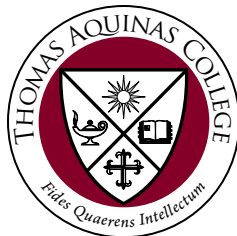


Send Forth Thy Spirit . . . and Renew the Face of the Earth

Psalm 104:30



THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

2024 Annual Report

Dear Friends of Thomas Aquinas College,

We are profoundly grateful for the faithful partnership of our friends and benefactors who make our work possible. We are edified by your generosity, and on behalf of the entire Thomas Aquinas College community, I offer you my deepest thanks.

As Fiscal Year 2024 came to a close, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of our first graduation ceremony, at which Lyman Stebbins, the founder of Catholics United for the Faith, delivered the Commencement Address. This past May, our dear friend, His Eminence Raymond Cardinal Burke, addressed our graduates in New England where, as Providence would have it, a relative of Mr. Stebbins — Dwight Lyman Moody — first established the campus. Meanwhile, in California, O. Carter Snead, a professor of law at the University of Notre Dame, addressed the graduates. Interestingly, Mr. Snead holds the chair named for our second Commencement Speaker, the late Charles Rice, former dean of the law school at Notre Dame.

While there is something fitting about this kind of continuity, it bespeaks something much greater: the timelessness of our unique program of faithful Catholic liberal education, which has endured as it was established five decades ago by our founders. God willing — and with your help — we will preserve it for another 50 years.

Fiscal Year 2024 was challenging for the College financially, in part due to inflation, which severely increased our energy costs on the New England campus. In addition, we sustained unexpected earthquake damages at the start of the academic year requiring costly repairs. Lastly, we made what we believe is a prudent investment in a **green-energy project** to make our California campus energy independent. While costing us \$4.4 million upfront, the power plant will have a return on investment of approximately \$700,000 annually.

In the pages that follow, you will find some of the achievements of the College and its alumni in Fiscal Year 2024. The attached **financial statements** will give you a more thorough account of our financial position, detailing our budget, cash flow, and fundraising efforts.

Every class at the College begins with a prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking God to send forth His Spirit to “renew the face of the earth.” I am happy to report that our graduates — those who serve Him at the altar and in the cloister; those who bear witness to the truth with joy in their families; and those who occupy positions of leadership in the Church and in society — are doing their part to help renew all things in Christ. Having contributed generously to the College, you have a share in this good fruit.

We pray daily for all of our benefactors, asking God, through the intercession of St. Thomas Aquinas, to reward you and your loved ones with His abundant blessings.

Sincerely,



Paul O'Reilly, Ph.D.
President



Admissions

Since 1997, Thomas Aquinas College has held a summer program on its California campus for rising high school seniors. The purpose has been to give participants a taste of the College's unique program of Catholic liberal education with the hope that they would apply for admission the following year.

The High School Great Books Summer Program has been tremendously successful, with nearly 50 percent of participants matriculating a year or two after their attendance.

To help ensure a steady flow of applicants, the College now holds these summer programs on both the California and New England campuses. In Fiscal Year 2022, 222 students participated and, of these, 88 enrolled as freshmen in the fall of 2023.

In addition, College Admissions staff work around the year in a variety of ways — meeting with high school counselors, holding informational sessions with homeschool groups and classical learning schools, and engaging our parents and alumni in outreach efforts — to recruit young men and women who are both eager and able to do well in our academic program and to thrive in our community of friends.

At the start of the 2023-2024 academic year, 372 students were enrolled on the California campus, while the New England campus reached the half-way point to full enrollment with 172 students.



1270

average SAT score for
incoming freshmen

.....
national average:

1028

90%

freshman
retention rate

.....
national average:

77%

86%

graduation rate

.....
national average:

53%



What the College Guides Say



- **Top 15** percent of American four-year colleges
- **#7** on the list of **Top 25 Colleges with Great Financial Aid**
- Out of a possible 99 points, TAC ranked:
 - 99** Quality of Instruction
 - 98** Faculty Accessibility
 - 96** Financial Aid
 - 92** Academics
 - 90** Return on Investment
- In **"Top 20" Categories**:
 - #1** Most Conservative Students
 - #4** Professors Get High Marks
 - #5** Happiest Students
 - #5** Most Religious Students



- **#1 "Best Value in Private Colleges" among all colleges and universities nationwide**
- Ranking based on outstanding academics and affordable cost
- Only Catholic school to be named to the **Top 20**



"An impressive intellectual rigor that is matched by a commitment to orthodox Catholicism"



- **Top 100** national liberal arts schools
- **Top 25** in the United States for social mobility
- **#2** for **alumni satisfaction** as measured by annual giving
- **#1** for the highest proportion of classes under 20 students (100 percent) and the lowest proportion of classes with more than 50 students (0 percent)



One of the Best 10 Colleges for the Money

- "Devoted to providing a strong education while being rooted in the Roman Catholic faith"
- "Great student to faculty ratio"
- "Excellent graduation and freshman retention rates"
- "Diverse student body that comes from states all across the nation"

The College in the News



July 3, 2023

**Cara Buskmiller, M.D., M.S. ('11):
Physician and Consecrated Virgin**



August 31, 2023

***Our Sunday Visitor* Highlights
TAC's Great Books Education**



September 30, 2023

**Floriani: Musical Missionaries
for Sacred Music**



July 14, 2023

The Best Conservative Colleges



September 7, 2023

**Anthony Grumbine ('00)
Architect**



October 2, 2023

**Alumnus Videographer
Explores Symbol and Meaning
in California Chapel**



August 16, 2023

**The Princeton Review Honors TAC
for "Happiest," "Most Religious"
Students & Great Financial Aid**



September 14, 2023

***The New York Times* Ranks TAC
High for "Economic Diversity"**



October 30, 2023

**Thomas Aquinas College Seeks
Donations for Earthquake Repairs**



August 29, 2023

**CNA Highlights TAC's
Authentic Catholic Healthcare**



September 20, 2023

***U.S. News* Ranks TAC in
Top 100 Nationwide,
No. 8 for Social Mobility**



November 29, 2023

**Thomas Aquinas College Enacts
Plan to Boost Enrollment**

The College in the News



December 14, 2023

**How Seminar-Style Classes Produce
Thoughtful Adaptive Students**



April 26, 2024

**TAC Chapel is "Traditional
Beauty Made New"**



May 23, 2024

**USCCB Roundtable on Mental
Health: Alumna Participates
with Bishop Barron**



April 2024

**"I Desired to Be Always with God":
TAC Alumna on Her Religious
Vocation**



May 17, 2024

**FastWeb Names TAC to
"Top 10 Happiest Colleges"**



May 28, 2024

**Thomas Aquinas College Answers
Pope's Call, Goes Off Grid with
Green Energy Plan**



April 5, 2024

**ACTA Gives TAC Exclusive "A+"
Rating for Curricular Strength**



May 17, 2024

**TAC Goes Off the Grid with
Green Power Plant**



June 21, 2024

**The Princeton Review Lauds TAC
for Happy, Faithful Students and
Top-Rated Faculty**



April 22, 2024

**Fox News Features TAC Among
Catholic Colleges**



May 21, 2024

**Thomas Aquinas College Off the
Grid with Free Green Energy**

The Year in Pictures

JULY
2023



College hosts High School Great Books Summer Program



Benefactors attend Great Books Summer Seminar Weekend

AUG
2023



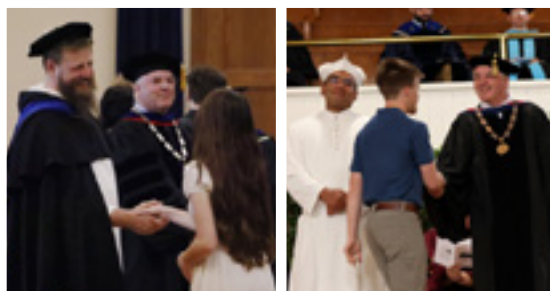
Benefactors gather for Great Books Fall Seminar

OCT
2023



Alumni and Parent Day

SEPT
2023



President O'Reilly welcomes freshmen at Matriculation ceremonies



Alumni and Parent Day



Rosary Procession on October 13, date of Our Lady's last Apparition at Fatima



Students network with employers at Career Day

NOV
2023



Choir: Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Christmas Carols



Students present Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*



Students attend a résumé workshop

DEC
2023

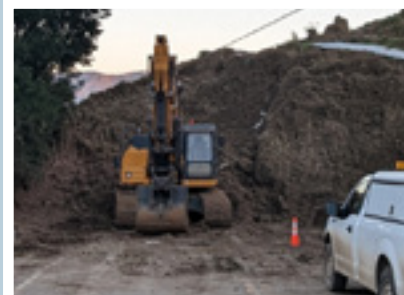


President O'Reilly receives a \$3 million grant from trustees of the Fritz Burns Foundation

FEB
2024



Students witness to the sanctity of the unborn on both coasts



Mudslide closes southern approach to campus for five months



Choir: Advent Lessons and Carols



JAN
2024



Former Attorney General William Barr with President O'Reilly at Q&A period with students following his Presidents' Day address



MAR
2024



Students present *The Trojan Women*



Six students enter the Church at the Easter Vigil

APR
2024



Students delight the community with a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Princess Ida*



Members of the Board of Governors, benefactors, and College officials at the entrance to the Pontifical University of St. Thomas — the *Angelicum* — during a pilgrimage to Rome



Students take part in an ultimate frisbee competition at Dartmouth

MAY
2024



VP for Operations Mark Kretschmer with the team that implemented the College's green energy plan to achieve energy independence



Members of the Board of Governors with faculty at Commencement following the first meeting of the Board on the New England campus

JUNE
2024



VP for Advancement John Goyette addresses Thomistic Summer Conference participants at the closing banquet

Alumni Achievements



After 16 years of service to Wyoming Catholic College — which mixes a Great Books curriculum with a commitment to the outdoors — **Dr. Kyle Washut ('07)** was **appointed** the school's fourth president.

Dr. Washut first came to the school soon after graduating from TAC, serving for two years as its inaugural assistant dean for student life before taking a break to earn a doctoral degree. He then joined the school's full-

time faculty in 2012, becoming the academic dean in 2019.

"As the new president of Wyoming Catholic, I have been formed both by the thought of Dr. John Senior, co-founder of the Integrated Humanities Program at the University of Kansas, and that of Dr. Ronald P. McArthur, founding president of Thomas Aquinas College," says Dr. Washut. "This twofold formation has profoundly shaped me as an educator and as a man, and has prepared me, I believe, to guide this unique college into the future — a future informed by the intellectual richness and spiritual boldness each of these great men had to offer."

Having spearheaded the creation of the College's first coffee shop as a student, **Andrew Whaley ('05)** has gone on to establish numerous coffee houses around the country through his apostolate **Calix**, a new and practical way of engaging in the "new evangelization" called for by Pope St. John Paul the Great. "We build spaces," Mr. Whaley says, "where strangers can bond first over shared goods, however humble, rather than immediately clashing over the issues that divide them." In these communal settings, sincere debate about complex ideas is possible.

What drives this unique approach? "The



College," Andrew explains, "taught me how to approach a text with a group, and how to work together, not to be 'right,' but to find out what the author was trying to say. But it was Monsignor Luigi Giussani's pedagogical vision," he continues, "that showed me you can have that kind of collaborative community without a text, but with reality itself in the middle of the relationship."

Mr. Whaley is also a sought-after speaker. One of his recent engagements was with the Archdiocese of San Francisco's School of Pastoral Ministry, where he taught a **five-lesson online class** on the principles and practices he has developed for implementing "missional hospitality."

Laura (Billeci) Zambrana ('09) was appointed Director of Content for **Endow** (Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women), an international apostolate that reaches more than 40,000 women around the world who come together in small groups for study and prayer.



In addition to providing courses on the works of St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Hildegard of Bingen, and St. Edith Stein, Endow offers studies of St. John Paul II's letter on the dignity and vocation of women, *Mulieris Dignitatem*; his letter on the Rosary, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*; and his letter on the Christian meaning of suffering, *Salvific Doloris*.

"TAC prepared me for my role at Endow as I navigate which topics to cover and how they should be covered," says Mrs. Zambrana. "We want to make the truth beautiful and interesting," she continues. "The program is text-based like TAC," she explains. "The text is the teacher—not the Endow host. The commentary is on the text. It is so similar to my undergraduate experience."

Through her work with Endow, Mrs. Zambrana wants Catholic women across the globe to get a taste of what she experienced during her undergraduate years. “We really want to create a culture where women are reclaiming the time for study, prayer, and friendship.”



At its annual provincial chapter meeting, the Western Province of the Order of Preachers selected Rev. John Winkowitsch, O.P. ('04), to serve as its new **director of vocations**, succeeding Rev. John Marie Bingham, O.P. ('00), who has assumed the role of **novice master**. Together, these two Thomas Aquinas College alumni will shape the next generation of Dominicans ministering to God's people along the Pacific coast.

Fr. Winkowitsch, who served as the College's 2023 **Matriculation Speaker** in California, converted to Catholicism as a freshman and **entered** the priesthood in 2020 after a long and dramatic spiritual journey.

Fr. Bingham, also a convert, was a banker before discerning his vocation to the priesthood and religious life. He and Fr. Winkowitsch, along with fellow alum Br. Michael Thomas Cain ('18), visited the California campus in 2021 to speak to male students about discerning their vocations.

Just weeks after graduating with the Class of 2023, Marius Covington spent a month living, working, and hunting in Mozambique courtesy of President's Council member Michael Core, who himself has visited Africa every year for the past 28 years. “We are so disconnected from nature, and people don't appreciate how most of the world lives,” says Mr. Core. “I wanted to give an experience to a TAC graduate who is sincerely thinking about a religious vocation that would take them way out of their normal element — to give him or her a real adventure and to get a different perspective on life, which will hopefully resonate in their decisions.”



Mr. Covington recounts his experience in a **letter**, describing the harsh realities of life in southeastern Africa, along with the surprising joy of the Mozambiquans. His time among them gave him a new appreciation for the freedom and leisure that Americans are blessed to enjoy and a renewed resolution to be “a stronger defender and promoter of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which,” as he says, “is the only thing that makes us truly free.”



The Norbertine Canonesses of the Bethlehem Priory of St. Joseph in Tehachapi, California, have announced the joyful news that, on December 5, 2023, they elected Mother **Mary Oda (Jennifer Tilley '02), O.Praem.**, as their new prioress for a term of 12 years.

Mother Prioress is one of three Thomas Aquinas College alumnae members of the “Sisters of the Mountains,” the others being Sr. Mary Thomas (Alison Bright '09) and Sr. Mary Andre (Anne Huguelet '11). Since the Holy See's elevation of the community to an independent canonry within the Norbertine Order on January 29, 2011, the monastery has grown substantially, from 20 to over 40 sisters.

When not at work on his dissertation for a Ph.D. in philosophy from The Catholic University of America, **Michael Bors ('15)** can be found conducting tours of picturesque Annapolis, MD. Having been born and raised there, he gave countless tours of the historic town over the years to visiting family and friends. While in graduate school, Mr. Bors decided to monetize his efforts, establishing **Tour Annapolis**, which offers three types of excursions: a walk-through of Annapolis's historic downtown; a boating excursion onto the Annapolis Harbor and surrounding waters; and a mixed-drink tour, giving an insider's look at the city's creative cocktail culture.



Student Life

Discussing as they do some of the most important questions of life in the classroom, students tend to forge deep friendships which often last a lifetime. Indeed, they are serious about their studies, but they also enjoy a lively camaraderie, engaging in a wide variety of extracurricular and recreational activities throughout the year. Music, sports, and drama are among their favorites, and there are numerous dances, dinners, and picnics where they gather for good food and fellowship.

Our young men and women also take seriously their faith and their duties as citizens. A large majority attend daily Mass and other devotions. And as they have in past years, they took to the streets again this year — on both coasts — to witness to the dignity of the unborn.





Benefactors

When Thomas Aquinas College opened its doors in 1971, there were only a handful of benefactors providing support for the school. Since then, their number has multiplied exponentially, making it possible for the College to build out its California campus, expand to a second campus in New England, and provide financial aid funds to the steady 70 percent of students who could not otherwise attend.

We at the College are mindful of the many friends and alumni who share with us the desire to participate in God’s work to renew the face of the earth through faithful Catholic liberal education — and who give so generously to make that goal a reality. Each day, at the five Masses offered on our two campuses, we pray with deep gratitude for all our benefactors, for their loved ones, and for their intentions.

Below is a summary of fundraising activities during the past three years. Included are the results of our various appeals which, thanks to the generosity of friends, parents, and alumni, have proven to be so successful in recent years.



All Funds Raised		Friends Week of Giving Appeal	Parent Day of Giving Appeal	Alumni Day of Giving Appeal
2022	\$15,468,052	\$1,021,592	\$319,456	\$191,486
2023	\$16,065,216	\$2,030,333	\$324,164	\$253,929
2024	\$14,884,235	\$1,370,606	\$328,809	\$314,769

Financial Aid

Thomas Aquinas College offers one of the lowest tuition and room and board rates of any top liberal arts college. In fact, the College was ranked first in the country on Kiplinger's most recent list of "Best Value Colleges."

We welcome every qualified student, regardless of financial where-withal. Students and their families are asked to contribute as much as possible to the cost of their education, but there are many who without assistance would not be able to attend the College. Thanks to the generosity of its benefactors, the College has been able to meet 100 percent of students' demonstrated financial need.

Financial aid packages vary, but the first component is a service scholarship job, whereby students work 13 hours per week on campus during the academic year. The program provides them with a unique opportunity to care for the campus and carry out essential tasks that support the community. Students help prepare and serve meals in the kitchen, clean and maintain the residence halls, assist staff in the College's library and offices, and maintain the grounds on both campuses. In the process, they learn valuable skills for later in life.

Summary of Income and Expenses FY '24

Principal Sources of Income

Contributions	\$ 14,884,235
Tuition	15,223,589
Investment Earnings	3,324,638
Auxiliary Enterprises (room & board, fees, etc.)	5,782,685
Other Gains and Support	727,306
	<hr/>
	\$ 39,942,453

Principal Expenses

Operations, Maintenance, & Food Service	\$ 11,505,148
Instruction	10,325,276
Administration	6,769,726
Student Financial Aid	7,879,865
Other (depreciation, amortization, & debt service)	4,779,925
	<hr/>
	\$ 41,259,940



71%
of students receive
need-based
financial
assistance

Students
receiving financial
aid work
13
hours/week on
campus

Average debt
at graduation
\$22,300
.....
national average:
\$39K



Called to Do More?

The College's expansion to a second campus in New England has brought with it increased operating costs. Our growing enrollment increases our need for financial aid funding. And with more graduates than ever, more mentors are needed to guide our young men and women to find their career paths and vocations.

How you can help:

Become a Spiritual Supporter

Pray for the College and the well-being of its students, faculty, governors, alumni, and benefactors.

Become a Monthly Benefactor or a Member of the President's Council

The President's Council is composed of benefactors who give \$1,000 or more annually.

Contact: Karim Obagi

Executive Director of Development

805-421-5928 or kobagi@thomasaquinas.edu

Become a Career Mentor

Contact: Gabriella Montgomery

College and Career Adviser

805-421-5997 or gmontgomery@thomasaquinas.edu

Become an active member of the Alumni Association or the Parents' Association

Active members of the College's Alumni and Parents' Associations volunteer their time and talents to help widen the scope of the College's outreach. They foster Catholic liberal education by fundraising; they assist with student recruitment; and they provide career and educational guidance, networking, and referrals for students and alumni.

Contact: MaryGrace Rea ('23)

Director of Alumni and Parent Relations

805-421-5946 or mrea@thomasaquinas.edu