

AQUINAS

NASHVILLE , TN

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2016



CAMPUS TRANSFORMATION

A dramatic transformation is underway on the Aquinas College campus.

NASHVILLE: "IT" CITY

A perspective from the School of Business.

CELEBRATE SHAKESPEARE

The Bard died 400 years ago. Read about how Aquinas is the only place to be on the anniversary of his death.



WHAT'S INSIDE

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Dear Friends of Aquinas College,

The first suggestions of spring are appearing on our campus in Nashville: dogwoods, tulips, redbuds and the welcome chatter of robins and mockingbirds are reminders that the winter is almost past and a new season of growth and abundance is underway. The subtle, almost imperceptible transformation of the landscape during this season of transition is a sign of hope; leaf by leaf, blade by blade, petal by petal stretch forth as silent, steady growth suddenly explodes into vibrant activity and color, bustling with new life.

Among the flora and fauna of the campus, signs of human growth are appearing as well: new academic programs are being prepared for the fall; Aquinas College's physical campus is reflecting more and more the beauty of the worship, teaching, learning, community life and service that happen inside our buildings each day; and the city of Nashville has quickly become a destination city for study, life and work. On another beautiful campus across the Pond, the AquinasAbroad program in Bracciano, Italy is completing its first year of study. It has proved to be a transformative experience for students and faculty alike.

Last but not least, Aquinas College and the Dominican Sisters are in the midst of a jubilee celebration of the 800th anniversary of the Dominican Order. It is a graced time to reflect on the way God grows things across many centuries and the manifestation of His mercy in using many Dominican saints and blessed to serve the needs and circumstances of their time. Looking to the present, a jubilee anniversary is an opportunity to prepare for new growth, to be open to new possibilities and to the holiness that is needed for our particular age. This spring edition of the Aquinas Magazine chronicles a season of growth and change at the College. As you read through these articles and updates in this issue, we invite you to come to campus to see the exciting changes for yourself, give to Ignite, the Comprehensive Campaign for Aquinas' future, or connect with us through social media or the web at www.aquinascollge.edu.

In Christ,



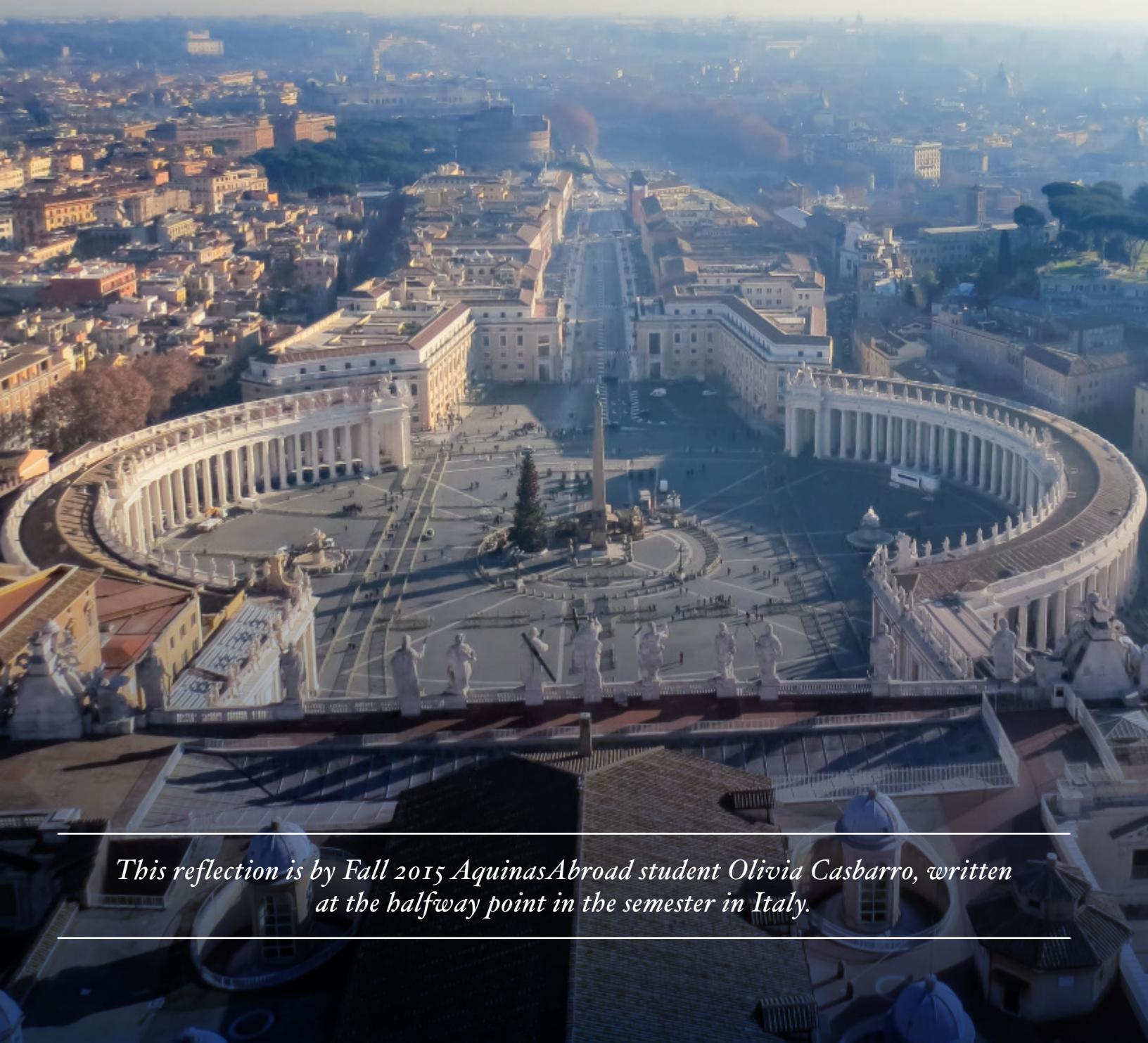
Sister Mary Sarah Galbraith, O.P., President of Aquinas College



Aquinas College is a four-year, private liberal arts Catholic college in vibrant Nashville, Tennessee. Through outstanding academic programs in nursing, business, education, and arts and sciences, we cultivate a community of students who encourage one another to grow academically and spiritually.

HALFWAY: A REFLECTION

By Olivia Lorraine Cecilia Casbarro (Education, '17)



This reflection is by Fall 2015 AquinasAbroad student Olivia Casbarro, written at the halfway point in the semester in Italy.

HALFWAY: A REFLECTION



I RISE EVERY MORNING TO THE BRACCIANO SUN SEEING OVER THE MOUNTAINOUS HORIZON AND TAKE IN THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S CREATION. I've

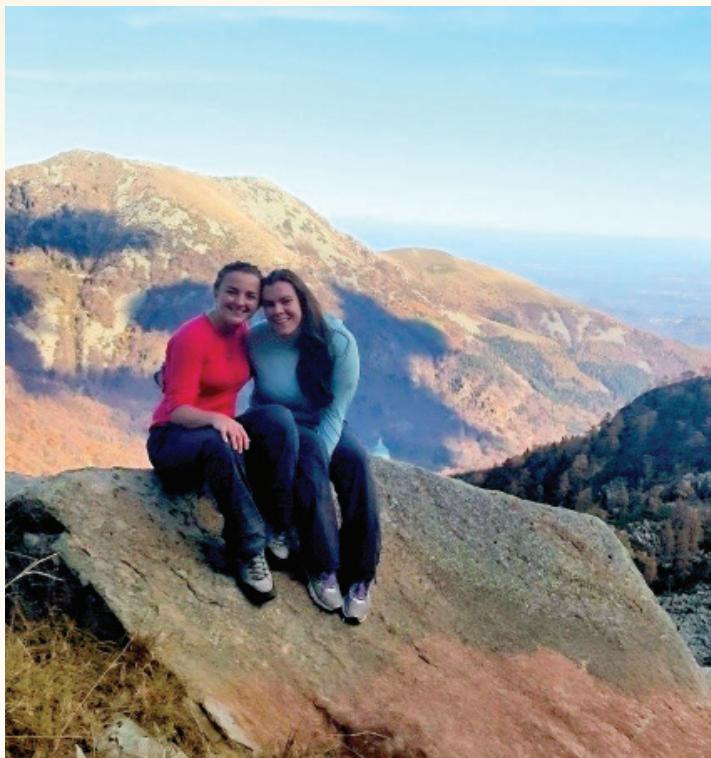
become accustomed to the morning rooster's crow and made friends with the neighbor's yappy dog. Six weeks have now passed and the morning air continues to get crisper every day as autumn approaches. As much as it surprises me, life in Italy has finally become something considerably normal.



Olivia's medals—a crucifix, St. Cecilia medal, and Dominican cross—on a rock near Oropa, the favorite shrine of Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati

I first started to notice this one afternoon as we all walked back from town. "I need to stop at the Tuodí and pick up shampoo," one classmate said. "Alright, see you at home," I replied. That's when I knew we were truly settled.

Since arriving in Italy in late September, the first AquinasAbroad team has climbed mountains, looked out over the Tyrrhenian Sea, visited the bones of Saint Peter, stood in buildings constructed before the time of Christ, walked the dark corridors of the catacombs, witnessed the making of Saints, and stood where the Pope is elected. Our travels have taken us to Turin, Oropa, Aquino, Montecassino, Florence, Siena and some of us as far as Poland. In the classroom, we have been walking the path of the ancient Church, studying the Apostles and Early Fathers, schisms, heresies, and the Reformation. We have discussed in depth what exactly beauty



Olivia Casbarro and Veronica Whiting hiking near Oropa

is within art, architecture and music. Our discussions have helped us to understand beauty as an objective truth and how it relates to the Church and the preservation of Her mysteries. We have met artists like Caravaggio, Michelangelo, Bernini and Raphael. Our philosophical studies are leading us to understand our life-giving principle—our soul—and how we differ from other life forms. We have spent time with the great philosophers like Thomas Aquinas, Augustine and Aristotle. Theologically, we have hashed out the nature of sin and the role our emotions play in our daily activities. Our private Italian class also has us soaring to the heights of a new language, enabling us to communicate with more of the world. Full immersion creates an environment in which we can learn the customs and habits of the Italian people, enabling our understanding to come full circle. It's hard to believe we have done all of this and we're only halfway!

The Aquinas College study abroad program isn't just about classroom learning or excursions, but is the beautiful blending of the two in a harmonious balance that brings to fruition personal growth on every level. And that's not all! Living at Villaggio Betania gives the eight of us a brilliant opportunity to grow in virtue as we eat, sleep, study and recreate under the same roof. Emotionally, we all learn to lean on each other and

understand the meaning of true friendship. Community life, especially intensified by living in a foreign country, has helped me to understand the significance of the other in life.

Life on Via San Celso is like living in a castle; former Villaggio residents have told us that we are princes and princesses living in a faraway kingdom, and it is true. There are some days when classes are quite stressful and I'm tired of taking trains and buses, but then I turn a corner and catch a beautiful glimpse of the Tiber at sunset or I walk into my literal backyard and see a stunning volcanic lake and realize that I'm living the dream of so many people. Here in Italy, things get put into perspective very quickly. There are times when I do miss home and simply want to drive my own car, but then I realize that I live in one of the most beautiful cities and study under some of the most brilliant Sisters in the world.

At this halfway point in our journey, it's an amazing thing to look back on all of our experiences so far as we stand at the brink of more to come. People often ask what life is like over here in Italy. While I know that their question is put forth with good intention, they simply don't realize that they seek words that will never do this program justice. **One cannot describe the wonder of AquinasAbroad in full. I suppose we each need to experience it for ourselves.** 



Olivia snapped this shot of Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square

400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BARD'S DEATH

Celebrating the life of Shakespeare

By Joseph Pearce, Director of the Center for
Faith & Culture and Writer-in-Residence

Soul of the age!

The applause, delight, the wonder of our stage!

*My Shakespeare, rise! I will not lodge thee by
Chaucer, or Spenser, or bid Beaumont lie*

A little further, to make thee a room:

Thou art a monument without a tomb,

And art alive still while thy book doth live

And we have wits to read and praise to give.

Ben Jonson



William Wordsworth, in his sublimely beautiful sonnet to the Virgin Mary, called the Immaculate Mother of God “our tainted nature’s solitary boast”. As an Englishman, contemplating the four hundredth anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare, I am tempted to say that the Bard of Avon is my tainted nation’s solitary boast. I realize, of course, that such a claim does violence to the reputation of other great English writers, such as Chaucer, Austen and Dickens, and fails to pay due deference and reverence to great English saints, such as Edward the Confessor, whom Shakespeare eulogized in *Macbeth*, or Robert Southwell, whom Shakespeare knew and whom he eulogized subliminally in several of his plays, most notably in *King Lear*. Nonetheless, there is a real sense in which William Shakespeare stands alone as a colossus of culture who merits Ben Jonson’s acclamation that he was “not of an age, but for all time”. This being so, the claim that he is my tainted nation’s solitary boast might be said to do more violence to Shakespeare than it does to any other writer. The truth is that England is not worthy of him. His colossal genius is too magnificent for any one nation to claim as their own. He is not of a nation, but for all nations, a heaven-sent gift to mankind whose very gifts are heavenly, shining forth the Music of the One who bestowed the gifts in the first place. It is for this reason that none can claim him and all should acclaim him.

The reason that the Bard of Avon is “not of an age, but for all time” is that he writes with unsurpassed beauty about the things that unite humanity across all ages and all cultures. He writes of those things that are *essentially* human, that are part of our very being, of the timeless virtues and the timeless verities, of the timeless vices and the timeless vanities. More to the point, and crucially, he does so from the perspective of Christian orthodoxy, which encompasses the virtues and the verities (the good and the true) and is at war with the vices and the vanities (the deadly sins and the pride which is the deadliest sin of all).

There is, however, another and deeper meaning behind Ben Jonson’s words. It is not merely that Shakespeare has survived the test of time, it is that his plays, and the truth and morality contained within them, transcend time. They are not merely works that endure *in* time, they are works that are *beyond* time. They have their inspiration in eternal verities and they point to those same verities. Such truths do not change with time, nor are they changed by it. They simply *are*.

Perhaps the best way of illustrating this transcendent dimension to Shakespeare is to compare the *Heilige Geist* with the *zeitgeist*, the Holy Spirit with the Spirit of the Age. The Holy Spirit does not change from one generation to the next. He simply *is*. The Spirit of the Age, on the other hand, is always changing. It

is subject to time and is changed by it. The literal meaning of zeitgeist is Time-Spirit. One who serves the Time-Spirit is one who wants to seem relevant to the fads and fashions of his own day. He is primarily concerned with being up-to-date. The problem is that those who are up-to-date are very soon out of date because, as C. S. Lewis quipped, fashions are always coming and going, but mostly going. One who is relevant to the fashions of today will be irrelevant to the fashions of tomorrow.

The reason that Shakespeare is not of an age but for all time is that he serves the Heilige Geist and not the zeitgeist. The truths that inspire his Muse, and the truths that emerge in the fruits of his Muse (his plays and poems), are the truths of the Holy Spirit, the truths of the Trinity, the truths of Christ, and the truths of the Catholic Church, which is Christ's Mystical Body. Such truths do not merely stand the test of time they are the very truths by which time itself is tested. ♫



Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon

Center for Faith and Culture Events



In February, the Center welcomed the Theater of the Word, Inc. for the two-woman pro-life drama *Sarah's Secret*.



In October, the CFC welcomed author, philosopher, and theologian Michael Novak on the topic of "Darkness and Radiance in 20th Century Catholic Poetry." Novak shared his favorite poems and even read some original poetry.



Aquinas' Joseph Pierce enjoys a laugh with Dale Ahlquist at the Tolkien & Lewis Celebration on September 19. This inaugural event drew hundreds. The response was so great, additional space had to be added. **Save the date for the 2016 Celebration on September 17!**



On October 8, the Center co-hosted with the School of Arts and Sciences history professor Dr. Tom Jodziewicz of the University of Dallas on the topic "Catholic and American?"





NASHVILLE: OUR “IT” CITY

A Perspective from the School of Business

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

Even the most loyal son of Tennessee might forget that the state bird is the mockingbird, but most Nashville area residents could easily identify what has become the city's own sky-dwelling mascot—the graceful and majestic “Construction Crane.” These swinging, flightless creatures dot the skyline in every area of the city. From our own campus next to St. Thomas West Hospital, to Vanderbilt and Belmont, in Midtown and The Gulch and throughout downtown, the cranes loom as symbols of growth, prosperity, and jobs.

In short, Nashville is positively booming. Statistics show explosive growth across all sectors, with no signs of slowing down. Companies like UnderArmour are flocking to the Nashville area, with 1,500 jobs planned for Mt. Juliet in the next year alone. More and more national companies are putting down roots here, picking up on what our thriving healthcare, tourism, and automotive industries have proven to be true: Nashville is a great place to do business.

Nashville isn't just a hotbed of business activity; it's also quickly becoming one of the most desirable places to call home. Our Aquinas Students get to live, work, study and pray in a city known for its special quality of life. Nashville's welcoming spirit, easygoing attitude and Southern charm create an atmosphere that's so full of creative and professional possibilities, it's no wonder so many of our students choose to build a life here after graduation.

Of course, Nashville remains at the heart of the country music, an industry that contributes more than 20,000 jobs to the local economy. In recent decades, Nashville has grown beyond its country roots to include a wide variety of music genres, providing even more opportunities for musicians to create and succeed.

WHAT MAKES NASHVILLE AN “IT” CITY FOR NEW COLLEGE GRADS?

Ranked No. 8 in the U.S. for Tech Jobs

Forbes

30,000 Auto Industry Jobs

www.businessclimate.com

2.7 billion invested in growth last year

Nashville Business Journal

17,000 New jobs on the horizon

Nashville Business Journal

300 Healthcare Companies

Operating Middle Tennessee

\$30 billion Middle Tennessee healthcare industry claims HALF of all U.S. for-profit hospital beds

CNN Money

Jobs growth rate is DOUBLE the population growth rate

Forbes

Unemployment rate just 5.41%

Ranked among the Top 10 “Most Popular Cities for Millennials”

Forbes, January 2014

One of the “Friendliest Cities in America”

Condé Nast Traveler, August 2014

Among the top ten “Best Cities for Business”

Forbes, July 2014

4th Most Affordable Big City in the U.S.

Kiplinger, October 2014

Third on the list of “America’s Most Creative Cities”

Forbes, July 2014

Third in the “Top 10 Best Cities for Families”

Parenting, July 2014

Our city’s musical heritage provides unique educational opportunities for our students that they wouldn’t find anywhere else. One of our School of Business students, Audrey Edgley, is also an incredibly talented singer from Portland, Oregon who aspires to a career in the music industry. Through Nashville and Aquinas connections, she landed her dream internship last fall with a well-known session guitarist who also produces music and represents artists. While the internship was focused on marketing a web-based music application, the experience also included opportunities to work with audio engineering interns, coordinate music video production, and interact with executives across the industry. She was even invited to assist with the 2015 Country Music Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, an event produced by her internship mentor, rubbing elbows with some of Nashville’s hottest country music stars.

Even in the case of our “it” city, impressive numbers, great reviews and surprising statistics are not what yield true happiness. While Nashville is growing and evolving at an impressive (and sometimes dizzying) pace, our students find real balance Aquinas College. The rigor of our academic programs, the excitement of our Nashville setting, and the strength of our Christ-centered student life provide our students with the meaning, direction and experience to build the foundation for a rich, successful future. ♫



Aquinas Has Talent!

It seems like everyone in Nashville moonlights in the music business, including our own campus chaplain, Father Kevin McGoldrick! Father Kevin is a very talented singer and songwriter who was invited to perform at Musician’s Corner, an outdoor summer concert series hosted in Centennial Park that attracts thousands of attendees every weekend. Last October, he released his first album entitled *Square Peg Round Hole*, a heady mix of blues, rock, and praise music. To hear Father Kevin talk music and faith, listen to his December 2, 2015 podcast interview on the Relevant Radio “Morning Air” show.

Visit soundcloud.com/aquinascollege to listen!

MATHEMATICS DEGREES ADD UP FOR AQUINAS

By Besty Catt Snyder



The Aquinas College Fall Catalog will look a little different in 2016 as we prepare to expand our degree offerings to include two new degrees: a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in mathematics.

Students choosing the Bachelor of Arts path will study within the School of Arts and Sciences, concentrating on advanced mathematics alongside the robust interdisciplinary B.A. core. For these future graduates, a mathematics degree will be a valuable and versatile tool in today's economy, preparing them for opportunities in information technology, data analytics, and public policy. Mathematics majors and minors find themselves situated quite well for promising careers in the business, government, and nonprofit sectors, as well as admission to MBA programs or postgraduate studies in such fields as Information Technology, Economics, and Political Science.

Students choosing the Bachelor of Science path will study within the School of Education, graduating with a B.S. in education plus the additional credentials required to teach mathematics in a secondary education setting (grades 7-12). Teachers with a B.S. in mathematics are extremely attractive to public and private schools due to the urgent need for quality STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education in the U.S.

New mathematics faculty and expanded course offerings will add a robust integrity to our already rigorous academics, benefitting students outside of the new degree programs as

well. With more specialized math course offerings, Aquinas will offer a stronger and more competitive undergraduate education to all students as they complete the mathematics requirements within their chosen degree paths.

The ultimate goal of the new mathematics program, and of our Catholic and Dominican tradition as a whole, extends beyond producing skilled workers. At Aquinas, our mission is to help form human persons in the image of God, preparing them to leave this place and serve the world in Christ's example. Combined with emphasis on theology, philosophy and the arts, adding a mathematics program forms a broader curricular experience for the student and, as a result, a broader view of the world. "I believe there are many types of literacy," said Dr. Aaron Urbanczyk, Associate Professor of English and Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. "Language literacy, cultural literacy, and mathematical literacy are all crucial needs in American culture and all over the world. As an educator, I believe we ought to be as attentive to mathematical literacy as we are to literacy in language and the arts."

The Aquinas faculty and administration are hopeful the College will receive approval for the program from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in the spring. With this approval, the College can begin offering the courses for the math programs in the fall of 2016. The first Aquinas College Mathematics Program graduates will complete Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in 2020. 



CAMPUS TRANSFORMATION

Siena Hall

ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, AN OFFICIAL GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY KICKED OFF CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW WOMEN'S RESIDENCE HALL BEHIND AQUINAS' MAIN ACADEMIC BUILDING, THE FIRST NEW CONSTRUCTION IN 40 YEARS. Sister Mary Sarah Galbraith, O.P., President of Aquinas College, reminded faculty and staff during Convocation on August 17 that the mission of the College "is the true edifice. The buildings will be beautiful because they will reflect the beauty of what happens here each day."



Other Campus Improvements



Taken on March 18th, 2016

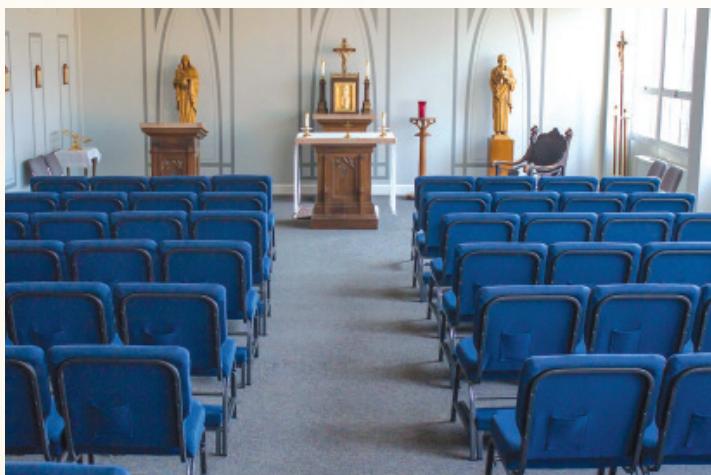


▲
Artisan Builders, the contractor who transformed the Carriage House Café into the Corpus Christi Perpetual Adoration Chapel, continues to renovate the historically-registered **ST. DOMINIC'S TEACHER EDUCATION BUILDING**, also known as the "Little White House."



▲
The summer of 2015 saw the comprehensive revamping of the **TRAFFIC CIRCLE** in front of the Aquinas College main building to include benches and stone planters and walkways.

◀
Students returning in late August found a much less cramped **ST. JUDE CHAPEL**. The 50-seat chapel, which now comfortably seats 80, relocated to the southwest wing of the Aquinas main building. The former site of the chapel was renovated as a seminar room.





ALUMNI PROFILE: SARAH BEACH HEROD

(‘08 Education)

SCHOOL OF
EDUCATION

Sister Matthew Marie Cummings, O.P., professor in the School of Education, recently asked Sarah Beach Herod a few questions about her background and how her life has taken unexpected, yet grace-filled turns since graduation.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

A paleontologist, a professional soccer player, a physical therapist. My answer evolved just as quickly as I grew and changed. Along with it, however, there was always one constant: motherhood. I wanted to be a mom. More than anything else I wanted to devote my life to raising a family.

What brought you to Aquinas?

My last couple years of high school, I remained unsure of what I wanted to pursue in college, a plight faced by many seventeen

and eighteen-year-olds. I considered nursing and decided to take an anatomy course, which I absolutely hated. Nope, nursing was definitely not for me. I seriously thought about a theology degree with the possibility of working in youth ministry. Could I afford the tuition to one of these Catholic Universities, though? Certainly not without considerable financial aid. Better not bank on that. So, I decided to take a different route. I decided to figure out what school I wanted to attend and then I would worry about what major to choose. After considerable research and prayer along with visits to multiple colleges and universities, I thought that maybe God was calling me to Aquinas. I still

wasn't 100% sure. I had originally thought I wanted the live-on-campus college experience, which was not an option there at the time. The more time I spent learning about the school and visiting the campus, however, the more I grew to love it. So Aquinas it was. Then, as if to validate that I was making the right decision, on the day of my high school graduation, I received a letter in the mail. Full tuition scholarship! I was floored. Often times God works in subtle ways, and then other times are not so subtle! I knew, now, without a doubt that I was meant to spend the next four years at this school.

What was your major course of study?

At the time, Aquinas had four majors to choose from: Nursing, Business, Liberal Arts, and Teacher Education. I already knew I wasn't cut out for nursing. Business was not something that interested me, and I wanted something more specific than Liberal Arts. By default that left Teacher Ed. I was okay with that; I figured that a career in teaching would coincide well with my ultimate dream of raising a family. Little did I know just how much my education would prepare me for what I am doing now.

How are you using your degree today?

Sitting in my classes at Aquinas, I had no clue that I would soon be using what I was learning to help me in my ultimate vocation as a mother of five. Five blessings who all came to us in fewer than five years, that is. Classroom management techniques, transition strategies, lesson and activity planning, flexibility and patience, patience, patience... I use these on a daily basis in my home with my own children. These are skills that I formerly learned in school and then sharpened and honed during practicums, student teaching placements and ultimately in my own classroom. These are skills that I expected to use in my plans to eventually homeschool my children, but that I didn't expect would literally carry me through the day-to-day tasks of managing a household of tiny people. **God prepares us in amazing and unexpected ways.**

How do you believe God was (and is) preparing you for the future?

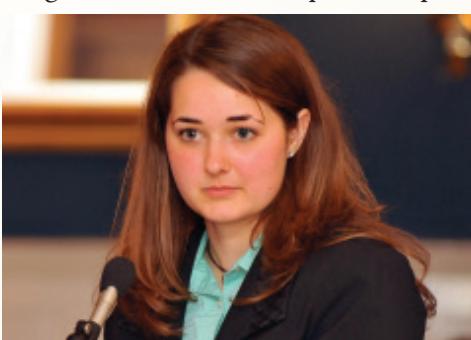
God likes to take things a step further, however. He likes to show us that we are capable of more than we can personally believe of ourselves. My education courses included classes on child development and special education. I enjoyed them, but I learned the material simply because it was required for my degree. I had no intentions of becoming a special ed. teacher and never in a million years did I think I would have a child of my own with special needs. It wasn't something I had much experience with and therefore wasn't something I thought I could handle. Fast-forward five years into my life, however, and my third baby is born and he just so happens to have an extra chromosome. Welcome to the world of Down Syndrome! I knew literally nothing about Down Syndrome, and we spent the first months after his diagnosis learning. Learning about the physical challenges he may face, ruling out common medical complications, and setting him up with early interventions and therapies. It was an uncertain and emotional time in my

life. As we navigated doctors and therapists and read through books and handouts, I already had a nicely formed vocabulary of special needs lingo to help guide me. Having this basic knowledge was a source of comfort. It just made things a little bit easier during a difficult time.

Looking back, I now know that God was preparing me specifically for this through some of my classes at Aquinas: Child Development, Exceptional Learners, Behavior Interventions and Linguistics all taught me things that I now use as a special needs mom. I remember how fascinated I was with my higher-level Linguistics class. We learned about the different sounds we use in the English language: how they're formed, what parts of the mouth are used and which are more difficult than others. Speech is the area where our Luke currently struggles the most. His low muscle tone makes it more challenging for him to form his mouth to make sounds correctly. He is almost three and only has a handful of words. He receives speech therapy each week and I'm so grateful that my education gave me a basic understanding of what's going on. God is good!

What's next for you and your family?

My next challenge will be homeschooling. My oldest is almost five and we've decided to start her in kindergarten this year and homeschool her. I was homeschooled from third grade through high school graduation and it was a very positive experience for me. It was always something I thought I would like to try with my own kids. Again, it was a strong reason why a degree in education appealed to me. Honestly, now, the idea makes me a little nervous. I'm not sure exactly how I am going to manage teaching her while also caring for a three year old, two toddlers and a baby, but I know that I have a solid education and some great experience to use to my advantage. God has given me the tools I need to do the work He has asked of me and I am so glad that it included four wonderful, blessed years at Aquinas. Even from the beginning, I knew that I was receiving a very special education. However, I never would have imagined that this is where I'd be seven years post graduation. Nor could I have anticipated that my education would serve me so richly in my daily life as a mother. I had absolutely hoped for some version of this, but God's plans are always bigger and most certainly always better. I will forever be grateful for the time I spent at Aquinas College. 🏛



Sarah Beach speaks at the 2008 Scholarship Brunch.

NEWS FROM AQUINAS



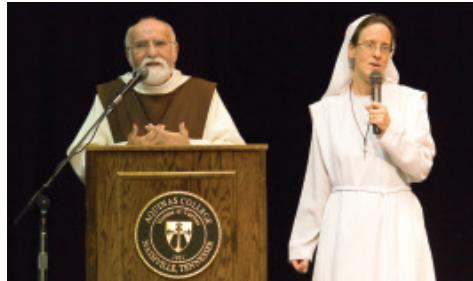
Students Brave Blizzard to Witness for Life

A full busload of students, staff and administrators braved blizzard conditions to travel to Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life in late January. The bus left Nashville the day before record snowfall shut down campus, the same storm that forced many groups across the country to cancel their trips. The day before the march, students from across the country joined in a prayerful and peaceful protest outside of the construction site of a Planned Parenthood facility just a few feet from a high school. Later in the day, the group attended the Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. On the morning of the march, Aquinas students volunteered at the Rally for Life.



The annual St. Thomas Aquinas Forum, hosted by the Office of Catechetics, welcomed over 200 guests for the two day event on the topic of "Virtue in Our Current Culture: Living the Nobility of Strength and Goodness." Presenting at the conference were renowned retreat master Fr. Jacques Philippe (pictured above), Dominican friar Fr. Cassian Derbes, O.P., educator and headmaster Deacon Brad Watkins, author and psychologist Dr. Kevin Vost, and Aquinas College's Dr. Aaron Urbanczyk and Sister Mary Madeline Todd, O.P.

A group of Aquinas College admissions staff and administrators, including president Sister Mary Sarah, O.P., traveled to Philadelphia in late September for the Pontifical Council for the Family's triennial World Meeting of Families, also attended by Pope Francis.



The School of Nursing pinned its graduates in the Associate of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing on Thursday, December 10 at the Cathedral of the Incarnation. The St. Catherine of Siena Award for most outstanding A.S.N. student went to McKenzie Dickson (pictured above). The St. Rose of Lima Award for most outstanding student in the M.S.N. program went to Cheryl Dearing.

WITNESS † INSPIRE † SERVE † EDUCATE

Formation for Catholic School Educators

BE WISE
SAVE THE DATE!

June 13-16, 2016



CENTER for
CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The Center for Catholic Education at Aquinas College is responding to the Church's call for faithful educator formation programs by hosting the **W.I.S.E. (Witness-Inspire-Serve-Educate) Conference** in June 2016.

Participation in WISE provides an opportunity for Catholic school principals, vice principals and teachers to focus on and further develop their understanding of the unique nature and mission of the Catholic school. What educators learn and experience through WISE helps them to assess the depth and expressions of Catholic Identity in their own school communities and to understand how their mission as educators impacts the total school community.

2ND ANNUAL CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS

Funding the College and engaging new donors for today and beyond.

We're thrilled to announce the results of our incredibly successful 2nd Annual AquinasGives crowdfunding campaign. With your support, we not only surpassed our goal of \$32,500; we also doubled the number of donors from last year. As with the inaugural 2014 campaign, the funds will give life to six exciting new projects from across campus that will make a critical and immediate impact on the College. **Funds from the 2nd Annual AquinasGives Crowdfunding Campaign will be used to:**



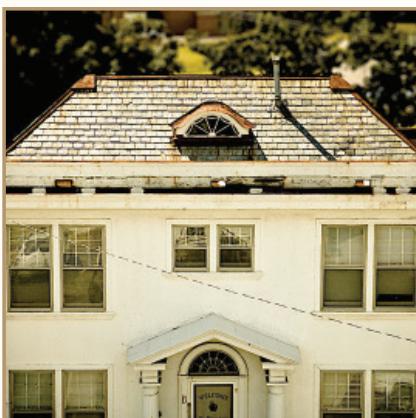
Establish a DECA Chapter in the School of Business and send student leaders to the international organization's annual conference (deca.org)



Purchase a new "Elmo" document camera to enhance the School of Arts & Sciences classrooms



Supply the current Castello Nursing Simulation Lab in the School of Nursing with a new pediatric mannequin for further skill development



Finish the renovation of St. Dominic's to house faculty and staff offices in the School of Education



Provide seed money for reigniting a College-wide competitive athletics program



Send nearly 20 students to World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland (summer 2016).



The **Campaign for Aquinas College**

over dollars raised; every gift truly makes an impact, and no gift is too small. When we make giving more accessible to everyone, our alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students are more inspired to support the College's mission by giving whatever they can, each and every year!

In addition, the *AquinasGives* Crowdfunding Campaign for 2015 also supported *IGNITE: The Campaign for Aquinas College*, our comprehensive fundraising strategy. The campaign recently crested the \$8 million mark towards its \$30 million goal by 2020.

Crowdfunding has proven to be an effective way to raise support for specific funding priorities at Aquinas, but even more importantly, it's become a wonderful way to engage donors from all walks of life. Within the crowdfunding model, the focus is on participation

LEARN MORE AND MAKE YOUR GIFT AT ignite.aquinascollege.edu

AQUINAS FACULTY AND STAFF IN THE NEWS



Dr. Elizabeth Cooper Assumes Nursing Dean Role

Elizabeth A. Cooper, D.N.P., R.N., who was named Director of the B.S.N. Programs in June 2015, has been appointed Dean of the School of Nursing and Director of the M.S.N. Programs. She served previously as Assistant Professor of Nursing in the A.S.N. and M.S.N. Programs and was involved in the development of the B.S.N. and M.S.N. Programs. Dr. Cooper previously served as an Adjunct Instructor at Cumberland University and has held nursing positions at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and St. Thomas Hospital. Prior to relocating to Nashville, she served in patient care and charge nurse positions at Baylor University Medical Center, Seton Medical Center, and Central Texas Medical Center in her native Texas. Dr. Cooper has also served in the United States Air Force and the United States Air National Guard, where she currently holds the rank of Major. Cooper earned undergraduate graduate degrees in Accounting and Nursing (A.A.S. and B.S.N.) from Dallas County Community College and Texas Woman's University, respectively, and graduate degrees in Nursing (M.S.N. and D.N.P.) from Vanderbilt University. She also holds United States Air Force Flight Nurse Certification and United States Air Force Professional Development Certification. Dr. Cooper will continue to serve as Interim Director of the B.S.N. Programs.



Welcome Back, Sister Thomas More

Sister Thomas More Stepnowski, O.P. returned to Aquinas in late October to serve as Provost and Vice President for Academics, having previously acted in a similar capacity before leaving to complete her doctorate. She received a B.A. in English from the University of Dallas, an M.Ed. in English from Belmont University, and completed her Ph.D. in Theology at the Maryvale Institute, Liverpool-Hope University with the dissertation "The Training of the Imagination in the Published Works of Conrad Pepler, O.P. and Gerald Vann, O.P." She has presented and written widely on the topic of St. Thomas Aquinas and the Catholic Imagination.

When asked about what has changed the most since her return, Sister remarked about the regional outreach of the Center for Faith and Culture, the Center for Catholic Education's talks to Catholic schools across the nation, and the Office of Catechetics' Catechesis of the Good Shepherd training internationally.

She cites the Dominican aspect as what sets the College apart. She observed, "Aquinas offers unique opportunities that are rooted in the Dominican tradition. Freshmen all take College Learning in the Dominican Tradition which introduces them to the importance of a liberal education and includes attending Compline at the Motherhouse. In addition, students and faculty meet to discuss philosophic and theological topics in the Socratic Club and the Synaxis of St. John the Divine. The Dominican imprint can also be found during AquinasAbroad's first weekend trip in Italy to the area which formed the young St. Thomas Aquinas, Rocca Secca and Montecassino, as well as visits to Santa Sabina, the mother church of the Dominicans."

As for her new role at Aquinas, Sister said, "As the chief academic officer, I seek ways to support the faculty and deans in order to provide a vibrant academic setting for the students. I hope to accomplish this by strengthening processes and collaborating with other support units, such as the library, registrar, Student Learning Services."

Since August, **Sister Elizabeth Anne Allen, O.P.**, Director of the Center for Catholic Education, delivered numerous talks to Catholic teachers and principals at conferences and schools in Arkansas, Tennessee, South Dakota, Virginia, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, and New York. Sister, along with her colleagues Sister Matthew Marie, O.P.; Sister Mary Anne, O.P., Dean of the School of Education; Sister Martha Ann, O.P.; and Dr. Hope Link attended the World Congress on Catholic Education in Rome in November. Pope Francis addressed the attendees at the conclusion of the conference which was held in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Vatican II's *Gravissimum Educationis* and the 25th anniversary of Pope Saint John Paul II's *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*.

Richard Bulzacchelli, S.T.D., Associate Professor of Theology and Senior Fellow at the St. Paul Institute for Biblical Theology, wrote an article entitled "The 'Ex Corde College': From the Particular Experience of a Theologian at Aquinas College To General Principles for Application," for the annual meeting of the Cardinal Newman Society college presidents.

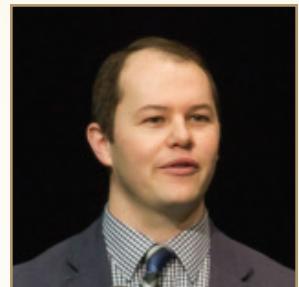
Sister Matthew Marie Cummings, O.P., Professor of Education, authored forewords in two books: *The Hounds of the Lord: Great Dominican Saints Every Catholic Should Know* (Sophia Institute Press, 2015) by Kevin Vost, and *The Timeless Dominic: A Commentary on the O Lumen* (Cluny Media, 2015) by Father Richard Thomas Aquinas Murphy, O.P.

Elizabeth R. Donlon, Ed.D., adjunct in the School of Education, published an article entitled "Choose to Be Slow" on the Nourish Motherhood blog (nourishmotherhood.com). For her ENG 400/500: Children's Literature, Speech, and Drama class, Dr. Donlon has launched a blog in 2014 for students to review works of both modern and classic children's literature. Apart from including a general synopsis, the reviews explore how the books can awaken the child's moral imagination. Visit the blog at donlonchildrenslit.wordpress.com.



Jesse W. Fortney, formerly Vice President for Enrollment Management, has been promoted to Vice President for Institutional Engagement. The new position oversees the Office of Admissions and the Office of Advancement. Jesse arrived at Aquinas in the summer of 2014 with his wife Marsha, son Bradyn (14) and Lainey (9).

Jason Gale, Director of the Catechist Formation Program, received a Master of Arts Degree through the Maryvale Institute (Birmingham, U.K.) in Religious Education and Catechesis. His thesis was on "The Pedagogical Principle of Fidelity to God and Fidelity to Man." Jason, his wife Lisa, and four children moved from his home state of Texas to Tennessee after Jason accepted his position in the summer of 2015.



Teri Hasenour Gordon, adjunct in the School of Business, addressed the Nashville Catholic Business Women's League (NCBWL) in October on the topic "Wills, Trust, and Powers of Attorney: Basic Information Everyone Should Know."

Cathy Hendon, Ed.D., Coordinator of Career Services, published her doctoral dissertation on the topic of "An Analysis of Faculty Advising Support at a Small, Private, Christian University in the Southeast." Cathy assumed her full-time role in January 2016 after serving in a part-time role for the past two years.



Vincent T. Ryan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, had his article "The Sacred & the Profane: Understanding the Motives of the First Crusaders" published in the September-October 2015 issue of *The St. Austin Review*.

Benjamin L. Smith, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Philosophy, presented on "Defining the Common Good: the Beginning of Political Wisdom According to Thomas Aquinas" at the Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies Conference at Villanova University in Philadelphia in October. And in December, the Imaginative Conservative published Dr. Smith's article on "In Defense of the Old Republic: Reclaiming the Common Good."

Sister Thomas More Stepnowski, O.P., Provost and Vice President for Academics, recently had two articles published: "A Distinctive Way of Looking at Things" on Conrad Pepler, O.P. and *Laudato Si* in the March-April issue of *Faith Magazine* in the United Kingdom, and another on "Desire and Wonder: Essential Elements in Catechesis" in the April issue of *The Catechetical Review*.

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES



Larry Crain, A.S. '74 was admitted to Aquinas in 1972 at age sixteen. He graduated Vanderbilt University in 1976 and then completed his law degree in 1980. He has pursued a career in religious liberty and constitutional law, working with national public interest law firms in Washington, D.C. and representing individuals persecuted for their Christian faith in over 26 states. He has taught graduate courses on constitutional law for seminaries and

at the University of Strasbourg, Germany. Larry says of his experience at Aquinas, "It has been an exciting and rewarding career and I am thankful to the sisters at Aquinas for instilling enduring convictions and values during my early adult years."

Jackson Taylor, A.S.N. '96 was recently promoted to Lead Nursing Supervisor at High Point Health Systems in Gallatin.

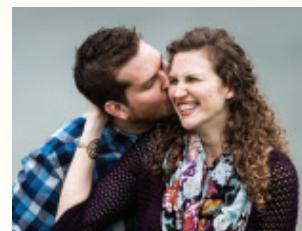
Susan (Ogle) Smith, A.S.N. '05 went on to MTSU to complete her B.S.N. and eventually her M.S.N. in Clinical Informatics. After graduating from Aquinas, she worked at Saint Thomas as an R.N. in the Emergency Department for nine years before

taking her current job at LifePoint Health. Susan recently was promoted to Senior Director, Case Management Clinical Informatics. She is married with a son (10) and a daughter (8). Susan observed, "I loved the nursing program at Aquinas. I can proudly say that program trains the best nurses!"

Thomas Harrison, A.S.N. '06 moved to Chicago after graduation and worked in a Level-I adult and pediatric trauma emergency room. He now lives in Cleveland, Ohio where he works in the heart and lung transplant cardio-thoracic intensive care unit at Cleveland Clinic Hospital. He received his B.S.N. from Ohio University and is married with two daughters.

Margaret Fox, A.S.N. '07 received her B.S.N. from Aquinas in 2015 and currently works as an R.N. at the Nashville VA Medical Center.

Cara (Bergthold) Harrison, A.S.N. '07 writes, "I got married to a wonderful man named Paul and my sister, Cali, gave me my first niece, Eden—much rejoicing all around!"



In Memoriam

Walter Ambrogi, friend of the campus, on September 5.

Grace Ward Hall, friend of the campus, on September 17.

Madelyn Bonds, mother of staff member Joyce Wall, on September 22.

John Evans, father-in-law of faculty member Barbara Evans, on October 7.

Anthony Urbanczyk, father of Dr. Aaron Urbanczyk, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, on October 8.

*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.*



In late October, Aquinas College's president, Sister Mary Sarah, O.P. received a letter from the Most Rev. James D. Conley, Bishop of the Diocese of Lincoln and friend of the campus. The note praised the Aquinas College magazine for highlighting "the good apostolic work being done by you and your community at Aquinas College." He continued, "I am very grateful to be able to support your efforts in providing faithful Catholic education."

Mark your Calendar for Upcoming Events!

Delta Epsilon Sigma Induction April 18

House Olympics April 21

Shakespeare Celebration April 23

Historic Churches Tour May 10

Graduation May 14

Tolkien & Lewis Celebration September 17

For more information
about these and other
events, please visit
aquinascolllege.edu/calendar.

There's Only One Place to be on
the Four Hundredth Anniversary
of Shakespeare's Death

2nd Annual Shakespeare Celebration

Saturday, April 23, 2016 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
St. Cecilia Academy Theater

The Center for Faith & Culture at Aquinas College presents the 2nd Annual Shakespeare Celebration, a full day of talks and performances, featuring **Dale Ahlquist, Joseph Pearce, Kevin O'Brien and Theater of the Word, Dr. Aaron Urbanczyk**, and the drama clubs of St. Cecilia Academy and Father Ryan High School.

There is a suggested donation of \$15 per person

Details at aquinascolllege.edu





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Aquinas College's Convivium fundraiser for student scholarships returned to the Aquinas College campus this year where an ambitious building project is currently underway. Siena Hall, a residence hall for women, is the first new construction on campus in 40 years.