

Sen. Morahan Secures \$90,000 to Aid STAC

St. Thomas Aquinas College relocated and renovated its Academic Skills Center and its Graphic Design Studio this summer with the help of New York State Senator, Thomas Morahan, who obtained a \$90,000 grant to help with the renovation costs for the College that serves 2,400 students in lower Rockland County (NY).

"St. Thomas prides itself on providing a challenging learning environment that assists students to succeed academically. The funds provided by Senator Morahan will directly help the students who need academic assistance," said Dr. Margaret M. Fitzpatrick, S.C., president of the College.

The relocation, redesign, and renovation of the Academic Skills Center and Graphic Design Studio helps the College better serve student needs. The Academic Skills Center's relocation to the Spellman Hall Technology Corridor gives students better accessibility to the Loughheed Library, the Student Computer Lab, and the Academic Advisement Office. The proximity of the Graphic Design Studio to the Digital Imaging Lab facilitates the integration of technology into the curriculum.



Senator Thomas Morahan

ANNIVERSARIES

The Borellis and Dr. Mary Ann Biller-Fischetti Honored at 2004 Annual Tribute Dinner



Dr. Fitzpatrick presents the Aquinas Medial award to Madlyn and Frank Borelli.



(From the left) Sr. Maryanne Summa, O.P., Dr. Mary Ann Biller-Fischetti, 2004 Founders Award recipient, and Dr. Fitzpatrick.

On Friday, October 15, 2004, approximately 275 friends, family, and colleagues attended St. Thomas Aquinas College's Annual Tribute Dinner at the Hilton Pearl River. At the formal dinner dance, the College bestowed the Aquinas Medal upon Frank and Madlyn Borelli, and the Founders Award upon Dr. Mary Ann Biller-Fischetti. Proceeds of the event will benefit students via the Frank and Madlyn Borelli Scholarship Fund.

"Frank and Madlyn have been great friends to the College. They have brought several new college friends into the fold for several years, and they already have established The Frank and Madlyn Borelli Commemorative Scholarship. The entire Borelli family has been at some of our Annual Tribute Dinners, and Frank, Jr., is a member of our President's Council. We are truly blessed to be a part of their extended family. We certainly consider them to be a big part of the College family," said Dr. Margaret

Fitzpatrick, S.C., president of the College.

Mr. Borelli is a trustee of the College and serves or has served as a director for several boards of private and publicly traded corporations as well as non-profit institutions. Mrs. Borelli has been an involved mother and now grandmother. She is a parishioner with St. Augustine's Church (New City) and has worked with her husband on the successful fundraising campaign to build the new St. Augustine's Church as well as raising funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society (NY).

The Founders Award recognizes an individual who exemplifies the College's motto, "Enlighten the Mind Through Truth," and salutes tireless dedication to the founding ideals and values that continue to inspire the College community today. Dr. Mary Ann Biller-Fischetti '58, this year's recipient, was the College's fifth President.

Dr. Biller-Fischetti entered the Sparkill Dominicans after high school and was a member of the College's first graduating class. Sr. Catherine Siena, as she was then known, returned in 1962 to teach at the College. During her tenure as president from 1970-74, she accomplished the following goals: full Middle States accreditation, faculty development, balanced budgets, initiation of repayments to the Archdiocese and the Dominican Sisters for construction loans, long range planning, expansion of the Board of Trustees/President's Advisory Council, and hired Dr. Donald T. McNelis as Academic Dean, STAC's future president.

From 1974-84, she joined Empire State College as Dean, creating The Hudson Valley Regional Learning Center, encompassing nine NYS counties. After more than 25 years of happy service with the Sparkill Dominicans, Mary Ann left the Community in 1979, but

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faculty/staff kudos

Dr. C. Augusto Casas, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, has had his paper, "Reducing Portfolio Volatility with Artificial Neural Networks," accepted for presentation at IASTED International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Innsbruck, Austria in February 2005.

Dr. Joseph Coyne, Professor of Psychology and Chair, Division of the Social Sciences, has been notified by the State of New Jersey that his "Certificate in Alcoholism in Drug Abuse Counseling" has been upgraded to a "License." He is among the first group in New Jersey to be "grandparented" by reason of experience and training. He also holds the prestigious "Certificate of Proficiency in the Treatment of Alcoholism and Other Psychoactive Substance Use Disorders" awarded by the American Psychological Association's College of Professional Psychology.

Dr. Eileen Cunningham, O.P., Professor of Education, has been appointed Editor of EXCELSIOR, the journal of the New York State Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. She also has been appointed to the Executive Board of the organization.

Dr. Mary Ellen Ferraro '75, Professor of Mathematics and Chair, Division of the Natural Sciences and Mathematics, this summer completed her fifth year as a grader for the AP Calculus exam; collaborated with Professor Emerita Pearl Solomon on the revision of the Math A curriculum for the Ramapo School District; and reviewed several chapters of the statistics book, *Beginning Statistics*. She also was selected for the second time for inclusion in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

Rachel Golland, Visiting Instructor of English, led a nature journaling exercise on behalf of NEW-CUE, an environmental education organization. The journaling exercise and preserve hike took place at Sam's Point River Preserve. It was held in honor of the Eastern New York Chapter of the Nature Conservancy's 50th anniversary celebration.

Dr. Florette Koffler, Professor of Romance Languages, gave a lecture at the Suffern Free Library on "Italy and the Jews During the Holocaust" in September.

Dr. Susan Marell, Professor of Psychology, made a presentation to guidance counselors, parents, and students from Irvington, Ardsley, Hastings-on-Hudson, and Dobbs Ferry Schools on "Choosing a College for Students with Special Needs" in September.

Gerald McCarthy, Professor of English, read a selection from his memoir, *Vet Deconstructed – A Journey from War to Peace*, at the 2nd International Conference for New Directions in the Humanities in Prato, Italy. Other new publications include *Old Glory-American War: Poems from the Revolutionary War to the War in Iraq*; *In the Heyday of His Eyes: Poems about Being Young and Growing Up*; and *Italian Americana*. He is also at work on a documentary study of the Italian-Americans who fought and died at Anzio in World War II. Over the summer, with other members of Veterans for Peace, McCarthy spoke to Middletown High School students about war and its consequences.

Sr. Adele Myers, O.P., curator of the Azarian McCullough Art Gallery, has been named this year's recipient of the Fra Angelico Award for Excellence in the Arts.

Dr. Robert Schelin, Professor of Social Sciences, spoke at the Suffern Library in October on the topic of "Local History" and at the Senior Club in Suffern in September.

Dr. Michael Shaw, Associate Professor of Education, participated in the annual Rockland County Storytelling Festival that was held in Haverstraw and co-sponsored by the College this September. Dr. Shaw performed the Johnny Appleseed folktale.



Dr. Joseph Coyne



Dr. C. Augusto Casas



Dr. Susan Marell



Rachel Golland

New Faculty, Staff Join College Community

Susan Astarita, has been appointed **Assistant Registrar**. She has extensive Registrar experience both in higher education and the corporate world. Her higher education experience includes 11 years at SUNY, Maritime College in Bronx (NY), first as Assistant College Registrar then as Registrar. Her most recent corporate experience was as the Firm Learning Registrar at McKinsey & Company in New York City.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Behavioral Science from Mercy College.

Dr. Colleen Paul has been appointed **Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology**. She was a Teaching Assistant in the Department of Biological Sciences at Dartmouth College and also conducted research in the Department of Biochemistry at Dartmouth Medical School.

Dr. Paul holds an undergraduate degree from LaSalle University, Philadelphia (PA) in Biology and recently earned her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Dartmouth College.



Susan Astarita



Dr. Colleen Paul

Also, the following people have joined the college community: **Mary Anne Hackett** as **Admissions Office Assistant**, **Michael Looney** as **Strength and Conditioning Coach/Fitness Center Supervisor**, and **Lori Rahaim** as **Athletic Trainer**.

Dr. Phyllis Zagano, St. Thomas Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology Scholar

by contributing writer Angel Medina '06.

This spring, the occupant of the St. Thomas Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology, Dr. Phyllis Zagano, is scheduled to give a talk on "A Woman's Place is in the Church." The lecture will focus on the restoration of the female deaconate as an ordained ministry, which has implications for all women's ministry and what ordination of women deacons could mean to the Church and to the world. She is also scheduled to teach two religion courses, "Catholicism Today" and "Catholic Women's Spirituality."

Dr. Zagano holds a B.A. from Marymount College, Tarrytown, NY, a Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and three master's degrees, in communications (Boston University), literature (Long Island University), and theology (St. John's University).

Dr. Zagano is Senior Research Associate-in-Residence and Adjunct

Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Hofstra University. She has taught at Fordham and Boston Universities and worked as a researcher for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York. Dr. Zagano joined Hofstra University in 2002 and teaches "Introduction to Western Religions" and "Mysticism and the Spiritual Quest."

Dr. Zagano is the author or editor of ten books in religious studies, including *Holy Saturday: An Argument for the Restoration of the Female Diaconate in the Catholic Church* (Crossroad, 2000), winner of a First Place Book Award from the Catholic Press Association and the College Theology Society Annual Book Award (2002). She has published hundreds of articles and reviews in popular and refereed journals and for five years hosted a monthly talk show on the National Public Radio affiliate station, WBUR-FM. Her work has been variously translated



Dr. Phyllis Zagano

into Bahasa Indonesian, Czech, Italian, and Spanish. The Spanish translation of her best-selling book *On Prayer: A Letter for My Godchild* won a 2003 Catholic Press Association Book Award.

Dr. Zagano is a founding co-chair of the Roman Catholic Studies Group of the American Academy of Religion and a member of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality, the College Theology Society, and the Catholic Theological Society of America.

Alumni Spotlight: The Walkers, A Budding Success



Mary Ann & Stephanie Walker in front of their flower shop in Pearl River (NY).

Mary Ann and Stephanie Walker are truly a mother-daughter team—they both graduated STAC in 1990; now they co-own the Pearl River Florist in downtown Pearl River, NY, and they like each other!

Mary Ann bought the flower shop 24 years ago and has been serving the area with beautiful blossoms ever since. Always having had a desire to own a flower shop (as her brother is also in the business), Mary Ann finally decided to take the plunge herself, and to learn the business, she worked without pay in another flower shop for a year. While there, she learned the ins-and-outs of flowers. She also took merchandising classes at F.I.T. in Manhattan. Feeling confident in her abilities, Mary Ann then purchased the shop in Pearl River.

Stephanie began working for her mom while still in high school—she helped out in the shop and made deliveries. When Stephanie decided to attend STAC, her mom decided to join her. They both had great experiences at STAC. They learned

a lot, made some great friends, and still remain very close to the College today. Mary Ann has donated numerous arrangements to the school for student dances and even the President's Council Golf Tournament. And Pearl River Florist almost always has a current STAC student working for them, delivering flowers.

When asked what they love best about owning and working in a flower shop, MaryAnn replied, "I love when brides-to-be come in asking me to do their wedding flowers... and I did the flowers at their parents' wedding."

Both Mary Ann and Stephanie agreed that the toughest part was working the holidays, but Stephanie then added that she loves it "when little kids come in on Mother's Day with a small handful of change and want to buy flowers for their moms."

Mary Ann and Stephanie Walker make both a great team and a beautiful arrangement.

THE TOI

'68

Elaine (Sharp) Murphy is working at JFK Medical Center as a social worker. Her daughter just had identical triplet boys!

'71

Agnes (Stephens) Bowen became a grandmother twice this summer; Braden Michael was born 5/26/04 and Caitlen Marie was born on 8/25/04.

'77

Marion Laufenberg and her husband William celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 11/14/04.

'79

Jim Leiner recently retired early from Orange and Rockland Utilities after 32 years. He sold his home in Nyack, moved upstate to a condominium overlooking the Hudson River, and now he's writing a monthly local history column "Remember the days?" for the Nyack Villager which can be seen online at TheNyackVillager.com. Jim and wife Judy are also proud of their nine grandchildren, five girls and four boys—he is the self-proclaimed, "Alumni Grandchildren Champion." Can anyone top that?

'84

Terry (Pulido-Poliakoff) Odell is married with two children and is living in Warwick NY for the past 12 years she has made a living as a Singer/DJ, with a company she and her husband own. She is also a real estate agent. Catch the Odells live at their karaoke show at Coogan's Restaurant, 168th Street and Broadway, NYC.

'86

Romy (Buck) Strickland was appointed principal of the newly formed K-8 program at Grace Academy, a local private Christian school in Georgia. She and her husband, Sam, have three children: Austin, 14, Mattie, 12, and Walton, 7. They live on a small farm in Georgia and raise beef cattle.

'87

Daniel Windheim gave a lecture as part of an "Understanding Differences Together" forum held at Nyack Library. He spoke in an effort to increase awareness of disabilities and look beyond them.

'89

Dermot McCarthy and his wife Laura announce the birth of their second daughter, Madeline Maeve, on 5/13/04. Madeline joins older sister Brianna, age four.

Richard McShane, who was ordained a Catholic priest in 1996 with the Franciscans of the

Immaculate, recently returned to the USA after working in Australia and England for five years. Fr. McShane is hosting a pro-life radio show out of Providence, RI and is the editor of a news journal, *Marian Conquest*, www.figuadolupe.com

Juan Mena (MBA '01) was recently promoted to Director of Credit and Collections at Pearson Education. Juan delivered an informative presentation on money, budgets, and credit to the 2004 HEOP summer program participants.

Kelly Rhine-Abiodun and her husband Olaniyi welcomed their first child, Tomi Joel, on 6/10/04.

Jura Sperauskas (MSEd '94) is currently teaching in the Goshen Central School District and was recently engaged to John Schell, a Captain in the New York City Fire Department.

'91

Tammy (Haldas) Kelley was recently hired as an adjunct professor of psychology at College of the Albemarle in North Carolina.

Patrick Pryor is living in Old Lyme, CT with his wife Tracy and two dogs. He is a volunteer firefighter and the Sales Manager for Coastal Window Distributors in Old Saybrook—STAC Alumni can receive special discounts!

'92

Marianne Kasney is currently working at a hedge fund company in New York City. She's recently got engaged to Brian Clancy, and they plan to wed in July 2005.

'93

Lisa Asche has accepted a position as a Tax Exemption Specialist in the National Business Department for AT&T Wireless in Paramus, NJ.

Ramon Lopez, a HEOP graduate, successfully completed the requirements for formal entrance into the formation period, a four-year program to become a Diocesan priest, at St. Joseph's Seminary at Dunwoodie. Ramon also holds an MS Ed. in Counseling from Long Island University that he earned in 1999.

Meredith Thompson began a new position last fall as the District Literacy Specialist in Pearl River, NY. She's been teaching in the district for 11 years. Meredith earned her National Certification in the area of Early Childhood Generalist in 2002 and will lead a district in-service course this year for a cohort group of colleagues also seeking certification. Meredith traveled to Washington D.C. to receive the Baldrige Award from President Bush and has spoken on numerous occasions on the topic of linking Baldrige quality principles to No Child Left Behind legislation.

alumni news



Shelley Roth '94



Michael Golod '95, his wife, Christine, and their son, Michael Edmund Golod IV



Sara Soutter '97 and Jeremy Pisciantelli

'94

Christine (Young) Anderson and her husband David are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Daric Lars, born 6/7/04.

Shelley H. Roth, who has been an active volunteer at The Spring of Tampa Bay, the largest domestic violence shelter in Florida, has been appointed to the Board of Trustees. Shelley also implemented a monthly Story Time program at The Spring where she and a group of volunteers read with the children at the shelter once a month. Shelley received her national certification as a Professional in Human Resources from the Human Resources Certification Council and has been working for KB Home Tampa as the Office/HR manager since May 2002.

Steven Moetzing married Kristen Berta on 8/21/04. STAC alumni present were best man, **Michael Winzinger '94**, and friends **Liz Winzinger '98** and **Lisa Asche '93**.

alumni news

'95

Jeremy Brown was recently hired as the new managing editor of World Wrestling Entertainment's RAW magazine. He lives in Carmel, NY with his wife **Alli Vincent Brown** and their two sons William (4) and James (1).

Michael C. Golod and his wife, Christine, announce the birth of their first son, Michael Edmund Golod IV born on 5/5/05.

Deyanira Peralta Martinez and her husband, Maximo Martinez, had a baby girl, Crystal Eliz, in June 2004.

Kathy (Osofsky) Fronte has written a children's book called *Bella's Bow Tie Bears* which will be released before the year is out.

Karen Greene, a supervisor of financial services at Verizon Wireless, moved to North Carolina with the company.

'96

Laila Braaten was recently engaged to Pete Proulx. Pete proposed to Laila while hiking in Alaska this past summer. The couple plans to wed in December 2004.

Melinda (Crosby) Neri recently moved to Cos Cob, CT with her husband and now announce the birth of their third child, Stephen Anthony Neri born on 12/11/03. Stephen joins big brother and sister, Anthony (4) and Jessica (3).

'97

Connie Cipolli completed her Master's in Educational Administration from Long Island University in May 2004. She has completed all requirements for S.A.S./S.D.A. certification and will be presenting "Materials and Idea Formation" at the NJ School Board Convention and the NJ Art Educators' Convention this Fall.

Judith Mejia Alvarez completed her MEd in Counseling at Long Island University in 2003 and is working as a counselor at the Bronx School of Excellence.

Sara Soutter and Jeremy Prisciantelli were married on October 15, 2004.

'98

Andrea & Ken DeGeorge announce the birth of their second child, Emily Rose on 5/15/04.

'99

Lisa Esack-Rameau was married to **Phillipe Rameau '97** in February 2004. Phillippe is working as an assistant basketball coach at STAC. The couple is currently living in Nanuet, NY.

Lisa Grabowski is engaged to Thomas Tierney and is planning a July 2005 wedding.

'00

Gayle (Goldmann) Spector and her husband Andrew welcomed their first child, Colin Quinn Spector on 8/13/04.

Natacha Louis-Charles recently earned her Doctor of Optometry degree from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry.

Matthew Nordt married **Pattianne Shea '01** in April 2003. Pattianne is currently working at Kraft Foods in Purchase, NY and Matt is working for the Rye Recreation Department in Rye, NY.

Rodney Perez is engaged to **Yesenia Zucco '02**. The couple met while attending STAC, and they are planning a wedding for April 2005. Yesenia is currently a paint-box artist for Fox News Channel and Rodney is a TV Director for ESPN.

Jennifer (Bou) Thompson, DC and her husband Charlie had a baby girl on 7/23/04. Her name is Alyssa Rose. Charlie is currently

working as a NYC firefighter and Jennifer is a chiropractor working in private practice in Floral Park, NY with her mom Rosemarie Bou, DC, and she's also working as a clinical fellow in the New York Chiropractic College Levittown Health Center.

'01

Stephanie Alexander '01 & '04, a Staff Accountant at Active International in Pearl River who recently graduated with her MBA from STAC, is engaged to Christopher Noble. A November 2005 wedding is planned.

Bro. Christopher J. Iannizzotto, O.Carm. completed a two year internship experience at Saint Simon Stock Parish, Bronx, NY on August 15th, 2004 and is now enrolled at Washington Theological Union, working on his Master's of Divinity Degree in preparation to be ordained a Carmelite Priest.

'02

Kristen D'Ercole is working as a fifth grade teacher at Holy Family School in Norwood, NJ. She was recently featured in Our Town newspaper for her initiatives in creating a "reading garden" to promote literacy at her school.

Cira Emerizy Hook married Donald Hook in May 2004. The couple is now living in Suffern, NY.

Kacey Foley is teaching second grade in Monroe-Woodbury and is currently finishing a Master's in Literacy. She is recently engaged to

Graham Capen and they will be married on 7/30/05.

Elaine Raymond recently got engaged to Robert Hau. A wedding is planned for August 2006.

'03

Matthew MacDonald is working as a part-time elementary school teaching assistant in Hawaii.

'04

Tina Perruna is teaching fourth grade at West Haverstraw Elementary School.

James Ward III was hired as a full-time Production Assistant for the Archdiocese of New York after completing an internship with them as part of his senior year Communication studies.

Upcoming Events For Alumni and Friends

NOVEMBER
14 - Dec. 12

New AMAG Exhibition:
Laura Von Rosk (oil on wood)

DECEMBER

3 **Quarter II MBA Begins**
14 **Criminal Justice Alumni Cocktail Reception**
- Call to RSVP!

JANUARY

3 **Winter Interim Begins**
15-16 **Career Workshop Event**, see details on page 5
23 **New AMAG Exhibition:** Mary Pinto (photography)
24 **Spring Semester Begins**
28 **Annual Hall of Fame & Reunion Dinner**
Park Ridge Marriot

FEBRUARY

29 **New AMAG Exhibition:** Mimi Graminski, (Installation/dress-like objects), Exhibit Title: "Seams"

MARCH

4 **Quarter III MBA Begins**

MAY

7 **Save the Date**
Annual Alumni Barbeque on Campus!
13 **Commencement, 1 p.m.**

Watch for upcoming announcements!
Please call the Advancement Office at 845-398-4020 for more information concerning any event.

Alumni Educators Return for a Student/Faculty Gathering

On November 4th the Azarian-McCullough Art Gallery was packed with alumni working in the field of education. They were welcomed back to campus by President Margaret Fitzpatrick, some of their former professors, and current STAC students

majoring in education. The reception was held to update current educators on their alma mater's latest and greatest accomplishments and to allow students the opportunity to learn from alumni who are working as teachers, principals, and guidance counselors.



Alumni educators, current STAC education majors, and faculty socialize at the reception.

JOIN THE A-TEAM

Volunteer to become a mentor to a student at your alma mater!

The "A-Team" mentor program is a supportive and motivational program for students at STAC who need help to succeed in the college environment. Mentors work with students on skill building, problem solving, encourage them to use campus academic resources, work on professionalism, and help students plot their future career paths. All students in the program sign-up voluntarily, and are excited about having a mentoring relationship.

All mentors take part in a two-hour training session highlighting the resources available to the mentor/mentee, the role of a mentor, and the responsibilities of a mentor. Mentors are not expected to "tutor" or counsel students; they are encouraged to create a warm, trusting, supportive relationship with their mentee.

If you are interested in becoming an "A-Team" mentor, please call Dr. Kathryn Hutchinson, Executive Director, Counseling and Psychological Services at 845-398-4174 or e-mail khutchin@stac.edu.

In Memoriam:

Debra Settineri '82, STAC Associate Registrar

Tappan resident, Debra M. Settineri died July 31, 2004 at the age of 44. She had been battling cancer for the past two years.

Debbie's first job after graduating from STAC in 1982 was with the college. She worked in the Registrar's Office for 22 years and in 2002 in recognition of her dedication as an employee and alumna, she was inducted into STAC's Alumni Hall of Fame.

"She always asked about the other person, always cared about their family and friends. There was never a problem that was too small or too big regarding a student that she wouldn't handle," said college president Dr. Margaret M. Fitzpatrick, S.C.

Millie Alexiou, the college's registrar and a close friend added, "She was an absolute delight in every way. I mean her sense of humor, her laughter was infectious, and in all ways, she was just an absolutely beautiful person."



Debra Settineri '82

Debbie was born July 7, 1960 in Manhattan; she lived in Rockland since she was six. She is survived by her mother, Edith, her sisters, Phyllis and Denise, and her brother, Robert, all of Tappan.

In tribute, the college is creating a scholarship fund in her name. Donations may be sent to Kevin Duignan, Executive Director of Development, St. Thomas Aquinas College, 125 Route 340, Sparkill, NY 10976.

Dr. Thomas M. Wozniak '82

Thomas M. Wozniak, Ph.D. was an Assistant Professor at SUNY-Buffalo at the time of his death. Thomas received his BS degree in education from STAC, MSEd. from Buffalo State College, and

his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley.

Dr. Wozniak is survived by his mother, father, and brother.

Career Transition & Promotion Workshop

Are you considering a career change? Are you unhappy in your current position? In response to economic needs and alumni suggestions, St. Thomas Aquinas College has partnered with Bi-Coastal Resumes, a national leader in career marketing and professional development, to offer alumni a two-day career transition and promotion workshop.

This small-group workshop will provide you with the information, interaction, and advice you need to advance or change your career at a more affordable price—a career coach will cost well over \$1,000 on a one-on-one basis.

The workshop will be held on campus on **January 15th and 16th from 9am-5pm**. Participants will benefit from six dynamic, interactive programs designed to enhance your career and personal marketing abilities including:

- **Career Development & Job Search Profile Creation** - Create a career-marketing strategy designed to penetrate other industries or catapult your career.
- **Career Marketing Material Development** - Expert resume writers will guide you to develop effective resumes and cover letters.
- **Job Search Strategies** - Bi-Coastal will reveal the secrets to successful internet searches, cold-calling, and executive recruiter campaigns.
- **Interview & Salary Workshops** - Interactive training will prepare you to land that dream job!
- **Networking** - Develop critical skills to enhance and broaden your networking circle.
- **Making the Change** - Create an action plan to implement the strategies you learned in this seminar.

Please note: STAC will not see any profit from this event.

To register, or for more information, contact: Sarah Grom at 845-398-4284 or go online to <http://www.bi-coastalresumes.com>

Registration Options & Fee Schedule

Register by December 15th \$300

Register by January 3rd \$350

Name _____
 Address _____
 Daytime Phone # _____
 Credit Card # _____
 Expiration Date _____
 (Or make check out to Bi-Coastal Resumes.)

Mail registration form and payment to: STAC Alumni Affairs, 125 Rt. 340, Sparkill, NY 10976

Be a Class Agent!

The Office of Alumni Affairs is organizing a Class Agent System and would like volunteers to serve as the Agent for your class year.

What is a Class Agent System?

Many colleges and universities, especially those that operate with a very small alumni relations staff, utilize outstanding alumni as communication liaisons to keep other alumni informed and involved. An alum might hesitate to contact the school if they have moved, changed jobs, or were just curious to know the latest goings-on at their Alma Mater. But they might feel more motivated (or less intimidated) to contact you, because you have much more in common.

What does this mean as far as time and effort?

As little or as much as you can afford is all we ask. We will announce in the next STAC Summary all those alumni who have volunteered to serve as their Class Agent. We will list your name and your preferred method of communication (phone, e-mail, or both). As alumni contact you, you in turn inform the alumni office of the communication, and either you or the Office of Alumni Affairs will follow up with the alum depending on the request. In addition, we may ask you to help us contact alumni from your class to alert them of an upcoming event or opportunity.

If you are interested, please fill out the following form and mail to: Sarah Grom, Alumni Affairs Office, 125 Rt. 340, Sparkill, NY 10976 or call 845.398.4284 with additional questions.

I volunteer to serve as a Class Agent!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Year Graduated: _____

Method of Contact to be published in *Summary*: _____

We'd Like To Hear From You!

Many alumni have told us that the class notes section is the first thing they read when they receive the Summary. We'd like to include news from as many of you as possible in each issue, so please keep us informed about new family members, new jobs, travels and other activities and include photos if possible. We also appreciate your help in keeping our mailing list as current as possible. Please take a moment to fill in this coupon and mail it to:



**Editor
 The Summary
 St. Thomas Aquinas College
 125 Route 340
 Sparkill, NY 10976-1050**

If you prefer, call us at (845) 398-4020 or e-mail your news to alumni@stac.edu. Thanks for your help!

CLASS _____

NAME _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

ADDRESS _____ () _____ HOME PHONE _____

JOB TITLE _____

FIRM ADDRESS & NAME _____ () _____ WORK PHONE _____

INFORMATION FOR ALUMNI NEWS _____

Taste of Rome: STAC Students Take Summer Art Course

By Karen Edelmann, Professor of Art

A lifetime is not enough to savor all of Rome, but from July 4 - August 5 eleven St. Thomas Aquinas students cut a big slice from the Roman life-and-art layer cake. They sampled cities north and south in courses offered to art and non-art majors in conjunction with St. John's University, whose faculty and students had a separate program.

Two courses ran concurrently: Art 201: Creative Experiences for

non-art majors and Art 401: Special Projects in the Arts for art majors. We traveled to sites together and reviewed the history and art together, but the assignments in the journals were different, reflecting the student's choice of class and personal goals.

FUN? It showed in class work there and back home. Students' journals logged events, documenting travel-study with sketches, pho-

tographs, postcards, and souvenirs. In September, samples of their work went on display in Spellman Hall's exhibit cases.

St. Peter's dome steered us from our residence to great Roman destinations as we navigated by foot, bus, metro, and train to see history and art unfold. Traveling from the pre-historic to the present, we worked at the Palatine Hill, Pantheon, Piazza Navona, St. Peter's (where some



The Palatine Hill by Kristin Pratt

had an audience with the Pope), the Vatican Museum, and more.

Our first weekend took us to Pompeii's ruins, to Paestum's Greek temples, returning by Naples to enjoy the National Museum. The second, we toured Florence, visiting the Uffizi Gallery, Michelangelo's David, and shopped for clothes and fine leather goods. Now Italian-travel savvy, the next weekends found some on their own in Venice, on the West and Northeast coast's beaches, or relaxing in Rome, perhaps to hear Simon and Garfunkel at the Colosseum.

HOT! So, we lived as Romans. Starting in the morning shade, we worked until noon, took long lunch breaks, and often quiet afternoons. After a group dinner, it was off to explore the Roman evening. COOL!

However, almost too soon, students tallied their three credits and memories, including the coin-in-the-Trevi-fountain wish to return.

I look forward to offering another art program in Europe in the summer of 2006!

Azarian-McCullough Art Gallery Exhibits Explore Space

St. Thomas Aquinas College's Azarian-McCullough Art Gallery (AMAG) opened its fifth season with the works of Rebecca Riley. Her show, titled "Cellular Universe," consisted of brightly colored and intricately textured paintings, reminiscent of magnified cellular structures.

The artist thinks of them as "metaphors for the way mass moves and defines space, both on the largest of scales - stars, galaxies, and the expanse of the universe itself, and on the smallest scale - molecules and subatomic particles."

The second exhibit featured the work of Alejandra Munizaga. The Chilean born artist's show consisted of a series of two and three-dimensional works that explored the themes of fragility and change.

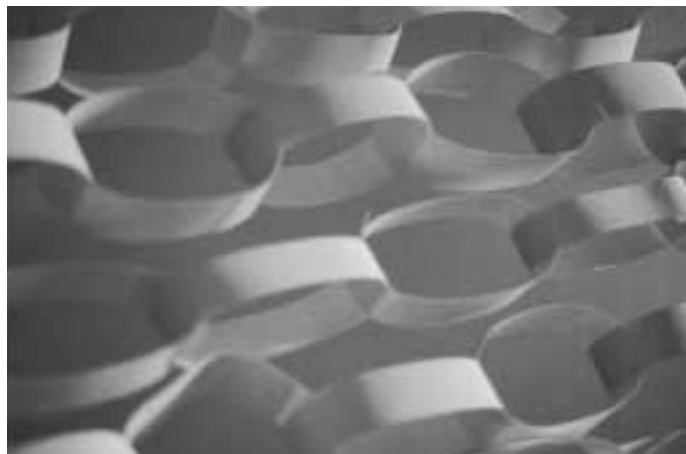
One work was a structure made of hanging paper chains with a doorway that viewers can walk through. The chains referred to the connection between one human being and another. The doorway becomes a symbolic passage that speaks of the fragility of our everyday life. The other work, "Following the River," was a work made of paper leaves that are pinned to the wall, tracing the path of flowing water. The leaves are cut out of pages from the artist's personal diaries, which were previously soaked in water until the words became blurry.

The third exhibit featured the works of Laura Von Rosk titled "Landmarks," oils on wood. Her work has been described as "...pristine and precious, containing sensual forms expanded upon from nature..." Her landscapes are crafted with jewel like precision, are seductive and intimate, but create tension, playfulness, and curiosity.

Future shows will feature the artistic works of Mary Pinto (1/23-2/20), Mimi Graminski (2/27-4/3), and Sr. Adele Meyers, O.P. (4/10-5/8). For information on these shows, please call the AMAG Director Dr. Carl Rattner at 845-398-4195. The gallery hours are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 1-3 p.m., and Sundays from 2-5 p.m.



Big Bang 1 by Rebecca Riley



Shelter 2002 by Alejandra Munizaga



Yaddo Trees #2 by Laura Von Rosk

2004 Annual Tribute Dinner continued

her love, spirit and best friends remained. Mary Ann was a member of the Board of STAC from 1974-84, when she married John L. Fischetti, MD. Her subsequent

move to Pennsylvania brought her to Cabrini College where she worked as Academic Dean and then Vice-President.



Bernard Nicolosi '86, a member of the College's President's Council, and his wife Eve were also celebrating their 54th wedding anniversary that night. The College surprised them with an anniversary cake.



The Annual Tribute Dinner brought together four of the College's presidents: (from the left) Dr. Donald McNelis, Dr. Patricia Ann Reilly, O.P., Dr. Mary Ann Biller-Fischetti '58, and Dr. Margaret M. Fitzpatrick, S.C.



spartan news

Cross Country's Tim Morgan Leads a Rewarding Fall Sports Season

Junior Tim Morgan became the first STAC Cross Country runner to win a NYCAC Championship on Sunday, October 25 at Van Cortland Park in the Bronx. Morgan ran a 26:32 on the 5-mile course to win the event. Morgan has been named NYCAC Runner of the Week on four separate occasions. This has been a spectacular season for the Plainfield (NJ) native. The men's cross-country team finished fourth overall in the very competitive meet.

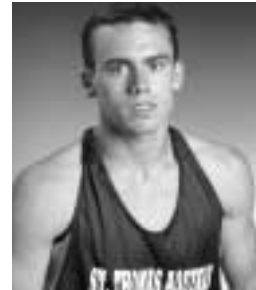
A trio of runners led this season's women's cross-country team. Sophomore Kelly Ann Bauer finished 4th in the NYCAC Championships with a time of 20:15 on the 5K course. Teammates senior Stephanie Burdge (15th, 21:46) and sophomore Laura Koch (29th, 22:59) helped the Lady Spartan cause. Bauer has been named NYCAC Female Runner of the week twice during the season.

The women's soccer team has shown much improvement over the

course of the season. Coach Al Moroni's Lady Spartans have posted a record of six wins and nine losses so far. The women's team is led by freshman forward Kim Griffith (Sayreville, NJ). Griffith has twice been named NYCAC Rookie of the Week. The Lady Spartans are young along with Griffith, sophomore striker Jamie Sprague and sophomore goalie Amber Rodriguez, make the future look bright.

The STAC men's soccer team is going into the final week of the season with a record of 6 wins and 11 losses. The NYCAC is one of the toughest soccer conferences in the country. Led by sophomore goalie Sean McEnery and freshman forward Adam Brunengo, the Spartans have been in every game of the season. Coach Graham Brown feels his charges are just a player or two away from becoming a force in the conference.

Women's Tennis is improving each year. This year led by freshman Ashley Bass and sophomore



Tim Morgan '06



Kim Griffith '08



Kelly Bauer '07



Adam Brunengo '08

Amanda Martinez, the Lady Spartans fought to a 3 - 9 record including two NYCAC victories. Coach Vincent Ceci believes his

team is on the verge of being very competitive in the league.

STAC Women's Basketball Team Take a Walk in the Park



Front row (from the left) Janet Kopac, Joyce Irizarry, Laura Carney, Coach Mary Bullock, Jenna Smith '06, Takiyah Ingram '08, Lorraine Carita '08, and Allison Doman '08. Back row (from the left) Coach Eileen King, Brittney Thomas '05, Caitlin Hayes '05, Erin Kilduff '07, Diane Bruno '07, Corinne Albrecht '08, Mikey Kretzer '08, Kelly McManus '06, Regina Cunningham '05, Laura Mosher '08, and Erika Ostrove '08.

On Sunday October 17, the St. Thomas Aquinas College Lady Spartans joined millions of others in Central Park for the 11th annual Walk for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. Coach McManus and his teams have been attending the Walk for 10 years.

"This is a very important cause and I am happy we have been able to participate," said Coach

McManus. The women's team has raised more than \$25,000 over the past 10 years.

The 2004-2005 Lady Spartan team attended this year's walk with Coach McManus and new assistant coaches Eileen King and Mary Bullock. They were also accompanied by Janet Kopac from the CAPS office, Joyce Irizarry from the bookstore, and Laura Carney,

the secretary to the chair of Teacher Education.

Lady Spartan Diane Buono, a third year participant in The Walk, said, "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer is a great organization to become involved with outside of our STAC community. Each year it has been a privilege to donate our money and time to such an excellent cause."

St. Thomas Aquinas Wins 2004 ECAC Division II Men's Golf Championship: STAC's Matt DeMaro Shares Top Honors

St. Thomas Aquinas College teamed for a 2-day total of 592 to hold off Bryant College for the 2004 ECAC Team Championship held at the 6,213 yard, par 71 Drumlins East Course in Syracuse.

Matt DeMaro '07 totaled 144 strokes (-2) to earn co-medalist honors with LeMoynes' Dan McCarthy. Matt shot one under par 70 on the second day to help the Spartans to a team total of 299 for the 2nd round. STAC held a 10 shot lead after the first day, but Bryant College equaled STAC's 1st round 293 on the 2nd day to make it interesting. New Haven finished 8th as the only other NYCAC school in the Top Ten. DeMaro's teammates, Pat Cirbrika '07 and Mike Tulacz '08, tied for 6th place with a 2-day total of 149. The Spartan's Jayson Kohlman '05 finished 9th with a total of 150.

Coach Ken Bortner's Spartans are looking ahead to the spring and capturing their 4th consecutive NYCAC title.

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Decision 2004: The National Political Conventions

by Dr. Robert Schelin, Professor of Social Sciences

Hey Doc, what did you do this summer? When confronted with this query in September, I proudly announced to anyone who asked, faculty, student, staff, or administrator, "I went to both conventions; I spent two weeks in Boston and two weeks in New York City."

Upon hearing my answer, my questioner's expressions changed from interest to either astonishment or more likely pity! Why oh why would anyone voluntarily spend their summer vacation at such events?

But I did, I attended both political conventions this summer as I have since 1988. I find them fascinating, educational, and fun. It's the only time that the national parties bring the whole group together.

This year, as always, each convention was unique as they carried on their traditions. What made this year different was that both conventions were clearly about George W. Bush, with John Kerry as almost an afterthought. In Boston, the name Kerry was not mentioned too often, but anti-Bush slogans were everywhere. There were more anti-Bush buttons than pro-Kerry ones. The Democrats in Boston wanted one thing, to defeat George Bush.

Boston was a perfect host and the party left happily united.

In New York, the convention was all about Bush with little or no talk of Kerry (I am speaking of the rank and file, not the official speeches). There were no anti-Kerry buttons and the feeling was elect Bush now and forever. There were many more outside protestors in New York than in Boston, but inside each convention hall, it was clearly a case of preaching to the converted.

Conventions are true American theater politics and have been thrown together to form just one more piece of American culture that the rest of the world just can't quite understand. (Others include the Electoral College and rodeos.)

People ask me why bother to have conventions, since their original task, to elect the party's nominees, is done long before the delegates meet? My answer is that we will always have conventions because, as I mentioned before, it is the only time the national parties get together. And, I for one am glad. To me there is no better way to spend a summer, so the Good Lord willing, I'll be back on the convention floor four years from now and eight years from now, etc., etc.!

3rd Annual Faculty Research Retreat

In May, the STAC faculty held its third annual Research Retreat at Jeronimo Resort and Conference Center in Walker Valley (NY). A total of 21 faculty members attended the Retreat either as presenters of original research or as active participants.

Since the intent of the retreat is to provide constructive criticism, the presented material is 'in-progress' and not already accepted for publication.

This year, nine faculty members made presentations. The connecting theme from the pool of projects presented was "Interpretations: Creating Spaces for Thought and Action." The following is a list of the presenters and their session titles:

Dr. Eileen Cunningham, O.P., "Crafting a Culturally Sensitive Liberal Arts Curriculum"

Dr. David Keppler, "Can An Eliminative Materialist Make Sense of Human Freedom?"

Dr. Nikolas Papavlassopoulos, "Maximization of Shareholders' or Stakeholders' Wealth"

Dr. Rebecca Shapiro, "Jewish Self-Hatred in the Work of Amy Levy"

Mr. Bruce Bennett and Dr. Neerja Chaturvedi, "The Creative Process"

Dr. Florette Koffler, "The Art of Translation"



Dr. Nikolas Papavlassopoulos



Dr. Florette Koffler

Dr. Jeffrey Durham, "Concentration, Infinity, and Negentropy: Meditation and Funeral Deposits in Ancient India"

Dr. Robert Murray, "Marcuse, Kant, and American Naturalism"

Dr. Robert Schelin, "Politics and the Media"

As was the case last year, all participants agreed that the Retreat was an enthusiastic success as illustrated in the following comments – "Simply wonderful. Change nothing." "A wonderful experience, provocative presentations, and fabulous camaraderie." "Extremely well-prepared, informative presentations, and well-received." "Keep on keepin' on!"

Because of its continued success, another Retreat is being planned for May 2005.

summary

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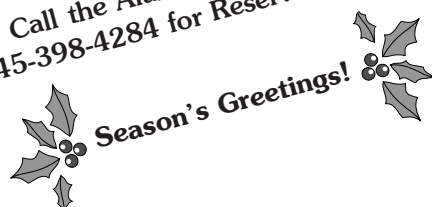
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Ms. Socorro Santos-Winters, Class of 1982
Dr. Deborah A. O'Connell McManus, Class of 1985

The 2005 Alumni Hall of Fame
Spartan Award
Mr. Vincent Abbatecola

Friday, January 28, 2005
"The Feast Day of St. Thomas Aquinas"
The Park Ridge Marriott Hotel
Park Ridge, New Jersey
Cocktails at 6:30 p.m.
Dinner at 7:30 p.m.
Call the Alumni Office at
845-398-4284 for Reservations



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