

Center for Thomistic Studies 2004-05

§ From the Director:

The Center for Thomistic Studies was a “joint venture” between **Fr. Victor Brezik, CSB**, who wanted to rekindle interest in Thomas Aquinas, which had declined in Catholic universities since the Second Vatican Council, and **Mr. Hugh Roy Marshall**, who thought the Thomistic philosophy he had studied at University of St. Thomas “made sense” in a way nothing else had. In 1975 they approached Fr. Patrick Braden, President of the University of St. Thomas with their ambitious plan for a PhD program. Having gained the University’s approval for the project, Brezik and Marshall then convinced Anton C. Pegis, a distinguished philosopher and President Emeritus of the Pontifical Institute in Toronto to become the first Director of the Center for Thomistic Studies. In Fr. Brezik’s words, “the show was on.”

In October 1979, The University of St. Thomas held a symposium honoring the 100th anniversary of *Aeterni Patris*, the papal encyclical which launched the revival of Thomistic philosophy in the 20th century. This highly successful event, generously funded by the **Strake Foundation**, was attended by philosophers from all over North America. The following fall the first classes in the new program were held. Houston had become the latest destination in a 750 year intellectual journey that had also passed through Paris, Salamanca, Rome and Toronto.

As the faculty and students look forward to this 25th year, we are more than usually grateful for the unfailing support of the Basilian Fathers and the University of St. Thomas, the generosity of our benefactors and the encouragement of our friends.

Mary C. Sommers, *Director*

§ Suffering & Hope



The Center for Thomistic Studies will celebrate its **25th anniversary** with a conference that will bring together experts from a number of fields – philosophy, theology, medicine, nursing, law, literature and art – to put forward a positive view of suffering in the divine scheme, of the importance of affirming life, of regarding dying as a natural process, and of seeking neither to hasten nor to postpone death.

Speakers include:

Dr. Eduardo Bruera, M.D., Head of Palliative Care Unit at M.D. Anderson, Texas Medical Center, Houston, TX

Dr. Carlos Centeno Cortés M.D. Ph.D., consultant, Palliative Care, the Pain Therapy and Palliative Medicine Regional Center, Los Montalvos Hospital, in Salamanca, Spain

Teresa S. Collett, Professor of Law, University of St. Thomas, School of Law, St. Paul, MN

Dr. Maureen L. Condic, Associate Professor, Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy, University of Utah, School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, UT

Dr. Patrick Lee, Professor of Philosophy, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Steubenville, OH

Dr. Janet Smith, Fr. Michael J. McGivney Chair of Life Issues, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, MI

§ The Center received a \$35,000 grant from **Our Sunday Visitor Foundation** to support the conference activities, including publication of the Proceedings. We would like to thank Center Board members Dr. Janet Smith and Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza for their support in obtaining the grant.

§ **The 2005 Aquinas Lecture** was given on 27 January by **Dr. Germain Grisez**, Bishop Harry J. Flynn Professor of Christian Ethics at Mount St. Mary's University (Emmitsburg, Maryland). In "The Restless-Heart Blunder", Grisez argued that, while St. Augustine's famous dictum—"Thou hast made us for Thyself and our hearts are restless till they rest in Thee"—does have a true sense, it is false, nevertheless, if it is understood in a way that presupposes a proposition St. Thomas asserts—namely, that what a human person tends toward as his or her ultimate end must be something that he or she tends toward as his or her complete good, whose attainment would leave nothing else to be desired. Grisez argued, to the contrary, that everyone can and most people sometimes do choose to do something for the sake of an end that they desire for itself, not for the sake of anything further, despite realizing that attaining that end will leave them seeking still other ends. Dr. Grisez spoke to a standing-room-only crowd in UST's Cullen Hall.

§ **Dr. John Deely** spent the Spring semester 2005 as Visiting Fulbright Professor at the New Bulgarian University in Sofia, Bulgaria. Dr. Deely was made an Honorary Professor of the NBU on June 2, 2005, for "achievement in philosophy and semiotics." His inaugural address was on "The Idea of a University" in relation to semiotics as the positive postmodern essence of philosophical tradition, and its bearing on the spread of intellectual freedom today through the university as institution.

§ The Center has had two Fulbrights in as many years. **Dr. John F.X. Knasas** spent the Spring 2004 semester at the Vilnius Pedagogical University (VPU) and the University of Vilnius (VU) in Lithuania.

§ **Jinnam Yi** successfully defended his dissertation, *Divine Command Theory and Natural Law Ethics in St. Thomas Aquinas: How Aquinas Would Reply to the Euthyphro Question* on 10 December 2004. The committee conducting the defense was chaired by Dr. Daryl Koehn. Other members were Dr. Mary C. Sommers, who directed the dissertation; Dr. Christopher Martin, Dr. Thomas Osborne and Dr. Randall Smith, who were the internal readers; and Dr. Lance Simmons, University of Dallas, who acted as the external reader.

§ **Three Center students** are currently writing dissertations: Ms. Andrea Messineo, *Incommensurability and Thomism*; Mr. Anthony Crifasi, *The Physiological Foundations of Cartesian Subjectivism*; Mr. Steve Striby *Against 9 Arguments for Nominalism*. Two students defended their dissertation proposals on 31 May 2005: Mr. David Arias, *Rediscovering Nature: An Exposition and Defense of the Thomistic Reasoning to Substantial Form and First Matter per viam motus*; Mr. Mark Barker, *The Cogitative Power's Function in Mental Acts*.

§ **Three Ph.D.** students, Mr. David Arias, Mr. Samuel Condic and Mr. Joseph Hattrup, passed the comprehensive exams given 18- 23 November 2004 and two M.A. students, Mr. Blake Butterworth and Mr. Nelson Ramirez-Santa, and one Ph.D. student, Mr. Benjamin Smith, passed the comprehensive exams given 5- 11 May 2005.

§ **Ph.D. student Samuel Condic published an article**, "Defining Organisms by Organization." Maureen L. Condic and Samuel B. Condic. *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* 5.2 (2005): 331-353. This is the second article which Mr. Condic has published with his sister, University of Utah Neurobiologist, Dr. Maureen Condic. Their first collaboration was "The Appropriate Limits of Science in the Formation of Public Policy." *Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics & Public Policy*. 17.1 (2003): 157-79.

§ **Center students** Joseph Hattrup, Scott Sullivan and Jinnam Yi presented papers at the October 2004 annual meeting of the American Maritain Association in Atlanta entitled "The Renewal of Civilization: Toward Justice and Peace." Mr. Hattrup's "Cause and Necessity: the Foci of Hume's Theory of Causation" won the conference's **Graduate Student Award**. Mr. Yi presented "A Defense of Divine Command Theory from Arbitrariness" and Mr. Sullivan presented "How Soon Is Now? Maritain, Temporal Regression and the Simultaneity Requirement in the Argument from Contingency."

Mr. Sullivan, will be presenting at two conferences this summer: "Aquinas the Neoplatonist" at the meeting of the International Society for Neoplatonic Studies in New Orleans, 22-26 June and "The Non-Aristotelian Twist to Aquinas' Position on Universals" at the XVIth International Symposium of Olympia-Pyrgos 25- 30 July 2005.

Mr. Anthony Crifasi presented "Are Aristotelian Natural Philosophy and Cartesian Mechanics Incommensurable?" at the November 2004 annual conference of the American Catholic Philosophical Association in Miami Beach, Florida.

§ **Center Faculty** have had a most productive year...

John Deely

PhD 1967 Aquinas Institute School of Philosophy

MA 1966 Aquinas Institute School of Philosophy

BA 1965 Aquinas Institute School of Philosophy

Publications

Why Semiotics? New York, Ottawa, Toronto: Legas, 2004.

“From Semiotic Animal to Semioethical Animal and Back.” In *Macht der Zeichen, Zeichen der Macht/ Signs of Power, Power of Signs*, Festschrift für Jeff Bernard, =Trans-Studien zur Veraenderung der Welt 3, ed. Gloria Witthalm and Josef Wallmannsberger. Wien: Lit. Verlag, 2004, 120–136.

“‘Semeion’ to ‘Sign’ by Way of ‘Signum’: on the Interplay of Translation and Interpretation in the Establishment of Semiotics.” *Semiotica* 148 (2004): 187-227.

“Semiotics of Community.” In *Encyclopedia of Community, From Village to the Virtual World*, edited by Karen Christensen and Daniel Levinson. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications, Inc., 2004, 1219–1223.

“The role of Thomas Aquinas in the Development of Semiotic Consciousness.” *Semiotica* 152 (2004): 75-139.

“The Semiosis of Angels.” *The Thomist* 68.2 (April 2004): 205–258.

“The Semiosis of Angels’ Awareness.” In *Animali, angeli, macchine. Linguaggio e forme cognitive*, edited by Giovanni Manetti and Alessandro. Prato Pisa: ETS Edizioni, 2004, *forthcoming*.

“The Thomistic Import of the Neo-Kantian Concept of Umwelt in Jakob von Uexküll.” *Angelicum*, *forthcoming*.

Basics of Semiotics, Expanded Third Edition. In Italian translation. Bari: Laterza, 2005.

Basics of Semiotics: Expanded Fourth Edition. In Bulgarian translation. Sofia: New Bulgarian University, 2005. A bilingual Estonian edition. Tartu: Tartu University Publications, 2005.

With Petrilli, Susan; Ponzio, Augusto. *The Semiotic Animal*. New York, Ottawa, Toronto, Canada: Legas Publishing, 2005, *forthcoming*.

Thomas, Albert, *Sebeok, and Semiotics*. Sofia, Bulgaria: New Bulgarian University, 2005.

“Augustine, Saint, Theory of the Sign,” “Hippocrates, Theory of the Sign,” “Phytosemiotics,” “History of Semiotics.” In *Encyclopedia of the Language Sciences* (2nd ed.; London: Elsevier), 2005.

“The Semiotic Animal: a Postmodern Definition of Human Being Superseding the Modern Definition ‘Res Cogitans’.” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 79.3, *forthcoming*.

“Thomas Albert Sebeok (1920–2001), Biologist Manqué.” In *Thoemmes Dictionary of Biography*. London: Thoemmes Press, *forthcoming*.

Lectures & Papers

“Semiotics and Jacob von Uexküll’s Concept of Umwelt.” Opening of the Jacob von Uexküll-Archiv, University of Hamburg 10 January 2004

“The Semiotic Foundations of the Human Sciences from Augustine to Peirce.” Semiotics and the Humanities, International Congress sponsored jointly by the International Association for Semiotic Studies (IASS) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) held in Beijing, 25–29 March 2004. To be published in Chinese translation in the Proceedings volume from the Congress being published by CASS. An English version of the paper will appear in the Canadian scholarly journal *Recherche Sémiotique/Semiotic Inquiry* (RSSI) 22.1-2.

“The Semiotic Animal.” The 2005/03/18 Wiener Semiotische Konversationen and Birthday Celebration in honor of Gloria Withalm IASS Honorary President General Secretary for the Institute for Socio-Semiotic Studies, Vienna, and for the Austrian Semiotic Society, 18 March 2005.

“The Undermining of War.” For the Celebration of the Centennial of Senator James William Fulbright, University of Sofia, 9 April 2005.

“The New History of Philosophy for the 21st Century.” Celebration of the first year of the new graduate philosophy program established at the Paissiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, 20- 22 May 2005.

Professional Activities

- Visiting Fulbright Professor at the New Bulgarian University in Sofia, Bulgaria (Spring 2005).
- Elected to 3-year term on Executive Council of the American Catholic Philosophical Association.

R. Edward Houser

PhD 1981 University of Toronto
MA 1976 University of Toronto
MSL 1976 Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies
BA 1968 University of Texas

Publications & Papers

The Cardinal Virtues: Aquinas, Albert, Philip the Chancellor. Mediaeval Sources in Translation, vol. 39, Studies in Medieval Moral Teaching, vol. 4. Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 2004.

Houser, R. E., ed. *Laudemus viros gloriosos: Essays in Honor of Armand Maurer*, CSB. Thomistic Studies Series. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, *forthcoming*.

“Armand Maurer: Disciple, Historian, Philosopher.” In *Laudemus viros gloriosos: Essays in Honor of Armand Maurer* CSB, edited by R.E. Houser. Thomistic Studies Series. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, *forthcoming*.

“The Real Distinction and the Principles of Metaphysics: Avicenna and Aquinas.” In *Laudemus viros gloriosos: Essays in Honor of Armand Maurer* CSB, edited by R.E. Houser. Thomistic Studies Series. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, *forthcoming*.

“Gilson, Etienne,” “Maurer, C.S.B., Armand A,” “Maritain, Jacques”, & “Weisheipl, O.P., James Athanasius.” In the *Dictionary of Twentieth Century American Philosophy*, edited by Stuart Rosenbaum. London: Thommes Press, 2005 *forthcoming*.

Lectures & Papers

“The Cardinal Virtues: Thomas Aquinas’s Handbook for Happiness.” Invited lecture: Trinity University, San Antonio, TX, Friday 26 March 2004.

Center Activities

- Director, doctoral dissertation: Steve Striby.

Professional Activities

- Organizer of sessions on the Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas, sponsored by the Center for Thomistic Studies at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. Three sessions for the 40th Congress (May, 2005).

John F. X. Knasas

PhD 1975 University of Toronto
MA 1972 University of Toronto
BA 1970 Boston College

Publications

Being and Some Twentieth-Century Thomists. New York: Fordham University Press, 2003.

“Kant and Aquinas on the Ground of Moral Necessity.” Proceedings of the International Conference, “Christian Humanism in the Third Millennium: Perspective of Thomas Aquinas,” Rome, 2003, forthcoming; also ed. Dalia Stanciene in *Ethics in the Process of Globalization*. Vilnius: Kultūros, filosofijos ir meno institutatas, 2004, 57-64.

“Why a Philosopher Can and Should Read St. Thomas Aquinas.” *Verbum Analecta Neolatina* 6 (2004) 25-37

“Why for Lonergan Knowing Cannot Consist in Taking a Look.” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, 78 (2004): 131-150.

“Haldane’s Analytic Thomism and Aquinas’ *Actus essendi*.” In *Analytical Thomism: Traditions in Dialogue*, edited by Craig Paterson and Matthew S. Pugh. Aldershot, Hants: Ashgate Publishing Ltd. 2005.

Lectures & Papers

Eight public lectures on “Lessons on Truth and Tolerance from the Christian Middle Ages.” Department of Philosophy and Culture Kaunas Technological University, Kaunas, Lithuania, Mar. 15-May 10, 2004 at <http://www.filosofija.ktu.lt/video.htm>.

“Going West and Lithuanian Literary Identity.” Delivered to the Faculty and students of the English Language Department, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas Lithuania, May, 2004

Center Activities

- Director, doctoral dissertation: David Arias.
- Member, Dissertation Committee: Mark Barker.

Christopher Martin

DPhil 1984 Oxford University
BPhil 1981 Oxford University
MA 1979 Oxford University

Publications

“Esse ut verum: Aristotle, Averroes and Aquinas.” In *Aquinas’ Sources*, edited by Timothy L. Smith. South Bend, IN: St Augustine’s Press, 2004.

“The fact-value distinction: a parochial prejudice.” In *Human Values: New Essays on Ethics and Natural Law*, edited by Chappell, T. and Oderberg, D., , Houndmills, Hants., UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004, forthcoming.

“Usury and Unnatural Vice.” In *Restoring Nature: Essays in Thomistic Philosophy and Theology*, edited by Michael M. Waddell. South Bend, IN: St Augustine’s Press, 2004

Co-translation (with José Maria Torralba) of G.E.M. Anscombe, “Modern Philosophy.” In *La Filosofía analítica y la espiritualidad del hombre*. Navarra: Ediciones Universidad de Navarra, S.A., 2005

Lectures & Papers

“The teleology of parts and wholes in Aristotle and Aquinas.” Presented to the International Conference on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, Fordham University, October 22-24, 2004.

Center Activities

- Director, doctoral dissertation: Mark Barker, Anthony Crifasi, Andrea Messineo.
- Member, Dissertation Committee: Jinnam Yi, Mark Barker.
- Organizer, Comprehensive & Language Examinations.

Thomas Osborne, Jr.

LMS	2002	Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies
PhD	2001	Duke University
MA	1995	Boston College
BA	1994	The Catholic University of America

Publications

The Love of Self and Love of God in Thirteenth-Century Ethics. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2005.

“Free Will, Predestination, and Determinism.” In the *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas*. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2005.

“William of Ockham as a Divine Command Theorist.” *Religious Studies* 41 (2005): 1-22

“Promotion and Contemporary Philosophy of Religion.” *Nova et Vetera*, forthcoming

Lectures & Papers

“Tooley’s Criticisms of Anscombe on Causation.” *New Mexico-West Texas Philosophical Society*. San Antonio, Texas, February 2004

“Ways of Looking at Mortal Sin.” *International Congress of Medieval Studies*. Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 6-9, 2004

“Prophecy and Predestination.” Aquinas the Augustinian. Aquinas Center for Theological Renewal, Ave Maria Naples, Florida, 2005

Center Activities

- Member, Dissertation Committees: Jinnam Yi, David Arias, Mark Barker.
- Organizer, Center Colloquium Series.

Mary C. Sommers

PhD 1982 University of Toronto
MSL 1976 Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies
MA 1972 University of Toronto
BA 1971 Whitman College

Publications

“Walter Burley.” In *New Dictionary of National Biography*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

“Defense and Discovery: Brother Thomas’ *Contra Impugnantes*.” In *Laudemus viros gloriosos: Essays in Honor of Armand Maurer CSB*, edited by R.E. Houser, Thomistic Studies Series. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, *forthcoming*.

Review of *Natural Law and Human Dignity: Universal Ethics in an Historical World*, by Eberhard Schockenhoff. Translated by Brian McNeil. *The Thomist* 2005, *forthcoming*.

Center Activities

- Director, doctoral dissertation: Jinnam Yi, *Divine Command Theory and Natural Law Ethics in St. Thomas Aquinas: How Aquinas Would Reply to the Euthyphro Question*. Defended successfully, Dec. 10, 2004.
- Member, dissertation committee: Steve Striby

Professional Activities

Elected to 3-year term on Executive Council of the American Catholic Philosophical Association.

§ CENTER COLLOQUIUM SERIES

The Center colloquium series takes place regularly throughout the semester. It consists of a short paper and a discussion, presented by a member of the faculty, a visiting lecturer, or a student. Presentations are usually held at 12:30 Thursdays. Colloquia for the 2004-2005 academic year, which were organized by Dr. Thomas Osborne:

September 16, 2004: "Aristotle and Aquinas on the Teleology of Parts and Wholes", Dr. Christopher Martin, CTS.

September 23, 2004: "Thomas Aquinas vs. David Hume on Science, Cause and Necessity" by Mr. Joseph Hatstrup, CTS graduate student.

September 30, 2004: "Is Plato's Republic Utopian?", Dr. Donald Morrison, Dept. of Philosophy, Rice University.

October 7, 2004: "Finding Joy: An Eastern vs. Western Approach", Dr. Daryl Koehn, Center for Business Ethics, University of St. Thomas.

October 14, 2004: "The Incommensurability between Thomistic Sense Realism and Modern Biology", Mr. Anthony Crifasi, CTS graduate student.

October 21, 2004: "Medieval Approaches to the Common Good", Dr. Jean Porter, Dept. of Theology, University of Notre Dame.

October 28, 2004: "Aquinas on Heretics and Jews", Dr. John F. X. Knasas, CTS

November 4, 2004: "Wealth in the Service of Love", Dr. Andrius Valevicius, Université de Sherbrooke, Canada.

November 11, 2004: "Toleration in New Keys: Historical and Global Perspectives on the Idea of Tolerance", Dr. Carey Nederman, Dept. of Political Science, Texas A&M University.

November 18, 2004: "The Psychology of Freedom in Descartes's *Passiones de l'âme*", Mr. Joel Schickel, Duke University.

December 2, 2004: "Order in Theology: Some Achievements of Thomas Aquinas on the Trinity", Dr. Jeremy Wilkins, St. Mary's Seminary, University of St. Thomas.

January 20, 2005: "Suffering and Hope: The Philosophy of Palliative Care", Dr. Christopher Martin, CTS.

January 28, 2005: "Natural Law, God, Religion, and Human Fulfillment", Dr. Germain Grisez, Mount St. Mary's University, Maryland.

February 11, 2005: "Real Distinction, Pluralism, and Monism in Seventeenth Century Philosophy", Dr. Mark Kulstad, Dept. of Philosophy, Rice University.

February 17, 2005: "Whether a Difference of Matter Can Cause a Difference of Form and Species in Aquinas?", Fr. Joseph Pilsner, CSB, Dept. of Theology, University of St. Thomas.

February 24, 2005: "Extended Body, Extended Mind: The Self as Prosthesis", Dr. Susan Stuart, University of Glasgow.

March 10, 2005: "Thomas on the Pedagogical Ends of Diverse Literary Forms" by Msgr. Daniel Flores, Professor of Systemic Theology and Vice Rector of St. Mary's Seminary, University of St. Thomas.

March 17, 2005: "How to Read the Sermons of Thomas Aquinas", Dr. Randall Smith, Dept. of Theology, University of St. Thomas.

March 31, 2005: "Bonaventure: The Transcendentals & Knowing God", Dr. R.E. Houser, CTS.

April 7, 2005: "Kant & Maria von Herbert: Lies & Reticence" Dr. James Mahon, Washington and Lee University

April 15, 2005: "Seeds of Contemplation", Dr. Karen Zedlick, Thomas Aquinas College, CA.

April 21, 2005: "What Is the Universal Concept According to Ockham?", Mr. Steve Striby, CTS graduate student.

April 28, 2005: "Empathy and Sensitivity: The Ethics of "Get Over It", Dr. Andre Terjesen, Austin College



Faculty of the Center for Thomistic Studies: Dr. Thomas M. Osborne, Jr., Dr. John F.X. Knasas, Dr. R.E. Houser, Dr. Mary Catherine Sommers, and Dr. Christopher Martin.



Dr. Mary C. Sommers and Dr. Jinnam Yi after his dissertation defense on December 10, 2004.



UNIVERSITY
ST. of THOMAS

Center for Thomistic Studies
3800 Montrose Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77006-4696

713-525-3591

Fax: 713-942-3464

www.stthom.edu

thomistic_center@stthom.edu

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