

GREETINGS COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS OF ICUSTA

This is the time of year that all of our ICUSTA Catholic Universities are preparing for one of the most important days in the Church Calendar: Easter Sunday. So it is a good time to reflect on our Catholic Mission and to thank the Lord for the wonderful students, their parents, our faculty and staff, our Alumni and the many supporters we all cherish, who together make it possible for our very existence.

We have much good news to share, probably too much for any one Newsletter so I am dividing this Newsletter into parts. The second part, NEWSLETTER #3 will have to wait until after Easter.

NEWS FROM ICUSTA

“11th Biennial Meeting”

By now I am sure you all are aware that our 11th Biennial will be celebrated at ICES in France on June 11-14, 2013. You should have all received invitations and registration materials. An additional mailing will be forthcoming in mid-April or so. We expect the largest attendance at this Biennial meeting that ICUSTA ever had. We have some 65+ or so that have preregistered.

I am preparing three key documents for distribution later in April in both Spanish and English. The three documents are very important and include: the Agenda for the ICUSTA Business Meeting to be held on Friday morning June 14; the ICUSTA Budget for 2013 and 2014; and the completely revised new ICUSTA By Laws. These items underscore the importance of our forthcoming business meeting at ICES in June. When you receive these documents we would appreciate your comments and observations---it will help make our meeting all the more memorable. Expect to review these important documents sometime in April.

ICUSTA GRANT AWARDS

“GERARDO ROCHA GLOBAL SOLIDARITY FUND” (GRGSF)

This year the GRGSF grant was awarded to Saint Augustine College, South Africa, to support their proposal to create the Father Bernard Lonergan Thomistic Studies Centre in their newly expanded Library. The new Centre will house a large collection of books on the writings of St Thomas and Fr Bernard Lonergan, a noted Thomistic scholar, in a special study centre constructed for this purpose in their new library extension. These materials would support expanded research opportunities and compliment already existing special collections at SAC on the writings of Cardinal Newman and the Grimley Collection of ancient theological manuscripts.

“ST THOMAS AQUINAS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM” (STAIEP)

This year the Executive Committee approved two grants and is considering a third grant for possible future funding. Recall that STAIEP is designed to facilitate partnerships among ICUSTA member institutions.

A STAIEP grant was awarded to UST Mozambique to facilitate a partnership with UST Houston, Texas. The proposal is to assist the UST Mozambique Agronomy Engineering Department in establishing a Service Learning Project similar to a program existing at UST Houston. The two institutions have already worked together to establish a UST Social Entrepreneurship Program outside of Maputo in a project that deals with the production of cheese. This grant will enable more students to join the project and gain valuable management experience.

A second grant was awarded to Mary Immaculate College to facilitate a partnership between Mary Immaculate and UST Houston in the development of Mary Immaculate's Irish Studies Center and to encourage more exchange opportunities for faculty and students from both institutions.

A third possible proposal from Ethiopian Catholic University of St Thomas Aquinas (ECUSTA) to support a feasible study for creating new health related programs at ECUSTA was deferred. UST Chile has volunteered to partner with ECUSTA and the two institutions will meet in France in June for further discussions on this project.

Your ICUSTA Executive Committee reviewed all of these proposals and recommended unanimously the awarding of the grants outlined above. The Executive Committee also recommended that the two grant programs receive particular attention at the 11th Biennial in order to encourage more institutions to apply for the grant award programs.

Funds to support the two award program came from ICUSTA member dues and from our good friends at The AngelicVM Foundation. Without their support, these programs would not be possible.

"ICUSTA SPONSORED COURSE ON GLOBALIZATION"

ICUSTA will once again sponsor an online course on "Globalization" taught by faculty from nine ICUSTA Institutions for their students. Dr Pierre Canac, Professor of Business, is the program director and has been since the program began. Institutions involved in this endeavor, the sixth such course offered through the utilization of servers at UST Houston and the Blackboard system for course discussions and presentations are:

UST, Houston, Texas, USA
UST, Santiago, Chile
Australian Catholic University, Australia
ICES, La Roche sur Yon, France
UST, Manila, Philippines
Wenzao Ursuline College of Languages, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Universidad Catolica de Avila, Avila, Spain
Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, Ireland
STU, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

Attached you will find the list of participating faculty and program guidelines, as well as a copy of the brochure being used this year to publicize the program on the campus of each of our participating institutions. The blank portion in the attached brochure will be used to explain the local requirements of participating institutions. If you have questions about the program or would like to participate as an observer, do so by contacting either Dr Pierre Canac at canac@stthom.edu or me at mcfadden@stthom.edu

(Note: In preparing this NEWSLETTER the faculty member and module from STU Canada had not been finalized.)

"Online Learning"

Speaking of online learning, on the first day of our June meeting, Wednesday June 12 we will have a special presentation and a panel discussing Online Learning. The speaker will be Tom Kennedy of Regis University in Denver, Colorado, USA, who will address our General Assembly about an online consortium network of national and international colleges and universities. Following his presentation and a short

break, we will have a panel of four who will respond and share their institutional experiences with online learning. The panelists, all representing institutions who belong to ICUSTA, will include:

+Chair, Dr Ravi Srinivas, Dean of Special Programs at UST Houston, USA who has extensive experience in both planning, supervising and teaching in online programs.

+Dr. Anne O'Keefe, Professor at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, Ireland who is responsible for training, planning, managing and implementing the institutions commitment to online learning. Mary Immaculate recently instituted an online graduate program aimed at non-profit organizations.

+Mr Jose Alvarez de Toledo y Melia, the Director of Institutional Technology at UST Santiago, Chile. Jose is responsible for organizing, training, and management of an extensive on-learning network at UST's campuses throughout Chile. Jose has previously shared his expertise with ICUSTA colleagues at Campion College in Australia and at UST Houston, USA.

+Dr Concepcion Albarran, the Vice Chancellor of Academic Organization and Innovation at Catholic University of Avila, Avila, Spain. CUA has made a major commitment to online teaching, and is somewhat of a pioneer having launched their serious efforts in the 2008/09 academic year.

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#### NEWS FROM ICUSTA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

##### AUSTRALIA

###### "The University of Notre Dame Australia"

Vice Chancellor Dr Celia Hammond announced the appointment of Professor Michael Quinlan as the new Dean of the Law School at the Sydney Campus. Professor Quinlan has a distinguished legal background in commercial law, having served as a senior partner with Allens Law Firm from 1998 to 2012. The Sydney based Law School is in its eight year.

##### ETHIOPIA

###### "Ethiopia Catholic University of St Thomas Aquinas" (ECUSTA)

Archbishop Abune Berhaneyesus D Suraphiel, C.M. the Chancellor of ECUSTA presided at the first graduation of students in the young history of ECUSTA as twelve students received recognition at this important event. Attached you will find a brief summary of the September 2012 graduation ceremony. We extend our congratulations to our colleagues at ECUSTA on this important occasion of one of our newest ICUSTA members.

##### IRELAND

###### "Mary Immaculate College"

President FR Michael Hayes announced the appointment of a new International Relations Officer, Ms Holly Cowman. Some of you might remember Holly as the go-to person at the 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference which was held on the campus of Mary Immaculate College in 2009. Ms. Cowman will represent her institution at the forthcoming Biennial Conference in France. Colleagues interested in contacting her about exchange opportunities may do so at [Holly.Cowman@mic.ul.ie](mailto:Holly.Cowman@mic.ul.ie)

##### SPAIN

###### "Universidad Catolica de Avila"

CUA will once again offer a Summer School Program for credit under the auspices of their "Aula de Lengua y Cultura Espanola." Two courses that will be offered this summer of interest to students and faculty from among our ICUSTA members presented by the UCA Institute are listed below:

- + Intensive Spanish language courses from June 17-28, 2013. Levels to be offered include: Beginning Spanish I & II; Intermediate Spanish I & II. (Four credits each course.)
- + Bible, Doctrine and Spirituality, 4 credits, offered from July 1 – 26, 2013. This course will be taught by Dr Kristina Olsen, a teaching fellow from Catholic University of America. The course will introduce students to the study of Theology through the writings of theologians selected from different historical eras, with special attention to St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross. This course will be taught in English.

For more information contact either Annette Beermann at [Annette.beerman@ucavila.es](mailto:Annette.beerman@ucavila.es)  
Or [info.aulce@ucavila.es](mailto:info.aulce@ucavila.es)

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Colleagues, there is much more to share with you about activities of your colleagues around the world. I will be sending another NEWSLETTER # 3 next week so as not to overload the network with this already long e mail.

God bless you all we together do the Lords work and celebrate the risen Lord on this coming Easter Sunday.

DR Joe Mc Fadden
ICUSTA Executive Director