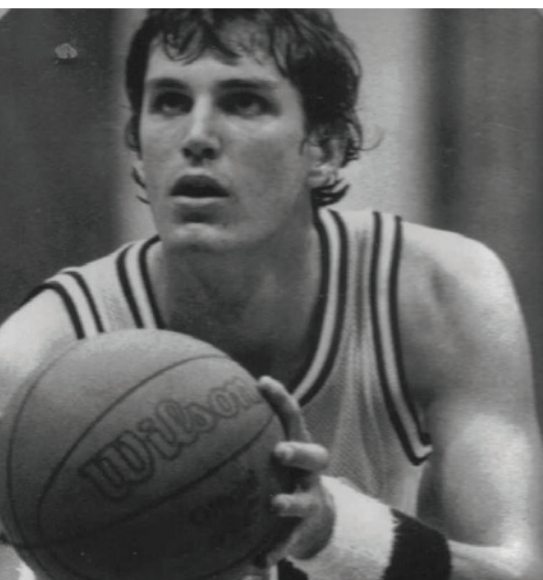
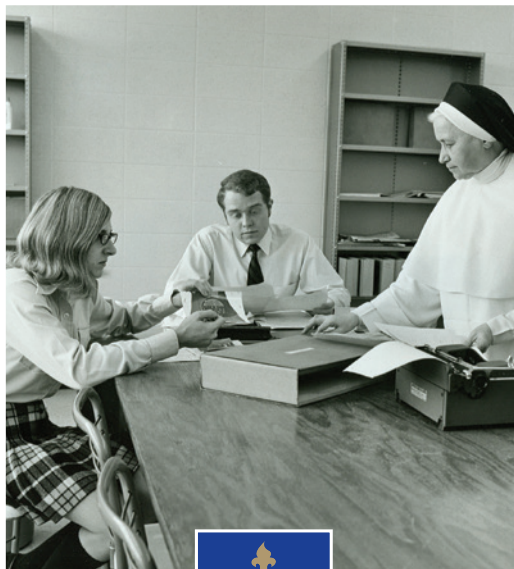


AQUINAS

NASHVILLE, TN

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2022



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(BELOW) Student Body, 1963

(TOP RIGHT) Jazzercise at the Aquinas Center, 1988

(BOTTOM RIGHT) Steve McCarthy teaching U.S. History, 2006



"Let us remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, and look forward to the future with confidence."

— Saint John Paul II

COVER IMAGES:

Top Row (Left to Right)

1. Sister Dominica advises a student, 1963.
2. Sister Cecilia working with library student-workers, 1972.
3. Police sergeant studying in the Aquinas Library, 1980.

Middle Row (Left to Right)

1. Randy Neff shoots a free throw, 1985.
2. Aquinas students participate in a pumpkin-decorating contest, 1996.

Bottom Row (Left to Right)

1. Aquinas students gathering outside The War Memorial Auditorium after graduation, 2016.
2. Peggy Daniel supervises an Aquinas nursing student, 2010.
3. Sister Hannah Rose engages in teaching practicum, 2022.

Dear Friends,

What a joy it is to share with you this anniversary edition of Aquinas Magazine. As we celebrate sixty years since Aquinas College first opened its doors, we give thanks to God for each of the individuals who has played a role in its grace-filled history—alumni, faculty, staff, students, board members, benefactors, and friends of the College. Aquinas College has never been a large educational institution, but it truly has made, and continues to make, a deep and lasting impact on the lives of many.



A comment made by the president of one of our peer institutions this past year has remained with me. After becoming familiar with our mission and meeting a number of our students, faculty, staff, and board members, he told us:

“Never say ‘little Aquinas’ – you have a big God and you’re serving Him in a big way. We will only know in eternity the impact that has been made by Aquinas College.”

Amen. Amen.

In this anniversary year, we recognize with gratitude the accomplishments of our past, immerse ourselves in the graces of the present moment, and eagerly anticipate the blessings the Lord has in store for our future. In order to better communicate the unique mission and identity of Aquinas College, we have redesigned our website (aquinascollege.edu) and we have had a new short video produced, available on the mission page of our website. I hope that you will take some time to explore these new digital tools—and that you will also make time to visit Aquinas in person, to spend some time on campus and browse the historical display we have assembled for this special year.

We have much for which to be grateful at Aquinas College. Our alumni have used the education they received here to witness to Truth and Charity in a wide variety of settings—locally, around the country, and around the world. They bring Christ to children and adults, to students, teachers, patients, colleagues, catechists, and community members. We express our gratitude to God for His goodness in allowing Aquinas College to serve so many of His people through the years, and for bringing us to where we are today, privileged in this sixtieth year since our foundation, to continue our mission of serving the Church by forming individuals prepared to be witnesses to Truth and Charity.

St. Thomas Aquinas, pray for us.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Cecilia Anne Wanner, O.P.

Sister Cecilia Anne Wanner, O.P., *President*

This past fall, Aquinas College baseball alumni gathered at the home of Josephine and Don Cox '75.



Coach Bill Stover



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mr. Clark D. Baker
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Mr. Paschal O'Dwyer
Sister Cecilia Anne Wanner, O.P., *President*
Mr. G. Michael Yopp, *Emeritus*

MISSION STATEMENT

Aquinas College is a Catholic institution of higher education in the Dominican Tradition. The College directs all its efforts to the intellectual, moral, spiritual, and professional formation of the human person in wisdom. Students are formed individually and in Christian community so that the harmonious integration between faith and reason can permeate every dimension of their lives. Immersed in exploring the relationship between human civilization and the message of salvation, the College community embraces the Dominican imperative to preach the Gospel, serve others, and engage culture in truth and charity.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Sister Mary Justin Haltom, O.P.
Peyton Hoge
Harris and Hilliard Photography, LLC
Aquinas College Staff

Dear Friends,

Veritas et Caritas. Truth and Charity. Under this guiding theme, Aquinas College has maintained for the past sixty years a consistent central focus: to serve the Church by forming individuals to be witnesses to Truth and Charity. I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude for the grace of the Holy Spirit which has been at work in the history of Aquinas College, and, through it, in the lives of our students.



The history of Aquinas College begins long before the first stone was laid. Since the founding of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation in 1860, our community has been dedicated in a particular way to the Church's mission of Catholic education. To this end, the Congregation established St. Cecilia Normal School in 1928 as an institution through which the sisters could receive a professional teacher education.

In 1960, as our Congregation celebrated the centennial of its foundation, we began the realization of a dream long-held in the Congregation, to have a place where the young sisters could receive their initial degrees to serve in the teaching apostolate. And so, in 1960 we broke ground for a junior college on the Overbrook property (later to be called The Dominican Campus). In 1961, Aquinas Junior College opened its doors, assuming the purpose of the St. Cecilia Normal School to provide a solid intellectual and professional formation for the young sisters.

From this initial and foundational purpose, the work of Aquinas College has grown, to include educational, professional, and catechetical needs within the Nashville community and beyond, and for this we are grateful. During the course of these grace-filled years, and in addition to its focus on teacher preparation, Aquinas had at one time been able to provide programs in nursing, criminal justice and business. Each program has played an important role in the history of Aquinas College, and every one of our alumni contributes to the legacy of witnessing to Truth and Charity in our world.

May the Lord continue to bless Aquinas College, all those who have played a role in its history over these past sixty years, and all those who will benefit from its gifts in the next sixty years and beyond.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mother Anna Grace Neenan, O.P.

Mother Anna Grace Neenan, O.P. '02
Chair, Board of Directors



A history of AQUINAS COLLEGE IN 7 ARTIFACTS

BY SISTER JEAN MARIE WARNER, O.P. AND VINCENT RYAN, PH.D.

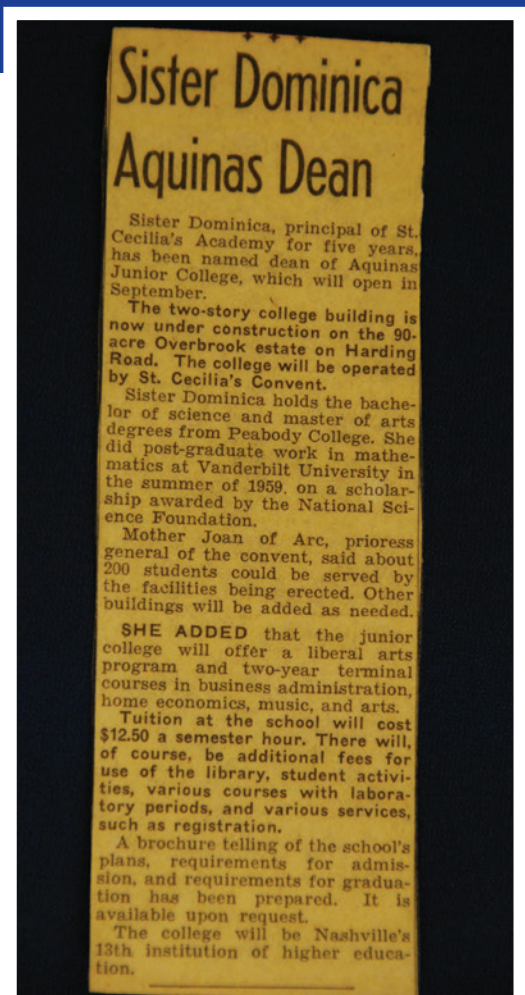
The history of Aquinas College has been related a number of times over the years in formal lectures, informal conversations, Aquinas Magazine articles, and even on the college's website. The fullest treatment of this topic may be found in the book *Ventures Rewarded: Jottings of the History of Aquinas Junior College* (Nashville, 1986) by Sister Aloysius Mackin, O.P., which was produced in conjunction with the College's twenty-fifth anniversary. Currently on display in the atrium of the Aquinas Main building is an exhibit filled with objects, pictures, and mementos reflecting different aspects and eras from the past six decades. Here we would like to recount the history of the College through an exposition on seven items that comprise a small part of this celebratory display.

1. A NEWSWORTHY ANNOUNCEMENT

The founding of Aquinas College in 1961 as a continuation of the Saint Cecilia Normal School cannot be told without Sister Dominica Gobel, O.P., playing a starring role. Begun in 1928, the Normal School was founded to educate the younger sisters in the Congregation. The sisters would receive an Associate of Arts degree from Aquinas Junior College and could receive a two-year teaching license, which was renewable until they earned a bachelor's degree.

This newspaper clipping announced that Sister Dominica was appointed the first Academic Dean. She served in this capacity for 28 years and was vital to the growth of Aquinas in its first decades. In addition to her administrative duties, Sister Dominica taught chemistry and served as the Admissions Director. She also was the main academic advisor in the early days of the College. It is not an exaggeration to say that Sister Dominica knew everyone who went to Aquinas.

The first student body at Aquinas consisted of 50 nursing students from St. Thomas School of Nursing, 13 Dominican sisters, and five lay women. St. Thomas Hospital had a three-year RN Diploma program in which students would take their science and academic courses at Aquinas. Sister Dominica set up a one-year program for the future nurses, even though the College had to borrow the St. Cecilia Academy science lab in order to offer the needed courses. With the addition of two male nursing students, the next year the College became co-educational.



(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

From the beginning of Aquinas Junior College, Sister Dominica began pursuing accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). She and another sister attended meetings in order to discern the steps Aquinas would need to take in order to be an accredited institution of higher education. Full accreditation was obtained in 1971. For a number of years after this, Sister Dominica and Sister Henry Suso Fletcher, O.P., who served as the College's president from 1967 to 1977, would travel to the SACS meetings in Atlanta with representatives from the nearby John A. Gupton College of Mortuary Science. The vehicle taken was a black limousine typically used for funeral processions.

Sister Dominica and Sister Henry Suso were the perfect pair to launch Aquinas Junior College into the spotlight. According to Sister Henry Suso, her job as President was to make Aquinas known throughout Nashville and beyond. During her time leading the College, new programs were added to foster growth and to address existing needs in the Nashville area. A unique course offering during this era was, "The Challenge of Change Confronting Junior Executives." The class met one night a week, featured speakers from the Nashville business community, and included dinner.

By the late 1960s, as the student body grew, it was clear that the College needed more space—especially for a library, since Aquinas had been sharing the St. Cecilia Academy Library. Sister Henry Suso and Sister Dominica proved to be a dynamic duo as they raised funds for this project. The library was opened in the fall of 1969. The only other significant facility Aquinas needed at this time was its own gymnasium. Sister Henry Suso placed this new building campaign under the patronage of St. Jude, the Patron Saint of Hopeless Cases. The gym was completed in 1976 and named the Aquinas Center. With the successful expansion of the facilities on campus, the College was poised to meet the challenges of the coming decades.

2. PROMOTING A NEW PROGRAM

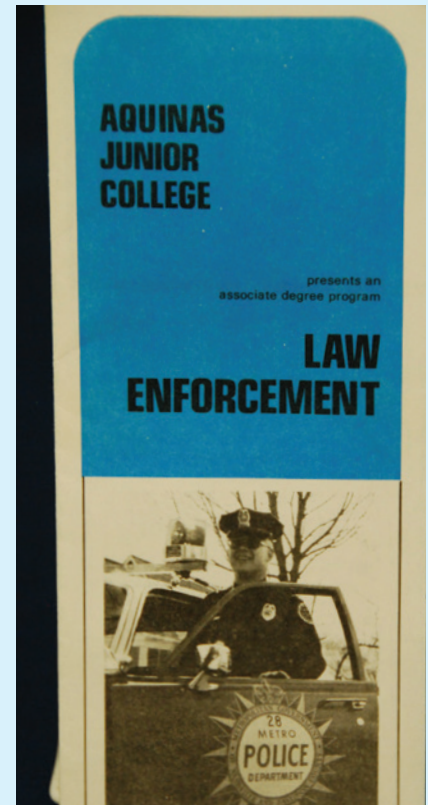
In 1968, Sister Henry Suso and Sister Dominica saw the need to set up a Criminal Justice program to open that fall. The program would give police officers the opportunity to pursue an associate degree. The pictured brochure laid out the specifics of the program and was distributed in the community. The perennial question for Aquinas was, how will this be financed?

Sister Henry Suso and Sister Dominica went to Mayor Beverly Briley's office to enlist his support. The mayor approved the program and announced to the Metro Police Officers that he would pay full tuition for every officer who earned an "A" and half tuition for those who received a "B" in coursework. Those making a "C" would have a third of their tuition covered and those scoring below that were on their own for tuition. In the first class, 45 police officers and one state trooper enrolled. Sister Henry Suso continued to pursue other funding options for the Criminal Justice program and secured federal funds that paid for textbooks. This funding lasted until 1981; the college eventually discontinued the program in 1992.

When classes were in session, the college often resembled a police substation. One Nashville paper referred to the program as "Cops and Nuns!" It was common to have a cruiser parked and running in front of the school and to have an officer dart out of a class to take a call and subsequently drive away from Aquinas with sirens blaring.

One day during the interim session, there were a number of officers in Sister Mary Leonard's health class. There was a loud bang, which Sister thought was a door slamming until all the police officers rushed for the door and told her to stay put. Remarkably, she did stay in the classroom—it must have been their authoritative tone. It turned out that in a nearby class, someone had been demonstrating a new type of rifle and fired a blank. To this day it is not unusual to have a police officer ask a sister if she is from Aquinas.

Besides being a particularly arresting chapter in the College's history, the Criminal Justice program is an example of the various professional programs that Aquinas has provided over the years. Among these have been radiology, dental hygiene, respiratory therapy, business, and the adult studies program. Though these programs have come and gone, they reflect how Aquinas has endeavored to serve the needs of the greater Nashville community throughout the past sixty years. Currently, offerings such as the Certificate in Social and Emotional Learning and the Catechist Formation Program are part of the College's continuing efforts to meet the needs of the wider community.

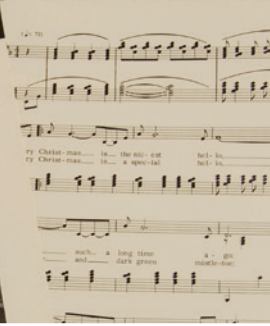


Merry Christmas Is The Nicest Hello

by Barbara Izard
Written for the Aquinas Singers



Merry Christmas Is the Nicest Hello



3. CREATIVE FUNDRAISING

The pictured sheet music was produced in conjunction with the first and only LP record made by the Aquinas Singers—*Merry Christmas Is the Nicest Hello*. Indeed, one of these records was recently unearthed in the archives of the College and was played to much retro-delight at Aquinas this past Christmas season. The record's very existence is a testament to the creative efforts of the driving force behind the Aquinas Singers during the late 1960s and 1970s, Barbara Izard. The eagle-eyed reader examining the sheet music will notice that she is indeed the credited writer of the record's title song. The sales from *Merry Christmas Is the Nicest Hello* went toward the funds being raised for the construction of the Aquinas Center Gymnasium. Copies of the record sold for \$5.00—promoted with the tagline of "Your five dollars will help build the Aquinas Gymnasium"—and ultimately cleared over thirty-five hundred dollars.

This Christmas album recorded by the Aquinas Singers in 1973 serves as an apt illustration of the various plans that the College has embraced to raise the necessary funds to help sustain and further its mission. *Merry Christmas Is the Nicest Hello* was undeniably among the more memorable fundraising endeavors in the College's history. However, there are plenty of other instances of creative angles to generate funds over the past six decades, such as students selling "The World's Finest Chocolate Bars" in 1969 to help raise money for the planned addition to the college's central building or the crowd-funding campaign in 2015 to enable the resurfacing of the tennis courts. Possibly both the longest-lasting and most endearing fundraising ploy involved Sister Dominica and the cart that she kept near the staircase for many years, which was filled with pots of African violets that she sold for \$1.00 each.

During the 1990s and 2000s, the Aquinas Benefit Dinner served as a major fundraising event for the college. Among the impressive roster of speakers for this gathering were John Cardinal O'Connor; George Weigel; Fr. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R.; Fred Dalton Thompson; and Tim Russert (who later made a passing reference to his Aquinas Benefit Dinner speech during an appearance on *The Today Show*).

The resourcefulness and dedication of the faculty, students, and staff as well as the generosity of many benefactors over the years has enabled Aquinas College to continue fulfilling its ongoing mission.

4. CARING & DIGNITY

This Nursing cap is an example of those that were worn by nursing graduates at Aquinas College. In the early years of the Nursing program, a "capping" ceremony occurred for the nursing students following

the completion of their first year of training. While the Nursing cap is no longer worn professionally, it has been memorialized in all the Nursing graduating class portraits that once adorned the hallway walls on the second floor of the Aquinas Main building.



Nursing had been connected to the College from its earliest days. As noted earlier in this article, students from the St. Thomas School of Nursing comprised a major portion of the first group of students at Aquinas in the fall of 1961. While they were pursuing their nursing studies at St. Thomas Hospital, they would take one year of science and liberal arts courses at the College. The diploma program for Nursing at St. Thomas Hospital was discontinued in 1970. This left a need for a Catholic nursing program in Nashville, which the College would fill in the fall of 1983 with the start of its own associate degree in Nursing. For over thirty years it educated a significant portion of the Nashville Metro area's nurses.

Peggy Daniel led the Nursing program at the college for many years. Her insight into nursing education was sharp, dedicated, and faith-filled. As one former Aquinas nursing instructor reflected: "Mrs. Daniel has a special ability to gracefully balance the needs of students and faculty, while supporting the profession of nursing and the Catholic mission of Aquinas College."

The Aquinas Nursing program was a truly Catholic nursing program. The faculty of the Nursing program was committed to providing a culture of learning that fostered Christian caring, moral decision-making, and holistic nursing practices, while modeling high standards of professional nursing. Nursing alumni would frequently remark on how well prepared they were for the professional life that awaited them post-graduation. Aquinas nurses forged a stellar reputation among the medical profession in the mid-state area. Though the Nursing program was discontinued in 2017, it remains one of the most significant chapters in the history of Aquinas, and our Nursing alumni continue to demonstrate their skill, care, and compassion to all those they serve.

5. WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

This large trophy represents the most famous episode in the history of collegiate athletics at Aquinas. On March 24, 1991, Aquinas defeated Arizona Western 74-68 to win the national championship in Men's Junior College Basketball that season. Despite finishing with an overall win-loss record of 32-3, the basketball team was unranked at the end of the regular season. National news stories on the championship game described the Cavaliers as "unheralded" and an "underdog." But as Coach Charlie Anderson reflected in the aftermath of that victory, "I've had great shooters, I've had people that played pretty good defense, I've had people that could rebound pretty good...but this is the first time I've had people who could do all those things."

While winning the national championship was undoubtedly the pinnacle of athletics at the College, the sports program was a notable facet of the college during its first

four decades. Beginning with a women's volleyball club team in the early 1960s, the college added several other club sports teams (such as tennis and men's basketball) during its first decade. By the early 1970s, Aquinas had become a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association, having men's teams in basketball and baseball. As Sister Aloysius observed in *Ventures Rewarded*, "Aquinas Junior College 'Cavaliers' were soon recognized as having a place in the area's sports" (63). The leadership and guidance of Charlie Anderson, Bill Stover, Hunter McCarty, Chuck Anderson, and the many others who coached teams at the College were essential ingredients to achieving this status.

While the Aquinas Cavaliers won their share of trophies over the years, the greatest legacy



of the sports program at Aquinas was not necessarily the on-court or on-field results. These sports teams fostered a sense of community on campus, helped elevate the College's profile throughout the state, and most importantly provided opportunities for the many student-athletes to receive an Aquinas education.

6. CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

The image shown is no ordinary Aquinas College t-shirt. This t-shirt comes from the period when the "house" system was a significant feature of Student Life at Aquinas. Launched during the 2012-2013 academic year, the house system sought to more fully integrate students, faculty, and staff together in the overall community life of the college. There were eight "houses"—four for men and four for women. The houses were named after St Gregory the Great, St. Rose of Lima, St. Michael, St. Joan of Arc, Blessed Jordan of Saxony, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. John Henry Newman, and St. Edith Stein. House activities ranged from social gatherings to service projects to communal prayer or organized lectures.



By far the most popular house activities were the various competitions among the houses. These included a Jeopardy-like competition, a dodgeball tournament (where Dr. Smart demonstrated surprising dexterity), and the annual "Kick-or-Treat" kickball game. The apex of these athletic and intellectual battles was the "House Olympics" near the end of the spring semester, which involved a number of

both traditional and novel events. At the end of the collegiate year, the Cavalier Cup was awarded to the house that accrued the most points from various competitions and activities during the period. Some grumbled that the tabulation of points at times seemed to rely on some opaque Dominican algorithm—but the victorious house never seemed to object.

The house system during the 2010s exemplifies the various manifestations of Student Life that have populated the College's history. Other notable examples include the previously mentioned Aquinas Singers, club sports, the homecoming dances during the 1970s and 1980s, student-performed plays (such as *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Rainmaker*), and the Socratic Club. *The Torch* has periodically been an outlet for student activities at Aquinas. It first came to life in the 1960s as a student paper, then later served as the College's yearbook, and then some time after became a bulletin for student book reviews. Presently, the Student Activities Board plays a leading role in fostering community among the students and the College as a whole through a diverse array of activities.

7. FORMED TO TEACH

Students who are formally inducted into the School of Education receive either the Aquinas Teacher Education pin or a St. Dominic medal. This pin signifies that the teacher candidate has completed the requirements for the next gateway towards student teaching. The student will ultimately graduate with a degree and teacher licensure for the state of Tennessee.

Educating teachers is not a new endeavor for St. Cecilia Congregation. In 1928, the Congregation opened the St. Cecilia Normal School, which provided a two year teacher formation program for the young sisters in the community. The Normal School was affiliated with the Catholic University of America, which allowed the earned course credits to be transferred to a four year institution.

When Aquinas Junior College opened in 1961, the St. Cecilia Normal School was absorbed into the College. Aquinas offered liberal arts courses to the sisters and anyone who wanted to pursue a teaching license; the students would then transfer to a four-year institution for their professional courses. The young sisters went to various colleges and universities to finish their education before beginning to teach. This situation became the standard for the sisters' education until the College was able to offer baccalaureate degrees.

In 1994, Aquinas Junior College officially became Aquinas College when the Teacher Education Program was established. The college awarded a baccalaureate degree in interdisciplinary studies that fulfilled the requirement for elementary licensure in Tennessee. Shortly after the beginning of the program, courses to fulfill the

requirement for secondary licensure in English and History were added. In 2012, Aquinas received approval to offer graduate degrees in education, benefiting both sisters entering with bachelor's degrees as well as laity desiring a second career in education. Within twenty years, Aquinas had become equipped to prepare both sisters and laity to teach in elementary and secondary grades with either an undergraduate or graduate pathway.



In addition to degree programs, the School of Education offers ongoing teacher formation through in-person workshops, virtual webinars, and certificate programs geared to further the professional knowledge and skills of teachers. Topics include literacy, social and emotional skills, classroom management, and Catholic identity.

From the beginning, the Aquinas College Teacher Education Program has embraced its motto, "Gift and Mission." At the center of the program has always been the understanding that teaching is a unique vocation and a special privilege as we follow in the footsteps of Christ the Teacher. The students are led to see the importance of recognizing goodness, truth and beauty both in nature and in the world in general. The students acquire a deeper understanding of the human person as understood by the Catholic Church, particularly through the teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas. Field experience placements allow the students to observe and learn the best practices of education from the master teachers in the local schools. As Aquinas College enters its next decade, it continues to form all graduates, particularly the next generation of educators, to witness to Truth and Charity for the salvation of souls and the transformation of culture.



Down Memory Lane

“[I remember] the beautiful campus and so many dear friends. When I stepped on campus for the first time in August of 1972 my world would change forever. I had to learn how to work and to work hard in school. Many life lessons were given to me. Aquinas helped me prepare for a career in education—a career that would last for thirty-two years.”

—WILLIAM BYRN '74



The Most Reverend William L. Adrian, Bishop of Nashville, presided at the Aquinas Junior College groundbreaking in August 1960.

Vignettes

from the *Annals*
of Aquinas College

Aquinas College has had its share of memorable people and episodes during its first sixty years. What follows are some inspiring and entertaining anecdotes and vignettes that provide a window into college life at Aquinas (and hopefully trigger some memories from our alumni readers).

SISTER DOMINICA GOBEL, O.P.

Sister Dominica came to Aquinas as an experienced educator who had taught both elementary and high school students at St. Cecilia Academy when it was located at the Motherhouse. She was the first principal of St. Cecilia Academy after it moved to the Dominican Campus. She had the task of inaugurating new traditions at the high school while keeping those that were characteristic of St. Cecilia Academy. This was valuable experience as she took the helm of a new institution and forged new programs and traditions.



Every student who attended Aquinas during Sister's many years as Academic Dean became quickly acquainted with Sister Dominica. She definitely knew all of them. Sister Dominica could recall a person's name and year of graduation when she met them years later. She had an amazing memory for names and faces. One year at Nashville's Oktoberfest a man working one of the booths approached Sister, wondering, "I'd like to ask you something. Did you teach every man in Nashville?" At times it certainly felt like she knew, taught, or was related to everyone in Nashville.

Sister's devotion to the College continued well into her retirement. She continued to be a fixture at every home basketball game. One sister recalls that while visiting Sister Dominica's room in the infirmary, Sister began to instruct her on acquiring textbooks for a class. She would also repurpose greeting cards, sell them, and give the money to the College. During her retirement years, Sister Dominica was always interested in hearing about Aquinas College or any of the many students she had known.

SISTER HENRY SUSO FLETCHER, O.P.

Sister Henry Suso became the president of Aquinas in 1967 and served in this position for the next ten years. She was a native of Chattanooga and was educated by the Dominican sisters at Notre Dame High School. She was a born optimist and had an adventuresome spirit. During her time leading the College, Sister Henry Suso was determined to make Aquinas known in the Nashville community. To that end, she began professional programs and opportunities for enrichment that might be of interest to people in the community. Sister Henry Suso was also the force behind the professional degree

programs that were begun at Aquinas. In 1974, she was one of six women chosen by the Davidson County Business and Professional Women's Club for excellence in their chosen field.

Sister Henry Suso loved to plan teas and parties. She began the President's Tea for incoming freshmen at the beginning of the year. She had a group of ladies who were willing to bring their china and silver to be used for the occasion. In an interview with *The Torch*, Sister Henry Suso stated that her goal was to provide for the individual needs of the students with varied opportunities for them during their time at Aquinas.



THE ENGLISH FACULTY

The College has had a number of talented and memorable English instructors over the years. Many a student sat in a classroom marveling at Sister Mary Dominic Pitts' elaborately diagrammed sentences that filled the chalkboards. Prior to becoming a Dominican sister, Sister Mary Dominic was an English Professor at Auburn University, which undoubtedly accounts for her robust support for that institution's various teams. One of her former fellow Aquinas faculty members still adamantly maintains that he once heard a holler of 'War Eagle!' emanate from her office during college football season.

Dominican sisters have often filled the ranks of the English faculty since the fall of 1961. Sister Mary Bernard Curran, though small in stature, looms largely in the recollections of many alumni from the 1970s and 1980s. The premium she placed on punctuality became legendary among the students. One student recalled that he was caught speeding in

order to get to Sister Mary Bernard's class on time. He was stopped by a police officer and tried to explain that it was imperative that he arrived



Mrs. Jane Sullivan



Sister Mary Dominic, O.P. and Dr. Katherine Haynes

in time for the class. The police officer asked, "Is this for Sister Mary Bernard's class?" The student responded in the affirmative. The police officer said, "I had her at Aquinas, so follow me and I will get you to class on time." The student arrived on time with a police escort complete with sirens blaring!

John Pritchard was known for engaging at times in some rather inventive pedagogy in the classroom. Long before the film *Dead Poets Society* (a movie, it should be noted, that was purportedly inspired by the screenwriter's experience at a certain all-boys prep school across the road from Aquinas) made it seem like an avant-garde teaching tactic, Professor Pritchard was reciting poetry while standing on the desk

in his classroom. He was also known for making Shakespeare come alive with his mini-performances in class of sections of *Macbeth* (and other plays) where he would do different voices for the various characters in the section of the play he was covering in class that day.

Jane Sullivan taught British literature at the college. She was always impeccably dressed, complete with her signature French twist hairstyle. She always began her class with the prayer: "May the meditations of my heart and the words of my mouth be pleasing to you, O God." Though sometimes she could not understand why her students were not enamored by the Romantic poets, she had a soft spot for the police officers in

her class—many of whom had never taken British literature. One of the unexpected challenges she faced was having to convince them not to make their English papers sound like police reports! Mrs. Sullivan was always available for individual help. One thing was obvious about Mrs. Sullivan: she wanted the students in her class to succeed.

“The play’s the thing,” wrote Shakespeare. Katherine Haynes certainly embraced the meaning of this famous line in her years at the College. She directed the final performance by the Aquinas Players in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. The students in her World Literature: Tragedy & Comedy course had ample opportunity to get over

any lingering notions of stage fright, as they were required to perform excerpts from plays (by Shakespeare, Aristophanes, Oscar Wilde, and others) and occasionally their own original work. The sisters seemed to especially enjoy the opportunity to design costumes and props for these in-class productions.

ATHLETICS

Sister Dominica Gobel and Sister Mary Leonard Colorigh were among the most ardent fans of the sports teams at the College. Every evening that the Cavaliers played basketball, Sister Dominica and Sister Mary Leonard could be found in the bleachers rooting for the team.

Sister Dominica’s love of athletics was a major force in the establishment of basketball and baseball teams at the College. Her robust support for these teams [memorably captured in the photo on this page] was sometimes even recognized by opposing coaches. Before a basketball game against Volunteer State Community College, that team’s coach commented to her, “Now don’t go rubbing those beads, Sister; it gives your team an unfair advantage.”

Sister Mary Leonard’s fandom for the teams was famous for sometimes spilling over into the classroom. One former Aquinas baseball player recalled being chastised in Biology class for not running out a ground ball at the most recent game. Another baseball player treasures the memory of Sister Mary Leonard dismissing class early on a day when a World Series game was taking place in 1972. After dismissal, Sister invited students to watch the game with her. Following the basketball team’s triumph in the Junior College National Championship title game in 1991, Sister Mary Leonard with plenty of exuberance and a dash of humor reflected, “Everyone kids me about being the unofficial coach because in class I tell the players the mistakes they made in the games. Tomorrow I’ll tell them they’re the greatest.”

Speaking of that championship, a prayerful moment by Coach Charlie Anderson at the



end of the previous season may have had a role in setting the stage for the Cavaliers’ great triumph in the 1990-1991 basketball season. As Coach Anderson explained, “I’d always pray ‘don’t get hurt,’ ‘let us see Christ in our play’ – things like that. But for some reason, I said ‘Lord, I’d appreciate it if you’d give me the people who can win that thing.’”

Finding the proper location on the Dominican Campus for a baseball field proved more challenging than anticipated. In March 1974, the Aquinas baseball team played its first game on its own field. But what a crash! During the game, a baseball went through one of the windows at nearby Overbrook School. It was deemed best to move the field—though brief consideration was given to installing unbreakable glass windows at Overbrook.

The decision was made to build a field in a more remote part of campus down by the train tracks. The dirt that was needed to level out this area so that a proper baseball field could be constructed was provided by various contractors who needed a location to dump dirt they had excavated. For the next few months, dump truck after dump truck was seen crossing the campus daily. This ultimately became Edmund Field, named after Mr. Edmund Notebaert, who was a major benefactor for this project. Recalling the early days of Edmund Field, one former Aquinas baseball player reminisced: “One other memory that I’ll never forget is when we dedicated the new baseball field and Jim Turner, pitching coach of the New York Yankees and Hall of Fame member, threw out the game ball to me. What an honor!”

THE NURSING PROGRAM

Part of the formalities marking the beginning of the Nursing degree program at Aquinas in August 1983 included a gathering of 400 people at the creek which separates Aquinas from St. Thomas Hospital. They were there to witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opening the newly constructed bridge, which enabled easy access between the two institutions. That bridge would quickly become an iconic symbol of nursing education at Aquinas.

The 'bridging' ceremony was an important milestone in the progression of the Aquinas nursing students toward the completion of their degree. Those students who were embarking on their first day of clinicals would arrive on campus in their bright white student nursing uniforms. Led by their respective clinical instructor, they would cross the bridge that connected the Aquinas campus to St. Thomas Hospital. As one administrator recollected, "It was like the instructors were walking the students over to embrace their profession." Usually the other members of the faculty and staff at the college would be on hand to applaud this significant step in the students' formation as nurses.

Recalling the heyday of the Nursing program, one sister remembers hearing a raucous din one afternoon while working in her office. She looked out her door to investigate the source of this noise, only to witness a stampede of nursing students running up and down the stairs. The students were attempting to increase their heart rate in conjunction with a practice session on learning how to take one's pulse. Sister returned to her office, relieved that the building was not, in fact, about to collapse.

One day in class during the early 1990s, a student suddenly collapsed. Several of the nursing instructors leapt immediately into action to provide CPR and check his vital signs. The entrance to The Dominican Campus was less pronounced at the time, and there was concern that the emergency vehicles en route might get lost, so a slew of nursing students hurried outside to help flag these vehicles, spacing themselves along the drive to direct the paramedics to their destination on the campus. The



collaborative, instinctual actions of those nursing instructors and students were crucial to the young man's survival.

Lydia Grubb was one of the longest-serving nursing instructors at Aquinas. Like many of the faculty in this program, she was a capable educator and a paragon of professionalism. She was also known for being very thorough, especially in her evaluation of the performance of students during their clinical shifts. One Aquinas nursing alumna affectionately remembers being on the receiving end of one of these inspections: "I was pretty proud of the work I had done. At the very end of the inspection, Mrs. Grubb flipped the patient over and gasped. I was not sure what had occurred, but I knew it was 'post-conference worthy'. She informed me that I had left a Band-Aid on the patient. Then the questions started, 'What was that Band-Aid for? What was under the Band-Aid? Was the skin in good condition? Why had I chosen not to remove it?' It is true, I had left the Band-Aid on and carefully washed around it. Goodness, I just knew if someone had taken the trouble to put a Band-Aid on someone's back, it must have been very important. Who was I to remove that Band-Aid? Later on, I realized the patient had a spinal tap and the Band-Aid could have been removed. I was able to 'share with the class' what I had learned during our next class lecture. To this day, Band-Aids on my patients (or my children) come off immediately when their use is no longer needed. I will forever

be grateful that Mrs. Grubb instilled an eye for detail in us all. It made me a better nurse and clinical instructor!"

Occasionally, the nursing faculty were used for informal consultations by some of their Aquinas co-workers. A faculty member who had sustained minor yet impressive injuries after wrecking his mountain bike approached Peggy Daniel, the director of the Nursing program, asking her to take a look at his injuries. Instead he received a much deserved lecture on perpetual immaturity and the drawbacks of the Y chromosome. She emphasized that it would be better for his wife and unborn son if he was in one piece—adding that while her specialty was mental health nursing, a critical care nurse would be better for dealing with his current injuries. Subsequently, he sheepishly sought out the necessary orthopedic care. After this scolding, he was a little reticent to go back to Mrs. Daniel's office for a while, though the lure of free potato chips (available to all visitors) overcame this hesitation. 🍟

Special thanks to the alumni, faculty, and staff who shared these recollections. We are also indebted to *Ventures Rewarded* by Sister Aloysius Mackin, O.P. Further reflections from alumni and friends are welcome. Please send to communications@aquinascollege.edu or visit www.aquinascollege.edu/alumni/share-your-story.

the *little building* that could!

BY SISTER ELIZABETH ANNE ALLEN, O.P., Ed.D.

When England was faced with reconstructing Parliament's Commons Chamber following its destruction during World War II, some favored a newer semi-circular design that many other legislative bodies were adopting. They claimed the old rectangular divided chamber was too adversarial. Winston Churchill settled the issue when he suggested that the divided chamber had contributed to the development of Britain's vital two-party system and remarked, "We shape our buildings; thereafter, they shape us." If that statement is true, then the small white building, originally built to serve as a carriage house, has contributed significantly to Aquinas College.

The structure is located between the Campus White House and the Aquinas Main Building and had served as the kindergarten classroom for Overbrook School. As Overbrook expanded and Aquinas opened, it became the science lab for the College. It was named in honor of the teacher of Saint Thomas Aquinas: the Dominican saint, scientist and bishop, Saint Albert the Great. Albertus Magnus Science Laboratory became Sister Mary Leonard's domain.

As the nursing program developed, the need for additional laboratory space became apparent. The main building was remodeled to include a larger science lab and the little white building was altered to serve as a kind of "mini-student center" which the students dubbed the "Snak [sic] Bar." That remained its purpose for years, undergoing a few renovations, but always providing a place for student gatherings, meals, fellowship and conversation.

In 2013, the students on the Activities Board were asked a general question: If they could have any facility in order to

have a richer student experience, what would they desire? The answer was unexpected. One of the students remarked, "We have talked about that. We want an Adoration Chapel."

The administration eagerly honored this request and, once again, the small white house was repurposed. In 2014, the beautifully remodeled building was blessed and the Blessed Sacrament reserved there. Corpus Christi Adoration Chapel now fulfills its most special purpose yet.

In a recent discussion with a group of Aquinas alumni, the question was asked what made the Aquinas experience so unique. The immediate, resounding and unanimous response was, "the sense of community we had there."

One of the distinguishing characteristics of a Catholic school, regardless of the grade levels it encompasses, is that it is animated by a spirit of communion and community. The little white building, in a way, substantiates that statement. Whatever its use, that building has helped to foster the spirit of community and communion which gives an institution its life. When serving as a classroom, an academic community worked and learned there. As a snack bar, it was a place of gathering where people developed the bonds of friendship. Now, as a campus adoration chapel, it provides a space for communion with God and for prayer for one another.

Throughout the history of Aquinas College, this small building, itself shaped in a variety of ways, has helped to shape the Aquinas community so that we have the grace to witness to *Veritas et Caritas*. This Truth and Charity, in turn, can help shape the world around us. 🇺🇸





ST. THOMAS AQUINAS WEEK CELEBRATION

JANUARY 24-28, 2022

BY SISTER MARY ESTHER POTTS, O.P.

The Aquinas College community celebrated the feast of its patron saint during this Sexagennial year of its founding with a week of intellectual nourishment. The

week's first course was served by former president of the College Sister Mary Agnes Greiffendorf, O.P. with a talk entitled "The Story of St. Cecilia Normal School, Precursor to Aquinas College." This presentation vividly demonstrated the College's roots in the St. Cecilia Normal School, a program for teacher preparation run at St. Cecilia Motherhouse from 1928 until Aquinas College's founding in 1961. During that period, this program provided solid instruction and teacher certification via its affiliation to the Catholic University of America for the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, in lieu of comparable instruction at the local, non-Catholic universities or colleges. Since before the founding of Aquinas College, no Catholic institution of higher education existed in Middle Tennessee, the Dominican Sisters deemed it necessary to create their own program, and thus form their young sisters in a philosophy of education of the human person in harmony with the Catholic faith. Since Aquinas College remains the only Catholic institution of higher education in Middle and East Tennessee, it continues to have the only teacher preparation program in the area that gives

an intellection and professional formation integrated with Faith and imbued with the Catholic intellectual tradition to future educators, including the newest members of the Dominic Sisters.

The rich intellectual fare of St. Thomas Aquinas Week continued with a talk given to the Aquinas faculty and staff by Father John Corbett, O.P. on virtue and education. This presentation ruminated on the virtue of fortitude and how it comes into play in the Catholic educational effort. In previous talks given in the fall, Father Corbett focused on the role of the virtues of prudence and justice in education.

The height of the week-long feast was the annual Mass in honor of St. Thomas Aquinas, open to the public and celebrated by the Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding, Bishop of Nashville. Father Mark Chrismer and Father Corbett concelebrated. As homilist, Father Corbett further treated the Aquinas community and guests to a robust reflection on the qualities that make St. Thomas aptly titled the Angelic Doctor. The sacred banquet of the Mass was then followed by a festive Italian luncheon worthy of the Neapolitan saint. The week concluded with an evening lecture by Father Corbett at St. Cecilia Motherhouse, to which all were invited. In this lecture, Father Corbett diagnosed

contemporary issues of sins of speech and prescribed a healing of the mind from fear by pondering Scripture and living a virtuous life.

These events in honor of St. Thomas Aquinas enriched the College community as it celebrates its sixty-year anniversary. Those wishing to taste the lectures offered during the course of the week may find recordings of Sister Mary Agnes's presentation and Father Corbett's Friday evening lecture on the Aquinas College YouTube channel. [▶](#)





The Mission Continues: SENT TO WITNESS

BY SISTER CECILIA ANNE WANNER, O.P. AND JASON GALE

The Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities given to us by Pope Saint John Paul II, *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, states that “[b]y its very nature, each Catholic University makes an important contribution to the Church’s work of evangelization. It is a living institutional witness to Christ and his message.”

Aquinas College is uniquely situated to contribute to the Church’s work of evangelization. The programs at Aquinas support the work of Catholic education by offering high quality professional teacher formation that is rooted in Thomistic anthropology. The current vision of Aquinas College can be summarized in its tagline, “Formed to Teach, Sent to Witness.”

Aquinas College finds its place in the heart of the Church, called to serve Catholic education by offering students a holistic, human formation in the liberal arts as well as professional formation to prepare them to serve as Catholic educators.

Since the founding of the Dominican Order over 800 years ago, members of the Order of Preachers have sought to bring the Truth of Christ to others through teaching and preaching. Aquinas College continues the mission to evangelize the world through Catholic education. The original purpose for the foundation of Aquinas College was the education of the sisters, the purpose that it has fulfilled for 60 years. Our preaching, teaching, and sending forth to witness is the fruit of fidelity and prayer. Aquinas has the unique privilege of imparting to the sisters an intellectual and professional formation that offers them the tools they need to

bring Christ into the schools in which they will serve.

In considering how best to serve the needs of Catholic education, we look to the needs of Catholic schools today. We realize that now, more than ever, the presence of consecrated religious is truly invaluable in schools. As stated so well by the Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education:

Through schools, men and women religious educate, help young people to grasp their own identity and to reveal those authentic needs and desires that inhabit everyone’s heart, but which often remain unknown and underestimated: thirst for authenticity and honesty, for love and fidelity, for truth and consistency, for happiness and fullness of life. These are desires which in the final analysis converge in the supreme human desire: *to see the face of God.*¹

At the same time, faithful lay teachers are also called forth to witness in Catholic schools, providing an “irreplaceable contribution” to the sanctification of the world by making Christ known to all, as they “seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God’s will.”²

Aquinas College’s program of studies is extended from its founding purpose in the invitation to lay students to study with the sisters. In this, we allow the beautiful and rich overflow of our educational program to be given to others, providing a means for lay students to receive the same high quality intellectual and professional formation that the sisters are privileged to receive. We invite anyone who shares in our vision to be formed alongside the sisters. By providing an education in the liberal arts that encourages a deep formation in the teaching charism of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation, Aquinas College prepares its students to be teachers and leaders in schools and communities.

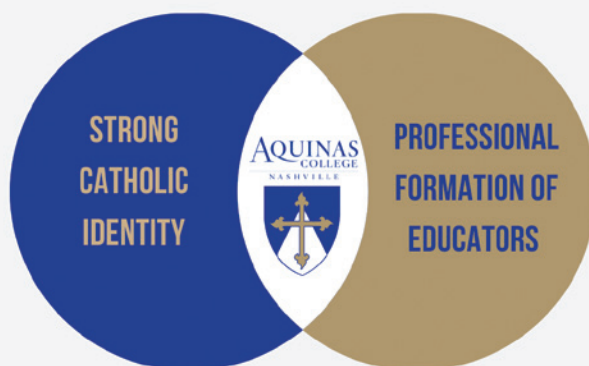
A unique feature in Aquinas’ formation of professional educators is a deliberate focus on Catholic Social and Emotional Learning. This is highly needed after the isolation many have experienced from the coronavirus pandemic. Aquinas is on the

1. Congregation for Catholic Education, *Consecrated Persons and Their Mission in Schools: Reflections and Guidelines*, 2002, no. 18.

2. Congregation for Catholic Education, *Educating Together in Catholic Schools: A Shared Mission Between Consecrated Persons and the Lay Faithful*, 2007, no. 30.

3. Vatican Council II, *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church: Lumen Gentium*, 1964, no. 31.

Aquinas College is a leader in the formation of educators who are sent forth to teach, preach, and witness to Truth and Charity for the salvation of souls and the transformation of culture.



“the Christian is to the world what the soul is to the body. As the soul is present in every part of the body, while remaining distinct from it, so Christians are found in all the cities of the world, but cannot be identified with the world.” Our sisters and graduates are present in the world to orient it back to God from Whom it came. This is what is wanted and needed in the Church today. And it is to this that Aquinas College directs all of its resources. We strive daily to continue to enter into this vision ever more deeply and fully. 🙏

cutting edge, as seen by psychology classes that address how to meet the social and emotional needs of the student from a Thomistic perspective. Children’s and adolescent literature classes are designed to support this Catholic perspective, providing a foundation in books that uphold the dignity of the human person and inspire

students to lead virtuous lives. Aquinas has developed a Graduate Certificate in Catholic Social and Emotional Learning to support current teachers and those already in the education program.

In an early Christian writing entitled “The Letter to Diognetus,” the author states,

The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation number around 300 sisters. These sisters serve over 16,500 students in 52 schools throughout the United States, and in Australia, Canada, The Netherlands, Italy, Ireland, and Scotland. The sisters receive their professional formation at Aquinas College.



Down Memory Lane

“Dr. Peters taught us to be empathetic towards people with differences/ disabilities. She had us visit multiple special education institutions throughout Nashville. It was my first real introduction into the world of special education. I had no idea how that would later influence my life personally as I am now homeschooling my own son with Down syndrome. My four years at Aquinas provided some of the absolute happiest times of my life, and I cherish all the memories I have from Aquinas College. The time I spent studying elementary education prepared me for what is now my full-time job of homeschooling my own six children, to include one with special needs.”

—SARA BEACH HEROD '08

DOUBLE THE

celebration!

Aquinas College had an opportunity for heightened festivities on May 12, 2021, as graduates received their diplomas.

Due to coronavirus precautions, the 2020 graduation ceremony had been postponed, resulting in double the celebration in 2021 as Aquinas College held Commencement exercises for both the Class of 2020 and the Class of 2021. Of the 23 graduates honored on this day, over half were able to be in attendance.

The day's celebration began with a Baccalaureate Mass celebrated by Bishop J. Mark Spalding at St. Ann's Church in Nashville. Commencement ceremonies followed the Mass.

For those graduates completing a graduate degree, faculty members of the School of Education placed the Master's hood on each of the graduates. This action welcomes them as colleagues in the teaching profession. Ten graduates were hooded by Sister Matthew Marie, Ed.D., and Betsy Donlon, Ed.D.

The audience included the third grade class from St. Ann's School, who attended the ceremony to watch their teacher, Mrs. Alison Marie Derner, receive her degree—a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)—and be hooded by her professors.

After the Commencement ceremonies, a festive reception was held at the Aquinas Center on the Aquinas College campus. Aquinas College is pleased to recognize the academic achievements of its newest alumni, the graduates of the Classes of 2020 and 2021. 🙏



CENTER for
EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS
at AQUINAS COLLEGE

Come, follow me/Ven, sígueme

Catechetical Conference

JUNE 10-11, 2022

AQUINAS COLLEGE
NASHVILLE, TN

COST: \$35/PERSON

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

Housing is available
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This Catechist Formation Conference will prepare catechists to use the "Come, Follow Me" method and materials. Presentations will be bilingual in Spanish and English as the materials are now available in Spanish. "Come, Follow Me" is a beautiful catechetical method that helps children. It was developed by members of Notre Dame de Vie Institute in France and has received the imprimatur for catechetical use.



PRESENTER:

Sister Hyacinthe Defos du Rau, O.P. of the Dominican Sisters of St. Joseph of Lymington is coming from England to teach the method. Sister Hyacinthe forms catechists in the Come, Follow Me catechetical methods throughout the U.K.

REGISTER TODAY AT:
<https://www.aquinascollege.edu>

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

BETSY DONLON, Ed.D.

A reflection by Dr. Betsy Donlon on her professional journey

Teaching is my passion. I see such beauty in the moment when a lightbulb goes off for a child. I am truly grateful to my own teachers who were excellent models for me of what it means to make a difference in the life of a child. I became a college professor to be a part of the crucial step at the beginning of teachers' journeys during their preparation for the classroom, when they are learning to teach and learning how to make an impact on their students.

I was drawn to Aquinas College because of its focus not only on how to be a teacher or even what you are teaching, but on who you are and whom you are teaching. What Aquinas College offers and lives out on a daily basis is a model of teaching the whole child, forming authentic relationships with students, and growing not only in academic ability, but also in virtue.

The faculty and staff at Aquinas College are dedicated to its mission and serve as witnesses to Truth and Charity each and every day. Consequently, as our teacher candidates are learning how to teach, they are seeing beautiful examples of teaching modeled by their own professors. Because of our small class sizes at Aquinas College, we have a relationship with each of our students and we know his or her learning styles, interests, and professional goals. We tailor our instruction and feedback accordingly.

I'm so grateful to be a part of the learning community—and it is truly a community—at Aquinas College, where collaboration and companionship abound as we together seek Truth. 🙏



Dr. Betsy Donlon has served as an Assistant Professor of Education at Aquinas College since the Fall of 2014. Dr. Donlon teaches courses including Literacy through Learning; Methods in Teaching Language Arts, Social Studies and Culture; Children's Literature; Methods of Instruction for Secondary Teachers; and Modes of Instruction. She also supervises student teachers and job-embedded practice candidates and serves as edTPA Coordinator and Coordinator for the School of Education Literacy Center.

“Dr. Donlon embodies all that she encourages others to be—someone who truly ‘teaches with abandon’, celebrates learning hurdles, and trusts that God is working through her, through her students, and through all that ‘today’ brings.”

SISTER ANNA JOY
TIPTON, O.P. '21

Witness



Inspire



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JUNE 28- JULY 1, 2022

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WHERE: Siena Hall, Aquinas College, Nashville

WHO: Individuals and school teams serving and supporting the mission of Catholic education

QUESTIONS:

Sister Elizabeth Anne, O.P., Ed.D.
Director, Center for Catholic Education
sreanne@aquinascollege.edu
615-297-7545 ext. 471



CENTER for
CATHOLIC EDUCATION
at AQUINAS COLLEGE

A TRIBUTE TO *Sister Mary Leonard:*

Loving students in the classroom and on the athletic field

Dubbed "Queen of the Biological Sciences," Sister Mary Leonard reigned in the Biology classroom from the founding of Aquinas College in 1961 until 1994.

During that time, Sister conducted the biology and anatomy labs in their original location and oversaw the remodeling of the present biology lab. Sister will always be remembered for the life lessons learned in her classroom and the love she had for each student at Aquinas.

Because biology was part of the general education core, Sister Mary Leonard had a great deal of influence on every student who passed through the doors of Aquinas College. Sister loved her students and held them to the high standards so characteristic of her own life. Not finding suitable lab books, Sister wrote her own. She desired the success of each student; she wanted all to love the science that she was privileged to teach. Sister always began class promptly and lectured to the end of the period. She worked with struggling students with the encouraging words, "I knew you could get it!"

During part of her time at Aquinas College, Sister Mary Leonard served as the Dean of Students. She could spot a male student wearing a hat in the building at 100 yards! She would simply take the cap and put it in her office.

Sister Mary Leonard was an avid fan of the Aquinas sports teams and had a soft spot for the athletes. She attended all the

home basketball games and baseball games. She knew all the players because she had them in class.

Sister was not beyond critiquing a basketball or baseball player's performance from a recent game at the beginning of class. She would ask: "Why can't you hit those free throws?" or "Why didn't you go for the base hit?" If the team was behind at half time, Sister Mary Leonard would go into the locker room and encourage the players by saying, "You all are wonderful! Now go out there and play your best, because that will give honor both to you as well as the College." Many team members have memories of Sister at the games cheering for a win.

Sister Mary Leonard is the only surviving member of the original sisters who opened the college in 1961. 🙏



To honor Sister Mary Leonard's service and dedication to Aquinas College, we are pleased to announce the establishment of the Sister Mary Leonard Scholarship Fund. This endowed fund will provide tuition assistance to Aquinas College students.

The Sister Mary Leonard Scholarship joins others, including:

THE SISTER HENRY SUSO SCHOLARSHIP

THE SISTER DOMINICA SCHOLARSHIP

THE J. RANDALL WYATT, JR. SCHOLARSHIP

THE JUDGE WILLIAM R. BAKER SCHOLARSHIP

We ask that you prayerfully consider a donation to help establish the Sister Mary Leonard Scholarship Fund, or that you contribute to one of the other scholarship funds that has already been established. Please simply indicate your fund of preference when you make your gift. A contribution to any of these scholarships recognizes and memorializes the individual for whom the scholarship was named.

Please keep in mind that 100 percent of full time students at Aquinas College who apply for financial aid receive assistance. Thanks to the generosity of those who contribute to these funds, students are given the financial support needed to be able to attend Aquinas College today.



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Your generosity makes an impact at Aquinas College:

† ENDOWMENT.

Consider leaving a legacy for many generations to come by giving to the Aquinas College Endowment Fund. An endowment is a fundamental aspect of any college's success. Endowment funds can be specified for a particular purpose, such as scholarship aid or facility maintenance, or can be applied toward the general endowment fund.

† FACILITIES.

Your gift toward facility improvements will allow the College to continue to offer an environment conducive to learning. Current needs include replacement of components of the HVAC system, new windows, and energy-efficient lighting. Your generosity will ensure that buildings and grounds are appropriately maintained both now and well into the future. Please contact Aquinas College if you would like to sponsor a specific project.

† SCHOLARSHIP AID.

As a private institution that does not accept federal or state funding, *Aquinas College depends upon independent sources of funding to provide financial assistance*, both for students preparing to become future teachers and for current educators who seek opportunities for professional development and formation in Catholic identity.

† UNRESTRICTED GIFTS.

Support the mission of Aquinas College by making either a one-time gift or a recurring gift to be applied to Aquinas' greatest area of need. This includes support for our library, technology, faculty salaries, teaching resources, student support services, and other areas.

Scan the QR code below with your smartphone camera to donate online!



Down Memory Lane

“Aquinas changed my life...I remember well Sister Mary Leonard, who taught me biology. I also remember the late Sister Mary Bernard, who taught me English. Bill Parker, who taught me criminal justice, was also an excellent professor. My studies at Aquinas had a tremendous impact on my life and prepared me for my professional career in Criminal Justice. Aquinas will always be family to me...I was well trained at Aquinas for a career in law enforcement from the age of 21 until retirement at age 63...I have been very proud to serve my country by working with the CIA.”

—SARAH CREECH '78

“After being convinced by a friend that teaching was my calling, I decided to pursue a degree in education at Aquinas. I was already in my mid-forties, so I thought that going back to college would be a frightening and intimidating venture. Choosing Aquinas was one of the best decisions I ever made. Beginning each class with a prayer brought such peace over me. The teachers at Aquinas prepared me to complete 15 years of touching kids' lives and truly making a difference in their education. I am forever grateful.”

—DONOVAN CABALLERO '05



Aquinas College honors Steve Bachus as an inductee into the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association (TICUA) Class of 2021 Hall of Fame. Steve and his wife Jill are pictured with Sister Cecilia Anne, O.P., President of Aquinas College.



This photo appeared in the 1980 Aquinas yearbook with the caption, "Bachus Bounces High!"

ADVANCING THE MISSION

STEVE BACHUS '80

The relationship between Steve Bachus '80 and Aquinas College began over 40 years ago when Steve received a basketball scholarship to what was then known as Aquinas Junior College. He played two seasons for the Cavaliers while studying accounting. He remembers "studying in a van full of basketball players on the way home from away games." Such diligence not only led to his graduating with honors in 1980, but also characterized his professional achievements.

Steve spent his entire professional career at Vanderbilt University in different positions related to university finance, including that of Managing Director for Investment Administration. In this position, he was responsible for all of the accounting and reporting of the University's investment portfolio, valued at just over \$4.5 billion the year he retired. His financial expertise has served Catholic education in many ways.

Both Steve and his wife Jill have a strong commitment to Catholic education which complements and expresses their dedication to their faith. Their two daughters, Jennifer and Erin, attended Catholic schools. Steve's support for Catholic education extends to his alma mater, and he is the first lay alumnus to serve on Aquinas College's Board of Directors. Steve contributes leadership and insights as the chair of the Board's Finance Committee.

In 2006, Steve and Jill established an endowed scholarship at Aquinas in honor of Steve's parents, Janet and Bill Bachus. This scholarship has the purpose of ensuring that students from all financial backgrounds can attend Aquinas College. Steve and Jill are also members of the Heritage Club, having named Aquinas College as a beneficiary in their will.

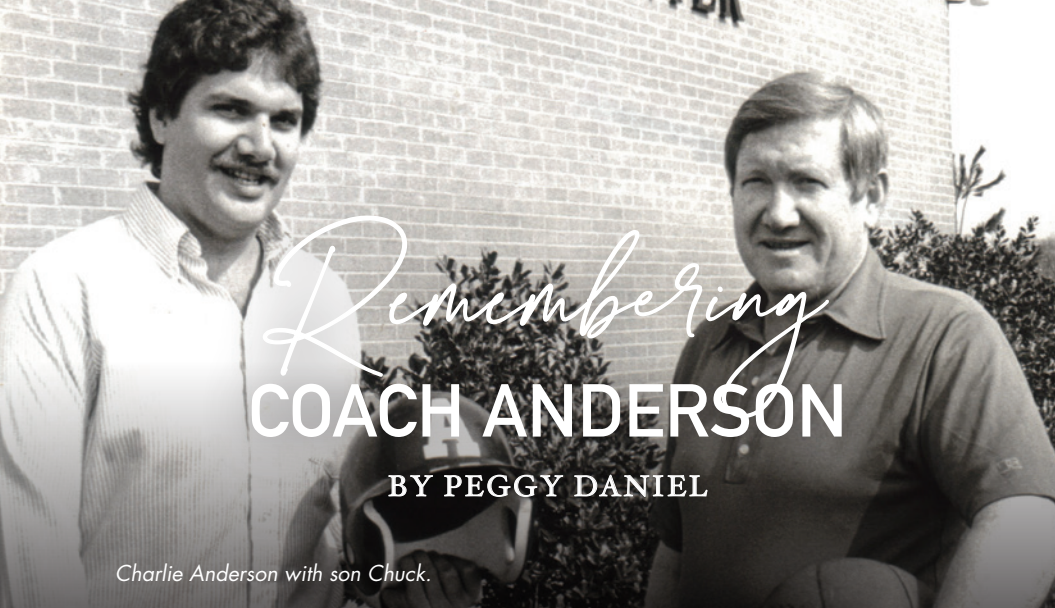
"The whole impetus for us supporting Aquinas is that Catholic education is more important now than ever," comments Steve. "Jill and I feel strongly about this. We need Catholic educators who have been trained professionally and can provide a strong witness in the classroom. Aquinas fills this need, and so by supporting the mission of Aquinas College, we are able to support the legacy of Catholic education." Steve's tireless and often behind-the-scenes efforts have provided inestimable benefit to Catholic students at all levels of education.

Aquinas College is grateful for the generosity, encouragement and support given by Steve and Jill. Fellow Board Member Rev. Mr. Mark Faulkner speaks for many in observing that Steve's "loyal service to the College, through years of history with it, has been an immeasurably valuable resource and asset to everyone who loves the College and holds it dear." 🙏



The Heritage Club, established in 1991, recognizes and honors those who have included Aquinas College in their estate planning or made provisions through another type of planned gift. Planned gifts are a meaningful way to ensure that the needs of Aquinas College are met both now and into the future.

To learn more about charitable giving through wills or bequests, IRA or retirement funds, gifts of appreciated stocks, charitable trusts or other estate planning vehicles, please contact Kim Hoover at 615-297-7545 ext. 467.



Remembering COACH ANDERSON

BY PEGGY DANIEL

Charlie Anderson with son Chuck.

In 1981, Coach Charlie Anderson became head basketball coach and athletic director at Aquinas College. In reflecting on the College's sixty-year history, how does one sum up this man's twenty years of service?

Coach, as he was so fondly called, was very simply a legend—on the basketball court, at the baseball diamond, and at the grill cooking his famous burgers. His presence and demeanor commanded admiration and respect from those he encountered. He was well loved by all students but, of course, most especially by his student-athletes.

In his twenty years at Aquinas College, he compiled a record of 451-179. He took three teams to the National Junior College Tournament, and in 1991 his team won the Championship, the first time in history for a basketball team from Tennessee. Aquinas College, and most especially the athletes, enjoyed the recognition brought on by the success of Coach Anderson and his teams. Several of his players went on to play Division I basketball.

Coach was committed to not only improving the talent and skills of the athletes, but also to instilling responsibility and

building character. He set personal high standards for his students and athletes and demonstrated particular interest and care in promoting success towards reaching those standards. He truly cared about the well-being, success, and future goals of his students and athletes.

In 1991, Coach Anderson was chosen the Junior College National Coach of the Year and selected as Faculty of the Year by his colleagues at Aquinas. Then in 1993 Coach Anderson's commitment to his athletes was recognized by a nomination for the Nashville Sports Council Lifetime Achievement Award. He was inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame in 1998. In 2002, Coach Anderson was recognized with his induction to the National Junior College Basketball Association Hall of Fame for his successful twenty years of coaching at Aquinas College. He was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, 2003.

Coach Charlie Anderson inspired all those he taught and most especially those he coached. He is a legend and was loved and respected by all. May he rest in peace. 🏀

Peggy Daniel served at Aquinas College from 1988-2017 as faculty and director of the Associate of Science in Nursing.



in memoriam

ALUMNI

Pamela Bauer '98
January 24, 2021

Patsy Carter '87
July 17, 2021

Ben Cook '71
March 4, 2021

Kathy Darnell '03
March 30, 2021

Amber Fountain '06
March 22, 2021

Lorenzo Hayden '71
February 21, 2021

Roger Wehby '84
February 23, 2022

PAST FACULTY/STAFF/ BOARD MEMBERS

Charlie Anderson
January 27, 2021

Sister Mary George Barrett, O.P.
January 1, 2021

Laura Hutchinson
February 7, 2022

Margaret Jordan
February 7, 2022

Marilyn Musacchio
December 17, 2021

Peter Pagan
July 2, 2021

Rebecca Peters
February 2, 2021

Fay Renardson
March 16, 2022

Please notify Aquinas College with any other names of deceased alumni, past faculty or past staff at communications@aquinascollege.edu.



4210 HARDING PIKE
NASHVILLE, TN 37205

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 7

Baccalaureate Mass
and Commencement | 10 AM

MAY 14

Anniversary Picnic Celebration | 11 AM

JUNE 7-8

Catholic School Educator Workshop

JUNE 10-11

Come, Follow Me
Catechetical Conference

JUNE 28-JULY 1

WISE Conference

AUGUST 23

Mass of the Holy Spirit

NOVEMBER 2

Mass for the Deceased

Study with us at Aquinas College

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Undergraduate Degrees

Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies (Elementary Licensure)

Bachelor of Science in English (Secondary Licensure)

Bachelor of Science in History (Secondary Licensure)

Graduate Degrees

Master of Arts in Teaching (Elementary)

Master of Arts in Teaching (Secondary)

Graduate Certificates

Certificate of Catholic Social Emotional Learning

ARTS & SCIENCES PROGRAMS

Majors available within the Bachelor of Arts
degree include:

Bachelor of Arts in English

Bachelor of Arts in History

Aquinas College admits students of any race, color,
and national or ethnic origin.



For information about application
and admission, please contact us:

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

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