



Keeping
FOCUS
on the Future

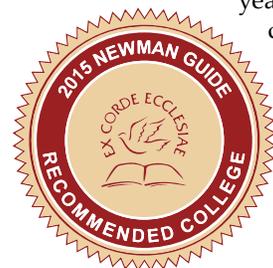


Dear Friends of Aquinas College,

Visitors who are new to Campus often remark on the beautiful drive that leads up to the entrance of the College. As they draw closer to campus and leave the cacophony of West Nashville traffic behind, they invariably find a true oasis situated in the middle of a burgeoning, destination city. It is the best of both worlds: a pristine, 83 acre campus nestled in the middle of a growing metropolis, with all the amenities of a city for college students to enjoy.

To the visitor who is unaware of the changes taking place at the College, the peaceful serenity of this campus can be deceiving. This verdant landscape is also home to a small Catholic College that is in the midst of transformational change. In the last three

years, the College has transitioned from a commuter to a residential campus that offers graduate studies in education and nursing. These programs have made a profound impact on the campus culture; residential life has more than tripled since 2012 with students at the College coming from 20 different states and 18 countries. Recently, *U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges* ranked



Aquinas College as #14 in regional colleges in the South, up 28 places from two years ago. In August, Joseph Pearce assumed leadership for the Aquinas College Center for Faith & Culture, and his engaging lectures are filled to capacity. Beyond this, the recent blessing and dedication of the Corpus Christi Perpetual Adoration Chapel has been the biggest blessing of this academic year. The chapel has already become the heart of the campus, drawing students, faculty, staff and friends of the College 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Looking to the future, Aquinas College's newly released strategic plan: *Vision 2020: Truth and Charity*, is an ambitious and engaging plan which charts a future for the College. It is built upon a strong foundation established in the Dominican tradition more than 50 years ago. In this new strategic plan, you will find increased programmatic offerings, a common curricular experience for bachelor degree seeking students, the introduction of study

abroad in Bracciano, Italy, and enhanced opportunities for students, faculty and staff to deepen their relationship with Christ, each other, and the greater community. This vision for the future of the College is capstoned with a bold plan for improved and expanded facilities for living and learning made possible through the College's new **IGNITE** Campaign, which promises to create steady, sustainable growth for many years to come.



We are excited for Aquinas College's growth and invite you to explore the pages of this magazine and visit our beautiful campus in Nashville to discover for yourself the difference a Dominican education makes in the lives of young Catholic students, formed from the Heart of the Church in the Heart of the South.

God bless you,

Sister Mary Sarah, O.P.
President

President
Sister Mary Sarah Galbraith, O.P.

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PRESIDENT’S LETTER 2

FEATURES

Toward a Definition of Culture by Joseph Pearce 4

A Bracciano Journal 6

The Value of Collegiate Athletics by Daniel K. Donnelly, Ph.D..... 9

Dominic & the Living Word by Sister Matthew Marie, O.P. 10

The Opening of the Perpetual Adoration Chapel by Sister Delia Grace, O.P. 11

The New Aquinas College Campus..... 14

NEWS

New Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program Approved 15

Student Life News 16

Social Media at Aquinas College..... 18

News Briefs..... 26

ACADEMICS

The School of Business by Dan Donnelly 19

The Center for Catholic Education by Sister Elizabeth Anne, O.P. 20

Faculty Briefs 22

ADVANCEMENT

The IGNITE Comprehensive Fundraising Campaign by Andrew Shafer 23

Letter to Alumni by Rachel Leach 24

In Memoriam..... 24

Alumni Profile: Chris Ackerman by William C. Smart, Ph.D. 25



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Towards a Definition of Culture

Joseph Pearce, Director of the Center for Faith & Culture, considers the difficult question of defining “culture.”

by Joseph Pearce

In my confused, impetuous and mis-spent youth I believed, with the arrogance of ignorance, that I knew the answers to all the most important questions in life. The world’s problems could be solved politically and economically. All that was needed were the right policies, and the right government to put the policies into practice. It was all so simple. All so easy. The biggest problem was convincing the older people how simple it all was. It was a pity, in fact, that old people were so stupid. Such were the thoughts of my thoughtless youth.

And as for culture, who cared about culture anyway? At best it was fun, like listening to the latest rock band, or watching one’s favourite football team; at worst it was a needless distraction from the real issues, which were political and economic. And religion? What a waste of time that was. Religion was utterly irrelevant. It had no connection to the real world or the real issues.

How wrong I was. How wrong and how lost.

There was one older person in my youth whom I took seriously, largely, I’m sure, because his prejudices reflected mine. He was not, in fact, very old. He was in his thirties. But as a teenager “old” begins at twenty-five! He was something of a mentor and I remember that he would often begin a discussion with an insistence that we “define our terms”. If we were discussing capitalism, or communism, or free trade, or the free market, or private property, he would always begin by asking me to define what I meant by these things. He would also ask probing questions such

as whether private enterprise and free enterprise are the same thing. Although I was sometimes irritated by this somewhat stolid approach to debate, I realize now that he was teaching me how to think. He was taking me, slowly but surely, from mere derivatives, to an appreciation of the important things, such as philosophy and, eventually, theology. As such, I remain very much in his debt, intellectually speaking.

I would like to take my former mentor’s approach to our discussion of culture. What *is* culture? What *isn’t* culture? As a word it is too lightly used and too often abused. As a living thing it is too often taken for granted and all too often not fully appreciated for what it is. It is, therefore, time that we looked at culture with a clarity of vision that is often absent. In short, it is time to define our terms.

Culture as a Reflection of the Trinity

First, we can say that culture is *human* (and ultimately divine). There is no canine culture; no civilization of chimpanzees; no planet of the apes. Only people make music, write poetry, build cathedrals or paint pictures. Second, we can say that culture is *creative*. It is the art of *making*. For a Christian, the fact that something is peculiarly human marks it as a sign that man, in a way crucially different from other animals, is made in the image of God. Culture is, therefore, a mark of God’s image in us. But what sort of mark is it? It is a *creative* mark. It is the image of the Creator’s creativity in his creatures. Our imagination is the image of God’s Imagination in us. There is, therefore, something both human and divine in the creativity that creates culture. It is the gift of the Giver finding creative expression in the personhood of the gifted. On a mystical level one can see an image of both the

Trinity and the Incarnation in this primal truth of culture. The Trinity is the eternal expression of Divine Vitality, the source of all Creativity, and the Incarnation is the eternal and temporal giving of this Divine Vitality, this Primal Gift, in the Created humanity of Christ, to mankind. On the deepest level, the Trinity and the Incarnation are the Archetypes of all culture. They are the source from which all culture springs, and they are the end which all properly ordered culture serves.



Joseph Pearce, Director, Center for Faith & Culture

The Muse of the Pagans

This is so essentially true that it has been recognized implicitly by the pagans of antiquity and even by the atheists of modernity, by those who believed in many gods and by those who believed in no God at all. Homer and Virgil began their epics by invoking their Muse, the goddess of creativity, to pour forth her gifts into them so that they might tell their tales with truth and beauty. Even Shelley, the avowed atheist, is forced to speak of the creative gift in mystical language. In *A Defense of Poetry* he writes:

Poetry is not like reasoning, a power to be exerted according to the determination of the will. A man cannot say, "I will compose poetry." The greatest poet even cannot say it; for the mind in creation is as a fading coal which some invisible influence, like an inconstant wind, awakens to transitory brightness; this power arises from within, like the color of a flower which fades and changes as it is developed, and the conscious portions of our natures are unprophetic either of its approach or its departure. Could this influence be durable in its original purity and force, it is impossible to predict the greatness of the results; but when composition begins, inspiration is already on the decline, and the most glorious poetry that has ever been communicated to the world is probably a feeble shadow of the original conceptions of the poet.

The remarkable thing about these words of Shelley, an atheist musing about his Muse, is the fact that, in the final sentence quoted above, he agrees with the memo-



T.S. Eliot

orable lines of T.S. Eliot, in "The Hollow Men", that "between the potency and the existence falls the shadow". For Eliot, a Christian, the falling of the shadow is itself the Shadow of the Fall; but even for Shelley, who seems to have disbelieved in the Fall and who sympathized with Milton's Satan, the shadow still exists. There is, therefore, an amazing, and ironically amusing, convergence between the pagans, the Christians and the atheists over the mystical nature of the creative gift. The

gift itself is pure and spiritual, not merely for the pagan and the Christian but for the atheist also. Shelley calls the creative Muse or gift a "spirit of good" of which (or to whom) the poet is a mere minister.



The Muses of Greek mythology

Culture and Human Freedom

At this point one can see the emergence of obvious objections spawning awkward questions. If creativity is a gift from God why does He permit atheists such as Shelley, or willful liars like Dan Brown, to abuse the gift? Worse, why does He permit awful manifestations of low culture or the obscenities and blasphemies of much modern art? Furthermore, can this effluent from the spiritual sewage of man's blackened soul be called "culture"? And, if so, does culture *per se* have any meaningful value? In response, we should point out that God does not remove a gift the moment it is abused. Take the gift of life, for instance. If he removed the gift of life the moment we sinned none of us would have reached puberty! As with life, so with love. The

gift of love is not removed merely because many of us abuse it. Indeed, if the gift of love were removed the moment it was abused our first loves would have been our last! As with life and love, so with freedom. God gave us our freedom and He doesn't remove it the moment we abuse it. He even leaves us free to go to Hell, should we wish. And as with life, love and freedom, so with creativity. He gives us our talents, leaving us free to use them, abuse them or bury them as we will. He gives us our creative pearls and he lets us keep them, even if we cast them before swine.

But what of the meaning of culture? Is bad art still culture? If so, what's so special about culture? These are good questions and they are best answered with other questions. What is the meaning of man? Is a sinner still a man? If so, what's so special about man? Man is special because he's made in the image of God. A bad man is still made in the image of God, though the image is broken. Similarly creativity is special because it is a mark of the image of God in man, and culture is special because it is the mark of God's creative image in human society or, at its highest, in Christian civilisation. Bad culture still bears the mark of God's image, though it is an image distorted and broken by abuse or sin. Good culture, like a good man, must truly reflect the goodness of its Creator. Men are called to be saints and culture is called to be saintly. We need to convert the culture in the same way that we need to convert the man. Culture, like man, must repent. It must be reoriented. It must be turned again towards its source, the Giver of light and life, and the fountainhead of all Beauty. ■

CENTER FOR FAITH & CULTURE NEWS and EVENTS

Events

Tuesday, February 24

An Evening with G. K. Chesterton with **Chuck Chalberg**

Tuesday, March 24

The Challenge of Realism with papal artist **Igor Babailov**

Saturday, April 25

The Shakespeare and Christianity Celebration featuring Joseph Pearce, Michael Kurek, and dramatic presentations by the Nashville Shakespeare Festival actors.

News

The Center for Faith & Culture is pleased to announce two exciting initiatives to recognize excellence in the literary arts. **The Aquinas Award for Fiction** will recognize exceptionable Christian fiction with a \$1,000 reward. And the **Shakespeare and Christianity Essay Contest** will honor excellence in high school junior and senior essay writing on the topic of Shakespeare and Christianity. For information about these awards, please visit www.aquinascenter.com.



A BRACCIANO JOURNAL

Strategic Area 1: Academics

“Develop and implement international programs of study.”

When the Aquinas College Strategic Planning Committee first listed study abroad as a goal, few realized how quickly this dream could come true. In 2012, the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia learned of another community of Dominicans, the Sisters of Bethany, who desired to sell their multi-building complex called the *Villaggio Betania* outside the medieval village of Bracciano, about 20 miles northwest of Rome. In May of 2015, the first official study abroad group, from the School of Business, will travel to Bracciano. After the Nashville Dominicans purchased the property in 2013, an group of students embarked on a pilot trip to Bracciano to assess the opportunities and challenges American students might face. What follows are pictures and observations from the blog that they kept during the trip.

May 13: Mary Catherine Weadon

WE HAVE ARRIVED! The only word for our thoughts would be storybook. As a nursing student I am intrigued by the human mind and its ability to learn, create, and produce. I can now understand why Italians have some of the best art and architecture in the world. How could you not create beautiful masterpieces and value beauty when you live in a beauti-

ful place like Italy? I think it is the picture perfect place for inspiring the human mind, and I can see in the future students coming here and broadening their horizons in terms of knowledge. So we are here and ready to work. Thank you School of Nursing and Aquinas in general for a hard curriculum and coursework which has allowed me to grow used to sleep deprivation and pulling energy when you

think there is nothing left! That's what us college students do best staying energized with little or odd hours of sleep... No jet lag for us!

May 14: Mary Catherine Weadon

We then headed to Mass at the parish church of Santa Maria Novella in Bracciano where we met Father Don Paulo. He was sure to tell us that he was about to



Sister Mary Angelica talks with the Bethany sisters in Bracciano

start an English class, so when the study abroad program starts, he can be of service to the students spiritual needs such as Mass. Mass here was our first look at how rare it is to see young people at Mass. The looks on the people's faces in the church when they saw us was of shock and disbelief to see all of us young people.

May 15: Mary Catherine Weadon

After Mass we really got to know some of the churchgoers as well as to meet the Sisters of Bethany who ran the Villaggio Betania. How excited all of them were to meet us and just once again see young people. They expressed the hope they have when seeing us and how grateful they were we were all here. While their mission for opening the Villaggio Betania was no longer a need, they were filled with joy as they passed the property onto Aquinas for a new mission, one which is in line with the mission of God and the Catholic faith. I think this is the start to building a strong community with the people of Bracciano. It is almost like they needed to meet us and witness us to gain a better understanding of the new purpose of the Villaggio, and we felt nothing but acceptance from the people.

May 17: Mary Catherine Weadon

A seminarian name Tomaso led us to the right place. San Dominico is an old monastery the Italian government took over and is currently renovating. This is where Tomaso connected us with the sacristan Guicano. It once again St. Thomas was helping us along the way. I think he knew Sister Mary Angelica was dying to see St.

Thomas' cell with an original page of the *Summa Theologica* and the relic of the True Cross which spoke to St. Thomas. The sacristan with excitement was willing to bring us back to see these things which many are not so fortunate to be allowed to see! We entered the cell and it was pitch black...thinking there was no electricity in the room we all whipped out our iPhone flashlights...the sacristan after he was finally able to move around all of us students who were sprinting into the cell flicked a switch. We cracked up laughing at the fact we just assumed we were expected to view all of these miraculous items in the dark. St. Thomas would have been a fan of us laughing in his cell...after all it is one of his suggested ways to healing the emotions.

May 19

Sister Mary Cecilia

Sometimes, on a trip to a land of saints, it can be easy to succumb to the "Ho hum, another saint" syndrome. While this group has gotten the opportunity to fall into this often, some amazing experience happens, and they recognize they have yet another saint friend who has worked things out better than expected.

Mary Catherine Weadon

Today started early, as we were on the hunt to find St. Anthony before heading to Venice. We prayed for his guidance throughout the trip, to help us find all we needed to find. Little did we know we would sure be asking for a lot of guidance to find something later in the day from St. Anthony. En route to Turin we all also became aware that the place we had planned to stay in Oropa (right outside of Turin) was not looking like a good plan anymore. We arrived to the Cathedral where we found Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and a replica of the shroud of Christ. Sister Mary Angelica ran into some people outside of the Cathedral and asked if they knew any reasonable places to stay in the area for a reasonable price. The people immediately got on the phone and called the Holiday Inn, jokingly telling the people at the Holiday Inn "they better treat us Americans very well or we would never return to Italy." We were able to stay at the Holiday Inn at a discounted price and the desk man, Anthony, (yes his name was really Anthony which we found funny after we

had prayed so hard to St. Anthony to help us find a nice place to stay for the night) gave us free Wi-Fi (usually costs 15 Euro).

May 21: Mary Catherine Weadon

My plan that I would easily be able to squeeze my way by all of the good natured Christians to find my way to the front was a big error. It was more of an everyone fend for yourself kind of environment when getting seated. My group found center seats in one of the front middle sections, but sure enough we were told we were moving by Sister Mary Cecilia. They full out had us thinking we would have to work to get good seats. Little did we know we had tickets in a section right on the platform on the stairs of St. Peter's right on the left side of where the Pope was going to be sitting. The general audience was a vibrant experience and you all can be assured that the Pope extended all of his blessings to the family and friends who could not be with us.



Statue of St. Rita in the parish church in Bracciano

The last thing we did in Rome was nothing small. We headed to Dominican monastery and basilica Santa Sabina where St. Dominic lived, prayed, and studied. We had Mass in his cell and placed all of the prayer intentions of our supporters, family, and friends upon the altar.

continued on page 8

continued from page 7

May 23

Sister Mary Cecilia

We're catching on that when certain saints keep showing up, they may be wanting us to ask for their help. The past few days, we've been finding St. Rita at churches, shops, and random other places. So two days ago, some of us asked her to come with us and help, and just in time. On the way home from Rome yesterday we found out that the water pump had broken and thus, no showers could be taken after an all day sit and hike on a hot day in Rome. So we all prayed, "St. Rita, help!" Not only did

the workers come out and spend their day trying to fix it, it started working as soon as the work was finished. The students had spent the afternoon in Bracciano so arrived at the church before us. When we walked in, they were all seated and right above the to their left was a lit up statue of St. Rita.

Mary Catherine Weadon

We could not get enough of the beauty of the water [of Lake Bracciano]. As we were dipping our feet in a huge pure white swan swam right toward us. The sun was setting and the water was calm.

After a long day of work, walking up hill, and researching we felt peace and serenity. It felt like a glimpse of heaven after a chaotic day. We just stopped and stared into the sunset over the water with the peaceful swan in our presence all with the laughter of us enjoying one another's company. Walking back to the Villaggio, we pondered how grateful we were for the time spent with the beauty of the shore which for us simply seemed like a taste of heaven! ■

For the full blog, please visit www.aquinasabroad.com.



Group shot at Roccasecca in front of the castle in which our patron, St. Thomas Aquinas, grew up.

Strategic Area 2: Student Experience

“Cultivate athletic programs and increase other opportunities for student involvement and activities.”

The Value of Collegiate Athletics

By Daniel K. Donnelly, Ph.D.

A well-rounded, Catholic, Christian college education should develop the mind, the body, and the spirit. Aquinas College features an outstanding faculty who develop the minds of its students and vibrant student life and campus ministry programs for their spiritual formation. Development of an athletic program as conceived in Vision 2020, the College's new strategic plan, will provide the third element to complement the academic excellence and orthodox spiritual development for which Aquinas is already widely known. A strong athletic program provides students with the opportunity to develop leadership, physical fitness, sportsmanship, and teamwork skills that enhance their educational experience and enhance their spiritual and social formation as young adults. Of paramount importance at Aquinas is the belief that each individual is a child of God created in His own image and likeness. This belief establishes an over-arching principle for an athletic program that first and foremost respects the dignity of the human person.



The Aquinas College basketball team in the 1970s.

When developed appropriately, college athletic programs not only benefit individual athletes but can provide substantial benefit to the entire institution. These mission-driven benefits include increased enrollment; better gender balance in the student body; added visibility in the local community and beyond; increased spirit; and a greater sense of connection among students, alumni, and friends of the College. The key to growing an athletics



Coach McCarty and two of his players in the 1970s

program hinges on the selection of appropriate leadership and coaching for the program. Coaches are teachers and must exhibit the same excellence and dedication as academic faculty. A truly great coach is someone who is able to help ordinary people achieve extraordinary results both on and off the playing fields and courts. Coaches set the tone for team culture and would be carefully evaluated to assure their coaching philosophies adhere to the norms established for all college activities. In addition, student-athletes must be students first and athletes second.

Colleges all too often elevate athletes to a status that separates them from the rest of the student body. As Aquinas begins to grow an athletic program, athletes will be fully integrated into all aspects of college life and will be indistinguishable from their fellow students. Toward that end Aquinas has established the following goals.

- To attract high quality athletes who strive to excel in both athletics and academics
- To provide financial support for student-athletes who might otherwise not be able to attend college
- To have student-athletes representing all of the schools at Aquinas in proportion to school enrollments
- To provide opportunities for maximum participation to interested students
- To be competitive with the teams from peer institutions
- To retain student-athletes at a higher level than non-athletes

- To have student athletes on the dean's list in the same proportion as non-athletes
- To have a high percentage of athletes graduate within four years
- To maintain a high quality coaching staff
- To provide teams that should attract the interest of the student body as well as people in the community.



Baseball players in the dugout in the 1990s

As a first step Aquinas will begin participating in club level tennis and golf through the United States Tennis Association *Tennis on Campus* program and the National College Club Golf Association (NCCGA). These two sports were chosen for a number of reasons. Aquinas has a tennis facility on campus and a municipal golf course adjacent to campus that is interested in being a partner. Both sports will have co-ed teams with only five or six players needed to compete with those team sizes matching Aquinas' current enrollment size and student profile. Both are low cost, and competitions in both of these sports are held on weekends, thereby minimizing interference with academic demands and involvement in other aspects of student life. The long term goal involves competing at the intercollegiate level, likely in the NCAA Division III where most of Aquinas' Newman Guide peers compete. By starting at the club level Aquinas can grow its athletic program organically by adding more sports and moving to a higher level of competition gradually as it develops additional academic programs and enlarges its student body. ■

Go Cavaliers!

Strategic Area 3: Spiritual Life

“Cultivate Dominican spirituality and identity within the Aquinas College community.”



By Sister Matthew Marie Cummings, O.P.

“Then Jesus approached and said to them, ‘All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.’” Matthew 28:18-20

This mandate of Jesus to his disciples as He Ascended into Heaven has always been taken seriously by the sons and daughters of St. Dominic. It is, indeed, the Apostolic call of the Dominican Order. The present challenge to Dominicans is reaching out and preaching the unchanging Word in an ever-changing world.

At Aquinas College, we recognize this call of Jesus and of his faithful follower, St. Dominic. This was identified in our new strategic plan, *Vision 2020: Truth & Charity*, in the goal to “Cultivate Dominican spirituality and identity within the Aquinas College community.” The goal recommends that the College, “Design and implement programs and activities to introduce and nourish the Catholic and Dominican traditions of prayer, community, study,

and service in the life of faith in students, faculty, and staff.” The question was asked, “how can we continue to reach out to our students and the wider community to share the Word of God with them in the spirit of St. Dominic?” With modern technology we have the means of being able to reach out to others, even in distant lands. Thus, the Word of God, the spirit of St. Dominic, and modern technology have come together in *Dominic and the Living Word*.

The Dominicans who are engaged in the Apostolate at Aquinas College reflect on the Gospel for each Tuesday of the year. Recently, in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* or *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis has reminded all of us to meditate on the Word and on the people. He states, “The preacher also needs to keep his ear to the people and to discover what it is that the faithful need to hear. A preacher has to contemplate the word, but he also has to contemplate his people (#154).” This is precisely what these weekly reflections do. We send the reflections through email each Tuesday morning to spread the love of the Gospel with anyone who will read the short reflections.

Tuesday was chosen as the day for the weekly reflections because it is in keeping

with the tradition that dates back to 1233, the year in which St. Dominic’s earthly remains were moved to a more fitting tomb. From that year on, Dominicans have dedicated Tuesdays to St. Dominic in thanksgiving for blessings received. Desiring to be faithful to the heritage we have received, we want to share our blessings with others by contemplating the Word of God and giving to others what we have received through that contemplation. ■

Dominic & the Living Word Readers

In addition to readers all throughout the United States and Canada, Dominic and the Living Word is also read in the following locations around the world:

- Lublin, Poland
- Warsaw, Poland
- Milan, Italy
- Sydney, Australia
- Melbourne, Australia
- Tokyo, Japan
- Paris, France
- Vietnam
- Rome, Italy
- Zurich, Switzerland
- Geneva, Switzerland
- Cyprus
- Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- United Kingdom
- Karnataka, India
- The Philippines
- Guatemala
- The Netherlands
- Barcelona, Spain
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Monaco
- Graz, Austria
- Bergen, Norway

To sign up for the weekly email, please visit www.aquinascollege.edu/DLW.

“And Dwelt Among Us”

The blessing of the Corpus Christi Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Sister Mary Dominic, O.P., Professor of English, has shared the work of her Advanced Composition class. This essay, by School of Education student Sister Delia Grace Haikala, O.P. recounts the opening of the Corpus Christi Perpetual Adoration Chapel on Wednesday, October 22, the Feast of Pope St. John Paul II.



By Sister Delia Grace, O.P.

More than 2000 years ago, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Nine months after the Annunciation He was born of the Virgin and laid in a manger. On October 22, 2014, He was again laid exposed for adoration in a manger of sorts, a former carriage house in Nashville, Tennessee. This is the story of His coming, the story of God’s desire to live among us.

The “Carriage House” at Aquinas College in Nashville, Tennessee was originally used to store carriages in the days of transportation by horse and buggy. Since the Overbrook School property has been a part of the Dominican campus on which Aquinas College and St. Cecilia Academy also reside, it has served as a garage, kindergarten, biology lab, snack bar, and coffee house. At last, the Carriage House has been converted into a Perpetual Adoration Chapel for the Diocese of Nashville. Although many churches in the area offer Eucharistic Adoration, none currently hosts a perpetual adoration chapel.

From June to October of 2014, Brother Gerard Thayer, O.P. assisted in guiding the renovation of the Carriage House into the new Corpus Christi Perpetual Adoration Chapel. He came to Aquinas College to help execute the College’s plans for growth after he had completed other comparable projects, notably the library at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. Under Brother’s direction, and with the help of carpenters and landscapers, the Carriage House renovation was completed for its October 22 opening.

Brother Gerard shared that Artisan Builders was contracted to do the renovations to the Carriage House structure. The construction included moving doors and windows, adding and moving walls, and replacing drywall and lighting. Peter Robertson and Paul Whittington, the carpenters, were excellent craftsmen and careful in all the detail work on the project, Brother Gerard reported. Corpus Christi Chapel was modeled, said Brother Gerard, after the St. Jude Chapel that is currently inside Aquinas College. The

arches at the front of St. Jude Chapel assist in drawing the eyes of those who come to pray to the Lord. They have the same effect in the Corpus Christi Chapel which is very beautiful, but very simple. Brother Gerard said that although statues and other devotional items are an important help to us, in this time when there are so many distractions in our outside world, the intention in designing the Chapel was that there be nothing inside that might distract the one who comes to pray. The goal, Brother Gerard said, is “to help the adoror quiet the internal clatter and clamor...so we can hear Him.”

The Chapel is surrounded by lovely landscaping prepared in just two weeks by Emerald Oasis Landscape & Irrigation. The landscaping surrounds a patio and shrine dedicated to Our Lady at the back of the Chapel. The idea, said Brother Gerard, is that “Mary was the original monstrance.” As “Mary is taking care

continued on page 12



Students served as flower girls for the Eucharistic Procession to the chapel.

continued from page 11

of Jesus, Jesus is taking care of us.” For centuries Christians have sought this care from Christ.

Eucharistic Adoration has a rich tradition in the Church. Since Christ shared his Body and Blood with his disciples, the faithful in the Church have celebrated the Mass and partaken of his Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. In the early Church the Eucharist was reserved to be given to the sick and dying outside of Mass. Hermits also reserved the Blessed Sacrament in their cells to receive the Eucharist, but they also carried the Holy Eucharist with them when they traveled. Monks would also keep the Eucharist on their persons while working outside in order to protect the Blessed Sacrament from attack by malefactors. Additionally, the Eucharist was reserved and transported for the rite of *fermentum* in which a small piece of the Eucharistic Species was brought from one bishop to another to express unity between the churches of the different dioceses.

The heretical challenge which arose in the eleventh century against faith in the True Presence led to a renewed devotion to the Eucharist and its reservation in tabernacles. The faithful were encouraged to adore the Lord in the tabernacle, and Eucharistic processions originated. In the thirteenth century, Pope Urban IV introduced the Feast of Corpus Christi for which St. Thomas Aquinas helped compose the liturgy. In the sixteenth century

the Council of Trent defended the Eucharist against the erring theology of the Reformers. Trent offered beautiful declarations on the Eucharist, including the statement that,

The only-begotten Son of God is to be adored in the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist with the worship of “latría”, including external worship. The Sacrament, therefore, is to be honored with extraordinary festive celebrations (and) solemnly carried from place to place in processions according to the praiseworthy universal rite and custom of the holy Church. The Sacrament is to be publicly exposed for the people’s adoration. (Approved by Pope Julius III on October 11, 1551)



Bishop Choby dedicates the chapel

Jesuit Father John A. Hardon notes that “these conciliar statements became the foundation for dogmatic and devotional progress ever since.” After Trent, the Forty Hours Devotion of the Exposed Blessed Sacrament was endorsed by Pope Clement VIII, and although it is certain that adoration was practiced before the Council of Trent and the establishment of the Feast of Corpus Christi, after the Council of Trent, sustained and perpetual adoration became more common and widespread (Hardon).

In accordance with this history of devotion, the dedication of Corpus Christ Adoration Chapel on the Dominican Campus was set for October 22, 2014, the first saintly feast day of the newly canonized Pope St. John Paul II. Sister Philip Joseph, O.P., who has worked to coordinate the adorers at the new chapel, observed that it was fitting to dedicate the Chapel on the feast of such a patron and son of the Eucharist. John Paul II, she recalled, led the Universal Church in a Year of the Eucharist. Also, by the end of the year when he went into office as Bishop of Rome, the Holy Father had taken care that each major basilica in Rome had adoration chapels at which the Eucharist would be exposed after morning Mass and adored until the Church closed in the evening. He recruited religious to be present for the adoration hours, and this system of adoration is still present in the Holy City. At the dedication of the Corpus Christi Chapel, there was displayed a large image of John Paul II holding the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance. There is also an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the

Chapel which was blessed by St. John Paul II in Mexico.

Bishop David Choby, bishop of the diocese of Nashville, was present at the Corpus Christi Chapel dedication, as were Father Kevin McGoldrick, Aquinas College chaplain; Father John O'Neill, chaplain to the Campus; and Father Justin Raines, a graduate of the College. Numerous students, faculty, benefactors, and members of the local community were also present.

At the beginning of the Dedication, Aquinas students sang various preludes, and Sister Mary Sarah Galbraith, O.P., President of Aquinas College, welcomed the attendees. The guests then sang the hymn "Alleluia Sing to Jesus," and Bishop Choby began the ceremony, asking in the prayers of the Church that "those who enter this Chapel of Eucharistic Adoration, with confident faith in him, may persevere in the teaching of the apostles, in the breaking of bread, and in unceasing prayer before Christ, truly present in the Sacrament of his most holy body and blood." A litany of the saints followed, along with a prayer said by the bishop invoking God's blessing upon the chapel.

In a Eucharistic procession, several young women Aquinas students strewed rose petals around the circle at the Aquinas main building as Father McGoldrick processed with the Blessed Sacrament from St. Jude Chapel to Corpus Christi Chapel. Those attending the ceremony knelt on the grass in the circle as Our Lord passed by.

After the Blessed Sacrament was placed on the Altar of Repose and the Bishop offered a prayer, the community prayed the Litany of the Sacred Heart. The Bishop finished the ceremony with a closing prayer, the incensing of the chapel, and then after the prayer to St. Michael, a final hymn was sung.

A lovely reception followed the Chapel's dedication in Room 103 of Aquinas Main. Cakes were cut in honor of the new Chapel, and the community rejoiced that Christ had chosen to dwell with them exposed in this new and special way.

The Corpus Christi Chapel is a perpetual adoration chapel, with 168 hours available for adoring during the week. Sister Philip Joseph estimates that these are filled about a quarter by students, a quarter by faculty, and a half by other members of the Nashville Catholic community. The community is still seeking adorers; it needs more so that there will be enough to cover hours even during the holidays. In the meantime, there are special doors that could be closed in the chapel in case of emergency or if an adorer were not present. Those who would like to commit to adore the Lord for an hour may sign up online. Additionally, for those who cannot travel to the Chapel, the Chapel can be seen online through streaming via the Aquinas College website. When adorers come to the chapel, they sign in on the iPad's system and may list their prayer intentions. Sister Philip Joseph prints and displays these intentions daily so that the members of the community can pray for one another.



Father Justin Raines, '07 sprinkles the chapel with holy water

The Carriage House sits at what might be called the center of the Dominican Campus. It is open to all who desire to visit the Lord who is ever present there. Brother Gerard commented that this chapel is of huge importance in the lives of the members of the College, Campus, and Diocese. It is all part of the "spiritual development of all the people that pass through our hands, so to speak." Although Aquinas College can teach students addition and subtraction, Brother noted, this is of little value if students do not encounter the Lord, because they may not be open to his will later in using the gifts they have been given. So, Brother Gerard said, we prepare them as best we can. The "most fundamental thing is this relationship with Jesus."

When the baptized, and even the unbaptized, enter the chapel, Brother said, they are in His presence. And "the relationship then is much more profound, even if it's in its incipient form...it has begun." He said that in the Chapel we are invited for it to be "the lover sitting in complete silence beholding the beloved." Brother Gerard says that "what I hope for them is what I myself have found: the key of all of it is staying focused on Jesus." Because, he said, whether we realize it or not, "that's why we're here, that's where we're going." ■

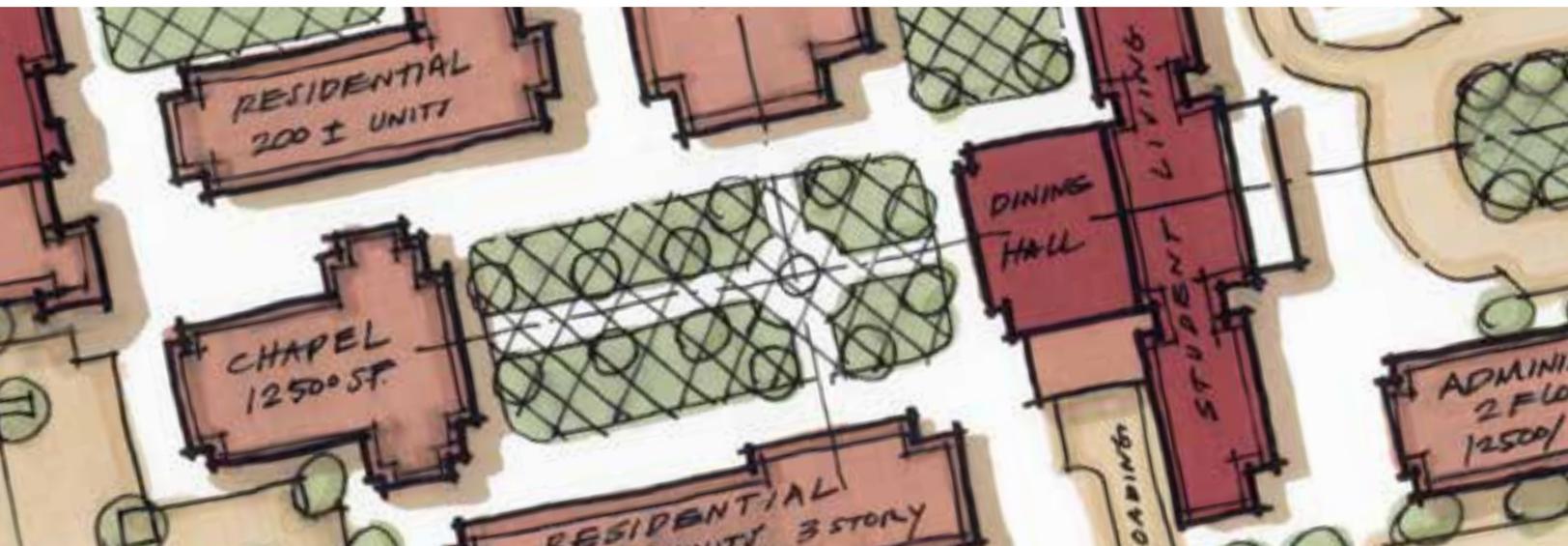
Sister Delia Grace, O.P. is a Dominican Sister of St. Cecilia. She made her first vows in 2013 and is studying English and Secondary Education at Aquinas College.



Father Kevin McGoldrick, Campus Chaplain, carries the Blessed Sacrament in procession to its new home.

Strategic Area 4: Stewardship & Operations

“Expand current facilities in the following categories...”



The New Aquinas College Campus

The careful, yet driven steps to transform the physical plant

By Paul Downey

In the introduction to the *Vision 2020: Truth & Charity* strategic plan, Aquinas College President Sister Mary Sarah, O.P. refers to the formation of a “new Aquinas.” No-where will this new Aquinas be more apparent than in the expansion of the Harding Pike property to accommodate new academic, residential, dining, and recreational space as outlined in the plan’s “Strategic Area 4: Stewardship and Operations.” The Corpus Christi Perpetual Adoration Chapel represents a concrete first step in the fulfillment of this plan.

Brother Gerard Thayer, O.P., cooperator brother of the Eastern Province of the Dominicans and Director of Facilities of the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception, has been at Aquinas College for nearly a year, charged with improving the facilities, both cosmetic and foundational. Brother oversaw the construction of the Academic Center and library at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., completed in 2008. The challenge of

working with new construction attached to an early 20th century priory prepared him well for the transformation of the Aquinas College campus.

The current campus consists of the main academic building surrounded by smaller, more specialized buildings. The transition to a multi-building traditional college campus creates the need for temporary swing space in the form of a modular academic village. The center of gravity on campus will transfer to the rear of the current property where there is less noise and more privacy, while preserving the rolling park-like atmosphere of the front part of campus closest to Harding Pike.

An early step in the process will involve moving the main classroom space to the academic village while renovating the main academic building into a comprehensive student life center, including dining, recreational, and assembly spaces. Concurrently, a permanent residence hall will be built to accommodate the continually expanding residential community.

First Seeds Planted with Adoration Chapel

Even before the *Vision 2020: Truth & Charity* was finalized, Brother Gerard was a constant presence around the highly skilled carpenters and various contractors who were busy transforming the old Carriage House into the perpetual adoration chapel. Bishop David R. Choby of the Diocese of Nashville blessed and dedicated the Corpus Christi Perpetual Adoration Chapel on Wednesday, October 22.

Brother explains, “The idea of having the chapel is more consistent with the whole vision of what we’re trying to accomplish here at the College, to provide the young men and women who pass through our tutelage with a foundation that is their relationship with Christ. To provide a designated space for that to happen seemed to be a very logical first step.”

Although Brother Gerard spearheaded the building project, the impetus for the construction of a perpetual adoration chapel came from the students who are hungry

for a deepening of their Catholic faith in college. In an interview with the Cardinal Newman Society, Sister Mary Sarah said, "This generation of St. Pope John Paul II thirsts to be with the Lord, and so we decided to renovate the chapel as a response to what the students were really looking for."

When asked about how perpetual adoration could benefit the campus, Magdalen Pozuc, a junior nursing student from McAllen, Texas, said, "Adoration in any community is really going to help spiritual growth from the ground up. It's such a help to everyone, in their own spiritual lives but

also in interceding for the people around them and the people in the community. The graces expand to everyone."

Campus Chaplain, Father Kevin McGoldrick, explained, "Because the Eucharist is the 'source and summit' of our faith, having a perpetual adoration chapel, where we have this place of prayer to come spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament 24 hours a day, is both a spiritual act and a practical act where we say that Jesus is the center of our lives. So having a perpetual adoration chapel will have a great impact on Aquinas College, on the Diocese of Nashville, and in our personal lives."

Dr. Coleen Mast, host of EWTN's *Mast Appeal*, interviewed freshman School of Education student Veronica Kitzhaber who observed, "Any time, day or night, someone can drop in. There's always someone praying. It's really comforting to know that when you're studying for a really hard biology test, that there's going to be somebody praying in the chapel and maybe a little bit of their prayer is going to help you out. That's a beautiful thing." ■

For more information about the chapel, visit www.aquinascollege.edu/adoration.

New Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) Receives Approval

Caring for culturally and ethnically diverse populations is the focus of a new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) program at Aquinas College. Representing the next phase of growth for the School of Nursing, the program is a new milestone in the College's Vision 2020: Truth & Charity strategic plan. The B.S.N. program received approval from the Tennessee Board of Nursing on Thursday, December 4. Aquinas is now accepting applications for the inaugural class, entering August 2015.

Graduates of the new B.S.N. program will offer people exceptional care in local, national and international settings by focusing on community population-centered nursing. Taking healthcare to the community is a critical component of this program and one that sets Aquinas' B.S.N. program apart from many others. Graduates will be charged with actively contributing to the improvement of the health of individuals, families, communities, and populations while actively developing and reshaping standards of nursing practice, health policy, and care systems.

Sister Mary Sarah, O.P., president of Aquinas College, stated, "Our students will participate in an innovative curriculum, founded on beliefs in a moral community of learners committed to protecting and defending the dignity of every person—the sick, suffering and dying, the marginalized and homeless, the unwanted and unloved, wherever they call home. Our graduates will be prepared to embrace the Domini-



can imperative to preach the Gospel, serve others and engage the culture in truth and charity."

Brother Ignatius Perkins, O.P., Dean of the School of Nursing states "Rarely in the history of health care in the United States have we experienced the challenges we face today in assuring that people of our communities and nation, especially those who represent cultures different than our own, receive health care that affirms their dignity, and freedom and promotes human flourishing. The new B.S.N. program will prepare graduates to take the College's mission of caring, healing, and hope to people everywhere, to the peripheries of human existence, especially to the lost, the last, and the least among God's people."

Coupled with the inauguration of the new B.S.N. program, the School of Nursing at Aquinas College continues its decades-

long clinical practice partnership with Saint Thomas West Hospital by opening a state-of-the-art laboratory for teaching and learning. The Castello Nursing Simulation Learning Center will provide a rich setting to enhance more fully the B.S.N. program. This partnership with Aquinas' adjacent hospital continues to offer opportunities that students cannot find anywhere else in the country. As a result, graduates will be competent and confident in providing safe care to patients wherever they may live.

"Bringing caring, healing, and hope to all people in every nation" is the central goal for implementation of this vital program. For more information about Aquinas' Bachelor of Science in Nursing program or to view the entire Vision 2020 strategic plan, visit www.aquinascollege.edu/vision2020. ■



Move-In Day and Welcome Week

Incoming residential students spent a busy week in late August moving into the Seton Lodge dorms, going through orientation on campus, and spending two days of recreation and team-building at Camp Marymount.



Campus Happenings in Fall 2014

This fall, students' calendars were full with Student Life activities such as the 2nd Annual Kick-or-Treat kickball game and dodgeball tournaments between the houses, and the annual Fall Fest which took the theme of Oktoberfest.



Hats for Brenda

In early November, Aquinas students, faculty, and staff banded together to wear hats one day in solidarity with Brenda Kincaid, Executive Assistant to the President, who is undergoing chemotherapy for cancer.

Francis Thompson's "The Hound of Heaven"

In mid-November, Joseph Pearce and the Center for Faith & Culture presented two documentaries about Francis Thompson, one a biography and the other a modern dramatic representation of the poet's seminal Christian poem "The Hound of Heaven." The films' director and producers—Brian Oxley, Greg Bandy and Devin Brown—also spoke.



SOCIAL MEDIA AT AQUINAS COLLEGE

Aquinas College as an institution has been active on social media networks for a number of years. Despite the potential for social media to have the ironic consequence of making people more polarized and isolated, the Church has repeatedly highlighted the positive aspects and benefits of online communication.

At the 43rd World Communications Day in 2009, Pope Benedict XVI, who was the first pontiff to use the @Pontifex Twitter account, stated in his address, "The concept of friendship has enjoyed a renewed prominence in the vocabulary of the new digital social networks that have emerged in the last few years. The concept is one of the noblest achievements of human culture... We should be careful, therefore, never to trivialize the concept or the experience of friendship."

And on the 48th World Communications Day in June of 2014, Pope Francis stated, "Communication is a means of expressing the missionary vocation of the entire Church; today the social networks are one way to experience this call to discover the beauty of faith, the beauty of encountering Christ. In the area of communications too, we need a Church capable of bringing warmth and of stirring hearts."

Using this guidance, Aquinas College uses its social media channels to edify our community and serve a small part in the New Evangelization. The following represent some of the more popular posts on our social media channels. ■

To follow Aquinas College on social media, please visit these profiles:

f FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/AquinasCollegeNashville

t TWITTER:
www.twitter.com/AquinasTenn

t TWITTER (Student Life):
www.twitter.com/acstudentlife

▶ YOUTUBE:
www.youtube.com/AquinasCollegeTN

Instagram:
instagram.com/aquinascollege

Instagram (Student Life):
instagram.com/acstudentlife

in LINKEDIN:
linkedin.com/company/aquinas-college-nashville-tn



THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AT AQUINAS

Providing Value and Instilling Virtue



Mike Watson, Assistant Professor in the School of Business, earned his master's at M.I.T. and spent over 25 years in management at Fortune 500 companies before assuming his position at Aquinas College. Mr. Watson consistently receives many votes from the students as their favorite professor at Aquinas.

*By Daniel K. Donnelly, Ph.D.,
Dean, School of Business*

More than ever, prospective students and their parents want to know the value a college education provides. This is particularly true of students planning to enroll in undergraduate business programs. For prospective business students, college is the first step in attaining their professional career goals; so they are focused on hearing about objective proof that a degree program provides value to them. At Aquinas College, we wholeheartedly believe that a strong liberal arts core is the basic foundation for any college education. When combined with faculty knowledge, experience, and supporting programs this foundation is the launching pad they need for career success. The programs in the Aquinas College School of Business employ a three-pronged approach in providing professional formation firmly grounded in the liberal arts by carefully selecting an appropriate mix of course work and other experiences to equip graduates for success. This approach includes engaged faculty with real world experience, mean-

ingful internships in both for-profit and non-profit organizations, and a mentoring program cosponsored by the Nashville Catholic Business League.

In the Aquinas College School of Business, we believe our outstanding faculty are at the core of the student's academic experience. The academic backgrounds and professional experiences of the faculty combine to provide students with both theoretical and practical aspects of education. Aquinas faculty have undergraduate degrees ranging from liberal arts to engineering from institutions like Duke, Vanderbilt, Indiana, and Catholic University of America. Faculty have graduate degrees in business and law from prestigious programs at M.I.T., Loyola, Vanderbilt, and George Mason. These academic competencies combine with work experience at places like Polaroid, Ford, FMC Corporation, Kraft Foods, and Catholic Charities. Faculty also trace credentials and work experience to government agencies like the U.S. Small Business Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These academic and professional examples provide faculty with

the ability to help students understand the complexities and interconnections they will find in their future careers.

Understanding economic theories, marketing strategies, and hearing about professional experiences are only a first step in the formation of an Aquinas College business student. There is no substitute for first-hand experience and School of Business students receive that opportunity through the internship program. Internships provide valuable, real-world experience during which students can evaluate possible career paths as well as opportunities to network with decision makers in a variety of organizations. In several cases, internships lead to employment with internship providers or partner firms. Recent graduates have completed internships at the Nashville Chamber of Commerce, Whirlwind Media Services, and St. Thomas Credit Union and, upon graduation, were subsequently hired by those organizations. Other interns gained

continued on page 21



Sister Elizabeth Anne, O.P., Director of the Center for Catholic Education, speaks at St. Patrick Catholic School in Norfolk, Virginia. Photo by Jeanne Marie Liggio.

The Center for Catholic Education at Aquinas College *A Critical Need at a Critical Time in the Church*

By Sister Elizabeth Anne Allen, O.P.,
Director of the Center for Catholic Education

2000 years ago, the Church received the commission from the Lord to proclaim the Gospel!

800 years ago, St. Dominic founded his Order “to praise, to bless, to preach.”

154 years ago, The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation began their work of Christian education.

53 years ago, Aquinas College undertook its mission of *Veritas et Caritas*.

20 years ago, Aquinas inaugurated its Educator Preparation Program.

2 years ago, the first Masters Degree programs in education were offered at Aquinas.

Last year, Aquinas College launched its most recent educational initiative: the Center for Catholic Education.

This timeline illustrates how very new the Center for Catholic Education is, and demonstrates the rich heritage that comprises the Center’s legacy. In fact, the Aquinas College Center for Catholic Education provides a way to share the

fruits of this legacy with others who are involved in the great vocation of Catholic education.

The primary purpose of the Center for Catholic Education is twofold: to serve as a resource for educators in Catholic schools on the elementary and secondary levels and to become a means of cooperation among those educators. In collaboration with the School of Education, the Center provides professional development sessions and retreat conferences for faculties of individual schools or on the diocesan level.

Central to the focus of the Center for Catholic Education is the nature, mission and identity of the Catholic school as it is defined in the documents of the Church. 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of *The Declaration on Christian Education* issued by Vatican Council II. This document is the seminal one for Catholic schools in this time as it serves as the basis for subsequent documents and sets forth principles which underlie the mission and identity of the Catholic school. Guides for the study and consideration of those documents will be made available through the Center.

The Center for Catholic Education takes its impetus both from the Church’s efforts

in the New Evangelization and from *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, the apostolic constitution concerning Catholic universities, issued by St. John Paul II in 1990. The distinguishing characteristics of Catholic institutions of higher education cited in this document include reflecting on knowledge in the light of faith, faithfulness to the Christian message as it is handed down through the Church, and service to the broader community, all of which the Center for Catholic Education encompasses in its mission.

The cultural and educational climates of today make the mission of the Center for Catholic Education timely and crucial. It is imperative that those who are engaged in Catholic education — and those who choose it for their children — clearly understand the nature and purpose of the Catholic school. The Church does not educate for exactly the same reason or in exactly the same way the “world” educates.

At the heart of the Church’s educational endeavors lies the dignity of the human person, made in God’s own image, given a purpose on this earth, and called to holiness so that all eternity may be spent in the Presence of God. This effort goes far beyond any utilitarian, economic or political motivation. Rather, the end of Catholic education is a virtuous life which serves

the person's ultimate end as well as the good of the society of which the person is a part. A large part of contemporary culture is toxic to this stance. The absolutes of Truth, Beauty and Goodness are considered only as relative and negotiable in the secularized world view.

The documents of the Church on education anchor the identity and mission of the Catholic school in the mission and identity of the Church itself. They constitute the chief means by which the Church makes available to us the hopes and expectations for Catholic education. They provide not only guidance, but stability in the rapidly shifting landscape of Catholic education.

When *The Declaration on Christian Education* was promulgated in 1965, the system of Catholic schools in this country had reached a peak. There were 5.6 million student enrolled in over 13,000 schools. Clergy and religious serving in those schools numbered over 112,000. In 2013, the number of students in Catholic schools was 1.9 million, the lowest enrollment since the 1920s. There were 6,594 Catholic elementary and secondary schools. The faculty was 96.8% lay with only 3,221 sisters, 800 brothers and 804 priests and deacons (McDonald & Schultz, 2014, pp. 8-9).

Educating Together in Catholic Schools: A Shared Mission between Consecrated Persons

and the Lay Faithful, which came out in 2007, observes that mutual "cooperation and exchange of gifts, in order to participate more effectively in the Church's mission... helps to give a clearer and more complete picture of the Church herself, while rendering more effective the response to the great challenges of our time" (# 15). It is the intent of the Center for Catholic Education to facilitate this sharing of mission and gifts. ■

To contact the Center for Catholic Education at Aquinas College, you may call 615-297-7545, extension 471; or email ccedu@aquinascollege.edu.

What the Church documents on Education say about...

Parents:

"Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators."

— *Declaration on Christian Education*, #3

Teachers:

"By their witness and their behavior teachers are of the first importance to impart a distinctive character to Catholic schools."

— *The Catholic School*, #78

Teaching:

"Teaching has an extraordinary moral depth and is one of man's most excellent and creative activities, for the teacher does not write on inanimate material, but on the very spirits of human beings."

— *The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium*, #19

The School:

"Among all educational instruments the school has a special importance.(19) It is designed not only to develop with special care the intellectual faculties but also to form the ability to judge rightly, to hand on the cultural legacy of previous generations, to foster a sense of values, to prepare for professional life."

— *Declaration on Christian Education*, #5

Curriculum and Values:

"It has been said that we live in a knowledge-based society. However, Catholic schools are encouraged to promote a wisdom-based society, to go beyond knowledge and educate people to think, evaluating facts in the light of values. They educate people to take on responsibility and duties, and exercise active citizenship."

— *Educating to Intercultural Dialogue in Catholic Schools: Living in Harmony for a Civilization of Love*, #66

THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AT AQUINAS *Providing Value and Instilling Virtue*

continued from page 17

experience at a broad range of employers including Catholic Charities, Harley-Davidson, law firms, and even a toy company.

In addition, Aquinas College recently embarked on a mentoring program with the Nashville Catholic Business League to provide additional support for students as they discern their futures. In the program, students are paired with successful business executives who are carefully screened by NCBL leadership to ensure an appropriate fit with both the student's career aspirations and value systems. By connecting with successful local business leaders, School of Business students will

expand their network of contacts and their knowledge of sub-disciplines of business. In 2011, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, under the leadership of Peter Cardinal Turkson, issued a document entitled *Vocation of a Business Leader: A Reflection*. The executive summary of the document describes actions taken by business leaders in these terms:

Business leaders can put aspiration into practice when they pursue their vocation, motivated by much more than financial success. When they integrate the gifts of the spiritual life, the virtues and ethical social principles into their life and work, they overcome the divided life, and receive the grace to foster the integral development of all business stakeholders. *Practical wisdom* informs his or her approach to business...

Interactions with faithful Catholic mentors who have acquired practical wisdom during their careers allows students to learn from the experience of these mentors as they strive to identify their own gifts and how those gifts can form the students in their own vocations.

When we hear the word "vocation", we often think only of vocations to the priesthood or religious life. Other times, we might think of marriage as a primary vocation. By viewing a career in business as a vocation, Aquinas College School of Business students benefit from this three-pronged approach to formation that helps them develop the perspective to lead a fully integrated life. ■



Sister Mary Rose, O.P., Director of Catechetics, poses with her CGS students in Vancouver

Catechetics Goes International

The Office of Catechetics, led by Sister Mary Rose Bingham, O.P., has become a highly sought-after resource for the training of catechists. In addition to the existing relationships with the Dioceses of Nashville and Knoxville, the Office also now teaches in the Diocese of Lexington in Kentucky. And in recent years, Aquinas College has become a national center for the training of teachers of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, the unique faith formation program for young children. In addition to classes in the Diocese of Nashville, in 2015 Sister Mary Rose will teach classes in Slidell and Lafayette, Louisiana, Boise, Idaho, and Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Prolific Dr. Rich Bulzacchelli

Richard Bulzacchelli, S.T.D., Associate Professor of Theology, has recently published two articles: "Church and State in History and Today" in the *Homiletic & Pastoral Review*, and "Crushing the Head of the Serpent: Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Triumph of Revealed Religion in the Aztec World," in *Marian Studies*, the annual journal of the Mariological Society of America. Rich also presented at two events this fall. At the St. Lambert's Patristics Seminar in Skokie, Illinois, he presented twice, along with Dr. Mike Aquilina, his colleague at the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. And in early November, he discussed free will on a panel sponsored by an interfaith student organization at Vanderbilt University. In February 2015, Dr. Bulzacchelli will present at Aquinas' St. Thomas Aquinas Forum.



Sister Jane Dominic Publishes in *L'Osservatore Romano*

Sister Jane Dominic Laurel, O.P., Assistant Professor of Theology, received a scholarship to attend the USCCB-sponsored Conference, *Intellectual Tasks of the New Evangelization*, where Catholic theologians and bishops entered into dialogue on topics fundamental to the New Evangelization. She also recently published an article entitled, "The Our Father: A Précis of the Liturgy," in *L'Osservatore Romano* ("the Pope's newspaper").

Marketing Instructor Speaks on Pope Francis

Mark G.G. Barry, adjunct marketing instructor in the School of Business and Director of Marketing at Catholic Charities of Tennessee, co-presented at the Catholic Charities USA Annual Gathering in Charlotte, North Carolina on the topic, "The Francis Effect...Impacting Catholic Charities Service Delivery, Communications, and Community Outreach."

Dr. Link Presents at American Psychological Association Convention

Hope J. Link, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology, presented on the topic of "Re-engaging In A Cyclical Model of Self-regulated Learning" at the American Psychological Association Convention in August 2014 in Washington, D.C.



Sister Elinor Published in Philosophical Journal

Sister Elinor Gardner, O.P., Assistant Professor of Philosophy, published an article entitled "Faith Is the Light of the Soul" in *Quaestiones Disputatae*, a philosophical journal of the Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Dr. Vincent Ryan Pens Introduction to Spiritual Classic

Vincent T. Ryan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, recently wrote the introduction to Sven Stolpe's *The Maid of Orleans: The Life and Mysticism of Joan of Arc*. The work, considered by many to be a definitive biography of the French saint, was put back into print by Ignatius Press.

Education Professor Presents Widely on Education and Technology

Sister Matthew Marie Cummings, O.P., presented on a variety of topics in the summer of 2014, including *Google Forms for the Classroom*, *After Them Miracle Workers (1 Corinthians 12: 28): The Mission or Role of Teachers in the New Evangelization*, and *Education in the Dominican Tradition*, in Georgia, Indiana, and Illinois.

Steve McCarthy Authors Three Encyclopedia Articles

History professor Steve McCarthy has authored three entries in the forthcoming *Nashville Encyclopedia*. The foremost expert in Catholicism in the Middle Tennessee Region, Mr. McCarthy wrote entries on Father Abram Ryan, Father Emmeran Bliemel, and, naturally, Aquinas College. The *Nashville Encyclopedia* is a joint venture of the Davidson County Historian, the Nashville Mayor's Office, the Metropolitan Historical Commission, the Nashville Public Library, and Metro Information Technology Services. Fathers Ryan and Bliemel served as chaplains for Tennessee regiments on opposite sides in the Civil War.



School of Nursing's Catherine Cantrell Presents at Regional Conference

Catherine Cantrell, R.N., Outcomes Coordinator and instructor in the School of Nursing, presented at the 7th Annual Tennessee Simulation Alliance Conference at Belmont University, serving on the panel entitled "Hospital Association, Education and Practice Collaboration to Impact Patient Outcomes."

IGNITE

The Campaign for Aquinas College

Aquinas College's First Comprehensive Fundraising Campaign

By Andrew Shafer,
Vice President for Advancement

Comprehensive fundraising campaigns date back many decades in their modern form and are designed to support multiple aspects of the organization being funded. Unlike campaigns hyper-focused on one project or one area of campus, a comprehensive campaign simultaneously seeks funding for capital projects, endowment, operating, unrestricted, and special projects, all at the same time!

While many projects at Aquinas College are still in development, one thing that we know for sure is that transformational growth opportunities will only see their full potential on campus with private support. Revenue in higher education can no longer rest solely on the backs of students and their parents. Tuition must be offset with private support of individuals, corporations, and foundations. The rising cost of higher education has been identified as an epidemic within the United States. Aquinas College continues to fight that trend by offering quality education at affordable rates.

After the *Vision 2020: Truth & Charity* strategic plan was finalized in the summer

of 2014, our focus immediately shifted to implementation of the plan itself. This implementation includes hard work, determination, and investments from sources far and wide. When monetized, the strategic plan accounts for over \$110 million in projects which to some may look to be a steep mountain to climb. What we do know is that between now and 2020, our focused advancement operation is better positioned to support fundraising efforts in a new and innovative way. Within advancement, our development staff are gearing up to tirelessly invest their time and daily work to see this plan to fruition.

The campaign to support *Vision 2020: Truth & Charity* will be known as **IGNITE: The Campaign for Aquinas College**. Igniting growth, igniting student experiences, igniting spiritual life on campus, and igniting the future for this college. Since 1961, Aquinas has impacted lives of people now residing in every state and in over 20 countries. We look forward to expanding our footprint, impacting more lives, and changing the course of all impacted by higher education, but we cannot do any of this without the investments from all alumni and friends. ■

The Office of Advancement Welcomes Tom Costa



Tom Costa joined the Aquinas College Advancement team in late summer 2014 as the new Director of Development. Serving in this critical position on our Advancement Team, he brings a wealth of knowledge in business, marketing, and sales to the higher education environment. His unique skillset strategically positions the College and our advancement efforts to look for efficiencies in the way we run our office while aggressively and methodically serving on the team to increase private support for the college.

Tom's focus will be on the Aquinas leadership annual giving and major gifts (gifts of \$25,000 or more) programs. The college is pleased to welcome Tom, his wife Lisa, and their four children to the Aquinas College family!

**MAKE YOUR ANNUAL FUND GIFT
ONLINE TODAY**
www.aquinascollege.edu

Dear Aquinas Alumni,

This Spring and Summer there are numerous ways for you to stay involved and connected:

Host a "Dinner With Strangers." Enjoy the company of Aquinas student and Aquinas Alumni attendees, speakers, and exhibitors in the relaxed setting of a shared meal. Dinner with Strangers happens in March 2015, and again in July 2015!

Attend the 2nd Annual Alumni Easter Egg Hunt. Bring your children and grandchildren to join us for our 2nd Annual Alumni Easter Egg Hunt on the Aquinas Front Lawn, April 4, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. As almsgiving is such an important part of Lent, we asked our guests to bring non-perishable food items to donate to Second Harvest Food Bank as admission for the Egg Hunt.



Connect at the Opera. Join Aquinas Alumni at the Nashville Opera Guild's performance of "Pirates of Penzance" on April 11, 2015.

Join us for Aquinas Alumni Weekend, June 4-7! We have an incredible weekend planned, just for you! Beginning June 4 at noon, Aquinas Alumni will meet at Shelby Park for a FREE concert by the Nashville Symphony. Later that evening, all Aquinas Education Alumni are invited for a Gala at the White House to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the School of Education, beginning at 6 p.m. On Friday, June 5, Aquinas Alumni will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the new Nashville Sounds Stadium for an All-American night of baseball, plus an on-site grill out! On June 6, at 7:30 a.m. shotgun start will open our 4th

Annual Aquinas Alumni Golf Scramble. The weekend will culminate with an Aquinas Alumni Mass at the Cathedral of the Incarnation on Sunday, June 7 at 11:00 a.m.

The most important thing is that we can't do any of this without *you!* I would like to encourage you to attend these events and support your community of Aquinas College Alumni! Please feel free to contact us with information, ideas, questions, or just to catch up on what's happening. Thank you for your continued Aquinas Pride!

Gratefully,

Rachel Leach

Rachel Leach
Director of Alumni Relations

Keep in Touch!

Each of you is an important part of the 53-year-old educational heritage of Aquinas College. We want to strengthen that heritage by celebrating you and your accomplishments! If you are not receiving our electronic newsletters or paper mail, please make use of the form found at aquinascollege.edu/classnotes, or directly email me at leachr@aquinascollege.edu, to update your contact information and to let us know what's happening in your life. We are thrilled to have already connected with so many Aquinas grads this semester and look forward to hearing from you!



TAKE A SNAP!

We Want To Know: We are always interested in the big events and success stories of our alumni. To be featured in our magazine or to simply update your information, please submit a class note to let us know about births, marriages, career changes, and other personal honors at... www.aquinascollege.edu/classnotes. You can even upload a photo on the page!

IN MEMORIAM

GEORGE E. BARRETT, friend of the campus, on August 26, 2014

MARILYN E. CUMMINGS, mother of Aquinas faculty member Sister Matthew Marie, O.P., on August 26, 2014

NANCY WORD ARNOLD, Aquinas Director of Student Learning Services, on August 27, 2014 (See p. 27 for a full memorial)

GUILFORD E. SMITH, JR., Class of 1981, on September 05, 2014

PAUL W.T. MCKELVEY, Class of 1976, on September 21, 2014

FLORENCE CHOPICK, mother of Aquinas staff member Cynthia Piana, on October 02, 2014

ARTHUR WAYNE BENNETT, father of Aquinas faculty member Greg Bennett, on October 22, 2014

SISTER ROBERT ANN, O.P., Aquinas College president from 1977-1986, on November 24, 2014 (See p. 27 for a full memorial)

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Alumni Profile: Chris Ackerman, Theology '12



Chris Ackerman graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Theology in 2012 and currently serves as a Life Teen missionary in Ferguson, Missouri. Associate Provost Dr. Bill Smart had a long phone conversation with Chris about his time at Aquinas.



Chris with his scholarship benefactors, Kay and Judge J. Randall Wyatt, in 2012.

Born in Ohio, Chris Ackerman moved to Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, about 20 miles east of Nashville, at the age of two. He grew up a parishioner at St. Stephen's in Old Hickory and attended Holy Rosary Academy through the 8th grade. During his teenage struggles in high school, Chris sought solace in the Church, particularly through the Sunday night Life Teen program. Chris explained that rather than living for Friday nights and parties, "I lived for Sunday nights where I could be with the community that loved and supported me."

After attending a large state university for one year, Chris began to wonder how he could better serve the Church. He met Aquinas College's Director of Admissions, Connie Hansom, who was at his parish promoting the College, and, as he remembers, "signed up on the spot."

Chris immediately saw the difference between Aquinas and the university he had attended. He noted that, "the small class sizes and the relationship with my professors really suited my learning style and personality type." Instead of merely a teacher-pupil relationship, Chris saw his teachers "more as friends. The class sizes really make a difference."

The Theology major curriculum required Chris take philosophy professor Dr. Benjamin L. Smith's Logic class. In a recent conversation, a friend asked him why

anyone would ever need to take a whole class about logic. Chris explained, "even if I don't have an answer to a problem I can reason my way to a conclusion that I might otherwise not have been able to do."

In his Theology classes, Ackerman said that Dr. Rich Bulzacchelli "really made me think rather than simply memorize and regurgitate the answers. He required that I go a lot more deeply into theological questions than I thought I could." And in Sister Mary Angelica's classes, Chris pointed out how her teaching became much more authentic and convincing by how "she radiates the joy and love of Christ." His academic studies well prepared him for evangelization, however, he states, "my spiritual formation gives me direction about when to use it."

While at Aquinas, Chris spent his summers as a counselor at Life Teen's Camp Covecrest in the Blue Ridge Mountains of

northwest Georgia. After graduation, he signed on at Camp Covecrest full-time as a missionary for a year of spiritual formation and development of practical youth ministry skills. One of the hardest parts, Chris discovered, was the soul-searching aspect of spiritual formation, especially determining "who we are in the eyes of God, and how does this impact our relationship with Him, and from that, flow out to others?" After taking on numerous formational and administrative duties, he was entrusted with leading the summer staff counselors through their time at summer camp. He came to realize that, when it comes to truly leading people, "it takes time and the development of trust. You just have to get to know people, and living in community helps foster this knowledge, trust, and approach."

Chris has kept up with Aquinas since graduation through friends, some of whom were his former campers at Cov-

Announcing Steve McGrory, New Vice President for Administration

Aquinas College is pleased to announce Mr. Stephen McGrory, who started work in late October, as the new Vice President for Administration. Steve worked for 15 years on Wall Street and served as the Chief Financial Officer & Project Consultant for 10 years for a military services provider at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and Huntsville, Alabama. He brings a wealth of experience in the areas of finance, planning, facilities, security, and information technology. Steve and his wife, Laurie, live in Brentwood and have five children, ages 9–22. The College would like to thank Dr. Daniel K. Donnelly for his tireless service. Dan performed the duties as Vice President for Administration and Dean of the School of Business. He now returns to focus solely on advancing the School of Business.



Aquinas Welcomes Jesse Fortney to Enrollment Management

In August, Aquinas College welcomed Jesse W. Fortney as its first-ever Vice President of Enrollment Management. Most recently Director of Admissions at Shattuck-St. Mary's School in Minnesota, Jesse comes to Aquinas with over 20 years of higher education experience in a variety of roles. He has a B.Ed. in Secondary Education-English from the University of Hawai'i and a M.A. in College Student Development from Bowling Green State University. Jesse and his wife Marsha have two children—Bradyn (12) and Lainey (7)—both students at St. Henry School. When asked about why he chose to come to Aquinas, Jesse said, "I am both humbled and honored to be part of Aquinas College. Moving to Nashville and being part of this community made sense for where I am professionally, what I wanted in a work environment—a healthy and intentional community of faith and learning—and what Marsha and I want for our family. I have long admired the work of the Nashville Dominicans and in particular, Sister Mary Sarah. I hope to find more students who will most resonate with our Catholic community and who are best prepared for the curricular offerings afforded to them by our outstanding faculty."



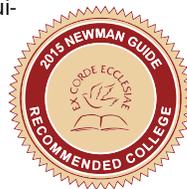
Aquinas Moves Up in the U.S. News & World Report Rankings

U.S. News and World Report has ranked Aquinas College as 14th in Best Regional Colleges in

the South, up from a ranking of 30th last year. Contributing to the high ranking were the low class sizes and student-to-faculty ratio, high freshman retention rate, high test scores, a high graduation rate, and a high peer assessment score. The U.S. News and World report also recognized Aquinas College for being 4th in Best Colleges for Veterans in the same regional college category, up from 7th in the previous year.



In addition to these higher rankings in national media, the Cardinal Newman Society has again included Aquinas College in its Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College for "commitment to providing a faithful Catholic education." The updated edition for the 2014-2015 academic year will be released soon.



SMART Saturday at Aquinas

The student chapter of ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) sponsored SMART Saturday, a free professional development opportunity for pre-service student teachers and in-service teachers, on November 15 at Aquinas College. The event was attended by teachers from both private and metro schools, and pre-service teachers from Aquinas College and other local and regional universities. The sessions were conducted exclusively using SMART Board technology—an interactive whiteboard present in most Tennessee classrooms—by Aquinas College students and alumni.

Dr. Robert Royal Hosted by School of Arts & Sciences

On Wednesday, October 22, the evening of the Corpus Christi Perpetual Adoration Chapel blessing and dedication, the School of Arts & Sciences hosted noted scholar and media commentator Dr. Robert Royal on the topic of "The Threats of Secularism." Dr. Royal, founder of the Faith & Reason Institute and editor-in-chief of the Catholic Thing, had just returned from Rome where he covered the Extraordinary Synod on the family. Dr. Royal began his talk with the observation, "There's a dangerous and unstable incoherence at the heart of secularism. It's more dangerous and more unstable precisely because the type of secularism we're familiar with in this country doesn't recognize itself as being what it really is, which is an ideology. It



doesn't rest on anything. It presents itself as neutral without realizing that it's not neutral." To listen to the entire lecture, please visit www.aquinascollege.edu/multimedia.

Joseph Pearce Delivers Inaugural Lecture as Director of the Center for Faith & Culture



Joseph Pearce, Aquinas College's Writer-in-Residence and Director of the Center for Faith & Culture, presented his inaugural lecture on the Feast of St. Augustine, August 28, on the topic of "The Evangelizing Power of Beauty: Converting the Culture." Using J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis as a backdrop, Pearce explored the three modes of evangelization: the good, the true, and the beautiful, to a standing room only crowd. To listen to the entire lecture, please visit www.aquinascollege.edu/multimedia.

First MSN Candidates Present Final Projects

The first group of graduate students in the School of Nursing, candidates for the Master of Science in Nursing Education, presented their final projects on the evening of Thursday, November 13. The unique MSN program at Aquinas College prepares registered nurses in the specialty role of nurse educator for faculty positions in schools of nursing and as clinical educators in a variety of health care settings.

The Presentations

- "Protecting and Preserving Dignity of the Nurse: A Virtue Ethics Approach" by Brandi W. Fruin
- "The Soul of Nursing: Caring for the Community" by Caroline Goedicke

- "Did I Say That? A Conversation about Nursing Communication" by Tracy L. Jenkins
- "Thinking About the Future: Critical Thinking in Nursing Education" by Lynne Leersnyder
- "Dear God: Am I Doing the Right Intervention?" by Dana M. Lusher
- "Incivility in Schools of Nursing and the Nursing Profession" by Deborah A. Phillips
- "Protecting Our Youth" by Stacie L. Smoke
- "SIDS Prevention Strategies" by Susan Stults
- "Innovative Pathways for Maximizing Student Learning Outcomes" by Stephanie C. White
- "Essentials of Wound Care: An Educational Guide" by Antonia Wright

Students Participate in Collegiate Legislature

This November, four students from Aquinas College served as delegates in the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature (TISL), an organization where the top echelon of the state's collegiate leaders presents bills, exchanges ideas, express opinions, and functions as a mock state-government. This year, students **Christa Nipper** (senator), **Olivia Casbarro** (representative), **Corey Maynard** (alternate senator), and **Gregory Smith** (lobbyist), attended the TISL 45th General Assembly in the Tennessee State Capitol and represented the Christian values of Aquinas College with honor and integrity. Over four days, three



Sister Mary Sarah with Christa Nipper and Olivia Casbarro.

committee meetings, multiple caucuses, and seven legislative sessions, the Aquinas delegates discussed over 150 bills covering a variety of topics. ■

Sister Robert Ann Britton, O.P.

Sister Robert Ann Britton, O.P., president of the College from 1977 to 1986, passed away on November 24. Sister began the A.S.N. program in 1983 in collaboration with Saint Thomas Hospital. The photo at right is of Sister Robert Ann (right) and Sister Juliana (left) from Saint Thomas at the dedication ceremony for the bridge that was built to join together the two properties in the early 1980s. Sister Robert Ann's quiet efforts and faith-

ful vision strengthened Aquinas College's career program in significant ways. Certainly, the outstanding reputation of Aquinas nurses is largely due to the initial support she provided and the outstanding faculty she hired. Her nine years of administration at the College continues to bear fruit. May she rest in peace and now intercede for Aquinas College!



Nancy Word Arnold (1949–2014)

Aquinas College mourns the death of our faithful Director of Student Learning Services and faculty member, Nancy Arnold, who died on August 27 after a short battle with kidney cancer. She worked tirelessly in her role, providing indispensable guidance and assistance to students while they juggled school work and family life. Nancy lived her early years in Lynchburg, Tennessee, earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master's in Human Resource Development at the University of Tennessee, and had

served Aquinas College for many years, first serving in the Adult Studies program. In addition to her duties in Student Learning Services, she served as adjunct in the School of Business. Nancy is survived by two brothers, numerous nieces and nephews, as well as by her colleagues at Aquinas and the many students she so zealously served. A memorial Mass for Nancy was held at Aquinas College on Friday, October 10.

Alumni Profile: Chris Ackerman, Theology '12

continued from page 23

erecst. He credits the creation of the Residential and House Life systems as "bearing fruit as the development of a genuine community atmosphere." And the expansion of spiritual life opportunities, he says, is "foundational to the mission of forming students."

In April 2014, Life Teen began looking for ways to expand their ministry, seeking out

parishes with the greatest spiritual and financial need. They soon found Blessed Teresa of Calcutta parish in Ferguson, Missouri where Chris moved in September. Although the Michael Brown shooting occurred long after Life Teen's decision to set up their mission in Ferguson, Ackerman observed that "it was very providential that we were supposed to be here. There is a great need for healing and forgiveness. The protests and rioting were a little unnerving at first, but it's not really the

'war zone' portrayed by the media. It's a charming small town, and for the most part peaceful. The people here are very friendly, and there are only a few pockets of mostly peaceful protesting right now. There exists an undercurrent of tension and fear, especially along racial lines. We are now only getting started exploring strategies to help the community heal and to address their spiritual needs." ■

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All proceeds will benefit Aquinas College by providing scholarships to students