

The background of the cover is a photograph of a classical building. It features several large, light-colored stone columns supporting a heavy, dark-colored entablature. The sky is a vibrant blue with scattered white clouds. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Building
on a
STRONG
Foundation



Aquinas College Main Building

Dear Friends of Aquinas College,

For more than 50 years Aquinas College has served the Nashville community and the middle Tennessee region, offering a faith-based, intellectually stimulating and academically challenging education. In each step on our journey we have learned from our failures and built upon our successes and through it all we have constructed a strong foundation for the mission we are now called, on a grander scale, to accomplish.

Our Vision 2020 Strategic Plan is nearly completed and will be introduced over the summer of 2014. It is an aggressive plan, designed to build on that strong foundation that has been a hallmark of Aquinas College since its very inception. In general, the goals touch every part of our campus; from the expansion and improvements to our facilities, to expanding student life programs that include a study abroad program and an eye toward formalizing an athletic program that underpins the holistic approach to a distinctly Dominican Catholic education. We also will strive to increase academic offerings in each of our schools to address the needs of the 21st century student and the society that they will be called upon to influence. Our Strategic Plan will re-navigate our course and take us into deeper waters.



Students and faculty celebrating the opening of Aquinas College

Thank you for standing with us throughout the years. We look forward to working alongside you throughout this process that will, in the end, result in new and exciting ways in which we will all continue to Advance Aquinas College into the next decade and beyond.

May you and your families be greatly blessed this summer and always.

In St. Thomas Aquinas,

Sister Mary Sarah, O.P.
President

President
Sister Mary Sarah, O.P.

Vice President for Advancement
Andrew Shafer, M.P.A.

Vice President for Student Life
Sister Mary Cecilia, O.P.

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Last year’s Golf Scramble winning team may not look tough, but that’s all part of their strategy.



June 21, 2014 McCabe Golf Course www.aquinascollege.edu



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6 *round reakingf or AquinasC olleg*

Building on a strong foundation

According to the Dominican Friars, in the year 2000, there were 5,171 Dominican friars in solemn vows, 917 student brothers, and 237 novices. By the year 2010 there were 5,906 Dominican friars, including 4,456 priests. It isn't so much the number as it is the fact that the Dominican order is growing, especially in a time when the influence of Christianity, around the increasingly secular world, is diminishing. When looking at the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation, better known as the "Nashville Dominicans," the growth in numbers is similarly extraordinary and particularly notable in a city that boasts a mere 6.5% Catholic population. But again, it isn't about the numbers.



SrM arly, eonarð P a nð rD ominicaO P ð scussf resm eno rientation

The history of the Nashville Dominicans is one of “true grit” and is worth briefly summarizing to understand the foundation upon which Aquinas College is built and building.

The presence of the “Nashville Dominicans” was established in 1860 by four Dominican Sisters arriving from Somerset, Ohio, at the request of the Dominican Bishop of Nashville, to establish a diocesan school. Two years after establishing the school, in 1862, the new Dominican community witnessed the American Civil War, up close and personal, during the Battle of Nashville in 1864. After the battle, the teaching community took on a new responsibility: caring for a growing group of children at a nearby orphanage.

In the mid-1860s, Nashville experienced a serious outbreak of cholera. In an area with a reputation for its anti-Catholicism, the Sisters changed hearts and received great respect by remaining in the town to care for the sick. They also went to Memphis to help the victims there, as thousands fled that city in the wake of the epidemic. G. Gordon Liddy must have had the Dominican Sisters who nursed the Memphis yellow fever victims in mind when he said “That which does not kill us makes us stronger.” Out of the 50 Sisters who served as nurses, 30 died, but the 20 that survived were most definitely stronger.

The community continued to grow and by the late 1880s, an addition to the convent as well as to the school was built. Overall, the presence of the Nashville



Ground breaking for Aquinas College in Nashville with the library

Dominicans spread throughout the state, with Sisters expanding their teaching to schools in other parts of the state, including Chattanooga, Clarksville, Memphis and Winchester.

The community prospered in both sisters and supporters, to such an extent, that just before the onset of the Great Depression, in 1929 The Catholic University of America began accepting credits from Aquinas College (then known as the St. Cecilia Normal School). Around that time the community was able to purchase prime Nashville land in a very beautiful part of the city that would later become the site of

Aquinas College.

Through its evolution, Aquinas College has been thought to be many things, but one thing it has always been known as is a distinctive and eminent institution of higher learning, and it is that legacy that has given rise to the strategic planning for and tactical execution of its current growth and expansion. It is the strong foundation, laid by the generations of Sisters who have come before upon which Aquinas College is now building. We welcome your support and prayers in our vision for the 21st century of Catholic education. ■



Building addition to Aquinas College main building



Julie P. et al., a faculty member of biology, assists students in the laboratory.



Dr. Benjamin Smith, a faculty member of education, speaks to a group of students.



Students in a classroom are focused on their work.



Dr. Frank Hatch, Director of Learning Support



Faculty and students

Cultivating the Garden of Knowledge

By William S. Martini, D.D.,
Associate Provost

The Aquinas College strategic plan Vision 2020 outlines many exciting initiatives that will be undertaken over the next six years. All of the goals indicated in the plan are necessary to realize the transformation of Aquinas into a thriving residential community of study, with proposals from the area of academics establishing the foundation to support future growth and change.

Aquinas College currently welcomes its new undergraduate students into ten bachelor degree programs and majors; the Vision 2020 plan calls for that number to nearly double over the next six years. New majors indicated in the plan include marketing from the School of Business; math, psychology, biology and government are proposed from the School of Arts & Sciences. The School of Education will

build on the new offerings from Arts & Sciences by adding secondary licensure degrees in math and biology, providing graduates of these programs the opportunity to teach these subjects at the high school level. The School of Nursing is currently in the development phase of a traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, with implementation anticipated for Fall, 2015.

The addition of new academic programs will realize two important benefits for Aquinas College. First, these additions will address Pope John Paul II's assertion from *Ecce Homo* that a Catholic University be a place to "... scrutinize reality with the methods proper to each discipline, and so contribute to the treasury of human knowledge." Inasmuch as each academic discipline represents a distinct aspect of reality, research and study within that discipline will ultimately lead the student to the Author of Truth and of Reality, God. The second benefit follows



Student and faculty

from the first. By providing a greater variety of academic majors, Aquinas College will become available to an increasing number of students with interests in areas outside those currently offered.

While academic program offerings will

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*Dr. Aaron Urbanczyk, Dean,
School of Arts and Sciences*



*Dr. Dan Donnelly, Dean,
School of Business*



*Brother Ignatius Perkins, O.P.D., Dean,
School of Nursing*



*Sr. Mary Anne, O.P.D., Dean,
School of Education*

AS TRATEGIC VIEW FROM THE DEANS

School of Arts and Sciences

The Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences is very excited about the potential for academic growth in his School. Dr. Aaron Urbanczyk sees the possibility of adding new bachelor degree programs in such key areas as Biology, Psychology, Government and Mathematics as a “...tremendous benefit in achieving the goals of the Aquinas College Strategic Plan.”

“These areas will increase our ability to prepare students for a successful career after college,” predicts Urbanczyk, “and will also enhance their formation in and application of the Catholic intellectual tradition.” He also foresees the growth of the English and History majors concurrent with the increase in enrollment. This proposition is further supported by the School of Education’s offering of baccalaureate and masters’ degrees in secondary education in these two disciplines, sorely in need of good, well-educated teachers.

Also on Dr. Urbanczyk’s strategic docket is a revision of the Core Curriculum, “courses that serve as the preamble to one’s major course of study,” as he explains it. “The common intellectual formation of students seeking a Bachelor’s degree will integrate the humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences, and the fine arts into a common curriculum experience which, to borrow a phrase from Pope John Paul II, spring truly ‘from the heart of the Church’.”

School of Business

Currently the School of Business offers a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, with majors in management and finance. This degree, taught in the distinctly Dominican tradition of truth and charity, uniquely prepares business graduates with a broad general education, across all business disciplines, with an emphasis in marketing and steeped in the ethical practice of all business transactions. Both majors are firmly grounded in the liberal arts, perhaps the most important preparation for success in any endeavor, business or otherwise.

According to Dr. Dan Donnelly, Dean of the School of Business, the Strategic Plan for the School includes the introduction of a new, full marketing major in the fall of 2015. “Marketing,” explains Donnelly, “often includes sales, and is the sub-discipline within business where 20-25% of entry level jobs are found.” Those entry level jobs are the gateway to leadership and entrepreneurship and, when combined with the faith and moral foundation that Aquinas College provides, the sky is definitely the limit.

For the School of Business the horizon is full. Given Aquinas’ location in Nashville and its proximity to the music industry and its many associated tentacles.

“Business thrives on competition and innovation and while there are many other reputable

programs, with Aquinas’ unique strengths, together with God’s grace and generosity, the School of Business is poised to take on all comers.”

School of Nursing

Traditionally the School of Nursing has been the most pro-active in responding to the needs of the community they serve. The supersonic evolution of the industry’s technology and Aquinas’ ever-forward-thinking is once again playing a significant role in the Strategic Planning process. As part of its Strategic Plan for growth and, more importantly for unsurpassed service to their students and to the community, the School of Nursing is in the process of a multi-year transition that will phase out its Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) degree program and establish a four year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program. In the past the School of Nursing best served its mission and the community’s need by offering an ASN degree program, with a follow-up RN-BSN program for those who chose to return when able to expand their opportunities in the nursing and health care field.

To facilitate this transition in degrees the School of Nursing has established an Aquinas College ASN Alumni Scholarship for its highly regarded RN-BSN. Brother Ignatius Perkins, O.P., Ph.D., RN, Dean of the School of

Nursing points out that “the RN-BSN program at Aquinas College stands apart from other nursing programs by its focus on preparing confident and competent clinicians whose primary outcome is centered in affirming and protecting the dignity of all human life. This is the School of Nursing’s proper role in society and in the universal Church.” With this scholarship ASN Alumni will be able to attain their RN-BSN more affordably and to protect and advance their careers as the health care industry begins to require a minimum BSN degree.

Brother Ignatius reports that the College has been preparing for this transformation for several years, “Coupled with the Mission of Aquinas College, the Vision and Philosophy of the School of Nursing and the health care needs of the global community, we are responding to the call of the Church as elucidated by Pope Francis, to bring the healing ministry of Aquinas Nursing to all those in need of health and nursing care regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, color, lifestyle or ability to pay.”

School of Education

Teaching is the heritage of the Dominican Order and the School of Education at Aquinas College seeks to further this mission by forming young people as teachers of future generations so as to spread the Truth throughout society and around the globe. Responding to the immediate need for qualified teachers, Aquinas is distinctly situated to provide graduates who are not only content experts, but uniquely prepared with teaching skills that engage and inspire their students.

The School of Education has added several new baccalaureate programs in the last few years beginning with the Bachelor of Science in English for secondary licensure in 2010, followed closely by History for secondary licensure in 2012. Also in 2012, after years of popular demand from alumni, the School introduced three graduate tracks: Master of

Education and Masters of Arts in Teaching K-6 and 7-12. The response was incredible and is growing.

Sister Mary Anne, O.P., Dean of the School of Education is optimistic about the School’s future. “With the expansion of residential life, the majors leading to both elementary and secondary licensure are ripe for growth. Admissions for fall 2014 for these programs are at an all time high.”

“The School of Education” Sister reveals, “plans to host informational meetings regarding majors within the School, presenting the exciting and challenging pathways that currently exist in the field of education for students who have not fully decided their course of study.”

Within the next six years the secondary licensure program offerings will be expanded in tandem with the new subject specific content offerings in the School of Arts and Sciences. With each new BA in the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Education is poised to increase secondary licensure offerings in those content areas. “It is a win-win for both schools” says Sister Mary Anne. “Across the nation there is a push to prepare more math and science teachers for the immediate future. The School of Arts and Sciences adding math and biology to their offerings gives us a wonderful opportunity for Aquinas to prepare secondary teachers in these areas.” The additional paths to secondary licensure will provide more options for undergraduates seeking to matriculate at Aquinas College.

In addition to undergraduate offerings for secondary teachers, the School of Education plans to add two additional graduate majors to the Master of Education degree: Reading Specialist and Educational Administration. “Graduate studies attract a different population, but if recent past experiences prove true, with Aquinas alumni being a large percent of the population returning for graduate studies, success should be guaranteed.” ■

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diversify, another academic initiative will unify all areas of study through a *Faith and Culture* core, common coursework designed for and required of all students. While the concept of a shared academic experience is not new, the *Faith and Culture* theme will represent a distinctly Dominican approach to intellectual and professional formation.

The addition of new academic programs will be complemented by other exciting initiatives, especially the initiation of study abroad. Preparations are currently in progress to house up to 40 students in Bracciano, Italy, a small town only 25 miles from the heart of the Universal Church. In Bracciano and Rome, cultural and spiritual experiences will animate students’ coursework and provide an immediate point of reference for their studies in theology, history and art. Besides the possibility of study in Bracciano, faculty will investigate other study abroad opportunities, such as mission trips designed for nursing students or international business options for students in management and finance.

By adding new academic programs and providing exciting curricular and co-curricular opportunities, Aquinas College is continuing its tradition of responding to the needs of its students and the community. ■



First group of Aquinas College students sit Italy

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ONLINE TODAY**
www.aquinascollege.edu



Dr. Bill Smart, Associate Project Manager, Aquinas College, Director of Student Life, and Brother Gerard, O.P., Project Manager, Aquinas College

PLANNING BY CHARRETTE

When setting out to design a building, a neighborhood, a city, or a college campus the “charrette” is one of the most valuable tools architects, planners, builders and especially customers have at their disposal. But what is a charrette? It is a defined period of concentrated design activity and interactive planning by representatives of stakeholder groups who have individual and common goals for the outcome of the project being planned and designed.

In February, Aquinas College announced its intention to grow its physical plant. All options were considered, but it was finally decided that the most prudent and cost-effective path for Aquinas’ expansion was to build upon the beautiful foundation of the Dominican Campus. The first phase of this growth entails the building of a multi-purpose facility to include a residential hall, student life center, and dining facility. Completion of Phase I will allow students

to occupy and enjoy the new space beginning with the fall 2015 semester.

In this first phase the charrette, or what might be a series of charrettes, will serve to bring together members of the Aquinas community, including students, faculty, staff, and administrators, with other stakeholders from outside the community, including city planning representatives, architects, contractors and landscape architects. The purpose of the charrette is to engage all the stakeholders collaboratively, creatively and efficiently; to discuss, debate and reach optimal consensus on as many of the practical and cosmetic issues that are relevant to the specific project.

While students and faculty would be most concerned with the classroom and other instruction areas, like laboratories and auditoriums, engineers and architects would have major concerns about storm water retention, sufficient parking and handicap

accessibility. Everyone will want to weigh in on residential and dining spaces, as well as social gathering and exercise spaces, not to mention green space landscaping and outdoor amenities.

At one school a charrette for a dorm brought together representatives of all affected parties. That group activity not only produced some great ideas and some sense of proportion, but everyone had a lot of fun doing it and, in the end, they all felt empowered by the experience and in the finished product.

Brother Gerard, O.P. is the Aquinas College Project Manager and he will be extremely involved every step of the way. It will be Brother who decides on the timing and composition of the charrette. “Once we have the general direction,” Brother says “we’ll be looking for a lot of detailed input.” ■



✦
Aquinas College
✦
CONVIVIUM
Dinner & Dance



With the first ever Convivium drawing accolades from students, alumni, faculty, staff, benefactors and friends of Aquinas, the 2015 Convivium is already an exciting tag





Students enjoy a refreshing break from Team Development activities at Camp Marymount during Welcome Week in August 2013

Student Life Rein vigorates Aquinas College

Aquinas College has always been a very close-knit family. The Student Life structures that were founded in the fall of 2012—Residential Life and House Life—have capitalized on this strong community to create a vibrant campus life for all students, including commuters.

The number of residential students living in Seton Lodge at St. Thomas Hospital West, adjacent to campus, tripled in just one year. For this coming fall, Aquinas College expects that number to double yet again. The residential students at Aquinas have transformed campus life.

Sister Mary Cecilia Goodrum, O.P., Vice-President for Student Life, remarked,

“Their energy and joy has really permeated the College.”

In late August of last year, the residential students, both new and returning, participated in a unique team-building, service, and spiritual retreat at Camp Marymount to conclude Welcome Week. After this trip, Sister Mary Cecilia noticed the sincere and purposeful initiative that the new students possess.

Sister explained, “I gave them a talk and said it’s a Dominican custom that we end every night asking for Our Lady’s protection. I found out last month that they are doing that. After Compline, they sing the Salve. It was one of those ‘Distinctly Dominican’ moments. They take that to heart.” In its second year of existence, the House

Life system has also provided students with many opportunities for recreation, fellowship, cultural education, and leadership. Every Thursday during the academic year, each house—students, faculty, and staff—meets in a dedicated space for lunch. Sister observes, “At any other college you wouldn’t be able to eat with faculty and staff and get to know them in that way.” Being in a house has cultivated an increasing sense of House pride, which has come out in a healthy way in regular House competitions such as the House Olympics and Kickball Tournament.

The students are also raising their profile off campus. In September, a group of students traveled to Sevierville, Tennessee for the Diocese of Knoxville’s Eucharistic Congress,



Kyle and Doug perform at the first House Life Talent Night



Aquinas students say a walking rosary before the March for Life where they met Cardinals Rigali and Dolan.

Aquinas College's reinvigorated student body became most visible on the trip to Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life. The large tour bus with the College logo and three foot tall words "MARCH FOR LIFE" along its side garnered many cheers on the trip. The morning of the March, freshman Theology major Wil

Bernhard was interviewed via phone on the Son Rise Morning Show. During the March, Aquinas president Sister Mary Sarah, O.P. and Sister Mary Cecilia, O.P. were interviewed live on EWTN, with cheering students in the background.

An opportunity for a much greater visibility off-campus came with the Congregation's acquisition of a property in Bracciano, Italy, an hour north of Rome, where plans are underway for a study abroad program. Soon after the announcement, a group of students approached Sister Mary Cecilia with a detailed proposal for a preliminary trip to Bracciano. In May, a small group of students traveled there as a scouting trip, entirely funded by student-solicited donations. ■



Students in Bracciano



Mag ea nE larec omp tei nE li s imp rsonationd ring allF estival



Mackenzie catches fish during team development at Camp Arroyo



Habit Forming

AN INTERVIEW WITH A POSTULANT

RK: TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF; WHERE YOU WERE BORN, WHAT WAS YOUR FAMILY LIKE, HOW WAS YOUR FAITH LIFE FORMED?

SISTER LAUREN: I was born in Seattle, Washington on July 8, 1991. My dad grew up Lutheran but left the faith in his early twenties. He returned to the faith in his late twenties and began attending a non-denominational church in West Seattle where he met my mom. My mom did not grow up with any Christian faith but came to Christ through Protestantism in her early twenties. A love for Christ and desire to bring the Christian message to those around them was an important factor in my parent's marriage. In fact, this zeal moved them to join with other Christians at their church to move to Japan as missionaries. We lived in Japan for five years. I was 6 months old when we moved to Japan and 6 years old when we returned to the States. In 2001 (I was 9 years old and my brother was

6), my dad began researching the Catholic Church. For four years, he studied the faith until he and my mom made the decision for our whole family to enter together. I was 13 years old and my brother was 10 when we entered the Church in 2005. After becoming Catholic, my dad made it a point to educate my brother and me about the reasons for entering the Church. Though I continued to grapple with what the faith meant for me personally throughout high school, I was convinced that if I was going to be Christian, I was going to be Catholic and I wanted to be Catholic.

RK: WHEN DID YOU FIRST SERIOUSLY CONSIDER RELIGIOUS LIFE?

SISTER LAUREN: My friend asked me the question, "Lauren, what makes you think you're called to be married?" I had never asked myself that question before. I just assumed (like many young women do) that I was going to get married. I knew religious



Sister Lauren studying in Carriag House in 2013

ED. NOTE: I met Lauren Hance in the fall of 2012. She was a transfer to Aquinas College and full of life and energy. She was warm and friendly, while remaining quiet and unassuming. Little did I know at the time that she was in discernment of a religious life.-RK

(Above) Sister Lauren (front row, 2nd from the left) with her classmates and sisters at the '50s Fall Festival

life meant a radical self-giving and that's what I was afraid of. This was my life and I didn't think anyone had the right to take it from me (including God) – a very human response but also a very selfish one. I couldn't stop thinking about it. Every step of the way was painful and the hard part was surrendering at every turn.

Yet despite the constant "dying to self" during that time, I was overflowing with a mysterious joy and indescribable peace. Much of the time, I couldn't wrap my mind around what was going on inside me. This intense period of purification and letting go was hands down the most real, transforming and freeing period of my life. And now, three years later, I find myself doing exactly what I would never have expected to do.

RK: HOW DID YOU DECIDE ON THE DOMINICANS?

SISTER LAUREN: From the moment I saw the website for the Nashville Dominicans. I transferred there in fall 2012, just when they began their residential life program, and entered the School of Education. My interest in becoming a teacher became a full-fledged yearning at Aquinas College. I loved the teachers. I loved how they taught and the way they were teaching me how to teach. It was a match made in heaven. The school and the sisters provided a beautiful context for me to complete my discernment. I entered the novitiate in the fall of 2013.



Lauren Hance (second from right) with friends at Aquinas in 2012

RK: WHAT IS YOUR VISION OF YOUR FUTURE AS A DOMINICAN SISTER?

SISTER LAUREN: Quite honestly, I have no idea. Whatever God has in store! I learned the hard way that anticipating the future is simply not worth it. God gives us

grace for the present moment so we should accept those graces when they become available to us. My vision is to do the will of God whatever that might be. It is obvious to me that he wants me here right now so wherever he takes me in the future, I'll leave up to Him. ■

Spiritual Life Flourishing, Challenges Remain

While spiritual opportunities abound, projected growth could create a crisis



Father Kevin leads an overflowing chapel in Adoration

Nobody who has visited Aquinas College in the past two years could deny Residential Life's influence on making campus more lively. Yet nowhere has the impact been felt more keenly than in the chapel and in the various ways the students have expressed their faith publicly.

Father Kevin McGoldrick, Campus Chaplain, observes, "There's definitely been a hunger for knowledge of the Faith, but not just a head knowledge. I've seen a desire for heart knowledge of the Lord. Their relationships seem to be based upon faith, and are not merely on the natural level."

Father came to Aquinas in the summer of

2013. An avid proponent of Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body, Father was chaplain for the Head and Heart Immersion Course for the Theology of the Body Institute and the co-founder of and worship leader for Catholic Underground in Philadelphia where he is a priest of the Archdiocese. Apart from duties as Chaplain serving the spiritual needs of the campus, Father has also helped the students start Compline, founded monthly Nights of Worship, and held a seminar on St. Louis de Montfort's Total Consecration to Mary.

Father points to the trip to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life as one of this year's

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LEAP OF FAITH

Danny taking leaps of faith during Welcome Week activities

*by Daniel Ligowski,
Freshman
Member-House of the Board of Student Activities*

As college was approaching I seemed to be the only one among my peers who was not worried. In my junior year in high school I was being approached by several colleges about joining their basketball programs, but along the way was losing my love for the game and wanted something different in college. By choosing not to play collegiate basketball I knew I would have to rely on my grades and extracurricular activities.

When it came to deciding what college to attend, I wanted a school I knew nothing about, one that was located somewhere I had never been. I saw college as an adventure. I had been looking at schools online, a torturous exercise, but could not find one that stood out, that said "This is it!" One day I walked into Dr. Kirkpatrick's office (my Dean of Studies at St. Thomas More



Danny with fellow students and Father Kevin enjoying a campfire during Welcome Week activities

Academy in Raleigh, North Carolina and told him, "I want schools I never heard of in either Kentucky or Tennessee." I really don't know why, but out of all the states these two had always stuck out in my mind. The next day he gave me a list

of nine schools and as I scanned the page, the second-to-last school from the bottom caught my eye, Aquinas College in Nashville, Tennessee. I checked the website and applied that day. A month later I was accepted and signed without ever visiting or knowing a single thing about the school, other than what was on the website. Many might think this was a stupid way to pick a school, but I think I was letting go and simply trusting God.

I've been here almost a year and absolutely love it! I'm amazed at how sincere and loving everyone is, not only the students, who exhibit genuine kindness, but the faculty and administration too. If I had to pull one person out for special recognition it would be Father Kevin. His humility and the energy he invests in the campus ministry are extraordinary. He pours his heart into everything he does for us, and has a way of making you truly feel like a child of God.

And that's really what makes Aquinas so special. It's a Christ-centered environment which for me is an amazing experience. Being part of it, especially at this time in its history, is unbelievable. In a culture and time where society has forgotten its morals and obligations, it is a place like Aquinas College that will be the shining light through the dark times. Aquinas isn't only where I wound up, it's where I belong. ■

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highlights. "It wasn't just a fun trip for them. They had to make a lot of sacrifices to be there."

Also new to the Campus Ministry team is Mario Martinez, who comes to Aquinas after three years as a missionary for the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). He splits his time between Associate Campus Minister and Director of Community Relations in the Office of Advancement and spearheaded the popular new *Convivium* event at the Loveless Barn in late February.

Mario's time as a FOCUS missionary prepared him well for fulfilling the challenges of both roles. "When I was with FOCUS, I had to personally raise 100% of my salary from private donations," explains Mario. "So, working in Advancement and planning the *Convivium* to benefit the College came naturally to me."

The increase in staff and the natural cohesion of the residential students have made the sacraments much more available to all on campus. Whereas Mass used to be celebrated only five days per week and rarely in the summer, it is now offered seven days per week year-round. And after experiencing Vespers with the Dominican sisters at the Motherhouse, the students founded a Compline service three nights per week.

The most dramatic spiritual growth came

from the retreats at the Congregation's Bethany Retreat House in rural Dickson County. The men and women had separate weekend retreats in the fall and spring. "All the men came out of their retreat really fired up and ready to hold each other accountable," Martinez observed. Father Kevin saw a great renewal take place among the women after the retreat, as well. "It was really beautiful. They're going from being high school girls to becoming young women, and starting to understand who they are created to be."

While the increase in spiritual opportunities and chaplaincy staff has served the current student population well, projected growth in residential and general student body could provide significant challenges. The 50-seat St. Jude Chapel has served the College well for decades, but daily Mass attendance has left very little standing room in the narthex. Special occasions, such as the Mass of the Holy Spirit and the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, have even pushed the larger classrooms to capacity.

Father Kevin explains, "We're maxed out in the chapel. Because we are growing so much, it's critical that we have bigger space."

"People are really looking to Aquinas to be a beacon of the Faith for higher education," explains Sister Mary Cecilia Goodrum, Vice-President for Student Life, "but having the spaces and the resources to do that is a real challenge." ■



Aquinas College at 2014 March for Life in Washington D.C.



(L to R) Barbara Evans, RN, Jessica Bowman, SLP, Bailey, RN

THE GIFT OF GIVING

It's never too late to tell a beautiful story

Jessica Bowman, a 3rd semester Aquinas College nursing student and Care Partner in the burn unit at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, delivered her first baby just in time for Christmas.

She had to work Christmas eve and wasn't too happy about it. But, after a long conversation with God, she was very much at peace with it. It seemed like a normal day as she was dressed in scrubs and doing wound care in the treatment room. She, her boyfriend, a doctor of physical therapy, and another nurse went to lunch together. Upon returning they were approached by a cafeteria worker who rather matter-of-factly asked if they could help a pregnant woman in a car in the garage. Jessica asked if the woman could walk and the worker answered "No, the baby is coming out."

Almost without thinking, Jessica began running to the garage to attend to the

woman. She began preparing herself as she ran, thinking of what she would do when she got to the woman, recalling what she had learned in her recent OB rotation. When she arrived the baby had just slipped out onto the back seat of the car, still connected to the mother by the umbilical cord. She tried talking to the mother, but she didn't speak English. "I began listening to my teachers' voices in my head..." Jessica recounted, "...Ms. Bailey and Ms. Evans, telling me about the importance of the first few minutes after delivery." She recalled how important it was to initiate respiration and to assess the bleeding. Without any of the requisite supplies, like clamps or suction, she used her training to improvise. "I immediately grabbed the baby, wrapped her up in a jacket, kept her level with the mom and was able to clamp off the umbilical cord with my hands." Given the timing issue, Jessica knew she had to get the mom to deliver the placenta and then get her into the intensive care unit. "I had been taught

to massage the top of the uterus to help it contract down. Just as I was finishing everything up that I knew to do and was comforting the mom, the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) team showed up. The team took over, having all the necessary supplies, and transported mother and daughter to the NICU. We were able to have a good, successful delivery."

Later that day Jessica went to the NICU and inquired about mother and baby. The NICU nursing staff told her that both mother and daughter were doing fine. Jessica felt reassured, but on Christmas day paid them another visit. "I wanted to see the baby again. I wanted to see that she was healthy and talk to the mom. I went into the mom's room. She didn't understand anything I said, but she recognized me. Her eyes got really big. I was able to see the baby and the baby was healthy, and I was really grateful for that experience and for being able to help, to be where God needed me to be." ■



Br. Ignatius, O.P. presents Tracey Vanetta Simmons the St. Martin de Porres, O.P. Award

ABOVE THE FOLD

SCHOOL OF NURSING PLANS “CLASS ACTION”

In February, 2014 the School of Nursing announced a multi-year transition plan. Under the plan, the College will begin to phase out its Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) degree to plan for a four year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program. The School of Nursing will admit two more ASN classes, one in August 2014 and a second and final class in January 2015. This decision of the administration and faculty of the College reflects the Mission and Strategic Vision of Aquinas College and responds to the changes taking place in local and national health care. Pending the approval of the Tennessee Board of Nursing, this innovative community-population based BSN nursing program will be inaugurated in August, 2015.

On the heels of that announcement Aquinas is now offering ASN Alumni a scholarship to assist them in completing their

BSN through the current RN-BSN program. The Aquinas College ASN Alumni Scholarship will provide qualified alumni with a more affordable path to completing baccalaureate degree requirements. Scholarships, in the amount of \$5,000 per year, will be available to all qualified alumni applicants beginning in the fall of 2014. This will allow Aquinas College ASN Alumni to enhance their education and employability with a BSN degree, which many health care providers are now requiring.

Brother Ignatius Perkins, O.P., Ph.D., R.N., Dean of the School of Nursing points out that “the RN-BSN program at Aquinas College stands apart from other nursing programs by its focus on preparing confident and competent clinicians whose primary outcome is centered in affirming and protecting the dignity of all human life. This is the School of Nursing’s proper role in society and in the universal Church.”

It is this sense of purpose and mission that is driving these initiatives and academic growth at Aquinas College. ■



Alum Justin Raines Ordained and Delivers Homily at Aquinas

Aquinas College alumnus Father Justin Raines was ordained by Bishop David R. Choby at the Cathedral of the Incarnation on Saturday, July 27, 2013. Father Raines graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts, having majored in Theology with a minor in Philosophy. After graduation, he entered the seminary, studying two years at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio before moving to Rome to attend the Pontifical North American College. He completed his Baccalaureate of Sacred Theology and will return to Nashville in June 2014 after completing his studies for a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross (Santa Croce) in Rome. Aquinas College invited Father to deliver the homily at the annual Mass of the Holy Spirit on September 5. For pictures and the full text of his homily, please visit <http://www.aquinascollege.edu/alumnus-father-justin-raines-homily-from-the-mass-of-the-holy-spirit/>.

Golf Scramble Raises Thousands for the Annual Fund

The Office of Alumni Relations held the 2nd Annual Aquinas College Alumni Golf Scramble at McCabe Golf Course on the morning of Saturday, June 8, 2013. Approximately 60 golfers—comprised of alumni, faculty, staff, students, and many friends—started the round in dense fog after coffee and breakfast pizza courtesy of Hunt Brothers Pizza. Michael La-Haie, Graham Honeycutt, Jeff Cornwall and Russ Cornwall shot the lowest score of 55 to win the scramble. All participants enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs provided by McCabe for the awards ceremony after the round. The 2014 Golf Scramble, also at McCabe, will take place on Saturday, June 21.

Dr. Rich Bulzacchelli Presents at Numerous Conferences



In addition to presenting on "What Did Philosophy Get from the Bible, and Why Should It Matter to Me?" for the Fall Lecture Series, Theology professor and St. Paul Center senior fellow Richard Bulzacchelli, S.T.D.

presented at numerous conferences around the country. In early October, he presented on the topic of "Priest and Sacrifice: Self-Offering, Representation, and Sufficiency in the Priesthoods of the Judeo-Christian Tradition" at the Society for Catholic Liturgy annual meeting at Mundelein Seminary. In early March, he presented on "Ecumenical Dialogue as Sacred Act in the 'Christian Moment' of the Post-Modern West" at the Union University, Christianity in the Academy Conference in Memphis. Then on March 19, he spoke on "Why the Church Takes Sides in Politics" at Belmont Abbey College. And at the Fifth Saint Anselm Conference in Manchester, New Hampshire, Dr. Bulzacchelli spoke on a panel with the topic "Prophets, Priests, and Politicians: A Biblical Perspective on What Always Goes Wrong, Eventually" on April 12. Dr. Bulzacchelli has been teaching at Aquinas since 2004 and helped develop the Bachelor of Arts major in Theology.

Dr. Benjamin L. Smith Speaks at Augustinian Institute Conference



Philosophy professor Dr. Benjamin L. Smith spoke on the topic of "The Call of God: Obedience, Love, and God's Authority according to Augustine of Hippo" at the Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference

(P.M.R.) at Villanova University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The conference, which was founded over 30 years ago by Villanova's Augustinian Institute, is a premier academic conference that focuses on philosophy, theology, and intellectual history. Dr. Smith also served as a speaker for the Fall Lecture Series with the topic "How the Modern World Lies about Human Dignity."

History Professor Dr. Vince Ryan Speaks at History Conference



Aquinas College history professor Vincent Ryan, Ph.D. spoke at the annual conference of the Western Society for French History in Atlanta in October. Dr. Ryan, who studied under noted Crusades historian Dr. Thomas

F. Madden at St. Louis University, presented his paper *The Upside of Failure: Philip II Augustus and the Third Crusade*.



Sister Mary Sarah Named Catholic Professional of the Year

Aquinas College President Sister Mary Sarah Galbraith, O.P. was named "Catholic Professional of the Year" for 2013 by the Nashville Catholic Business League. The group's president, Jeremy Bisceglia cited Sister's work at Aquinas College as making her "the odds-on favorite for the award." The Nashville Catholic Business League partners with the Aquinas School of Business to provide internships for business students.

The Cardinal Newman Society Lists Aquinas as Top Catholic College (Again)

Aquinas College was recommended by the Cardinal Newman Society in the latest edition of *The Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College*, which was published on October 7, 2013. The Newman Guide and its updated companion magazine *My Future, My Faith* make searching for and getting advice on faithful Catholic colleges and universities easy for Catholic families. The guide praised Aquinas for its "residential options, affordability, solid liberal arts foundation, and careful attention and dynamic spirit that the Dominican Sisters and dedicated faculty and staff provide to faithful education."

Dominican Sisters of Aquinas College Start Weekly Email Gospel Reflection

Aquinas College's faculty and staff Dominican Sisters started a weekly Gospel reflection entitled "Dominic and the Living Word." The series, released every Tuesday morning, offers a reflection on the Gospel of the day and relates it to the life and teaching of St. Dominic. Subscribers have signed up from locations around the world, including France, Italy, Cyprus, Australia, and Japan. To sign up

or for more information, please visit www.aquinascollege.edu/dominic-and-the-living-word.

CONVIVIUM: A Huge Success

Aquinas College hosted its inaugural CONVIVIUM at the Loveless Barn with over 250 guests in attendance. The evening was a milestone for the college as it brought together many faithful friends, benefactors and joyful students



for a festive occasion. As one benefactor said, "This is wonderful! What a great evening. What a great cause."



Students Meet Cardinals at Knoxville's Eucharistic Congress

A group of students, along with Associate Campus Minister Mario Martinez and Campus Chaplain Father Kevin McGoldrick, traveled to Sevierville, Tennessee in September for the Diocese of Knoxville's Eucharistic Congress. Speakers at the congress included Dr. Scott Hahn, Father Robert Barron, Cardinal Justin Rigali, and Cardinal Timothy Dolan. Students were able to pose for a photo opportunity with the two cardinals on separate occasions.

Renowned Author Joins Aquinas Team



Joseph Pearce, internationally acclaimed author, lecturer and teacher, as well as frequent guest and host on EWTN, will join Aquinas College in Nashville, Tennessee as Director of the Center for Faith and Culture and "Writer-in-Residence" beginning in July of 2014.

ALUM Interview with ASN Alumnus and Author Jeff High '06

What would you like people to know about you?

JEFF: I am a native Tennessean and grew up on a large farm. I have four older brothers. Two of them are quite ugly and probably adopted but we can't be sure. They have been unwilling to submit to DNA testing. Years ago I received a Bachelor of Arts in English from Belmont University where... I might add... I graduated Cum Laude and was considered one of the most promising male English majors in my graduating class. This accolade should in no way be diminished by the fact that I was also the only male English major in my graduating class.

I have been married for thirty-five years, have a wonderful son, and have had varying careers in technology, construction, nursing, and now, thanks to nursing, as a nationally published author. There's much more to tell but this is enough. Anyone reading this will likely get bored. I know I am.

Tell us about your experience at Aquinas:

JEFF: In 2003 I went back to school to become a nurse. I had several options, but I chose Aquinas College because it presented a quality nursing program against a backdrop of a Christian environment. That was a great fit for me.

I knew from the beginning that I wanted to do procedural nursing...such as the Cath Lab and the Operating Room. I worked as a floor nurse for about a year after graduating and then got into those areas I was interested in. Aquinas well prepared me for this path.

How rigorous were the courses at Aquinas?

JEFF: They were tough, but doable. Like many of my classmates, I was working full time and going to school. It was a challenging time, but there were some really good instructors along the way. It was a



Jeff High and Dr. David Duke, Cardiovascular surgeon at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Springfield, Oregon

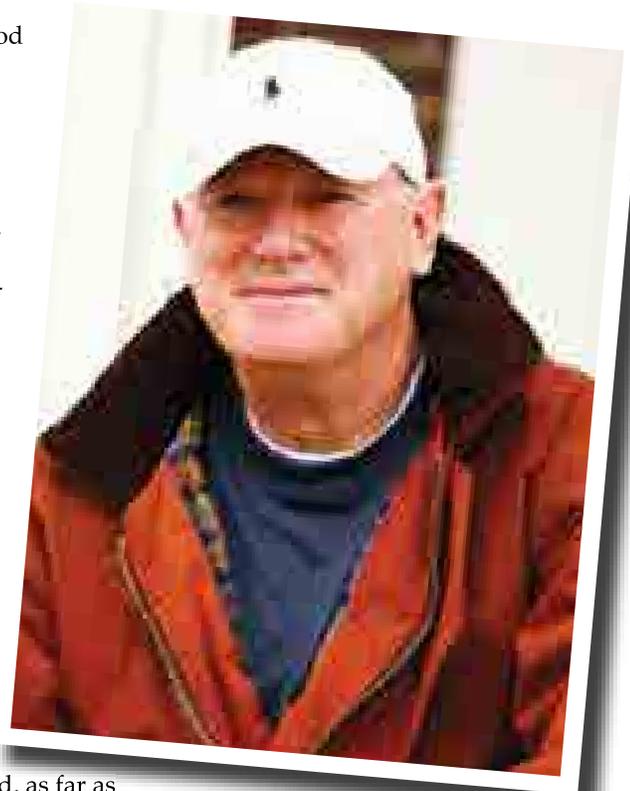
strong faculty and they did a good job of preparing me for both the NCLEX and for a career in nursing.

Did you have any favorites?

JEFF: I guess like all students... I had my favorites... especially Dr. Smart who taught microbiology and Sister Auer who taught Moral Theology. They had a fabulous knack for presenting difficult material and/or concepts in a way that made it both understandable and fascinating.

What did you think of your fellow classmates?

JEFF: It was a really great bunch and many of us have stayed in touch. We studied together, worried together, laughed together, and wrote care plans until we were blue in the face. But we succeeded and, as far as



I know, all have had good careers since.

Tell us about your career after graduating.

JEFF: Ah, the meat of the story. After graduating I worked at Vanderbilt in the Cath Lab and in the cardiac operating room. I was at Vanderbilt for five years and was the Charge Nurse over Cardiac Surgery for the last two years I was there. But the lure of "travel nursing" really got into my bones, ((travel nurses fill staffing gaps for periods of a few weeks to a year, interacting with patients in the same way as the facility's permanent staff would). So, I left Vanderbilt and did that for a couple of years. This included assignments all the way from Eugene, Oregon to Florence, South Carolina.

While in Florence, I took a one-year interim assignment as the OR Director for a six hundred-bed hospital. It was a challenging year, instituting a lot of new programs and implementing a top to bottom "Lean" strategy. Some days I think I would have been happier if I had just woken up on fire. All in all, however, it was a great experience. But my writing career was starting to take off so I decided to return to my hometown of Spring Hill, Tennessee and work in the cardiac operating room at Maury Regional Medical Center.

Tell us about your career as an author. When did that begin?

JEFF: For years I had written things for my own entertainment without ever thinking of being published. But while I was at Vanderbilt I entered the medical

center's annual writing contest... mostly on a whim. As it turned out, that year, I was one of the winners (and was starting to feel pretty whimsical.)

So I entered again the next year... and I won again. Then I won the writing contest for the third year in a row. After that, I decided to become more intentional about writing. Meanwhile, the writing contest judges at Vanderbilt decided I shouldn't enter any more and give somebody else a chance.

Out of this came the novel *More Than In Heaven*, A Novel of Watervalley published by Penguin Press out of New York. It is the first in a multi-book deal I have signed with Penguin to write about the exploits of a new doctor in a small Tennessee town. The book has done really well and received great praise from many critics including the Southern Literary Review who heralded it as "one of the best books in years." The second book in the series, *Each in Our*, will be released in October of this year. The shameless marketing department would want me to mention that readers can learn more at www.watervalleybooks.com, my web site.

Tell us about your relationship with Aquinas since graduating.

JEFF: Because I have travel nursed and lived out of town in the last several years I have not been able to participate in Aquinas functions, the lectures and other events, but I do plan on getting more involved now that I'm more settled. I have

a sincere love and appreciation for the College and especially for the wonderful experiences I had under the tutelage of the Dominican Sisters. They were great! They were insightful, interesting, and caring.... and man, they could be really funny. I am delighted to hear of Aquinas's plans for expansion and can see only great things ahead for the school and for the wonderful influence they have on their students.

Any advice for a student considering Aquinas College?

JEFF: Aquinas is a special place. It's different. College can be an exciting, magical time in anyone's life. There's always laughter and fun and new relationships in the mix. But it is also a time of challenging preparation, tedious hours of studying, and an ever-present anxiety about deadlines, and tests, and grades. Yet at Aquinas...there's something in the air... a pervading sense of caring and optimism that gave me the sense that these instructors, these professors wanted me to succeed and were proud for me to be there. Being there put people in my path whose words and wisdom and friendship will always be with me. Aquinas won't just prepare and educate you; it will change you. It's what the college experience should be.

Do you think you might find a place for a Dominican character in one of your books?

JEFF: God only knows. ■

ATTENTION ASN ALUMNI!

NEW Aquinas College Alumni Scholarship

For RN-BSN Degree
Available in fall 2014

Call Ian Turnbull at 615.297.7545, ext. 433
for details



ALUMNI OUTREACH

We are always interested in the big events and success stories of our alumni. To be featured in our magazine or to simply update your information, please submit a class note to let us know about births, marriages, career changes, and other personal honors at: <http://www.aquinascollege.edu/alumni/submit-a-class-note>.



Alumni Relations

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Aquinas College is excited to announce the formation of our vast array of event and engagement opportunities for all Alumni & Friends. We call this our Alumni Lifecycle and truly hope that we can offer opportunities that everyone can get excited about. Below is a list of upcoming and recent events and also an illustration of what we mean when we say Alumni Lifecycle. Details about all of our recent and upcoming events can be found on our website, aquinascollege.edu. Join us on this journey to become an even better institution of higher education and as we all seek to support students, faculty and research in a whole new way!

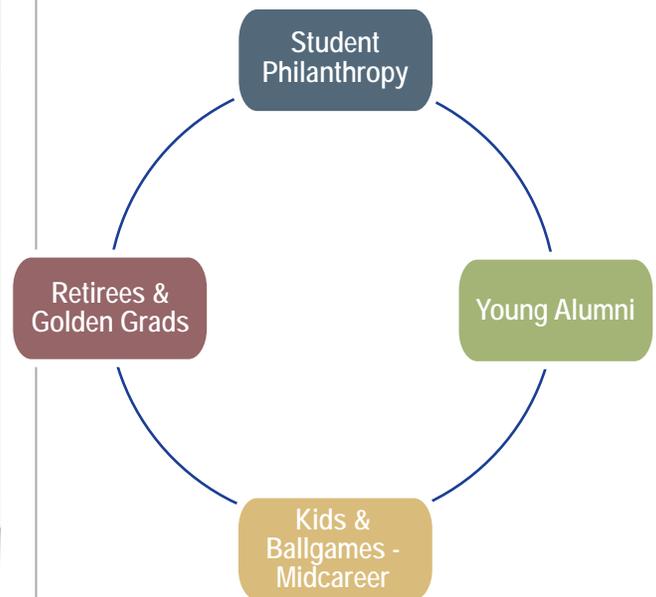
RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

February 21	Convivium at the Loveless Barn
March 6	Michael Miller Lecture - <i>Rethinking Poverty*</i>
March 7	President's Advisory Council
March 11	Ralph Wood Lecture - <i>J.R.R. Tolkien: Writer for Our Time of Terror*</i>
March 13	Nashville Symphony with Ben Folds
March 19	Dr. Paul Gondreau Lecture - <i>Human Suffering*</i>
April 6	Alumni & Friends Easter Egg Hunt
April 15	Chris de Vinck - <i>Power of the Powerless*</i>
April 22-25	Festival of the Arts
May 22	Alumni Night at the Nashville Sounds
June 7	Yazoo Brewery Private Tour Event
June 21	Golf Scramble @ McCabe Golf Course
July 18	Backstage at Ryman Aud. & Hatch Show Print, Reception to follow

* Hosted by the Aquinas College Center for Faith and Culture

Our Alumni Lifecycle

Engagement Opportunities For All



Want to get more involved with Aquinas?



Contact our Director of Alumni Relations, Rachel Leach at leachr@aquinascollege.edu.

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE



We want to know what you are up to and about recent "life events" that you are willing to share. Submit a class note for possible inclusion in a future magazine or in our monthly e-newsletter at aquinascollege.edu/alumni.

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Dear Aquinas Alumni,



Each of you is an important part of the 52-year-old educational heritage of Aquinas College, and we want to strengthen that heritage by celebrating you and your accomplishments! If you

are not receiving our electronic newsletters or paper mail, please make use of the form found on the Alumni Notes section of our website or directly email Director of Alumni, Rachel Leach at leachr@aquinascollege.edu, to update your contact information and to let us know what's happening in your life. We are thrilled to have already connected with so many Aquinas grads this semester and look forward to hearing from you!

There are numerous ways for you to stay involved and connected – by attending Aquinas Alumni Night at Nashville sporting events, the Aquinas Speaker Series, and Alumni gatherings on campus; by volunteering to help with the annual Golf Scramble, scheduled this year for June 21, 2014; by assisting with the annual Convivium Dinner raising funds for student scholarships; or just by being a resource within your area of expertise. There are always opportunities for involvement, just let us know what you're interested in!

Please feel free to contact us with information, ideas, questions, or just to catch up on what's happening.

Thanks in advance for your continued Aquinas Pride!

Gratefully,

Rachel Leach
Director of Alumni Relations

IS THAT YOU?



Letm ek nowa tl each @aquinascolleg e d

ALUMNI NOTES:

Joseph Bick, Education 1979: Joseph works for Aflac insurance. He recently published his first novel, *The Twilight of Our Dawn*, A sci-fi thriller about religion and terrorism in the future.

Patrick J. Curran, III, Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice 1980: In 1999, Patrick retired after 25 years of service with the Davidson County Sheriff's Office. He is currently the Superintendent of the Davidson County Juvenile Detention Center, a position that he has held since 1999. Patrick is married to the former Debbie Lynch and they have three sons and two adorable granddaughters, Emma Grace and Caroline Curran. In 1982, Patrick received my Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Belmont University. He is a member of the American Correctional Association, The American Jail Association, the Tennessee Juvenile Detention Association and the National Partnership for Juvenile Services. He serves as a Commissioner on the Commission for Accreditation for Corrections with the American Correctional Association as well as a Board Member with the Work Release Commission for Davidson County.

Toni (Sullivan) Perry, Nursing 2000: Toni graduated with honors with an M.S.N. in Clinical Research Administration, at the University of George Washington in DC in December 2013. She serves as the Manager of Quality and Regulatory Affairs at the 2nd largest private oncology practice in the country, Tennessee Oncology.

Emily (Moore) Leininger, Education 2001: Emily and her husband, Aaron, welcomed their 5th child, Ella Blue, on November 11. Sweet Ella was welcomed home by her sisters, Amberly (16) and Lauren (10), and her brothers, Mitchell (16) and Jackson (8). Emily practices law and just recently opened a new

office in Cool Springs. She focuses primarily on matters involving family and juvenile law. Congratulations to the Leininger family on sweet baby Ella Blue!

Eric Chappell, Business 2003: Eric says, "I'm living the dream!" This year marks his 4th wedding anniversary and he is currently working towards his MBA.

Stephanie (Zollo) Sapp, Business 2004: Stephanie says, "Life is good!!" She is married and has three lovely children. She continues to work full time as a Talent Acquisition Management Consultant for emerging growth organizations. She is currently attending Villanova University and is 3 classes away from an MS in Human Resource Development.

Brian Huskey, Liberal Arts 2004: In July 2013, Brian was appointed Executive Director of the Midlands Housing Trust Fund in Columbia, SC. The Midlands Housing Trust Fund provides financing and advocacy for the development of affordable housing for households below 80% of area median income in a seven county area of central South Carolina. Brian asks that you please check out their work at <http://www.midlandshousing.org>.

continued on page 27



ANYONE LOOK FAMILIAR?

Tellm ew b a tl each @aquinascolleg e d



Ground a tV illag oB etania



A VIEW FROM ROME TO BRACCIANO

Sister Mary Angela P.
Director of the Villa Betania

Preparations are currently in progress to house up to 40 students in Bracciano, Italy, a small town only 25 miles from the heart of the Universal Church. In Bracciano and Rome, cultural and spiritual experiences will animate students' coursework and provide an immediate point of reference for their studies in theology, history and art. The four of us Sisters here in Bracciano are fond of saying that we live in "paradise." The Villaggio Betania is a 5-building campus on about 5 acres of beautiful land, which overlooks a gorgeous volcanic lake, Bracciano. The medieval town with its magical-looking castle is high on a hill and can be seen from many different views on the property as well. It is a feast for the eyes, as well as the soul, not to mention the Italian cuisine as a feast for the taste buds!

It is a bit rustic, since the Villaggio has been left untended for quite a few years. Surprisingly though, it is in very good shape. Cleaning takes up a good part of our day. Lacking some necessities in the beginning (as well as our luggage, which took 5 days to arrive), we are grateful for everything and in a mysterious way extremely happy. We have many healthy trees that give us mandarin oranges, blood

oranges, lemons, olives, apricots, plums, and figs (though not yet for the olives and figs). Our neighbors bring us eggs, rabbit, and lamb for food, and we get our water from a well, the latest analysis of which tells us that our water is even better than the water in Rome!

Every day I miss my students, and I miss teaching, but this seems to be a necessary ingredient to the entire whole of the adventure. Thank goodness I haven't lost a basic capacity for communicating in Italian, because I don't have time to study it. Along with legal paperwork and research, we are busy working with architects, maintenance workers, shopping and yard work, gathering information for developing the curriculum and study abroad program and other works for the New Evangelization. We have already met beautiful Italian families and made many friends in Bracciano, and always their first question to us is, "Are you going to stay here?" They offer to help us with anything we need, and indeed we have received so much help and kindness. The Dominican Sisters of Bethany, who had the orphanage here before us, have been true friends and Sisters to us, showing us everything we need to know, introducing us to many people, from the Bishop to the plumber, and such thoughtful things as bringing us



Chapeli nVillag oBetania

a tray of sweet pastries on Sunday. The Lord Himself shines through the kindnesses of all these people. And He Himself fills the soul with the beauty of the landscape, painting for us a glorious picture every morning and evening. Every minute of every day is filled with His love. How can such a place exist? And how can such an experience be ours? In the mysterious design of the Lord's plan, it is. ■

continued from page 25

Sharen (Morris, Hayward) Ramer, Business 2006: Sharen celebrated marriage to Charles Ramer on July 29, 2011. They welcomed granddaughter, Zoey, in August 2012, and grandson, Alexander, born January 2014. Sandra is the proud guardian of her 6-year-old grandson, Anthony.

Lydia (Simpson) Crenshaw, Business 2007: Lydia is currently employed as a Staff Accountant with Daido Corporation of America in Portland, TN. Previously she worked at Louisiana-Pacific Corporation for 5 years as an accountant.

Sarah (Beach) Herod, Education 2008: 2013 was a joyful year for the Herods. At the beginning of the year, January 20, 2013, they celebrated the birth of Luke Gregory and towards the end of the year, November 29, 2013, they celebrated the birth of Jacob Nathaniel.

Lisa Shinn, Nursing 2009: Lisa says, "After leaving Aquinas, I am very thankful for all the opportunities afforded me because of the knowledge I gained at Aquinas." Her job after graduation was floor nurse on the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Sarah Cannon Cancer Treatment Center. She then went to Vanderbilt Medical Center and was part of the move of the Breast Center from the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center to 100 Oaks where it is now a standalone clinic doing all their own imaging,

biopsies, chemotherapy and where patients see both their surgical and medical breast oncologists. I then had an opportunity in the department of Clinical Trials Shared Resources as a Research Nurse Specialist and worked with patients traveling to Vanderbilt to take part in Stage IV Melanoma Clinical Trials. Last fall, her husband accepted a promotion with his company to Austin, Texas. After relocating to Austin, she has been instrumental in helping getting St. David's Medical Center's first Bone Marrow Transplant Unit program off the ground as well as working with Hospice Austin on a PRN basis.

Allie (Jones-Gartin) Pillow, Nursing 2010: Allie works as a Registered Nurse at Skyline Medical Center in the ED and Critical Care. She is also pursuing my BSN online and will graduate in the summer and hopes to work with nursing students in the upcoming years. In 2010 she celebrated her marriage, and had a baby boy in 2011, she happily says, "we feel blessed to be welcoming another baby boy into our family in July!"

Kregg Galbreath, Business 2011: Kregg says, "I believe that obtaining a degree from Aquinas helped me in my job search. The business degree that I earned from Aquinas helps me to better understand IT systems that I deploy and manage. "In December 2012, he made the career change to a senior manager role. He is currently

studying to obtain a masters degree in Project Management.

Larry Jones, Business 2011: As of January 2014, Larry has retired from Nissan North America in order "to pursue the job of my dream, Certified Financial Planner." He is currently in the hiring process of fulfilling his dream job, "thanks to my studies at Aquinas College." At the age of 63, his experience at Aquinas has given him "the opportunity to continue my life's journey in a direction of my choice."

Sandra (Brown) McCotter, Nursing 2011: On May 18, 2013, Sandra and her husband, Tim, welcomed their daughter Bridgette into the world. The McCotter family currently resides in Michigan but hopes to one day return to Tennessee.



Lorna (Carvalho) Noren, Business 2011: Lorna celebrated her youngest son, George's marriage to Nickie on July 28, 2012. George and Nickie are the proud parents of a baby girl, born January 10, 2014. ■

STUDY ABROAD in Bracciano, Italy

Aquinas students are excited about the development of the new Study Abroad program in Bracciano, Italy. A short train ride north of Rome, Bracciano is the perfect setting for study, prayer and recreation and a rich new vein in the "fides et ratio" gold mine that makes an Aquinas College education so unique.

Venendo Autunno 2015

Distintamente Dominicana





Left to Right: Sister Elizabeth Anne, O.P., Collin Ballance, Ed.D., Sister Matthew Marie, O.P., Rianne Harris, M.Ed., Kesha Wall, M. Ed., Sister Kathleen Marie, O.P., M.Ed., Sarah Wannemuehler, Ed.D., Catherine Sharbel, M.Ed.. Harris, Wall, Sr. Kathleen Marie, O.P., and Sharbel are the first to receive Graduate degrees from Aquinas College.

Aquinas College Celebrates a Historic 2014 Commencement



Front row speaker Daniel Markelson, ASNE Elizabeth Carol Phillips, ASN, Ann Elizabeth Salisbury, ASN

Brian Barry
Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Academics

Aquinas College held its 52nd annual Commencement exercises on May 10, 2014. The Most Reverend David R. Choby, Bishop of the Diocese of Nashville, presided at the Baccalaureate Mass at the Cathedral of the Incarnation that morning. Following Mass, Sister Mary Sarah, O.P., President of Aquinas College, welcomed all to the Nurses Pinning and Awards Ceremony where the graduates were “recognized for all their hard work and accomplishments” and were “prepared to be sent forth with our prayers to help change the world through truth and love.” Mrs. Peggy Daniel, Director of the Associate of Science in Nursing Program, and the nursing faculty presented pins to 78 of the Associate of Science in Nursing candidates and welcomed them as colleagues in the nursing profession. In addition, the Deans from each of the Schools presented awards which recognized outstanding graduates within their program.

This day was made historic as the first class of Masters of Education students received their advanced degrees. (pictured above)

Graduation exercises continued later that day with the Commencement Ceremony held at the War Memorial Auditorium. Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, S.V., Ph.D., Mother Superior of the Sisters of Life delivered the Commencement address, where she expounded upon the Aquinas College theme of The Dignity of the Human Person. She told the graduates that a purposeful life begins with life itself and that it is a gift to be shared. In essence, she directed them to use their education and gifts in the service of others, which is service of Him.

The members of the Aquinas College Board of Directors, administration, faculty, and staff, along with the family and friends of the graduates celebrated as approximately 150 graduates received their undergraduate degrees at the Aquinas College Commencement Ceremony. We are pleased that our graduates will carry the name of Aquinas College with them and know that as our graduates succeed, they will not forget the role we played in their formation. ■



Sister Mary Sarah, P. A. Sister Mary, P. Lead procession from Commencement

Tell us what's new with you!



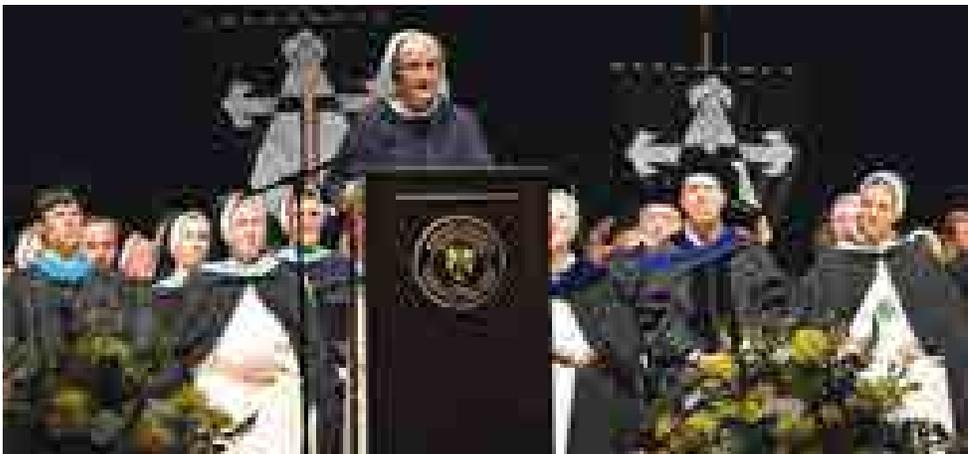
Aaron Urbanczyk, Ph.D. presents Warren B. Austin Award to Warren B. Austin



Begging for processions of Baccalaureate Mass



Kari Byard adjusts hood for Tracey Vanetta Simmons, BSN winner of the BSN Award



Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, VC commencement speaker

*Go to aquinascollege.edu for more pictures and Mother Agnes Mary, S.V.'s video address

We are interested in your accomplishments and family news. Please use this form to tell us about yourself and update your home and/or business information as well.

Photos are welcome!

SEND TO:

Aquinas College
Office of Alumni Relations
4210 Harding Pike
Nashville, TN 37205
Fax: (615) 383-3196
E-mail: alumni@aquinascollege.edu
Or online at:

www.aquinascollege.edu/alumni/submit-a-class-note

Name: _____
Ladies, please include your maiden name.

Class Year: _____

Degree/Major: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Company Name: _____

Title: _____

Business Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Business Phone: _____

ALUMNI NEWS AND COMMENTS:

Please print clearly.

Please see reverse for more information.



Scott Anderson, BBA, Christine Marie Peltier, BBA, Lisa Thuynnga
VoB BA



ASNS tud ntsi nl inef orP inninĠ eremony

IN MEMORIAM

BOBBY REED, JR., alumnus of the class of 2006, on April 2, 2013

SISTER MARY RICHARD, O.P., former Aquinas staff and board member, on April 17, 2013

MARY EILEEN GRAVOIS PRICE, mother of student Maria Price, on April 29, 2013

MARY SUE CHEEK, friend of the campus and member of the Heritage Club, on May 22, 2013

NINA PUGH, mother of Therese McLean, Associate Professor of Nursing, on May 24, 2013

NEIL JOSEPH DEVINE, former Director of Admissions, advisory council member, and good friend, on June 25, 2013

ALEX THOMAS "TOM" WARNER, alumnus of the class of 1970, on July 10, 2013

ROBERT J. DENTICI, SR., father of Marie C. "Cissie" Dentici Gregory, '04, on July 18, 2013

RICK A. STALEY, JR., son of Marianne Staley, former Aquinas staff member, on August 7, 2013

JAMES W. CARRELL, friend of the College, on September 8, 2013

BRIAN JOSEPH "JOE" SWEENEY, friend of

the College and father of William P. Sweeney, '88, on September 9, 2013

REV. DR. CAROLYN SPRADLEY PITTS, mother of Sister Mary Dominic, O.P., Aquinas professor of English, on September 28, 2013

JOAN "TINCEY" POTTS MERRIMAN, sister of Sister Mary Evelyn, O.P., former Aquinas president, on September 30, 2013

BRANNON HUDDLESTON, father of Rebecca Huddleston Page '80 and grandfather of Kevin T. Page, '11, on October 12, 2013

JAMES R. WESSON, husband of Jenny Holditch Wesson '77, on October 21, 2013

JACK G. PRICE, father of student Maria Price, on October 21, 2013

EDWARD D. NICHOLSON, alumnus of the class of 1985, on November 6, 2013

ANN GAINER NOTEBAERT, friend of the College, on November 15, 2013

EDWARD L. STEPNOWSKI, father of Sister Thomas More, O.P., on November 18, 2013

JUDGE WILLIAM "BILL" R. BAKER, friend of the College and father of faculty member Sister Margaret Andrew, O.P., on December 12, 2013

EVELYN NESBITT IRICK GRANNIS, friend and benefactor of the College, on December 14,

2013

ROBERT LEON DAWSON, SR., father-in-law of Aquinas staff member Andrea Dawson, on January 18, 2014

JEWEL WIGLEY HEARN, alumna of the class of 2000, on January 19, 2014

RACHEL NAOMI DAWSON, mother-in-law of Aquinas staff member Andrea Dawson, on January 22, 2014

LARRY N. FAGAN, SR., alumnus of the class of 1973, on February 2, 2014

SAMUEL FLEMING FARRAR, JR., alumnus of the class of 1977, on February 11, 2014

HOWARD E. HANNON, JR., alumnus of the class of 1977, on March 12, 2014

BOBBY NEAL CAMPBELL, alumnus of the class of 1973, on March 14, 2014

DONALD J. LANGHI, SR., former Advisory Council member, on March 30, 2014

C. EDWARD "EDDIE" WAKEFIELD, alumnus of the class of 1987, on May 4, 2014.

REV. JOHN J. ROCK, S.J., former professor of Theology and Philosophy, on May 4, 2014.

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.

VISION2020

COMING
FALL 2014

Truth & Charity



STRATEGIC PLAN

