

GREETINGS COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS OF ICUSTA

I would imagine that most of our ICUSTA institutions are now back in the swing of things in the new year or preparing for classes to begin in the new year. We have much news to share.

ICUTA NEWS

1. "GRGSF 2012 Award Winners Announced"

The ICUSTA Executive Committee has selected two of our members to receive support from the Gerardo Rocha Global Solidarity Fund in 2012. The two recipients of the GRGSF -2 award for 2012 are: Ethiopian Catholic University of St Thomas Aquinas (ECUSTA) and Wenzao Ursuline College of Languages. ECUSTA will use funds from the GRGSF to support their new program in Social Work; Wenzao will use the funds to invite three faculty from our developing institutions in Africa to study Chinese at Wenzao in Taiwan this coming summer. There was increased interest in this year's grant program and we thank our friends at the Angelicum Foundation for helping make this program available to our members.

2. "New ICUSTA Award Program Announced"

ICUSTA has received a grant of \$40,000 from the Angelicum Foundation to support another grant program. The purpose of this award program is to encourage international exchange. The new program will be entitled: "The St Thomas Aquinas International Exchange Program," or STAIEP. Details relative to the guidelines, deadlines, and rationale, were sent to all member institutions on February 23, 2012. The deadline for receiving proposals will be March 23, 2012. You will find the STAIEP Award Announcement attached.

3. "New ICUSTA Member: Sainte Augustine College, Johannesburg, South Africa"

The ICUSTA Nominating Committee and the ICUSTA Executive Committee have unanimously approved the application for membership in ICUSTA from Sainte Augustine College, Johannesburg, South Africa. Sainte Augustine College was launched in 1998 and formally opened in 1999 as a non-profit private Catholic university under the leadership of Prof Sr. Edith Raidt. The expressed purpose of Sainte Augustine was to provide access for students who normally would not have the opportunity to pursue further study at the University level. The Rev. Dr Michael van Heerden assumed the presidency in 1999. St Augustine College is the only Catholic university erected by the Bishop's Conference for Southern Africa, which includes: South Africa; Lesotho; Swaziland; Botswana; and Namibia. Sainte Augustine College is located in Johannesburg and is accredited to offer: two Doctorate degrees (Philosophy and Theology); Masters of Philosophy degrees in five fields (Applied Ethics; Culture and Education; Philosophy; Religious Education and Pastoral ministry; and Theology;) three undergraduate degrees: the Bachelor of Theology; the Bachelor of Commerce (Politics; Philosophy; and Economics); a Bachelor of Arts; and a Certificate in Political Leadership; and a Postgraduate Diploma in Political leadership. Sainte Augustine College is a member of the International Federation of Catholic universities (IFCU), and the Association of Catholic Universities and Higher Institutes of Africa and Madagascar (ACUHIAM); and now ICUSTA. ICUSTA members may welcome Rev Dr Michael van Heerden at m.vanheerden@staugustine.ac.za Sainte Augustine College's mission statement indicates an intention to be a university with a national and international reputation for teaching, learning, and research. We are pleased to welcome St Augustine College as ICUSTA's 32nd member.

4. "ICUSTA Directory"

Attached you will find the latest ICUSTA Directory of members and friends. Kindly review for accuracy.

NEWS FROM OUR ICUSTA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

AUSTRALIA

"THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA"

1. ST. BENEDICT'S: Australia's oldest consecrated Catholic Church St Benedict in Sydney celebrated its 150th anniversary on February 24 2012. The University of Notre Dame Australia proudly shared in the history of this parish and church. In 2005 the University established its Sydney Campus on the St Benedict's site, restoring the Church and its surrounding buildings. Today St Benedict's Church forms a central part of the daily life of the University, with many of its staff and students belonging to the parish. A special High Mass was offered by His Eminence Cardinal George Pell and the Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Most Reverend Guisepppe Lazzarotto to commemorate the anniversary of the oldest consecrated Catholic Church in Australia.
2. PILGRIMAGE: Five students from the University of Notre Dame Australia participated in a pilgrimage from Los Angeles, Mexico, to New York City ending in the streets of Washington DC to join in the March for Life. The pro-life event on January 22 commemorated the day the US Supreme Court legalized abortion in the USA in 1974. On this 13 day journey, the students of UNDA traveled through the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, worked with the Sisters of Life and the Franciscans of the Renewal in NYC, and met with the producers of the critically acclaimed film "The Human Experience." During their travels the students produced their blog "The Guadalupe Pilgrimage," explaining their reactions as they made their very special Pilgrimage.
3. MEDICAL SCHOOL: On February 3 2012 the UNDA officially opened the newly built Melbourne Clinical School at Werribee, Victoria. The Government's Health and Hospital Fund invested \$11.2 million in constructing the school which will support the education, training and clinical placement of 80 medical students at the new facility. Vice Chancellor Celia Hammond said that the new school demonstrated Notre Dame's commitment to producing outstanding, ethical and caring doctors educated in most up to date facilities. Notre Dame's medical school curriculum focuses on ambulatory models of care and the multi-skilling of staff in teams. The new building design includes teaching rooms based on ambulatory and rehabilitation medicine and multidisciplinary skill training rooms. The University's Sydney campus celebrated its first graduating class of doctors in 2011. The Victorian Government provided the land for the school and the new school strengthens Notre Dame's presence in Victoria.

"Campion College"

1. CONFERENCE = Will host a three-day colloquium on the "Christian View of History and the Re-manifestation of the Liberal Arts." The Conference will be held August 31 to September 2 on their campus. Contact Dr. David Daintree for more information at d.daintree@campion.edu.au

CHILE

"UST SANTIAGO"

1. CONFERENCE: Announced the First Congress on Thomistic Philosophy to be held in Santiago the first week of July 2012. The subject of the Congress will be "La Persona: Divina, Angelica, Humana" Included in the First such Congress held at UST Chile will be Mons Lluís Clavell, President of the Pontifical Academy of St Thomas Aquinas; Fr Vincenzo Benetollo, O.P. a long

time friend of and member of ICUSTA; as well as Prof. Dr John Knasas, representing the Center for Thomistic Studies at UST Houston, USA. For more information please contact Gonzalo Letelier Widow, the Director of the Center for Thomistic Studies at UST Chile at gletelier@santotomas.cl

2. DEBATE: UST Chile also announced that the Third International Debate Tournament for ICUSTA Member Institutions will be held on the campus of UST in Vina del Mar from October 24 to 29, 2012. It is anticipated that a total of 16 teams will be represented, eight from various sites within Chile where UST Chile has campuses, and eight from teams belonging to or associated with ICUSTA institutions. The official language of the tournament will be Spanish. The host institution, UST Chile, will be responsible for accommodations, food and transportation (airport--hotel) and city tours arranged for the participants. Transportation to Vina del Mar, Chile is the responsibility of participating teams. For more information please contact Headmaster Jose' A Weinborn at jweinborn@santotomas.cl

FRANCE

"INSTITUT CATHOLIQUE d' ETUDES SUPERIEURES: ICES"

1. CONFERENCE: ICES/ICUSTA COLLOQUIUM will be held on Tuesday October 16 and Wednesday October 17 2012 at ICES in La Roche sur Yon. The President of ICES and ICUSTA, Dr. Herve' Magnouloux will host the colloquium on the theme of "Catholic Universities and Secularism." His Eminence Cardinal Jean-Pierre Ricard is the Conference Patron and President of Honor of the Colloquium. The idea of this project came from the realization that it is increasingly difficult to evangelize in the intellectual world today faced by our Catholic universities. This conference intends on bringing university academics together to: discuss the different aspects of secularism around the world; provide examples of successful evangelization projects in pedagogy and research programs; and offer perspectives in achieving the Mission of our Catholic Universities in this secular world. The scientific Council charged with organizing the Conference includes: President of the Council: Dr. Francois Bouletreau, former President of ICES; Dr. Joseph Mc Fadden, Executive Director ICUSTA; Dr. Dominique Vermersch, Agrocampus West, France; and Fr Antoine Novawi, Director of the Theology Department at ICES. The language of the colloquium will be both French and English. More information on the Colloquium will be forthcoming. For information contact fbouletreau@ices.fr or see the ICUSTA website at www.icusta.org You will also find for a quick reference as an attachment announcing the Conference.

"IPC: FACULTE'S LIBRES de PHILOSOPHIE et PSYCHOLOGIE"

1. COLLOQUIUM: "Civil Society and Higher Education in Europe"--- The European Association of Private Universities and College will organize this colloquium and a series of workshops in four languages on November 24 in Paris. The themes for the four workshops are as follows: "Higher Education and Knowledge Society; Lifelong Education;" "Financing of Private Higher Education: how much from the State, how much from the private sector;" "Formation of the Human Person and its self-development: which conception?;" and "The Principle of Subsidiarity." Names of workshop participants will be announced in March. For more information email to: colloque@aeflib.eu or go to <http://www.aeflib.eu/colloque-european>

SPAIN

"UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA de AVILA"

1. CONFERENCE: Recall that last summer our colleagues hosted a wonderful conference the week before World Youth Week activities and the Pope's visit to Madrid, Spain in August 2011. The Conference was very well attended, especially by ICUSTA students, faculty and staff. Conference proceedings are now available on line. You can easily check out the Conference and check out or obtain a copy of every paper presented during the exciting week at UCA in Avila, Spain. Our hosts were most gracious and welcoming, check out the actions and activities of the Conference at:
<http://www.wccu.es/docs/ActasDelCongresoMundialDeUniversidadesCatholicas.zip>

Congratulations to Dr. Maria del Rosario Saez Yuguero, the Rector at UCA; to Eva Marie Strasser of UCA International Relations Office; and to Ms Lydia Jimenez, the President of Cruzadas de Santa Maria de Espana, who presided. It was a memorable and stirring Conference of dedicated Catholic communities representing over 100 Catholic Universities from everywhere in our wonderful world.

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Best wishes to all our friends in ICUSTA may the Lord continue to assist us in doing his work. Send me your news and I will include it in our next newsletter or on our website at www.icusta.org

God Bless,

Dr. Joe Mc Fadden
Executive Director, ICUSTA