



THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

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Eastward Bound! College Receives Approval for New England Campus

Culminating a rigorous process that began in the spring of 2017, Thomas Aquinas College has received approval from the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to operate a branch campus in Western Massachusetts, where it will award the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts. The decision sets the stage for Thomas Aquinas College, New England, to open its doors in fall 2019.

The Board's approval comes as the result of a thorough and rigorous application process conducted by its legal and academic affairs staff at the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. Its grant of authority is subject to stipulations, the most important of which requires the College to submit annual status reports during its initial five years of operation, providing narrative and statistical information on the institution's ongoing compliance with the Board's standards.

"This is a great accomplishment," says President Michael F. McLean. "We are grateful to the Board for its thoughtful review, and we are grateful to God for the opportunity to bring Thomas Aquinas College's unique and highly regarded academic program to a region known for quality higher education."

In May 2017 the National Christian Foundation gave the College the beautiful, former campus of a preparatory



school in Northfield, Massachusetts, which has been shuttered since 2005. The historic property, located near the Connecticut River, consists of some 100 acres of land and includes residence halls, a library, a chapel, a gymnasium, and ample classroom and administrative space.

Having received the Board's approval, the College is now seeking an extension of its accreditation to the New England campus, a process to which it anticipates a favorable conclusion within the next few months. "Pending the approval of the WASC Senior College and University Commission, we will be able to begin admitting students in New England," says Dr. McLean. "In the meantime, we are accepting student applications and, of

course, friends' donations to cover the costs of readying the campus for student use."

College officials are additionally making other preparations for the opening of the branch campus this fall. "We have already selected our initial faculty for New England, and those tutors and their families will, no doubt, begin to make moving plans," says Dr. McLean. "We are also hoping to host East Coast versions of the High School Summer Program and Summer Seminars in 2019."

The timing of the new campus, adds Dr. McLean, is providential: "Our California campus achieved full enrollment in 2005, and waiting lists have been growing ever since. So we have hoped and prayed for an opportunity to establish a second

campus and, thanks be to God, that day has arrived."

Notably, the College's need for expansion counters a 50-year trend in higher education, in which more than a quarter of the country's small liberal arts schools have either closed, merged, or abandoned their missions. "At a time when more than a few liberal arts colleges have had to close," says R. Scott Turicchi, chairman of the College's Board of Governors, "it is a testament to the excellence of Thomas Aquinas College's unique program of Catholic liberal education and to its good stewardship that the school has received approval to operate a second campus."

The news of the Board's decision has been greeted with joy and gratitude at the California campus.

"We wish to thank all who have supported and encouraged us in this effort," says Dr. McLean. "We are grateful to the citizens of Northfield who have welcomed Thomas Aquinas College into their community; to our neighbors, the Moody Center; to the Most Rev. Mitchell T. Rozanski, Bishop of Springfield, who has welcomed the College into his diocese; and to the National Christian Foundation and other friends and benefactors whose generosity has contributed both to our success in reaching this point and to our confidence as we move forward."

St. Cecilia Lecture and Concert Hall Archbishop Gomez Dedicates, Blesses College's Newest Building

"After much work and prayer by so many members of the College community, we gather now to bless and dedicate this new lecture and concert hall to St. Cecilia," declared the Most Rev. José H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles, at Thomas Aquinas College, California, on Monday, August 27. "It will be a center of the College's lecture and concert series — and a place for its students' performances and other wholesome entertainment."

His Excellency visited the College to impart his blessing on the recently completed St. Cecilia Hall, which features a 580-person auditorium, a seminar discussion room, a recreation area, and a student coffee shop. Made possible by a \$10 million grant from the Fritz B. Burns Foundation of Los Angeles, St. Cecilia Hall is the 14th of 15 buildings called for in the College's master plan.

The day's events began in Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel, where Archbishop Gomez, joined by three of the College's chaplains, served as the principal celebrant at a votive Mass of St. Cecilia, the 3rd century virgin, martyr, and patroness of musicians. Following the Mass, the congregation processed into St. Cecilia Hall, gathering in the Fritz B. Burns Auditorium for the dedication ceremony. "Foremost among our guests today is our own archbishop, the Most Rev. José Gomez, who despite a very full schedule has made the time to be with us on this joyful occasion," said President Michael F. McLean. "We also specially welcome the trustees of the Fritz B. Burns Foundation, Maureen and Rex Rawlinson



Chairman of the Board of Governors R. Scott Turicchi; the Most Rev. José H. Gomez; trustees of the Fritz B. Burns Foundation: Maureen and Rex Rawlinson (president) and Cheryl Robinson; President Michael F. McLean

and Cheryl Robinson, with whom we have developed a warm friendship and to whom we are deeply grateful."

After Dr. McLean's welcome, Archbishop Gomez formally dedicated St. Cecilia Hall, pronouncing his blessing and walking across the stage, through the foyer, and around the interior of the building. While His Excellency sprinkled holy water both on the building and on members of the College community, the Thomas Aquinas College Choir sang *Veni Creator Spiritus* — "Come, Creator Spirit" — from the auditorium balcony.

While making his way back to the auditorium, the Archbishop paused to bless the Dillon Seminar Room, named for late Thomas Aquinas College president

Dr. Thomas E. Dillon. Dr. Dillon's widow, Terri, and members of their family were on hand for the occasion, as was another of the building's namesakes, Joyce Skinner. Mrs. Skinner's late husband, Ken, was executive director of the Fritz B. Burns Foundation, and St. Cecilia's café — the Ken and Joyce Skinner Coffee Shop — is named in their honor. Also in attendance were Fritz B. Burns' daughter, Frannie Morehart, and her daughter and son-in-law, Missy and Glenn Mueller, as well as representatives of the firms that designed and constructed the building.

"To Rex, Maureen, and Cheryl, really there are no words that we can offer of gratitude," said R. Scott Turicchi, chairman of the College's Board of Governors. "I hope you will take away two things that we continue to pledge to the foundation: One is to remain true to the founding document on which this campus, and this institution, was founded; and the second is that we put your generous donations to good work." As an expression of gratitude, Mr. Turicchi presented the trustees with photos of the building as well as recordings of student musical performances — mementos of the intellectual and artistic life of the College that their generosity so deeply helps to enrich.

Photos of St. Cecilia Hall
See page 6

“A Journey Powered by the Wings of Faith and Reason”

President McLean’s Address at Matriculation 2018

By Michael F. McLean, Ph.D.
President, Thomas Aquinas College

In his vitally important 1998 encyclical, *Fides et Ratio*, St. John Paul II wrote that “faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth.”

He emphasized several ways in which faith uniquely aids reason to reach its full potential — that is, reach its full perfection in those areas which lie within reason’s proper sphere.

First, faith instructs reason that it must respect certain basic rules if it is to have any hope of attaining the deepest and most important truths. The pursuit of truth requires the cultivation of virtue: In the words of Pope John Paul, “Reason must be aware that the journey is not for the proud, but must acknowledge that the journey is grounded in the fear of God.”

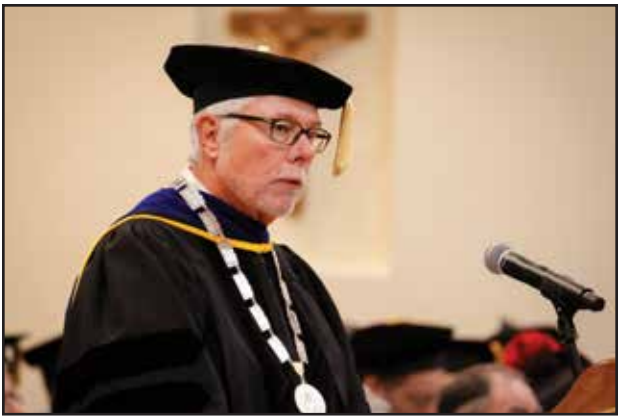
Second, faith exhorts reason to realize that, in pondering and analyzing nature, human beings can rise to God. You should be heartened by these words from the Book of Wisdom, cited by Pope John Paul II: “From the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator” (13:5). These words are echoed by St. Paul in his Epistle to the Romans: “Ever since the creation of the world, His invisible nature, namely, His eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made” (1:20).

“Working harmoniously together, faith and reason can help you ascend higher and higher on the route to wisdom, and with the help of God’s saving grace, ultimately help you to approach the vision of the living God Himself.”

And, third, faith encourages perseverance in the difficult work of pursuing the truth. In those moments when you feel fatigued or discouraged, remember these words of John Paul II: “For the sacred author, the task of searching for the truth was not without the strain which comes once the limits of reason are reached ... Yet, for all the toil involved, believers do not surrender ... Leaning on God, they continue to reach out, always and everywhere, for all that is beautiful, good, and true.”

Not only does faith assist reason in matters within reason’s purview, faith takes reason beyond itself as well: “The wisdom of the wise is no longer enough for what God wants to accomplish; what is required is a decisive step towards welcoming something radically new ... Man cannot grasp how death could be the source of life and love; yet, in the words of St. Paul, to reveal the mystery of His saving plan God has chosen precisely that which reason considers ‘foolishness’ and a ‘scandal.’”

Writing nearly 30 years before John Paul II, the founders of Thomas Aquinas College argued to the essential role of faith in liberal education in the College’s founding and governing document, *A Proposal for the Fulfillment of Catholic Liberal Education*. The fact that this document



anticipated so much of what is contained in *Fides et Ratio* is a testament to the deep and well-formed Catholic faith of the College’s founders and a sure sign that Thomas Aquinas College comes straight “from the heart of the Church,” the title of John Paul II’s great document on Catholic higher education, *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*.

The College’s founders knew, and we believe today, that Catholic liberal education is best characterized as *faith seeking understanding* — that is, that the essential purpose of a Catholic college is to educate under the light of the Faith.

In their *Proposal*, the founders provided examples of the ways in which faith assists reason; or, as they put it, “how an adherence to Christian doctrine helps the believer as he thinks about the most serious and difficult questions.” One such question which, in the words of the founders, “has occupied the time and prompted the labors of the greatest thinkers concerns the origin and cause of moral rectitude.”

You freshmen will soon encounter Plato’s *Protagoras*, in which Socrates argues that all wrongdoing is the result of ignorance about good and evil and pleasure and pain. In other words, virtue is knowledge — the view that if one *knows* what is good, he will surely *do* what is good. This is a perennial view in moral philosophy — one has only to think of how much effort and resources are expended on the premise that people will surely change their behavior if only we provide them with more instruction and information.

If you follow the arguments of the *Protagoras* closely, which I know you will, you will not escape the perplexity aroused by Socrates’ arguments, and you will begin to formulate fundamental questions about the moral life in light of Socrates’ discussion. But if you are a Catholic who adheres to the Faith, and you have, or acquire as the result of your education here, an adequate understanding of that faith, in the words of the founders, “You will believe Ezekiel and St. Paul when they teach you that moral goodness and the good acts which follow upon it are the result of graces which illumine not only the mind, but which touch the heart as well.”

This example illustrates one way in which faith aids reason to reach its full potential — that, again in the words of the College’s founders, “The Catholic Faith is a guide in the intellectual life as well as in the moral life for those who subject themselves to it, and the understanding is crippled radically when it refuses to stand in the higher light which is given it.”

As I mentioned earlier, St. John Paul II knew that faith takes reason beyond itself as well. Faith can take reason where it dares not go alone. This is why, in one of the concluding sections of the *Proposal for the Fulfillment of Catholic Liberal Education*, the founders write: “The Christian student, because of his faith, can be liberally educated in the most perfect and complete way ... [T]he religious college quite properly can claim to be the liberal educator *par excellence*, because through wisdom based on faith, the student’s natural appetite for the truth can be perfectly satisfied. He might see “through a glass darkly” those highest things which the non-believer will not see at all.”

You freshmen are about to begin, and you returning students are about to continue, a journey powered by the wings of faith and reason. Working harmoniously

together, faith and reason can help you ascend higher and higher on the route to wisdom, and with the help of God’s saving grace, ultimately help you to approach the vision of the living God Himself.

We look forward to journeying with you in your years at Thomas Aquinas College. We pray that your efforts are successful and rewarding, just as we ask you to pray that the College remains ever faithful to its mission of guiding and facilitating our common pursuit of the good, the true, and the beautiful.

Thank you.

IN MEMORIAM

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Bruce Smillie

January 15

Father of Mark (’83), Susanne (Munro ’85), John (’87), and Andrew (’95); grandfather of Monica (’14)

Catherine V. Gadarowski

February 6

Legacy Society member

Helen Franco

February 22 — Benefactor

Raymond J. Preski

March 30

Legacy Society member

Elizabeth Reed Murray Beimers

May 10 — Sister of Sean Murray (’97)

Maryann Bock

May 13

Mother of Michael (’98), Theresa (Frei ’03), and Kenneth (’10)

Mary T. Cross

May 26

Mother of Rick (’75); grandmother of Shannon (Dalley ’96) Martin, Alissa (Dalley ’02) Remstad, Maria (’08), Peter (’11), Patrick (’14), and Isaac (’19)

Nicholas Carmen Cotugno

June 12

Grandfather of Sarah (’13) and Kevin (’16)

Howard Towle

June 16

Legacy Society member

Alphonse Calvanico

August 1

Legacy Society member

Celia Montgomery

August 5 — Former employee

Barbara Caster

August 20, 2018

President’s Council and Legacy Society member

Barbara Dunkel

August 31

Grandmother of Aaron (’06), Briena (Cooper ’06), Evan (’08), and Arielle (Dodd ’13)

Albert Koch

October 7 — Father of David (’85)

Paul J. Cunningham

October 16

Legacy Society member



Dr. McLean greets Jonahs Chavez (’22) at Matriculation.

“Firmly Established at Ferndale”

College Acquires 700+ Acres Surrounding California Campus

For nearly 40 years, Thomas Aquinas College has operated on a 131-acre property in Santa Paula, California. By God’s grace, the size of that property has now expanded more than six-fold.

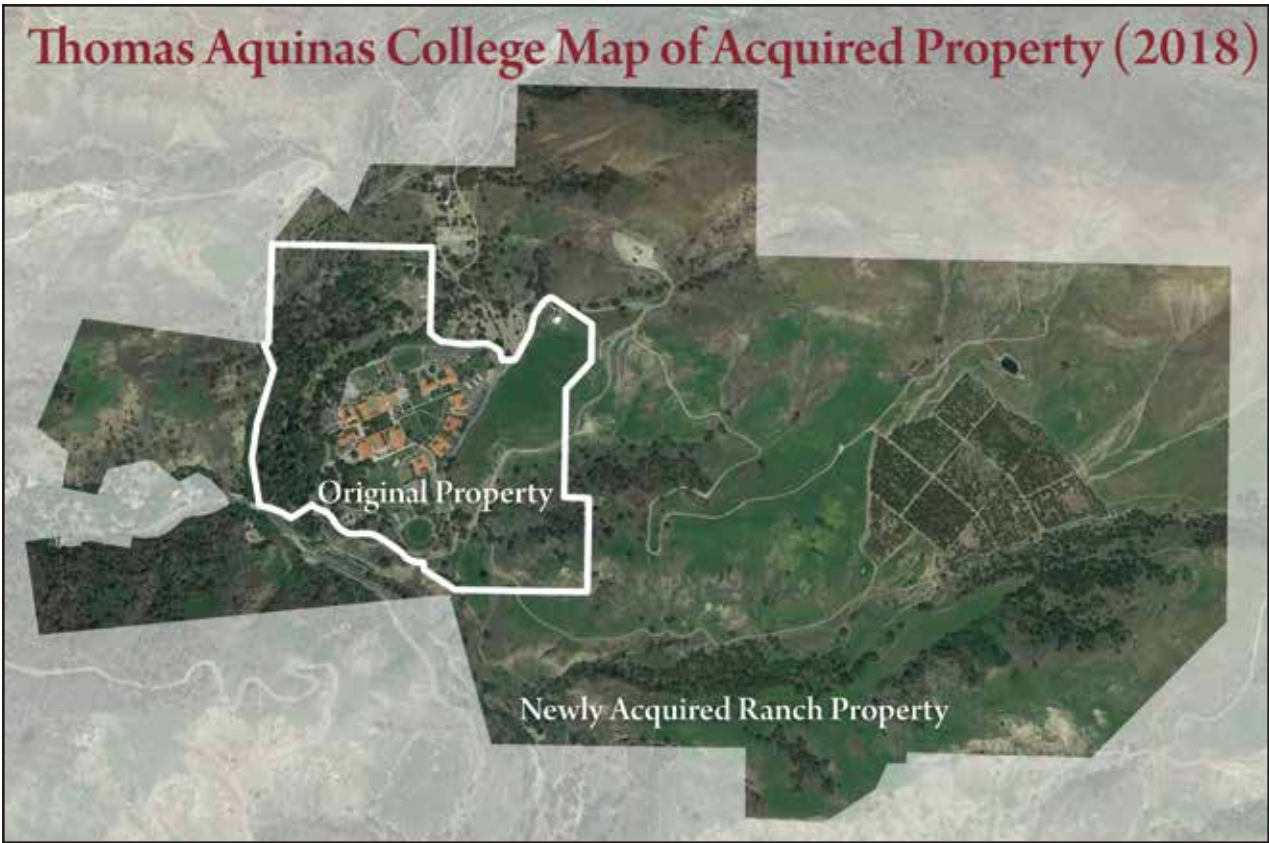
At the end of August, the College acquired more than 700 acres of surrounding open space. The acquisition substantially re-assembles the historic Ferndale Ranch along Santa Paula Creek, 131 acres of which were first deeded to the College in 1975.

“We have hoped for some time,” says President Michael F. McLean, “to acquire the land surrounding our present campus so that, as our students have prayed at nightly Rosary for many years, Thomas Aquinas College ‘might be more firmly established at Ferndale.’ That day has arrived, and we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to secure the College for generations to come.”

The purpose of the acquisition is to improve the existing campus, not to enlarge the College’s enrollment. “This additional property enhances what is already a beautiful and well-situated campus,” says Dr. McLean. “It will provide expanded recreational areas that are convenient and safe for the College’s students.”

Students are already benefitting from the acquisition. “The new property opens up a beautiful running and hiking loop that was not accessible to our students in the past,” says Dean John J. Goyette. “And in the spring, after the rains, we are hoping to use portions of the land for organized campouts. We are also in the process of acquiring a large telescope and observatory which will be installed on the ranch property, and we are looking forward to hosting stargazing parties there.”

Located on a distant part of the property is a 40-acre avocado orchard which the College is leasing to a local land-management company, and, as such, remains off-limits to members of the College community.



“Those crops belong to our lessee; so, no, we have not secured a supply of avocados for our dining hall,” jokes Dr. Goyette. “The farm will essentially operate, as it always has, as an independent entity, but the lease fees will provide a welcome revenue stream for the College.”

Thomas Aquinas College will not, however, benefit from the continued operation of two small-scale oil-pumping operations located on 10 remote acres of the property. “We do not own the mineral rights on the original property or on our newly expanded property,” says Dr. McLean. California Carbon Co. operates those

pumps, under the terms of its longstanding, county-approved conditional use permit.

“We owe special thanks to the members of our Board of Governors who helped negotiate this acquisition — Don Swartz, Dieter Huckestein, and Bud Daily — and who worked with senior staff and officers of the College to effect a smooth transition of ownership,” says Dr. McLean. “I encourage all members of our community to express our gratitude for this blessing with prayers of thanks and by using the land responsibly and well.”



Photos from the College’s newly acquired property: **1.** A view of the academic quadrangle from the southeastern hillside **2.** The 40-acre avocado orchard, which the College is leasing to a local land-management company **3.** The “Painter’s Shack,” erected in 1946 and damaged by the high winds that fanned the Thomas Fire **4.** Cattle belonging to ranchers who lease grazing rights on the land.

The Perfect Gift ... *A Christmas Novena of Masses*

Beginning on December 16, the chaplains of Thomas Aquinas College will offer a novena of Masses in Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel. Each person enrolled in the Novena will receive a beautiful, personalized card from the College.

(Cost: \$5 per card, includes shipping and handling. All names must be received by December 15.)

thomasaquinas.edu/christmas-novena



New Faculty

College Welcomes New Tutors, Vice President, and Facilities Manager

Josef C. Froula ('92)

“As a student, the spiritual and intellectual richness of the College completely transformed my life,” reflects Josef Froula ('92). “I looked forward to attending every class, and I never had a single bad experience” — well, save for one: “I remember my graduation was a very sad day for me,” he continues. “I didn’t want to leave.”

Yet leave he did, making the most of the subsequent 26 years before returning to his alma mater this fall. Dr. Froula married classmate Hélène (Augros '92), and the couple has welcomed 10 children, two of whom are now students at the College, and two more who are graduates. He earned master’s degrees in dogmatic theology (Holy Apostles College and Seminary) and humanities (California State University, Dominguez Hills), as well as a doctorate in educational leadership (Southern Connecticut State University). He also spent 5 years teaching high school and 21 instructing seminarians at Holy Apostles and the Legion of Christ College of Humanities.

“Teaching in seminaries was a great preparation for coming here because the principle upon which Thomas Aquinas College is founded is that all the disciplines we study are ordered to, and ordered by, theology,” Dr. Froula says. “In teaching theology, I came to a greater appreciation for what the College’s curriculum is principally ordered to; and I also benefitted from teaching other disciplines, such as literature, Latin, mathematics, and philosophy.”

When he learned that the College was hiring new tutors, he was eager to apply. “Because my experience here as a student was so positive, I knew it would be a good fit for me,” he says. This year Dr. Froula is leading three freshman classes: Natural Science, Mathematics, and Seminar. “It has been a sheer joy to teach these students,” he says. “There’s nothing more rewarding as a teacher than leading a discussion where the students come to see the truth for themselves.”

Margaret I. Hughes

For the better part of a decade, Margaret Hughes has taught philosophy to college students. Yet this semester



New tutors Dr. Margaret Hughes, Dr. Josef Froula, and Dr. Michael Rubin make the Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity at this year’s Matriculation ceremony.

— her first at Thomas Aquinas College — the experience has been quite different.

“We were looking at a Platonic dialogue in my Freshman Philosophy class, and Socrates was taking the position that pleasure is what’s good, and pain is what’s bad,” Dr. Hughes recalls. “The students in the section had a sense that there was something wrong with this position — they were really unhappy with it. So we had a conversation about it, trying to figure out what objections there might be.” She hadn’t expected such a critical response. “With other students,” she explains, “my work would be just trying to help them to *consider* that there may be some other ethical standard than pleasure!”

The College’s students, she finds, are exceptionally well-prepared, not only spiritually but also academically, for their classroom discussions. “Here, every class reinforces students’ confidence in the ability of human reason to know what’s true,” she says. “There’s an understanding across the school about what you’re doing and what’s expected.”

A native of Connecticut, Dr. Hughes is a graduate of the University of Chicago. She earned her master’s and doctoral degrees in philosophy at Fordham University, where she taught undergraduate philosophy, and then served for six years at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in New York. This fall, in addition to Freshman Philosophy, she is teaching Freshman Natural Science and Sophomore Seminar.

“I have always wanted to teach at a place that has a clear understanding of what education is, one that encourages a shared intellectual life amongst the faculty and with the students,” she says. “Getting to know students by moving from intense discussions of a text in class to wide-ranging discussions outside of class, at meals, concerts, or even just in passing on the quad, is really delightful.”

Michael J. Rubin

Growing up in Fredericksburg, Virginia, Michael Rubin considered himself a poor math student and had little interest in the subject. His mother knew why.

“I think you can do better,” she would say. “It’s just that you’re not checking your

work!” So, when she home-schooled him for a year in middle school, she “very lovingly forced me to go over my work with a fine-tooth comb,” Dr. Rubin recalls. The discipline paid off. “Suddenly I discovered that, when I put in the effort to do it right, I did really well,” he says. “And I discovered that I loved math: the knowledge that you get from it, being able to know something with total certainty, and the beauty in seeing how things have an exact proportion.”

Dr. Rubin’s zeal for mathematics led to a love for philosophy: “I enjoyed proving things, reasoning, figuring things out.” So, as an undergraduate at Providence College, he majored in both. Yet when he had to choose between the two, he opted for philosophy, going on to earn master’s and doctoral degrees at the Catholic University of America. While there, and in a one-year assignment at Christendom College, he taught philosophy to undergraduates, but found the idea of being limited to a single discipline “depressing.”

He is therefore delighted that, as a member of the Thomas Aquinas College teaching faculty, he is expected to teach across the curriculum. This year he is teaching Sophomore Natural Science, Freshman Theology, and Sophomore Philosophy. “I have always had a deep desire to know, as much as possible, the things that are worth knowing,” Dr. Rubin says. “Here that is not a problem! The program itself encourages tutors and students alike to always be learning.”

Dennis McCarthy

“Sometimes serendipitous meetings trigger momentous events,” says Dennis McCarthy. He would know: Three such meetings, over the course of more than four decades, led to his becoming the College’s new vice president for finance.

The first such meeting occurred after his graduation from Georgetown University, and it took place in a laundry room at Harvard Business School, where he was in his second year. It was there, in a friendly conversation with a fellow student, that he first heard the words “investment banking.” That comment sparked an interest, which led to a 40-year career, including executive positions at firms such as EF Hutton, Drexel Burnham Lambert and, most recently, Boustead Securities, where he served as managing director.

The next meeting came about 30 years later, when Mr. McCarthy’s wife, Kimberly, attended a prayer breakfast at Los Angeles’ Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. She was seated at the same table as Dr. Thomas E. Dillon, then the president of Thomas Aquinas College, who invited her and the oldest of the McCarthys’ three daughters, Kim ('11), then 17 years old, to visit the campus. Kim



Dennis McCarthy

quickly “fell in love with the school,” her father remarks. She applied, enrolled, and — on her way to graduating in 2011 — met her future husband, Paul Lazenby ('10), now the director of the College’s Annual Fund.

The final meeting took place over the telephone some seven years later. After 40 years in investment banking, Mr. McCarthy had been praying regularly about whether God was calling him to a new career. He then got a call from the College’s current president, Dr. Michael F. McLean, asking if he would consider succeeding the retiring Peter L. DeLuca. “I get it,” he remembers thinking. “I hear the message, and I am interested. It’s a school I love, and this is the opportunity for me to apply my talents in these *next* 40 years.”

Clark Tulberg ('85)

It would not be accurate to say that, in becoming the College’s new facilities manager, Clark Tulberg ('85) is “returning” to his alma mater. In some ways, he feels like he never left.

Upon graduating in 1985, Mr. Tulberg founded his own company, Tulberg Construction, which operated locally for more than three decades. “There was always at least one



Clark Tulberg

alum on the payroll,” he says, and the company was the top choice among tutors for home renovations. It also did some long-deferred work for the College, remodeling the kitchen and replacing the heating system in the president’s residence. Meanwhile, Mr. Tulberg and his wife, Hannah (Kern '77), have raised their six children — three of whom are alumni — just a few miles from campus.

Yet for Mr. Tulberg, succeeding the retiring Tom Mellein is, nonetheless, a kind of homecoming. “This place holds a special place in my heart. It definitely does,” he says. “It was instrumental in turning me around from my wild youth, helping me to realize that there was something bigger than myself. I feel indebted to it.” As facilities manager he is responsible for overseeing all of the campus’ 800+ acres, its buildings, maintenance, new construction, janitorial work, and security. “I feel like the College can use my skills,” he says, and he is glad to put them at its service.

In his spare time Mr. Tulberg is one of the Ventura County organizers for the Best Day Foundation, which organizes beach camps for children with special needs. On a given Saturday, he will oversee some 60 to 100 volunteers, many of them students from the College, who help children to experience the joy — sometimes for the first time — of surf, wind, and sand. “Amazing things happen on the beach,” he says, “for both the volunteers and the participants.”

Campus Update

Recent Events and Happenings

Summer Seminars with Dr. Peter Kreeft ...

For more than 25 years, Thomas Aquinas College has invited members of the President's Council — the backbone of its Annual Fund — to one of two Great Books Summer Seminar Weekends. This year, however, the College updated the format of the event by offering the first of the seminars in a day-long format. That event took place on June 23, featuring as its guest speaker Dr. Peter Kreeft, the renowned apologist and professor of philosophy from Boston College.

As with Summer Seminars past, the gathering gave participants an inside look at the unique education that they so generously help to make possible. The theme for the day was "The Problem of Pain," which attendees explored in a classroom discussion about the Book of Job, led by President Michael F. McLean and Vice President Paul J. O'Reilly. That afternoon they also attended a lecture by Dr. Kreeft, who sought to explain how suffering can be reconciled with the existence of an all-good, all-powerful God.

"When we are put into Christ by faith and baptism, we are therefore put into His sufferings and, to some extent or other, participate in His sufferings," said Dr. Kreeft. "We can vastly increase that extent by accepting it in faith and love. We can move toward the Cross, not because it's a cross, but because it's His."



... and Bishop Barron

The next Summer Seminar, "Faith is the Key," was held in the customary three-day format from June 29 to July 1, with the Most Rev. Robert A. Barron, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles, serving as the featured speaker. At three separate sessions some 45 attendees considered St. Paul's letters to the Galatians and to the Hebrews, as well as selections from St. Thomas Aquinas' commentary on the Letter to the Hebrews.

Bishop Barron presented his talk during an afternoon session, in which he spoke about the temple in Holy Scripture. His Excellency traced the theme throughout the Old and New Testaments, from the Garden of Eden to Noah's Ark, and from God's chosen people to Christ Himself. He discussed the importance of Christ as the "temple" that was destroyed and rebuilt in three days, offering up spiritual thoughts for guidance and prayer, and answering questions afterward.

His Excellency also took a moment to thank the members of the President's Council for their generosity to Thomas Aquinas College. "I think one of the great sights now in Southern California is this campus," he said. "I hope in 1,000 years it will still be here, and they'll remember people like you who made it possible. So thank you for that. It's a great gift, not just to this place, but to the whole Church."

Convocation 2018

On the morning of August 20, Thomas Aquinas College held its annual Convocation day, welcoming a new class of freshmen who hail from 5 countries and 31 states — the Class of 2022.

At the morning's Mass of the Holy Spirit in Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel, the Most Rev. Thomas Daly, Bishop of Spokane, Washington, served as the principal celebrant and homilist. "Thomas Aquinas College is known as a solidly Catholic college, one that does not give in to the latest educational trends," said His Excellency. "And you are a college that truly cares, not only for the intellectual dimension of those entrusted to



your care, but also the spiritual, moral, and social lives of young people."

The group then gathered for the Matriculation ceremony — held for the first time in the newly completed St. Cecilia Lecture and Concert Hall. There, as Director of Admissions Jon Daly called each freshman by name, the students came forward, one at a time, to greet President Michael F. McLean and Bishop Daly. They then signed their names in the College's registry, thus beginning their tenure as students at Thomas Aquinas College.

Chicago Board of Regents Hosts Seminar & Reunion

Friends and alumni of Thomas Aquinas College gathered in the Windy City on August 31 for a seminar and planning meeting, followed the next day by a Mass and barbeque, hosted by the Chicago Board of Regents.

The festivities began on the evening of August 31, when some 25 Regents and their guests met at the city's Union League Club for a seminar. President McLean and Vice President O'Reilly led the discussion, which considered St. Thomas Aquinas' treatment of the crucifixion and burial of Christ. "The seminar was a meaningful event that offered a small taste of the kind of education Thomas Aquinas College offers to its students," said Peter Colarelli, chairman of the Chicago Board of Regents. "For many in the room, this was their first experience with TAC, and the discussion brought the pedagogy to life for them."

After the seminar, the Chicago Regents, now in their second year, conducted an informal planning meeting. The session focused on how the Regents, as ambassadors for the College, could bolster their recruitment and fundraising efforts in Chicagoland. Dr. McLean also spoke about the College's ongoing efforts to establish a branch campus in New England. (See page 1.)

Two days later the Regents sponsored a reunion for Thomas Aquinas College alumni throughout the Midwest, beginning with Mass at St. Isaac Jogues Parish in Hinsdale, Illinois, followed by a barbeque in Prospect Park. Of particular interest to those on hand was the news that the College was acquiring some 700 acres of property surrounding its California campus (see page 3), about which Dr. McLean spoke briefly and answered questions.

"I know all who attended the Midwest Reunion enjoyed the opportunity to meet new people and catch up with old friends," says Mr. Colarelli. "We reminisced over the many wonderful memories we share from our years at Thomas Aquinas College."



Fidelity & Excellence

College Receives Top Marks in Catholic and Secular Guides

The annual college guides have issued their editions for the 2018-19 academic year, and once again Thomas Aquinas College is alone among American colleges and universities in earning the highest praise from both secular and Catholic publications. Among the highlights:

- **The Princeton Review** places Thomas Aquinas College within the top 15 percent of four-year colleges, naming it one of *The Best 384 Colleges* in the United States. The guide gives the College scores of 96 for academics, 99 for financial aid, and 94 for quality of life (out of 99). It additionally lists the College as one of only 10 on its "Financial Aid Honor Roll."



- Drawing upon The Princeton Review's data about the amount of financial aid that schools offer and students' satisfaction with their aid packages, **CNBC** identifies Thomas Aquinas as one of the 10 schools in the country that are doing the most "to offset the cost of college." The College, it notes, "is not for every college-bound senior, but with a rolling campus, favorable student-to-teacher ratio, and generous aid packages, it could be worth a look."



- **The Cardinal Newman Society** has included Thomas Aquinas College among just 17 residential colleges and universities nationwide in its *Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College*. The guide praises the College for its "commitment to orthodox Catholicism" and its "impressive intellectual rigor."



- Thomas Aquinas College has climbed 15 spots in the annual **U.S. News and World Report** college rankings, from No. 58 to No. 43 among the country's national liberal arts colleges. The magazine's 2019 "Best Colleges" guide also lists the College at No. 11 for "lowest student debt load at graduation," No. 35 for "Best Value" among all national liberal arts colleges, and No. 2 on its list of "10 Universities Where the Most Alumni Donate," reflecting alumni satisfaction.



- **Washington Monthly**, which rates schools "based on what they are doing for the country," considered some 1,739 colleges and universities nationwide for its 2018 list. Thomas Aquinas College ranks in the top 100 among liberal arts colleges, at No. 69. The College also ranks at No. 34 on the magazine's list of schools that offer the "Best Bang for the Buck" in the Western U.S.



- **College Consensus**, an online aggregator of college-review guides, has ranked Thomas Aquinas No. 10 on its list of the "Best Catholic Colleges of 2018," or "the Catholic schools in America recognized as the best across the board." The College is the only one of the Catholic colleges founded since its own establishment in 1971 to be included on the list.



- A new college guide, **Faith on View's** "Top Christian Colleges 2018," considers institutions, both Catholic and Protestant, that have "Christianity as their core and are distinctively Christian."



Nearing the top of the list is Thomas Aquinas College, at No. 2. The College also ranks No. 1 for student success and satisfaction, No. 1 in the West, and No. 1 among schools with 750 or fewer students.

To read these and other reviews in full, see thomasaquinas.edu/reviews.

St. Cecilia

LECTURE & CONCERT HALL



In the few short months since its completion, St. Cecilia Hall has become a hub of campus life, hosting a wide variety of activities and gatherings. Among the highlights thus far were a concert by world-class pianist Peter Serkin; lectures by the Most Rev. Robert Barron, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles, and noted theologian Dr. Peter Kreeft of Boston College; and the Thomas Aquinas College Choir's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Patience*. The building has also been the site of several dances, dinners, and receptions; numerous functions for the High School Summer Program; and this fall's Matriculation ceremony.

Primarily, however, St. Cecilia Hall is home for the events that make up the St. Vincent de Paul Lecture and Concert Series. The Santa Barbara String Quartet and Italian tenor Luciano Lamorarca graced its stage this fall, and lectures, which take place in the Fritz B. Burns Auditorium, often continue, hours afterward, as lively discussions in the Dillon Seminar Room.

St. Cecilia Hall sits on the southwestern corner of the academic quadrangle, nestled between the St. Gladys classroom building and Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel.

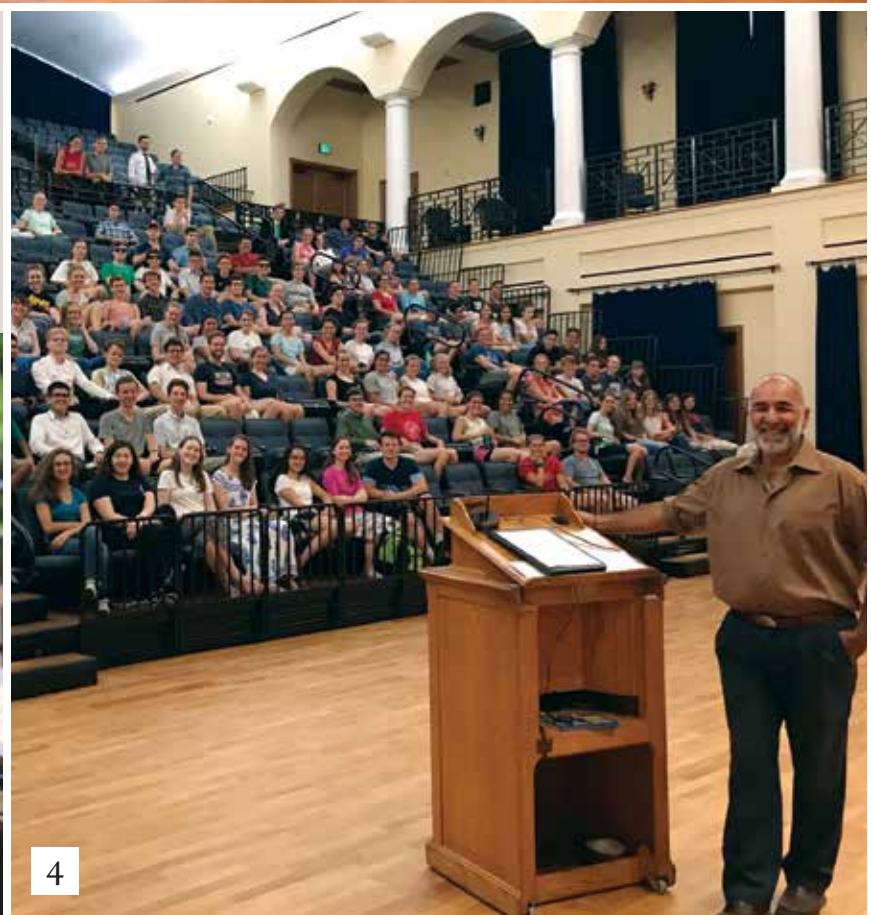
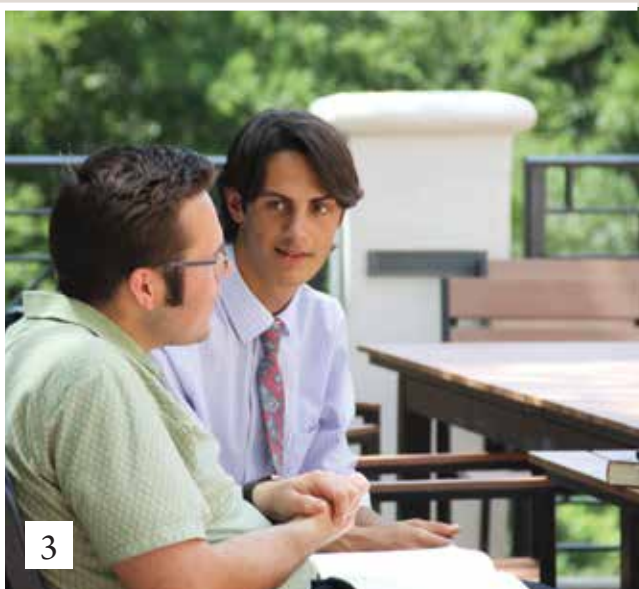


1. Members of *Chrysostomos*, a student choral group, sing at their April concert in the Fritz B. Burns Auditorium.

2. Students visit in the Ken and Joyce Skinner Coffee Shop ...

3. ... and on the Coffee Shop's patio, which overlooks the campus athletic fields.

4. Tutor Dr. John Nieto presents his annual talk, "Art and Beauty," to students in the High School Summer Program.





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5. Members of the Thomas Aquinas College Choir perform in last spring's production of Gilbert & Sullivan's *Patience*.

6. The foyer of St. Cecilia Hall hosts a reception for attendees after a concert last spring.



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7. Students attend a career panel in the Dillon Seminar Room.

8. Grammy Award-winning pianist Peter Serkin presents St. Cecilia's inaugural concert last February.

9. With its retractable stadium seating, the Fritz B. Burns Auditorium has become a popular site for student dances ...

10. ... and hosted this year's Fall Concert, featuring the Santa Barbara String Quartet.



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Humility as the Guardian of All Virtues

The Matriculation 2018 Remarks of the Most Rev. Thomas A. Daly

Thank you, Dr. McLean. I welcome this opportunity to offer very brief comments on this occasion.

To begin with, I am familiar with Thomas Aquinas College and its fidelity to the Church, which is ideal with institutions of learning in both the secondary school and the university. It is always for me a great blessing that we have a college in our midst that we can trust will teach not only what the Church believes but what the Church challenges us, in fidelity to Christ, to live each day.

As Dr. McLean said, I have known Fr. Buckley since my own days as a student at USF (his nephew Jim and I were friends), and Fr. Buckley still is a model of priestly ministry these many years. He served as the Sunday supply priest in my home parish of St. Brendan's in San Francisco. In addition, perhaps not known to the tutors and the administration, I was taught by Dr. Dillon's brother-in-law, Mr. Bill Corkery. So, my experience of the College, though I have never visited before, is knowledgeable, again because of your great reputation.

In preparation for my visit, I went back and read the various publications that I receive in my office as the Bishop. And with Thomas Aquinas College's emphasis on a single integrated curriculum which, as is described in the materials, employs the liberal arts and sciences, students are guided in the pursuit of truth and wisdom.

St Vincent de Paul

One aspect of Thomas Aquinas College is something I am intrigued by. It is called the St. Vincent de Paul Lecture and Concert Series. I read that this is the result of the generosity of benefactors, who themselves must have had a great devotion to the work of this saint. The explanation in the material and on the website for the College speaks of the charity both to the materially poor and the spiritually poor that characterized Vincent's ministry. The poorest of the poor, the ones that St. Teresa of Calcutta would often speak of, are those who do not know the truth.

I believe it is providential that this program has as its patron this great saint of the 17th century, who has something to say to each one of us today. So often when we hear of St. Vincent de Paul, we relate to his work in the society, which does great acts of charity in cities and in towns and parishes. It is said his example of charity was so great that, during the French Revolution, the statues of Vincent were not destroyed or vandalized.



Bishop Daly greets freshman Therese Flanders at this year's Matriculation ceremony.

Now in Vincent's life, certainly he is known for his work of charity: "The Great Organizer," who with Louise de Marillac, the widow, founded the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul. He was also a great reformer of the clergy; that is less known. In fact, he was one of the first to begin to institute the reforms of the Council of Trent, which developed the seminary system as we know it today. But he wasn't satisfied with just the training of young priests. He saw that those already ordained, often illiterate in the Faith, needed to be formed. So he instituted what was called the Tuesday Conferences, where he gathered those already ordained and instructed them as to what the Church believed and taught. Those weekly days of recollection helped in the education of those priests as they pursued paths of holiness.

At the time of Vincent, there was a very popular phrase: "If you want to be an enemy of the Church, be one of Her priests." Now sadly, so much of the recent press has determined that there are some clerics to which this description aptly applies.

With the thousands of letters that Vincent wrote to Louise and to his confreres, we have an insight into the pressing needs of the Church at that time. This is all well and good, but for you, especially the freshmen beginning your education here at Thomas Aquinas College, he offers to you and to all of us a spirituality that was heavily influenced by our Cardinal Berulle, a spirituality that is often called the "French School." It is characterized in some of the great saints: John Eudes, Francis de Sales, and even the non-saint Jacques Olier, the founder of the Sulpicians.

"Thomas Aquinas College is essential to the health of our Church in the United States and beyond."

Humility

There is one aspect that I hope permeates your life in these four years, and it has to do with humility. Now, if you look through the publications and all the materials of this great school, obviously you're not going to read that being humble is something that Thomas Aquinas is proud of. In fact, when I first visited Gonzaga University in Spokane, I was told by one of the Jesuits that at Gonzaga, it's been known that "the Jesuits take great pride in their humility."

Now Vincent called attention to humility in the sentiments of Mary: "My soul magnifies the Lord; He who is mighty has done great things for me." And he calls to the attention, in his writings, the words of St. Paul: "What have you that you have not received, and if you have received, why do you boast as though you have not received it?"

That is the important side of humility in studies: rendering glory to God. You are a select group of individuals, chosen because you have what it takes academi-



Bishop Daly delivers his homily at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, marking the start of the new year at Thomas Aquinas College, on Convocation Day.

cally to pursue this rich course at Thomas Aquinas. With an academic program, again, one as rigorous as Thomas Aquinas College's, and with a long line of successful alumni — and certainly there is a gift to the Church in those who have felt the call to religious life and priesthood — Thomas Aquinas College is essential to the health of our church in the United States and beyond.

One of the challenges I faced when I was the auxiliary bishop in the Diocese of San Jose was the Silicon Valley. What had been a rural part of Northern California — farming at its roots, especially in apricots and pears and cherries — had been transformed, first in the 1960s in aerospace, and by the time of the 1980s and 1990s ... We know the story of the Silicon Valley.

The problem with technology, as opposed to farming, is that the lessons of Scripture are lost. In a farming community, you are very dependent upon God for the weather: the rain. You are growing something which is providing for a need, namely food, and it requires tremendous patience as you wait for those crops to grow.

In the Silicon Valley, with the emphasis on technology, you are providing essentially for a want: that is, something faster. And the difficulty is that patience is not appreciated, and the individuals see themselves as the creator, and not part of creation.

"Humility is the guardian of all virtues," Vincent said, and you look throughout the Gospels, and you see that St. Vincent de Paul was right. What is Jesus' life but a series of acts of humility and humiliation?

Humility looks to reality, to truth, and to God alone. Humility creates a climate

of peace, joy, and simplicity. As we look to Christ, our Savior, Who says, "Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart," those words, I believe, are essential to this community. The reality is that with a track record of such success, you can become the target of the Devil and evil. And suddenly all of this good could be lost. But the Church desperately needs you young people to become — God willing — parents raising your children in the Faith, and also, if called to the priesthood or religious life, to be part of a new call to holiness, that this church, our church, your church, needs desperately at this time.

I mention this not because I have found anybody that I have met from Thomas Aquinas who was proud — and I had a great dinner last night with Dr. McLean, the dean, and Fr. Buckley — but I mention it just because no one is beyond temptation. In Psalm 37, those beautiful words should guide you also: "I stumbled but I did not fall, for you held me by the hand." Those are the words that guide you. This is the education that forms you. And it is your family and, above all, our God, who loves you.

So in this well-respected and successful place of learning, so essential to the life of the Church, I encourage you to ask for the intercession of St. Vincent de Paul, and in his life, and in his example, and in his commitment to Christ, you will find that with humility you can become excellent and not elite; with humility you can be grateful, not entitled; and with humility you will be wise, and not arrogant.

God bless all of you. My prayers are with you as you begin your studies.

Note: The Most Rev. Thomas A. Daly, Bishop of Spokane, Washington, was the College's 2018 Convocation Speaker.

“What I Did Over Summer Vacation”

Students Share the Gift of their Education and Plan for their Futures

Bella Ayala ('19)

During her two-month paid internship with the Ventura County Medical Center, Bella Ayala got to see the “whole gamut of medical specialties,” from labor and delivery to palliative care. Each week she was assigned to a new unit in the hospital, where she could watch surgeons, therapists, nurses, and medical examiners at work. She also assisted a physician with a research project about how to improve the quality of care in the hospital’s pediatric outpatient clinic.



The experience gave her more clarity about pursuing a medical career. “The program helped me to see that an MD track is very attractive to me, with psychiatry or psychology as my entry point,” Miss Ayala says. “I aspire to be a companion to people in their hardest moments.”

“The program helped me to see that an MD track is very attractive to me, with psychiatry or psychology as my entry point.”

—Bella Ayala ('19)

Isaac Cross ('19)

For Isaac Cross, the summer began in Rome, where he participated in a singing tour with a men’s choir, The Floriani, composed of Thomas Aquinas College students and alumni. In May he went to Seattle, where he took part in a weeklong academic conference sponsored by the Independent Studies Institute. For the rest of the summer, he was in the Washington, D.C., area, working as an analyst and writer for the Media Research Center.



“I analyzed news stories for bias or agenda,” says Mr. Cross, “and then wrote up my findings in articles posted to the Center’s website.” He published more than 40 bylined stories, which generated over 90,000 views and 28,000 social-media shares. An aspiring journalist, he’s grateful for the experience: “I now have content to back up my résumé.”

Sophia Dufau ('19)

When Sophia Dufau first learned about the honors internships at the U.S. Department of Justice, she was reluctant to apply. “I didn’t think I would get in,” she admits. The highly competitive program includes a rigorous application process followed by an FBI background check. Yet she decided to take her chances, and this summer was thrilled to spend eight weeks at the department’s Los Angeles field office,



“In all that I did, I knew that I was helping further an institution that has such a great mission, and I felt very fulfilled.”

—Sophia Dufau ('19)

researching, writing, and editing background documents for law-enforcement investigations.

“In all that I did, I knew that I was helping further an institution that has such a great mission, and I felt very fulfilled,” Miss Dufau says. She is continuing to work part-time for the department this year and hopes to land a full-time job there after graduation.

Moises Gomez ('19)

In his second summer as an intern at the Los Angeles law firm of Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O’Neill, LLP, Moises Gomez saw his responsibilities increase. “Originally my job consisted mostly of filing,” he says. “But one day I had a conversation with an attorney who thought I had some skills that could be put to use. After that, I was allowed to work on active cases, edit documents, write deposition summaries, even draft a motion for summary judgement — which is something you don’t usually get to do until you’re a law student.”



His experience, he says, gave him valuable new skills and insights: “It was amazing to be able to get firsthand experience of the lives of lawyers and the nature of their work.”

Thomas Graf ('19)

“I had three main jobs,” says Thomas Graf of his internship at Catholic Answers in San Diego: He wrote captions for the organization’s YouTube videos. (“It was great — I was being paid to watch apologetics videos. So, as I worked, I was getting answers to profound questions like, ‘What is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?’”) He also helped the group prepare for its fall conference on faith and science, and, each afternoon, he took part in the production of the *Catholic Answers Live* radio program, usually screening listener phone calls.



He hopes to continue working for Catholic Answers, or a similar organization, after graduation. “When you work at a lay apostolate, you’re not only making a living,” he says, “you’re fulfilling the vocation to evangelize.”

Abigail Herbst ('19)

For 10 weeks this summer, Abigail Herbst was one of six Alcuin Fellows at the Charlemagne Institute in Bloomington, Minnesota, whose mission, as she describes it, is “to lay the intellectual groundwork for the next Great Awakening.” To that end, Miss Herbst attended weekly lectures from outside speakers and wrote articles for the Institute’s online magazine, *Intellectual Takeout*.

“I loved the writing aspect,” she says. “They were able to help me hone my skills for that medium, so as to draw in and keep readers.” Her published articles include: “Why It’s Okay that the Constitution Isn’t Perfect,” “What Living in a Single-Sex Dorm Has Taught Me About Men and Women,” and “Is Loneliness Fueling the Rise of Political Polarization in the U.S.?”



Ryan Lockhart ('19)

For several years alumnus Shane O’Reilly ('95), vice president for strategic sourcing at Anthem, Inc., has recruited at his alma mater, and last spring he offered an internship to Ryan Lockhart. “I hadn’t really considered a career in business before then,” says Mr. Lockhart. Working at Anthem this summer, and now part-time during the academic year, opened his eyes to new possibilities.



During his first few weeks, he mostly shadowed other employees, but over time his duties expanded. By summer’s end, he was the point of contact for three software vendors seeking a contract with the company. His studies at the College, he found, prepared him well. “We learn how to communicate effectively and how to analyze documents,” he says. “Those skills are invaluable.”

“One of the most valuable things I’ve learned from this education is the duty you have to your community, and that extends to the country.”

—Thomas Macik ('19)

Thomas Macik ('19) and Patrick Nazeck ('19)

Not ones to relax over summer vacation, Thomas Macik and Patrick Nazeck headed to Quantico, Virginia, for 10 weeks at the U.S. Marine Corps Officer Candidates School. There they underwent a relentless regimen of physical exertion, sleep deprivation, and constant evaluation intended to induce stress — “the most fun we’d never want to have again,” says Mr. Nazeck. The program was “miserable,” Mr. Macik concedes, but worthwhile. “One of the most valuable things I’ve learned from this education is the duty you have to your community, and that extends to the country.” Although a third of all candidates fail, Messrs. Macik and Nazeck successfully completed the program. They plan to accept commissions as Marine Corps officers next spring, just minutes after their graduation from the College.



Elanor Piquette ('21)

As a technical intern at Teledyne Scientific and Imaging, Elanor Piquette spent six weeks this summer working at the company’s offices in Camarillo, California. “Teledyne makes infrared detectors. Some of them are for the military; some are for NASA,” she explains. Most of her work was classified (she had to undergo a background check to get the job), and as such, she knows little of its ultimate ends. “I worked with the focal plane engineers,” she reports. “My main duties were making charts and PowerPoints, processing data, and some coding in Visual Basic.”

A sophomore, Miss Piquette has yet to settle on a career path, but she does expect to return to Teledyne next summer: “It’s too good an opportunity to pass up!”



“Sign of Hope”

Rev. Derek Remus (’11)

Upon receiving the Sacrament of Holy Orders at the hands of the Most Rev. William McGrattan, Bishop of Calgary, on June 29, Rev. Derek Remus (’11) became Thomas Aquinas College’s 72nd alumnus priest — and the first ordained for a Canadian diocese.

“It’s a sign of hope,” the new priest proclaims, not only because ordinations are a reflection of God’s care for His people, but because, in recent times, they have been all too rare in Canada. Fr. Remus is the first new priest to be ordained in his home diocese in three years.

“The Church in Canada has been in crisis for a long time,” he says. “Every single day I am confronted with the reality of people who have not had good catechesis and formation in the Faith for years, declining numbers at Mass, people who are influenced by relativism — and these are the Catholics!” Add to the mix the latest revelations of scandal and cover-up in the Church, and a new priest could understandably get discouraged — but not Fr. Remus.

“It’s a lot of work,” he says of his vocation. “But there’s a lot of joy and satisfaction in carrying out that work. There’s a sense of peace that comes from knowing you’re doing the will of God.”

Words of Wisdom

“When I was 12, I was at a priestly ordination, and it was around then that the thought hit me,” Fr. Remus says. “This is what God wants me to do.”

In his senior year of high school, he could not decide whether to enter the seminary right away, or if he should go to college first. A priest he knew proposed a compromise. “He advised me to go to college and get a degree in something that would be beneficial whether I went on to become a priest or not,” Fr. Remus recalls. That made the choice obvious: Thomas Aquinas College’s emphasis on philosophy and theology would be an excellent preparation for the seminary, but were he to choose another path, a liberal education would stand him in good stead professionally.



Looking back, Fr. Remus says, his time at the College was “the best four years of my life.” The reverent liturgies, the devout chaplains, and the like-minded, faithful friends all aided him in his discernment, as did the College’s classical curriculum. “Starting with the first semester of Freshman Year, reading and discussing Euclid, the *Categories* of Aristotle, and Sacred Scripture satisfied my natural desire to know,” he says. “And studying the highest truths — I think specifically of St. Thomas’ treatment of the priesthood of Christ — let me see what it means to be a priest.”

“I don’t know what would have happened if I hadn’t gone to Thomas Aquinas College. The intellectual formation was critical.”

For the two years following his graduation, he worked as a tutor, paying off student loans, and then spent six months as a missionary in Peru. Around that time he also paid a visit to his alma mater for a conference on the social doctrine of the Church, where he received some encouraging words from his one-time tutor and mentor, the College’s founding president, Dr. Ronald P. McArthur.

“Dr. McArthur took me aside and said, ‘You can be a priest. You’ve got the qualities, and don’t let anybody stop you,’” recalls Fr. Remus. “His words remained with me throughout my time in the seminary. Whenever I was tempted to be discouraged or give up, they always came to mind.”

The education that Dr. McArthur and so many others had made possible likewise proved invaluable during Fr. Remus’ four years at St. Joseph’s Seminary in Edmonton. “I don’t know what would have happened if I hadn’t gone to Thomas Aquinas College,” he says. “The intellectual formation was critical; it allowed me to develop the ability to think logically, to follow through a logical argument, and thereby to make the most of my seminary education.”

The Good a Priest Can Do

His ordination this summer “was a time of great joy,” he says, but also “a humbling experience,” because “you sense the contrast between your own personal unworthiness and the dignity of the priestly office.” And just as his ordination was a “sign of hope” for the Church in a post-Christian culture, many more such signs have followed.

In his first assignment, Fr. Remus serves as the associate pastor at Holy Spirit Parish in Calgary. “Already, I have seen the good a priest can do,” he says. Among the faithful he has discovered a yearning for solid, even challenging, preaching. “One homily can do more good than one would think,” he observes, citing the testimonials of grateful parishioners.

Then there is the power of the sacraments in the lives of believers. “Saying Mass daily is something awesome — in the true sense of the word ‘awesome,’” says Fr. Remus. And the ability to absolve sins in the confessional is incomparable: “The reconciliation of even one sinner to God is of inestimable value, for, as St. Thomas said, the good of grace in one soul is greater than the good of nature in the whole universe.”

Alumni Updates

Graduates Put Faith in Action

Mary Bridget Neumayr (’86)

After serving for one year as the chief of staff at the Federal Council on Environmental Quality, Mary Bridget Neumayr (’86) is poised to become its next chairwoman. In June, President Donald Trump appointed Miss Neumayr to the position, which coordinates the country’s environmental policy and oversees regulations across various federal agencies.

Prior to becoming the highest-ranking woman at CEQ last year, Miss Neumayr spent eight years working for the House Energy and Commerce Committee, where she held several senior roles, including, most recently, deputy chief counsel for energy and environment. Previously she held positions in the Energy and Justice Departments of the George W. Bush Administration.

Although her new position will require Senate confirmation, early signs suggest a favorable outcome. “Throughout the entirety of the Trump Administration, there has yet to be a Senate-confirmed senior environmental official in the White House,” notes the *Washington Post*, adding, “that may soon change.” Citing former colleagues on the Hill who praise her for her professionalism and her



dpa picture alliance / Alamy Stock Photo

ability to work well with political foes and allies alike, the *Post* concludes that she “appears far better positioned to win Senate approval” than did previous appointees.

“Mary Neumayr will make a strong leader at the Council on Environmental Quality,” says Sen. John Bar-

rosso, chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. “Her significant experience at the White House and on Capitol Hill will serve her well in this key environmental policy position.”

Beau Braden, D.O. (’00)

“IMMOKALEE, Fla. — Not long after Beau Braden moved to southwest Florida to open a medical clinic, injured strangers started showing up at his house. A boy



who had split open his head at the pool. People with gashes and broken bones. There was nowhere else to go after hours, they told him, so Dr. Braden stitched them up on his dining room table.”

So begins a recent feature story in the *New York Times* about the efforts of Beau Braden, D.O. — a member of the Thomas Aquinas College Class of 2000 — to establish a 25-bed hospital in this impoverished rural community. Yet his efforts to get state approval have been obstructed by a large hospital, some 35 miles away, which fears that his startup could undercut its patient base and revenues.

The owner and managing physician of the Braden Clinic in Ave Maria, Florida, Dr. Braden studied medicine at Midwestern University and holds two master’s degrees in public health from the University of Southern California. Despite the opposition, he remains steadfast in his commitment to bring a hospital to the people he serves. “I refuse to stop,” he tells the *Times*. “They’ve been trying to get a hospital in their community for 50 years. I’ll bring all of what I can to make sure this injustice stops.”

James Layne (’08)

Enjoying a front-row seat at the U.S. Senate’s contentious hearing on Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court was alumnus attorney James Layne (’08), who since June has served as counsel for Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Arizona) on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. Counsel for the committee aid senators in their oversight of the federal judiciary, vetting judicial nominees to the federal courts.



“I and my colleagues on the committee staff are essentially the lawyers who represent and counsel our senators, especially on issues that fall under the committee’s jurisdiction,” Mr. Layne explains. “We study legislation that has been referred to the committee as well as analyze how this legislation would fit into the existing legal and policy framework, then recommend to the senator what action we advise him to take.” Additionally, Mr. Layne assists the Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology and the Law, which Sen. Flake chairs.

For most of the five years since his graduation from law school, Mr. Layne has worked in private practice, but he did previously work on Capitol Hill when, during his second year of law school, he clerked for the committee under then-Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma. “Thomas Aquinas College has prepared me in so many ways that I don’t even have time or space, or adequacy of speech, to list them,” he says. “It helped me to better know the good, the true, and the beautiful, and (which is perhaps even more important) helped me to desire these.”

The Father of Modern Chemistry

Why We Read Lavoisier

By Dr. John J. Goyette

The following remarks are adapted from Dean John J. Goyette's report to the Board of Governors at its May 11, 2018, meeting. They are part of an ongoing series of talks about why the College includes certain texts in its curriculum. To read the full text and the rest of the series, see thomasaquinas.edu/whywestudy.



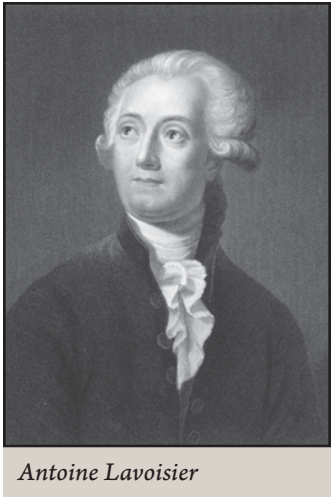
Antoine Lavoisier was an 18th century chemist whom we read in the Sophomore Natural Science tutorial. He is sometimes called “the father of modern chemistry,” and this is an accurate description. Lavoisier is to the science of chemistry what Newton is to physics.

Lavoisier is famous not only for his chemical theories but also for his work in the laboratory. Not only did he conduct his own experiments, but he manufactured most of his own scientific equipment; with the assistance of his wife, he produced exquisite drawings of this equipment so that both his results and the equipment he used to obtain them could be faithfully reproduced by other chemists.

He made a wealth of discoveries about various sorts of chemical combinations and reactions, notably the nature of combustion and the composition of water from hydrogen and oxygen. He also helped to revise the nomenclature used by chemists for chemical compounds and the elements from which they come. At the time of his death, he was at the height of his career, having recently published his monumental work, *The Elements of Chemistry*. Unfortunately for both him and us, because of his role in a financial company that collected taxes, he was a victim of the Reign of Terror during the French Revolution. So his very productive career was cut short — excuse the pun — by the guillotine.

Lavoisier pioneered the modern methods of chemical analysis, especially the careful measurement of the weights of reactants in and products of chemical combination. In the course of his experimental work, he anticipated the weight laws that led to the development of the atomic theory and ultimately to the periodic table of the elements. Lavoisier supplied repeated instances of what later chemists called the law of fixed proportions: that the elements in a chemical compound are in a fixed proportion by weight, regardless of how a compound is produced, whether by the forces of nature or synthesized in a lab.

Additionally, Lavoisier noted the capacity of several substances to combine with oxygen in greater and lesser ratios, and his analysis showed that the differing amounts of oxygen that combine with a given substance are in simple, whole-number ratios. That is, in effect, what chemists call the law of multiple proportions. This discovery is important for the science of chemistry because John Dalton would later argue that the whole-number ratios are best explained by positing atoms, that is, the elements combine in fixed units that remain undivided during chemical reaction.



Antoine Lavoisier

Lavoisier is most famous for his argument that combustion is the result of a flammable substance combining with one of the gases in the atmosphere, which he named “oxygen.” Up until his time there were various theories about combustion. The most popular theory supposed that combustion is a kind of decomposition: When a substance is burned, it loses “phlogiston” (the essential fire material), which is meant to explain why burning substances give off heat and light. However, through some carefully designed experiments, Lavoisier successfully showed that when substances burn they gain weight, and the weight they gain is precisely equal to the weight lost by the surrounding air.

Some of his experiments were extremely clever, including one in which he used a burning glass (i.e., a large magnifying glass) to burn tin foil under a bell jar whose lower extremity was immersed in water, which served to confine the air under the jar (see diagram, right). This experiment served to show that the burning tin combined with a portion of the air contained under the jar. In a subsequent experiment he burned tin in a hermetically sealed glass vessel called a retort. This experiment enabled him to calculate precisely how much weight was gained by the burning tin, and showed that the weight gained could come only from the oxygen within the sealed vessel. After Lavoisier's extensive experiments on combustion, the “phlogiston” theory lost its steam, and Lavoisier's theory of combustion carried the day.

In another set of experiments, Lavoisier was able to show that water is a substance composed of oxygen and another more rarified gas that he called “hydrogen.” He succeeded in decomposing and synthesizing water in the laboratory and calculating the proportion by weight of

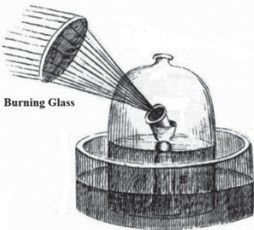
hydrogen and oxygen. These experiments are significant because water was thought to be one of the elements — a simple substance — rather than a compound.

Indeed, whereas the ancients thought the number of elements is limited to only four, viz., earth, air, fire, and water, Lavoisier's discoveries led him to conclude that

there are many more elements — that there are dozens of distinct elementary metals and non-metals in the crust of the earth, that the air of our atmosphere is composed of several distinct gases, and that water is a compound rather than an element. Surprisingly, Lavoisier was of the opinion that fire is an element, although he was not of the opinion that it had negative weight (the view of those who espoused the phlogiston theory).

Reading Lavoisier in the Sophomore Natural Science course is a real delight because of the clarity of his thinking and expression, and because the detailed drawings and descriptions of his experiments are easy to follow. Readers can thus see and judge for themselves the arguments and experiments that help establish the atomic theory of matter. This material is obviously part of a liberal education because the liberally educated person is well-rounded, someone who can make educated judgments about all of the branches of learning, including natural science.

There is also a larger purpose to our study of thinkers such as Lavoisier. It is important for students to be able to think critically about the principles and presuppositions of modern natural science so that they can have an educated view of the conflict, or tension, between religion and science. Through the careful study of Lavoisier and other natural scientists, one can come to see that the widespread belief that faith and reason are



contradictory is based not only on a distorted understanding of faith, but also on a superficial understanding of natural science.

St. Vincent de Paul Lecture and Concert Series

Endowed by Barbara and Paul Henkels

Highlights from the Last Quarter

- On August 24 **Mr. Brian Dragoo**, a member of the College's teaching faculty, presented the year's opening lecture, “*An Zeus Sit: What Has Athens To Do With Jerusalem?*”
- The Santa Barbara String Quartet** performed music by Bach, Corelli, and Mozart at the Fall Concert on September 7.



- Dr. Denis R. McNamara**, associate director and associate professor at the University of St. Mary of the Lake's Liturgical Institute, spoke on September 21 on the subject, “The Bible and Church Architecture: Ever Ancient, Ever New.” While on campus, Dr. McNamara also presented a “reading” of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel (see photo, below), during which he gave students a tour of the building, explaining how various architectural features express theological principles at the heart of Christian worship.



- One Friday night each semester, the student body and teaching faculty gather for the All-College Seminar — simultaneous meetings of small groups (about 20 students, drawn from all classes, and two tutors) to discuss a pre-selected reading. The fall semester's seminar took place on October 12 and focused on Flannery O'Connor's “Parker's Back.”
- Periodically members of the faculty or chaplaincy present on-campus “tutor talks,” informal lectures followed by question-and-answer sessions. These late-afternoon gatherings afford an opportunity for the speakers to discuss some topic of interest to them and to share their thoughts with other members of the community. On September 19, tutor **Dr. Anthony P. Andres** gave this year's first tutor talk, “The Probability and Likelihood of the Dialectical Conclusion.” On October 3, tutor **Dr. John Nieto** presented “Cool vs. Kalos: The Role of True and False Beauty in the Moral Life.”

Text and audio from select lectures and concerts are available at thomasaquinas.edu/lectures.



CAMPUS LIFE



1. Students pray during a Rosary procession in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. 2. Tutor Emeritus Dr. Carol Day and the College's resident assistant, Jeannette Richard ('17), lead a women's campout at the Sage Hill campground in Santa Barbara. 3. The statue of the Blessed Mother overlooks the campus from her perch atop Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel. 4. Sophomores host an informal dance on St. Gladys Plaza for members of the Freshman Class ... 5. ... and seniors welcome freshmen with a trip to the beach. 6. Students, resting in hammocks, study and watch ... 7. a soccer game on the campus athletic field.

Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel Schedule of Masses *

Weekdays	Saturdays & Civic Holidays	Sundays & Holy Days
7:00 a.m.**	7:15 a.m.**	7:15 a.m.**
11:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	9:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.		11:30 a.m.

* Schedules may vary; please confirm Mass times at thomasaquinas.edu/masstimes.

** The first Mass of each day is offered in the extraordinary form.

Calendar of Events

For more information, please see thomasaquinas.edu/calendar

Lecture: Dana Gioia Judge Widney Professor of Poetry and Public Culture University of Southern California Poetry and Liberal Education.	November 30
First Semester Examinations	December 8–14
Christmas Vacation	December 15–January 6
Lecture: Dr. R. Edward Houser Professor of Philosophy, University of St. Thomas Aristotle's <i>Posterior Analytics</i> and Plato's <i>Republic</i>	January 18
Seminar: St. Thomas Aquinas on Lying Legatus Summit, Dana Point, California thomasaquinas.edu/legatus-summit	January 24
St. Thomas Day Lecture The Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores Bishop of Brownsville, Texas	January 28
Presidents' Day Lecture: Dr. Richard Ferrier Tutor, Thomas Aquinas College "Socrates in Peoria"	February 22

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