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Dear Friends:
Imagine that we just celebrated the 53rd Commencement Exercises for St. Thomas Aquinas College and we are readying to start our 58th year as an institution of higher learning!

As we look forward to the 2010-11 academic year we have new projects on the horizon, and so we would enjoy having our alumni and friends on campus to share our vision with you for STAC’s future! Now that our capital campaign is in its public phase, you’ll begin to see construction projects on campus as we work to create better living and learning centers for our students.

One exciting project will be the construction of our new Academic and Administrative building. This new facility will be home to our undergraduate and graduate programs in Education and Business along with several administrative offices. We hope to break ground this fall and begin construction soon after.

The changes are continual at the undergraduate level as we adjust our programs to better serve our students. At the graduate level, we’re now offering a new graduate certificate in Teacher Leadership, which can lead to an MSEd in Teacher Leadership.

The new Online MBA starts this fall, complementing our on campus MBA program. We believe our Online MBA program will be a great choice for our alumni, who know the value of a STAC education – but we’ll be opening it up to students across the globe with this new online option.

We’re churning toward our 60th anniversary year in 2012 and all of our program changes, new building projects, and graduate offerings are designed to make a better experience for our students and alumni. We hope you have some time to come back for a visit, or a graduate course.

You are all in our prayers,

Dr. Margaret M. Fitzpatrick, S.C.
President

Lanny Cohen, CEO North America at Capgemini, has been appointed Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Joseph McSweeney, President, United States and Canada at Marsh & McLennan Inc., and Donald J. Riley, retired IBM executive, were appointed Vice Chairs.

James Mooney, Chairman of Virgin Media, Inc., has been appointed to the College’s Board of Trustees. Prior to joining Virgin Media, he was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Nextel Communications, Inc. He has also served as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operations Officer of Tradeout Inc., EBay Inc. and Benchmark Capital. Jim was Chief Financial Officer at Baan Company and held a number of positions with IBM, including his last position as the Chief Financial Officer of the Americas. He is a Director of Sirius Satellite Radio and a Director and Chairman of RCN Corporation. At STAC’s 2009 Commencement, he received an Honorary Doctor of Commercial Science degree and was the commencement speaker.

Over 300 family members and friends were present when almost 150 students were inducted into several of St. Thomas Aquinas College’s national honor societies and another 128 students were named to the Dean’s List during the College’s annual Honors Convocation ceremonies on Wednesday, April 28, 2010 held at Aquinas Hall.

Anthony Conza, the founder of the Blimpie chain of sandwich shops and now president of Conza Capital Corp., a private investment firm, was the convocation speaker and also received an Honorary Doctor of Commercial Science degree.

Five employees were awarded the Laetare Medal for 20 years of dedicated service to the College community: Dr. Donald Johnson, Associate Professor of Physics; Dr. David Keppler, Associate Professor of Philosophy; Dr. Florette Koffler, Professor of Romance Languages; Dr. Charles O’Neill, Professor of English; and Dr. Helene Robbins, Professor of Education.

Each of the College’s ten honor societies is committed to academic excellence in their respective areas: Alpha Chi in general studies; Alpha Phi Sigma in criminal justice; Chi Alpha Sigma in general studies among student-athletes; Delta Mu Delta in business administration; Kappa Delta Pi in teacher education on the graduate and undergraduate level; Kappa Mu Epsilon in mathematics; Pi Gamma Mu in social science; Phi Sigma Iota in romance languages; Psi Chi in psychology; and Sigma Tau Delta in English.
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE HOLDS 53RD COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

On a picture perfect spring day, over 400 students graduated with degrees at levels from Associates to Post Masters Certificates on Friday, May 14 at St. Thomas Aquinas College’s 53rd Commencement exercises. More than 2,500 family and friends looked on as the graduates received their diplomas.

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan, Ph.D., D.D., Archbishop of New York, was the commencement speaker and received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at the ceremony. The College also bestowed an Honorary Doctor of Science degree on Catherine Costello Skae, M.D. ’85, Director, Residency Training Program at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Children’s Hospital at Montefiore and an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree on Anthony M. Santomero, Ph.D., former President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and Richard King Mellon Professor Emeritus of Finance at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

Several Class Service Awards were bestowed as well as the Terence Cardinal Cooke Award for outstanding service to Sean Mundy; the Francis Cardinal Spellman Award for academic excellence on the undergraduate level to Mary Elizabeth Chipman and Christopher M. Muniz; and the

“STAC is a remarkable place,” Gene said. “STAC taught me to do the right thing and to do it the best way you can. There are so many great people we met at STAC who are our close friends 30 years later.”

When asked what she learned at STAC that has helped her to be successful as a teacher and educational administrator Soky, one in a long line of outstanding student athletes, answered, “I was taught the importance of working as a team, good humor, accepting people as they are and getting along. These values have helped me to be the very best teacher that I can be.”

Gene and Soky established a scholarship in their parent’s names to thank them for everything they did to make their lives what they are today. “Our parents were our first teachers and education meant everything to them. They loved coming to STAC. Now we have the chance to give back to today’s students in a way that honors the beliefs and memories of our parents and honors the College we love. This is our legacy and we are very proud and honored to be able to do this.”

Today and tomorrow, The Charles and Loretta Winters and Juan and Margaretita Santos Scholarship will enable countless students to enjoy a St. Thomas education!

You, too, can honor a loved one by creating your own family legacy at St. Thomas!

For more information about establishing a scholarship, please contact Judy Perrin in the Institutional Advancement Office at 845-398-4045.

~ Judy Perrin
SECURING THE FUTURE OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

SPOTLIGHT ON JOHN AND EILEEN LAWLER

In 1998, John and Eileen established a Planned Gift for the future of St. Thomas Aquinas College in the form of a Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT). John was nearing retirement and the Lawlers wanted not only to provide for their retirement income but also to contribute to St. Thomas where their son Thomas graduated in 1981 and where their sons Andrew and John attended.

John has been involved with the College since 1973. In 1976, he was elected to the College’s Board of Trustees where he served as Chair of the Academic Committee for many years and as Chair of the Board of Trustees from 1987-1989. John and Eileen have been instrumental in the College’s growth and expansion through the years and have helped the College to become the respected institution of higher learning that it is today.

To use John’s words, “St. Thomas is in business for the long haul and Eileen and I would like to do our part to insure this. No one lives forever but an institution does. We want to see St. Thomas do well. Education is important because it enhances one’s talents and ability to contribute to society.”

John and Eileen share a strong belief in the benefits of a small but dynamic college like St. Thomas. They believe that a college like St. Thomas makes a significant contribution to society instilling in people the values of love your neighbor and helping others. “St. Thomas has small, meaningful classes and faculty are always oriented to each individual. The Administration and Board have an overall view, commitment and passion for why they are here.”

John says, “Establishing a Charitable Remainder Unitrust can be a win-win-win. The College is the beneficiary, the donor gets an income and up-front tax break and you have the option to help your children’s security through insurance.”

There are many forms of planned gifts and it depends on each person’s circumstances and goals on which plan is right for you and your family.

To make a difference in the lives of others, as well as to benefit yourself, making a gift to St. Thomas Aquinas College today is a wonderful way to plan for the future! We invite you to seriously consider a planned gift or other form of legacy. It could be something as simple as a bequest in your will, an outright gift of cash or securities, naming the College on an insurance policy, a gift of real estate, or something like John and Eileen did, a Charitable Remainder Unitrust.

We all want our lives to count for something. We want our values and influence to live after us. Do not be forgotten! Contact Judy Perrin in the Institutional Advancement office at 845-398-4045 today to find out how you can leave the legacy you want and make a difference in the lives of countless individuals.

A heartfelt thank you to John and Eileen Lawler for their vision, commitment and generosity.

~ Judy Perrin

ALUMNI HALL OF FAME 2010 HONOREES

On January 29, 2010, St. Thomas Aquinas College inducted eight new members into the College’s Alumni Hall of Fame.

Pictured here, front row from left to right; Sr. Maureen Massett, O.P. ’60, Mark Romano ’79, Michelle Nash ’86, Virginia Hand ’88. In the back row, from left to right; Spartan Award recipient Barry Dorfman, Robert Kilduff ’79, Maria Kilduff ’79, Erin Kilduff ’07 and Dr. Margaret Fitzpatrick, President, S.C.

The entire class of 1960 received special recognition that evening as well.

More than 200 members of the STAC Community gathered to honor the best of the best. While fine food was being served, alumni rekindled their relationships and enjoyed reminiscing about the old days in Marian Hall or Aquinas Village and of course they chuckled with former professors and thanked them for the education they received at STAC. As each of the honorees received their award, two pictures appeared on large screens behind them. One from their days at STAC and another of them “today.” Don’t miss next year’s Hall of Fame event scheduled to take place on Friday, January 28, 2011!
Opportunities To Remember And Honor A Loved One

SPOTLIGHT ON ROSE T. DEGROAT

Charles W. DeGroat shares some of his thoughts on why he remembers his late wife, Rose, with a gift of the Rose T. DeGroat reading room in the Lougheed Library at St. Thomas Aquinas College.

Rose T. DeGroat and the life she led is truly an inspiration to each of us.

Rose was born and raised in the Village of West Haverstraw, Rockland County where she was a life long resident. She graduated from Haverstraw High School in 1948 and began work in New York City for a book publisher. She was a superb typist and shorthand stenographer.

Rose and I met while I was a student at Manhattan College. We were married for over fifty-five years. Our marriage was “one made in heaven” but not without hard work, understanding, compassion, respect and acceptance of one another.

Rose supported me in so many ways while I worked my way through undergraduate school, law school and later in life through the Diaconate program at St. Joseph’s Seminary. In addition to helping me complete school, Rose and I were busy raising our three children, Charles, Jr., Stephen and Kathleen.

Our family is unique in that we can proudly say that three DeGroats have attended and graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas College: sons, Charles and Stephen, Class of 1976, and daughter Kathleen Ann DeGroat Benz, Class of 1984.

Upon graduating law school, I opened a law office in the Village of West Haverstraw with Rose’s help. Immediately she began as secretary, typist and stenographer, and together we built the practice into a well respected one in the area.

Rose’s knowledge of and instincts about the people of the area and the situations they get into were always on target. She kept everything organized and she handled a variety of personalities and situations with calmness and professionalism. Rose’s mind was just incredible and her thinking was always logical and practical. Because of her many abilities, she became a para-legal in the office for many years and a para-legal for the Village of West Haverstraw as well.

Rose came from a hard working, inspiring, loving family, who taught her the values of hard work, working together and love of family. She never complained about the hard work or long hours working in the office and raising a family. She knew how to get things done. She felt that you work hard, always be the very best you can be, don’t complain and be thankful and happy for the life you have. Rose always felt that your life is what you make of it – it’s up to you!

This is how Rose lived her life and I owe her a debt that I can never repay.

Her mission is completed on earth. So I wanted to do something so that her memory would continue and I could honor her with loving thoughts.

I will never forget Rose and I don’t want others to forget her either. The Quiet Reading Room at St. Thomas’ Lougheed Library will always be there for all to remember her by. It is a perfect tribute to Rose, to her love of family, of learning and to her unassuming, strong but gentle presence and gentle smile.

Rose T. DeGroat and the life she led is truly an inspiration to each of us.

This Reading Room, I hope, will remind all who use it of her life and inspiration.

~ Charles W. DeGroat

STAC’S 38TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

It was "exciting and fun with many surprises, great weather and networking and no where else do we play for 6 cars and $1,000,000!"

These were just some of the words we heard to describe this year’s tournament. Look for details of STAC’s 38th Annual Golf Tournament in the Fall issue of The Torch.

Next year’s Tournament is Monday, June 6, 2011 so mark your calendars now and plan on being at the best College Tourney in the Hudson Valley!
MBA STUDENT EXCELS IN SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

After spending time around the St. Thomas Aquinas College community, Betsy McManus felt it was the perfect place for her to complete her graduate work and to further her education. Most importantly STAC’s MBA program offered a unique and flexible schedule, which allowed her to get work experience while attending school.

“My best experiences at STAC were the interaction with the other students. Everyone in the MBA program comes from very different backgrounds and it really adds to the coursework and the program,” explained McManus.

Ms. McManus is the Assistant Director of Communications for the William J. Clinton Foundation and the Office of President Clinton where she interacts with the media and works to promote the great work of the Clinton Foundation. The Clinton Foundation is unique in the non-profit/NGO world because it has applied a business-oriented approach to doing good. They strongly feel that companies, governments, NGOs, and citizens can do well and do good at the same time.

“My coursework has prepared me for my position and enhanced my success here at the Foundation. Also, my experiences in the MBA program at STAC have enabled me to better understand our work whether it’s changing markets for HIV/AIDS medications or building public/private partnerships to help communities.”

-Kaitlyn Decker ’10

NEW ONLINE MBA

Beginning this Fall, the College announces an Online MBA for busy professionals. Get the best of both worlds with the flexibility of virtual classrooms and the convenience of a local campus. The structure of the Online MBA courses allows students to plan their course load around their work, so that their education does not interrupt their employment.

The College also partnered with companies for an exclusive benefit. These MBA Partnerships enable employees or members to receive a discounted tuition. Ask your human resources department if you’re eligible or register your company today!

For a full listing of our business partners or to learn more about our Online MBA, call or visit us online at www.stac.edu/mba.

THE HOUSE BAND WITH CRAIG MARTIN

Dr. Craig Martin, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, has been playing guitar for over 15 years, and now he’s giving students and fellow staff members the opportunity to perform. In the spring of 2009, he felt the excitement that comes from a live performance when he attended the College’s Laetare Players production, Into the Woods. He wanted to share that excitement with other student musicians on campus. The House Band was born!

After holding open auditions for the entire College community a five-piece band was established. Members of The House Band include Dr. Martin; Dr. Robert Trawick, Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Anthony Esposito ’11 on guitar; Dustin Horvath ’09, M.S.Ed. ’11 on bass; and Michael Mitchell ’11 on drums. Rothly Laguerre ’12, performs as alternate drummer.

To showcase more vocalists, the Band hosted open auditions for their April concert. Singers performed their best song karaoke-style and the Band learned the music for the songs selected.

“By doing this, we get three times as many people involved in the Band and there is more variety for the audience and the Band,” said Dr. Martin. Their concert was a tremendous success with rave reviews from all in attendance.

Among the performers was Bridget Clark ’04, Associate Director of Enrollment Marketing and Campus Communications, who also served as emcee for the evening. “This is a great collaboration between students, alumni, faculty and staff,” she said. “It’s programs like this that engage our students and foster the personal relationships that we pride ourselves on at the College.”

The House Band has been asked to perform with the STAC Singers, at the College’s employee holiday party, during Springfest Week and for the Class of 2010 at their senior barbecue. But they’re not just about the limelight.

“All the band members really love what they are doing; next year, we hope to work with a student organization to help raise funds for a worthy cause,” said Dr. Martin.
The College plays an active role in providing up-to-date programs and training for its students both on the graduate and undergraduate levels. Our new Teacher Leadership program gives graduate students the opportunity to advance their career in the classroom. This 15-credit program provides the credentials to pursue positions as a grade level leader, team leader, department coordinator or academic coach. All 15 credits may be applied to the M.S.Ed. in Educational Leadership.

Now available for students on the undergraduate and graduate level is a Middle School Extension certificate. Students whose initial program focused on childhood education can earn credentials to teach on a 7-9 level. Students who focused on adolescence education can earn credentials to teach 5-6 grade coursework.

The College’s reputation for developing teachers is affirmed by its NCATE accreditation. The quality of the program is recognized in the county for producing teachers who have the proper skills and pedagogy to succeed in front of the classroom.

Contact the Division of Teacher Education for more details about any of these programs at 845-398-4154.

THE torch
Summer 2010

FACULTY/STAFF KUDOS

Dr. Meenakshi Gajria, Professor of Education and Chair, Division of Teacher Education, presented a paper titled “Main Idea and Summarization: Improving Text Comprehension for Students with Learning Disabilities” at the Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention in Nashville, TN in April. In May, she presented her research paper titled “Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities Expository Text Comprehension Using Cognitive Strategy Instruction: The Quality of Evidence” at the American Educational Research Association Annual Conference in Denver, CO.

Carol Greiff Lagstein, Director of Art Therapy, had her paintings displayed in the “Bountiful Blooms” exhibit at the Gallery at the Rockefeller Gallery State Park Preserve in Westchester in May.

Dr. Linda Levine-Madori, Professor of Recreation and Leisure Studies, received the New York METRO Award for outstanding new program—The Therapeutic Thematic Arts Programming (TTAP) Method – at the Metro Awards Dinner in the Manhattan Penthouse in New York City in May.

Gerald McCarthy, Professor of English, participated in June at the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History’s, eighth annual seminar on American history held at Yale University, which was co-sponsored by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). Professor McCarthy has also been invited to be a Visiting Poet at Michigan State University in November — where he will give a public reading and lead several discussions at MSU’s Residential College of the Arts & Humanities.

Dr. Suzanne Reynolds, Associate Professor of Teacher Education, had an article “Examining the Communication in Developmental Mathematics Classes” published in Research and Teaching in Developmental Education, which is the journal of the New York College Learning Skills Association. She also participated in a round table discussion on middle school certification at the Annual Conference of the New Jersey Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators.

Dr. Michael Shaw, Professor of Education, was selected to be Director of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Reading Collaborative that advises NCTE on policy recommendations. He was also a featured speaker at the 2010 New York State Reading Association Annual Conference in April in Chicago.

NEW HIRES
- Renee Quintyne, Director of Institutional Research.
- Dr. Maryann Summa, O.P. ’65, Assistant to the Vice President of Administration and Finance.

CONGRATULATIONS, to the following faculty and staff members:
- Dr. Steve Burns was promoted to Professor of Chemistry.
- Dr. Neerja Chaturvedi was promoted to Professor of History.
- Joseph Donini will assume the role of Vice President for Administration & Finance and Treasurer at the College in September.
- Dr. Robert Vermilyer received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor of Computer Science.
- Dr. Barbara Yontz, Associate Professor of Art, received tenure.

RETIREES: Congratulations and best wishes to the following staff for their many years of devoted service:
Nancy Cosgrove | Nancy Cosgrove
Karen Edelman | Carl Gustafson
Barbara Ferrman | Pedro Guzman
Manuel Fernandes | Loretta Heim
Anne Gross
'60
Rosann (Saracini) Swaringim (B.S. Ed., Elementary Education), after receiving her Master’s in Education taught in the Parkway School District until 1995. Post retirement Rosann channels her time, energy, and finances with a non-profit organization that provides opportunities for women to pursue a degree in education. She thanks STAC for a college education that “led her to a successful thirty-nine years in teaching.” Rosann lives in O’Fallon, Missouri with her husband, Carl Swaringim.

Sister Maureen Massett (B.S. Ed., Elementary Education), after many years of teaching, works at Thorpe Village as a Finance Manager. The year 2010 marks her 30th year at Thorpe. Sr. Maureen was recently inducted into the St. Thomas Aquinas College Alumni Hall of Fame. Sr. Maureen lives in Blauvelt, New York.

Loisann (Loepker) Fischer (B.S. Ed., Elementary Education), after returning to St. Louis in ’69, she earned her Masters in Reading and Learning Disabilities. She taught for thirty years in a public school system. After retiring, she continued to substitute for long terms. Loisann currently works in her parish rectory and gives piano lessons. She lives in Manchester, Missouri.


Sister John Rose Hartling (B.S. Ed., Elementary Education) taught at Albertus Magnus High School in Bardonia for six years. She was sent to teach at Holy Trinity High School in Hicksville, New York for 31 years. In 1998 Sr. John Rose moved to Saugerties where she is currently the Administrative Assistant at St. Joseph Villa. She has also been teaching part time at Marist College, in New York, for six years.

Rosemary McDermott (B.S. Ed., Elementary Education), after leaving the teaching field in 1970, she entered the business world and held nine positions in several different companies. Rosemary retired in 2005 and volunteers by teaching English to immigrants. Rosemary lives in Valley Cottage, New York.

'63
Sister Cecilia LaPietra (B.S., General Science) teaches at One to One Learning at St. John the Baptist Church in Sparkill, New York as a Director and Pastoral Associate. In 2009, she celebrated her 50th anniversary as a Dominican Sister. She credits St. Thomas Aquinas College for giving her “the background she needed to continue into higher education and her teaching career in Science Education.”

Kathleen (Lyden) Howe (B.S. Ed., Elementary Education) worked at Red Bank Catholic High School. In June of 2009, she retired from teaching full time. She is presently an adjunct teacher at Ocean County Community College in Toms River, New Jersey.

'66
Evelyn (Pitchencik) Cohen (B.A.) graduated from the Ferhauf Graduate School at Yeshiva University where she earned her Master’s in Special Education. She then taught at Nanuet Public School. She is retired and spends 4 months of the winter season in Florida. Evelyn has taken up watercolor and is a self-proclaimed “beginning artist.” She is married to Leonard Cohen and they live in Pearl River, New York.

Antoinette (Pavlu) Beyer (B.S. Ed., Elementary Education) has plunged back into the working world, after being a stay at home mother and taking care of her parents. In September, 2009, she accepted a full time tenure track K-5 grade Art Teaching position. She is married to Norbert Beyer and lives in River Vale, New Jersey.

'71
Rosemary Loonie (B.S. Ed., Elementary Education) taught in the Park Ridge Public School system until her retirement. She now lives in River Vale, NJ with her husband Thomas Loonie.

Portia (Boggia) Davidson (M.A., B.S. Ed., Elementary Education) currently works for the Headquarters for the United States Coast Guard as a Workforce Policy Advisor. She and her husband Michael live in Woodbridge, Virginia.

'72
Bernadette (Cafaro) Vicki (B.S., Social Sciences) is a social studies teacher in the Nyack School District. She and her husband, Steven, welcomed their fourth grandchild, Emily Nelson, on January 14, 2009. Bernadette and Steven live in West Nyack, New York.

'75
Teresa (DePalma) Allen (B.A., English) is married to Kent Allen and they live in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Their daughter Elizabeth graduated from Thomas Cooley School of Law in Lansing MI, on January 23, 2010 and was married on April 24, 2010 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Their son Mitch is serving in the Navy, stationed on Virginia Beach, VA. Their son Greg is a student at York Technical College in South Carolina.
'77

Wesley Lem (B.S., Business Administration) worked in high tech computer network companies for over 25 years. He and his family retired to Hawaii for about five years where he did volunteer work with SCORE of Hawaii by helping out local small businesses. Recently Wesley and his family returned to the San Francisco bay area. He joined the Voyage-Air Guitar team.

'78

Peter Finning (B.S., Business Administration) is an attorney and lives in Rockville Centre, New York.

Rosalyn (Zolotow) Clark (B.A., Art) worked at Woodstock Art as a receptionist and painter. She is now retired and lives in Woodstock, New York. Rosalyn recently published A Memoir by RZ Clark which is 80 years of stories of “The journey from Brooklyn to Woodstock”.

Elinor (Vallone) Goeller (B.S. Ed., Elementary Education) teaches fourth grade at Oradell Public School in Oradell, New Jersey. She is married to Timothy Goeller and they live in Cresskill, New Jersey with their son, Issac. The family lives in Nutley, New Jersey.

'81

William (Bill) Madden (B.A., Accounting) is married to Virginia (Goggin) Madden, a STAC ‘88 graduate. The couple has three children and live in Stony Point, NY. Bill recently announced a merger of his Company; Madden Communications with Focus Media. Bill will serve as Focus Media’s Executive Vice President. He is also the Co-Chair of the President’s Advisory Council at St. Thomas Aquinas College, a board member of the Rockland Business Association, United Way of Rockland and the Rockland Chapter of the Salvation Army.

New St. Thomas Aquinas College Alumni Today Directory to be published.

We are currently working on a new version of the College’s Alumni Directory. By now you should have received several post cards and a phone call asking of your most current status. We would like to know about your career, your family and of course your latest contact information. This information will be published in the St. Thomas Aquinas College Alumni Today directory in January 2011. Please take the time to update us on your life. If you haven’t received the post card, or perhaps have misplaced it – please call (1) 866-490-6858. It will only take a minute. In order to purchase one of these directories, you must update us on your information. You’ve got to be in it to win it!!!

'82

Paul Borghese (B.S., Social Sciences) is currently working on a new film “Goat” with actor William DeMeo (The Sopranos), where scenes are being shot in STAC’s back yard. He and his wife, Malika, live in Tappan, New York.

'83

Joanne (Will) Cirriello (B.A., English) currently works at Wayne Valley High School in Wayne, New Jersey and enjoys it thoroughly. Joanne earned tenure and has concluded her fourth year in June 2010. She is married to Peter Cirriello and they live in Pompton Lakes, New Jersey with their children.

Mary (Gannon) Widmer (B.S., Business Administration) is married to Glenn Widmer and they have a daughter, Glynis. She presently works for the Rockland County Legislature as a Deputy Clerk. She has recently been appointed for her 10th year in this position. The family lives in Garnerville, New York.

'86

Carol (Bentley) McKenna (M.S. Ed., Special Education; B.S. Ed, Elementary Education/Spanish) worked in schools for seven years. Then she became a stay at home mom for 13 years with her three sons, Kevin, Brian, and Christopher. For the past five years she has been back in school teaching and being a mom. Carol is married to Steven McKenna and they live in Hillsdale, New Jersey. They are happy to report that their son, Chris was accepted to STAC and will be starting this fall 2010.

'89

Barbara (Braun-Rischmann) Rochlin (B.S., Psychology) worked as a Detox Coordinator at the Pennsylvania Foundation in Sellersville, PA until her retirement. She now lives in Vermont. She has six grandchildren and has enjoyed a “good career working in the mental health and drug and alcohol fields.”

'91

Corrine G. Cassidy (B.S., Gerontology) enjoys volunteering as an English as a Second Language teacher, teaching Chinese women. She is married to David Cassidy and they live in Hanover, New Hampshire.
'92
Patric Grace (B.A., Communication Arts) recently took on a newly created role at Westwood One’s Metro Traffic as the Network Sales Manager for Metro Networks/Metro Traffic New York. He is responsible for all New York national billing as well as managing all national business from other markets across Metro’s 2200+ affiliates. Patrick resides in Tappan, New York with his wife Kim, (’92, B.A., Communication Arts). They have three children. In his spare time, Patrick sings in a local cover band.

'93
Carolyn Reilly (B.S.Ed., Elementary Education) currently works as a Special Education Teacher at Kingston City Schools. She lives in Kingston, New York.

Wendy Terjeson (B.S., Business Administration) is working at West Nyack Dental as a dental assistant and lives in West Nyack, New York. Prior to that position, she served as an accountant for Casabella.

'95
Barbara (Brockmann) Mallory (M.S.Ed.; B.S. Ed., Elementary Education/ Psychology) currently works at the Janet Lockwood Preschool as a Special Education teacher in Middletown, New York. Barbara and her husband, Lawrence Mallory ’95, have had another addition to their family. They welcomed Anna Lily in August 2008. Anna is baby sister to Brian, Sara, and Katelyn. The family lives in Monroe, New York.

Frank Capozzi (B.S., Business Administration) works for Alliance Funding as an Underwriter. Frank and his wife, Stephanie, welcomed a new addition to their family. His name is Jonathan Matthew Capozzi and he was born on August 6, 2009. He weighed 9 pounds 13 ounces. Jonathan is joining his proud big brother Andrew. The happy family lives in Waldwick, New Jersey.

'98
Keith McMahon (B.S., Criminal Justice) works in the publishing business and lives in Midlothian, Virginia.

'01
Kelly Campbell (B.S., Graphic Design) is the President and Creative Director of Liqui-Site Designs, Inc. Their website is www.liqui-site.com. The company is a New York based brand marketing firm she founded in 2003. The company specializes in print marketing and website development, SEO and social media. Kelly founded TheHolisticOption.com in 2008, which was acquired by Wellness Possibilities in 2010; where she currently serves as VP of Web Marketing. Kelly lives in West Haverstraw, New York.

The Most Reverent David M. O’Connell, C.M. was appointed Coadjutor Bishop for the Diocese of Trenton. Fr. O’Connell received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the College in 2001 and currently serves as President of Catholic University of America.

'02
Cira Emerizy-Hook (B.S., Marketing) works at Systemedic Inc. as an Administrative Assistant. She married Donald Hook on May 15, 2004. They have a son, Tyler Joseph Hook who was born on March 11, 2006. The family lives in Suffern, New York.

Carina (Flynn) Porr (B.S., Psychology) currently works as a Guidance Counselor at New Milford High School after having served as an Admissions Specialist for Westchester Jewish Community Services. She married her husband Bill Porr on June 3, 2006. Carina and her family live in Pearl River, New York.

'05
John Colavita (B.A., English) teaches 7th grade Language Arts at Red Bank Middle School. He also teaches Expository Writing at Brookdale Community College as an Adjunct professor and teaches Mixed Martial Arts in Red Bank. In addition, he has also established a photography company, Collezioni Colavita, which specializes in portrait photography and gallery wall art. His businesses website is www.collezioniocolavita.smumg.com. John and his family live in Manalapan, New Jersey.

'06
Danielle Block (B.A., Communication Arts) currently working for the Wyckoff Family YMCA where she is the Teen Program Director. Danielle and Joe Licari ’07 recently bought a house together in Bergen County, New Jersey.

Sarah Grom (M.S.T) currently a 1st grade teacher in Haldane Central School District in Cold Spring, New York. Sarah and her husband, Stanley, live in Stony Point, New York.

Tara Tucker (B.S., Business Administration) recently moved to Ladysmith, Wisconsin to pursue a career in Graphic Design.

'07
Kevan Ottocchian (B.S., Social Sciences/Adolescence Education) hosted “Legacy Day” at Warwick Valley High School in February. Students were asked to recite what they might see themselves leaving behind for mankind. In attendance was St. Thomas Aquinas President Dr. Margaret Fitzpatrick who saluted the alumni’s efforts in making students more aware of people in history that left a legacy.

4TH ANNUAL BOWLING FOR JUSTIN

This year’s event was a huge success! With more than 100 alumni and friends attending, we were able to salute our fallen hero in fine style. Pictured here Rachel Donzella ’05; Justin’s wife and son Michelle and Vinny Garcia; Cassandra Farrell ’05; Matthew Donovan ’07 and Emily Duignan ’07. The shirts were designed by Emily Duignan, a graphic design major, and helped raise funds for the event.
'97

'00
Erin Simon (M.S.Ed., Elementary and Special Education) was recently engaged to George Bellessis who is an auditor in NYC. An October 2010 wedding is planned. Erin is a 4th grade teacher at Stony Lane Elementary School in Paramus, New Jersey.

'03
Joseph Agovino (B.S., Psychology) was recently engaged. A wedding is planned in July, 2010 at Sacred Heart Chapel, in Sparkill, NY. He lives in Valley Cottage, New York. After graduation he went on to work for STAC as a Testing Coordinator. Joseph is presently working in his second year as a school psychologist at a high school in Hawthorne, New York in addition to working as a mentor for the Pathways program at STAC.

'05
Kimberly Reynolds (M.S.T., B.S., Biology) was recently engaged to James Robinson who received his B.A. in Literature from Ramapo College of New Jersey. An October, 2010 wedding is being planned. She is currently employed at Pfizer, Inc. in Pearl River, New York. Kristen (Conroy) Sutter (B.S., Social Science) married James Sutter on November 19, 2009. The couple now lives in Westwood, New Jersey. They met at Amica Insurance, where Kristen works as a Team Leader.

'06
Erin Simon (M.S.T., Elementary Education) is busy planning her October 2010 wedding to fiancé, George. George earned his Bachelor and Masters Degrees from St. John’s University where he majored in accounting. Erin is currently a fourth grade teacher at Stony Lake Elementary School in Paramus, New Jersey. George is presently working at 3rd Avenue Hedge Fund in New York City as an auditor.

'07
Cassandra Farrell (B.S., Social Science), was recently engaged to Curtis Carney ’04. An October 2011 wedding is planned.

James Lawler (B.S., Business Administration) was married on October 4, 2009, to his high school sweetheart, Karalyn Turziano who is now a Special Education teacher at Viola Elementary School in Suffern, New York. He is currently employed at Sampers Financial, Inc. a full service brokerage house in Montclair, New Jersey. The couple lives in Nanuet, New York.
WESLEY LEM, '77 INTRODUCES NEW PRODUCT TO MUSIC INDUSTRY

Wesley Lem graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas College with a B.A. in Business Administration. He recently relocated to southern California with his wife and their two children.

After an initial meeting with a new company manufacturing foldable guitars, Wesley’s interest was peaked.

Voyage-Air Guitar specializes in building high quality acoustic and electric stringed instruments. They are the world’s first and only full-size acoustic and electric instruments that fold-in-half! This feature answers to a need with musicians who travel often. The founders wanted to eliminate the obstacle of their clients having to either ship or carry the instrument with them. They are said to be “performance level instruments.”

“Everyone who works here at Voyage-Air Guitar indeed plays or loves the guitar. We all have a fascination with the world of music and enjoy all of the new relationships that we develop on a daily basis,” stated Lem, “Our jobs bring us closer together with new artists, other guitar instrument builders and an incredible array of industry colleagues. All of those relationships remind us why we love this business.”

The company started as “a cool idea in a small guitar shop” in northern California and has grown to a fully functioning manufacturing and distribution company with guitars selling throughout the United States, Europe, Australia and Ireland. The Voyage-Air Guitar™ is truly The Future of Guitar Travel.

- Joanne Favata

We welcome your comments and suggestions for future issues of Alumni News. Please contact Alumni Relations at 845-316-2255 or stacamemories@stac.edu.
Portia Mary (Boggia) Davidson is the Workforce Policy Advisor to the Commandant, HQ, U.S. Coast Guard in Washington, D.C. and was the Project Officer for the planning and execution of a recent landmark Diversity Leadership Summit in late April, 2010.

The Summit included diplomats from many countries and took place at the Westin Hotel in Alexandria, Virginia. The summit was designed to foster a “Total Workforce Commitment to Diversity Leadership” in the organizations that attended.

World leader guest speakers included; the Ambassador Ezra Nonoo from the Kingdom of Bahrain, Ambassador Raymond Joseph from Haiti, Frederick Douglass IV, (great-great grandson of Civil War era abolitionist Frederick Douglass), Former Secretary of Defense William Cohen and Janert Langhart Cohen, author of the play Ann and Emmitt, Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, leading African-American social activist, professor at Georgetown, and numerous other VIPs.

For more than 34 years, Portia has served our nation’s government in numerous critical regional assignments in the European, The Pacific and United States regions. Portia graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas College in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. She completed her post graduate studies in Speech and Drama at Catholic University of American in Washington, D.C.

During the 1990’s, Portia was the first civilian woman appointed to the position as Deputy Commander in Gelhhausen, Germany during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In addition to her many assignments with the U.S. Government, Portia is an active member of the American Federation of Radio & Television Artists. Her professional activities also include radio and TV production.

Portia Mary (Boggia) Davidson ’71 was inducted into the College’s Alumni Hall of Fame in 2007.

~ Joanne Favata

ALUMNUS COMPLETES “BATTLE STATIONS” NAVY TRAINING

STAC Salutes Navy Seaman Israel Needleman ’04

Israel Needleman graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas College with a B.S. in Criminal Justice. He recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight week program, he completed a variety of training sessions which included both classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety.

An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness. The capstone event of boot camp is “Battle Stations”. This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. “Battle Stations” is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork, and endurance in each recruit through practical application to basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Its distinctly “Navy” flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a Sailor.

The entire STAC Community salutes Israel Needleman!

~ Joanne Favata

ALUMNUS TEACHES STUDENTS TO BOWL WITH PRIDE

One day before Valentines Day, St. Thomas Aquinas College’s love for bowling took center stage for the very first time at the collegiate level. The AMF Bayshore Lanes facility hosted the annual Westchester Invitational, which gave birth to history for the College’s bowling team.

For the very first time, St Thomas’s bowling team consisting of Carl Borman, Erin Ready, Brian Caselli, and Becky Abrahamson competed in a collegiate sanctioned tournament against the Tri-State’s best teams. Drawing stares from the moment the Spartans walked in to receiving celebratory congratulations for a job well done, elite teams such as William Patterson and SUNY Rockland’s attention was on the new bowlers. Although the four member team came up short in the tournament, their strong performances carried the team to win something more important.

“I’m not only proud of all their performances but character to bowl with pride knowing that they were the first ones to walk into this new chapter of STAC’s history,” commented coach Kevan Ottochian, ’07 “I know the team will carry this experience into next year’s season as they try to bowl their way to a playoff and championship victory.”

~ Kevan Ottochian ’07
Alumni Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

7-26 AMAG Exhibit
“Dream Themes and other recent works”
By Yimin Huang

30 Annual Banned Books Presentation
Lougheed Library, 4:00 PM
845-398-4220

OCTOBER

3-31 AMAG Exhibit
“The Unstill Still Life”
Mezzotint Engravings
by Carol Wax

15 Annual Tribute Dinner
Hilton Pearl River, 7:00 PM
Tickets 845-398-4020
See back of Torch for more info!

17 Undergrad Open House
11:00AM-3:00PM
Admissions 845-398-4100

17 “Light. Camera. Action: New Media Art.”
Presented by Barbara Yontz,
Associate Professor of Art
Lougheed Library, 3:30 PM
845-398-4220

26 Ted Conover, Pulitzer Prize finalist
Lougheed Library, 4:00PM
845-398-4220

27 Dining Etiquette
McNelis Commons
Private Dining Room
6:00PM
Info: 845-398-4067

NOVEMBER

6 3rd Annual Alumni Fall Homecoming Event
Army vs. Air Force
United States Military Academy at West Point
8:00AM-6:00PM
Info: 845-398-4284

NOVEMBER (cont.)

7-Dec. 12
AMAG Exhibit
by Barbara Yontz

14 Undergrad Open House
11:00AM-3:00PM
Admissions 845-398-4100

16 Welcome to the Real World Alumni Panel
McNelis Commons
Private Dining Room
6:00PM
Info: 845-398-4067

21 Nina Rosenblum,
Oscar nominated and Emmy award-winning filmmaker
Lougheed Library, 3:00PM
Info: 845-398-4220

DECEMBER

11 Alumni Association Sponsored Event
Semi-Annual Defensive Driving Course
Costello Hall Room #103,
8:00AM – 4:00PM
Info: 845-398-4284

JANUARY 2011

28 14th Annual St. Thomas Aquinas College Hall of Fame & Reunion Dinner
IBM Conference Center, 6:30 PM

For a listing of all campus events visit our online calendar at www.stac.edu

On the cover:
The Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan, Archbishop of New York, addresses the 2010 graduates.
Your News

WE’D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Below is an opportunity to share your news with us. Use the envelope in this edition of The Torch to mail this coupon back to us, or fax it to The Torch at (845) 359-8136. Need more space? Send us an email with your updates to alumni@stac.edu. Photographs are welcome (jpeg format preferred).

What’s new with you?

☐ Moving  ☐ New Job/Promotion  ☐ Engagement/Marriage  ☐ Birth Announcement

Name: ________________________________________________________________  Graduation Year:_________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________________________________

City:_________________________________________________ State:___________________________ Zip:______________

How would you like us to contact you?

☐ E-mail Address (required): ___________________________________________________________________________

☐ Home Phone: (    ) ___________________________  ☐ Work Phone: (    ) ___________________________

Have an idea for The Torch? We’d like to hear your suggestions. Please call us at (845) 398-4020 or e-mail your ideas to alumni@stac.edu

Alumni Events – A Weekend of Fun!

More than 150 alumni, friends and family attended one or more of the Annual St. Thomas Aquinas College Alumni Weekend events. From a local barbecue with a great DJ, to a luxury bus to and from the new Yankee Stadium to the amazing WICKED musical on Broadway, there was something for everyone!

On Friday night the weekend kick-off event consisted of a scrumptious BBQ dinner including, salmon, chicken and steak, and outdoor fun with bocce ball, croquet and volleyball. The evening was enhanced by a super DJ that helped alumni reminisce.

Excited to experience the new Yankee Stadium (and it is an experience!) are left to right Sr. Barbara Mueller, O.P. ’71, Sr. Maureen Masett, O.P. ’60 and Dr. Joan Beairsto, O.P. ’58.

Saturday’s festivities included a lively ride in to the Bronx with a sold out crowd to experience the new stadium to watch the New York Yankees vs. the Chicago White Sox.

Sunday’s trip to Broadway completed the weekend with both orchestra and front mezzanine views of the hottest musical on Broadway: WICKED “the untold story of OZ.” The bus dropped off our group of forty who had two hours to stroll about the streets of NYC before the show, to dine, sight-see and take lots of photos. The show was fantastic and suggestions were made by everyone for next year’s options on Broadway.

- Joanne Favata
Save the Date!
St. Thomas Aquinas College Annual Tribute Dinner

Honoring
James and Colleen Donaghy
with the 2010 Aquinas Medal

and

Sr. Maureen Bradshaw, O.P. ’78
with the 2010 Founders Award

Friday, October 15, 2010
7:00 p.m.
The Hilton Pearl River

For dinner tickets, journal salutes or other information,
call the Office of Institutional Advancement at 845-398-4020.