish between the tenets of the natural law and the teachings of moral theology. It teaches both philosophy and theology, but it has a clear grasp of the distinction between matters of reason or the natural law and those that are purely of faith. Too often people mistakenly confuse the two. There is a real need for natural philosophy to come to the fore again.”

For this reason, while dedicated to the work of the Pontifical University in Puerto Rico, Carl and Kathy have foregone the free tuition available there to their 12 children, sending them instead to their *alma mater*. The oldest two have graduated from Thomas Aquinas College, and one is currently a sophomore. Adrienne ('02), the eldest, is now in medical school in Mexico, while their second child, Margaret ('03), married Bill Grimm ('02), the son of the Sauders’ classmates, Dan and Rose (Teichert) Grimm ('76).

The Sauders have put down roots in Puerto Rico, a beautiful island that for many years has boasted large families and traditional *mores*. As Carl recalls, though, “Those first years were really tough. I have to take my hat off to Kathy. The customs and the culture are so different here, there is so much poverty, and she didn’t know Spanish when we first arrived. I had already dragged her to Quebec, and she didn’t know any French. She just never said no.” He adds with a smile, “I was invited to go to India to teach at one point, and I teased her about that. That’s where she drew the line.”

Carl will always be grateful to the College for his education, for the wife he met there, and for the introduction it gave him to Bishop Torres Oliver. “I attribute the success I’ve had—without any qualm of conscience—to my formation at the College. I will always remember those first years of Thomas Aquinas College and the sacrifices the founders made to bring it to life.”

CAMPUS LIFE



Center: Front façade of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel takes shape. Top left: Dr. Dillon prays as College chaplain, Rev. Wilfred Borden, OMI, blesses the marble columns just prior to their placement in the nave. Bottom left: Sir Daniel Donohue, President of the Dan Murphy Foundation, arrives to take a tour. Top right: Marble columns line the side of the Chapel's nave. Bottom right: Dr. Dillon and Project Manager, Randy Fulton, tour the interior of the Chapel with Board member Dr. Harry Browne and others.



Center: Faculty center approaches completion. Left: Board members tour the faculty center's interior. Right: President, Tom Dillon, and Vice President, Peter DeLuca, with Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mrs. Maria Grant.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Presidents' Day (no classes)	February 19
Mardi Gras Dance	February 24
Don Rags	February 27 – March 1
Feast of St. Thomas (no classes)	March 7
St. Thomas Day Lecture: Rev. James V. Schall, S.J.	
Friday Night Lecture: Dr. Edward Condren	March 23
Spring Dance	March 24
<i>Schubertiade</i>	March 25
<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>	March 31
Easter Break	April 4 - 11

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