

**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
**MARY CATHERINE SOMMERS**

***CURRENT POSITION:*** Professor, Dept. of Philosophy; Director, Center for Thomistic Studies  
University of St. Thomas

***EDUCATION:***

- 1982 Ph. D. University of Toronto (Medieval Studies)
- 1976 M.S.L. Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies (Philosophy)
- 1972 M. A. University of Toronto (Medieval Studies)
- 1971 B.A. Whitman College, WA (Philosophy/English Literature)

***TEACHING EXPERIENCE:***

- 1978- 1986 **Niagara University, NY** (Asst. Professor 1978- 84; Assoc. Professor 1984-1986)
- 1987- **University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas** (Visiting Asst. Professor 1987- 89; Asst. Professor 1989-1991; Assoc. Professor 1991-1997; Professor 1997-)

***ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE:***

Director, Honors Program, (Spring 1988-1998); Dean, College of Arts & Sciences (2000-01);  
Director, Center for Thomistic Studies (2002-); Chair, Department of Philosophy (2003- 08)

***OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:***

Member of certification team for Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board visitation to St. Thomas More College, Fort Worth, TX (October, 1990). Served on the Executive Council of the American Catholic Philosophical Association (1994-6; 2005-07); Created and taught ethics component in Leadership Rice Program, Rice University (Fall 1999); Symposium on Professional Education and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, University of St. Thomas (St. Paul) (July 2002, August 2003; Administered Aquinas Lecture Series (2003-); Program Review of Philosophy Department, St. Thomas University, Fredericton, New Brunswick (January 2004); *Our Sunday Visitor* Foundation Grant for *Suffering & Hope* Conference *An interdisciplinary*

conference on the ideas underlying the medical specialty of palliative and hospice care (November 2005) & *Ethics of Organ Transplantation Conference* (March 2009); Successful application to bring National Office of the American Catholic Philosophical Association to University of St. Thomas (2006); Member of the Program Review team for Catholic Studies Program, University of St. Thomas (MN) (May 2008); Member of AALE team for accreditation site visit to Southern Catholic College (April 2009)

## **PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH:**

### **BOOK:**

*Walter Burley: Quaestiones super librum Posteriorum*. Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 2000. 214 pp.

### **ARTICLES & CHAPTERS:**

"Substance and Predication in Aristotle: A Medieval View." *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association*, 1987. 61 (1987): 78-87.

"**Manifestatio**: The Historical Presenting of Being in Aquinas' *Expositio Super Iob*", *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association*. 62 (1988): 147-156.

"Thomas Aquinas' Polemic of Perfection", *Studi Tomistici*. 44 (1991): 362-373.

"'He spak to [T]hem that would live parfityl': Thomas Aquinas, the Wife of Bath and the Two Senses of 'Religion'", *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 65 (1991) 145- 156.

"Living Together: Burdensome Pregnancy and the Hospitable Self" in *Abortion: A New Generation of Catholic Responses*. Braintree, MA: Pope John XXIII Medical-Moral Research and Education Center, 1992, pp. 243- 261.

"Thomas Aquinas on the Family: A Necessary Prolegomenon" in *Moral and Political Philosophies in the Middle Ages*. Proceedings of The Ninth International Congress of Medieval Philosophy, 1992, pp. 1592-1606.

"Useful Friendships: A Foundation for Business Ethics", *Journal of Business Ethics* 16 (1997) 1453- 1458.

"Walter Burley: A Student of John Duns Scotus?" in *Medieval Masters: Essays in Honor of Msgr. E.A. Synan*, Houston, TX: Center for Thomistic Studies, 2000, 249- 276.

"Imaging the Contemplative Life in Thomas Aquinas" in *Semiotics* 2001, Toronto, Canada: Legas, 2002, 40-53.

“Defense and Discovery: Brother Thomas’ *Contra Impugnantes*” in *Laudemus viros gloriosos: Essays in Honor of Armand Maurer CSB*. Center for Thomistic Studies Series. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 200 .

“**Consilium** as Act and Utterance in the Moral Teaching of Thomas Aquinas” in *Aquinas’ Sources: The Notre Dame Symposium*. Edited by Timothy L. Smith. South Bend, IN: St. Augustine’s Press, *Forthcoming*.

“Marriage Vows and ‘Taking up a New State’.” *Nova et Vetera*, English Edition, Vol. 7, No. 3 (2009): 679–95

“Topsy-Turvy: The Problem of Providence in Aquinas’ *Commentary on Job*.” *Proceedings of the American Maritain Association* 2009.

The ‘Life’ Christ Chose: Contemplation and Action in the *Summa Theologiae*.” For *Aquinas the Aristotelian*, eds. Reinhard Hutter and Matthew Levering. Catholic University of America Press, *Forthcoming*.

## **REVIEWS & ENTRIES:**

Review of G. R. Evans, *Philosophy and Theology in the Middle Ages*, in *The Review of Metaphysics* Dec. 1994, pp. 401 - 402.

“Walter Burley”, in *A Companion to Philosophy in the Middle Ages*, ed. Jorge Gracia & Timothy Noone, Blackwell Companions to Philosophy Series, 2003, 672- 3.

"Walter Burley" in *New Dictionary of National Biography*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

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

“Burley, Walter” in *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2nd edition.

“Owens, Joseph, CSsR” in *New Catholic Encyclopedia, Supplement* 2010, v. 2, 874-76.

## **PAPERS:**

"Finds in Philosophical Mss." for *Sources and Archives* Series. Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto, April, 1980.

"Principles and Methods of a Christian Philosophy of History" at WNY Regional Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, Fall, 1980.

"After 1277: **Philosophi et Theologi** in a Logical **Quaestio** of Walter Burley". Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Mediaeval Association (SEMA), October, 1982.

Critique of "Can Philosophy Console?" at the National Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, April 8-10, 1983.

"*Symposium* 188e-193e": The Trial of Aristophanes?" at WNY Regional Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, Fall, 1983.

"Can there be `A University in the Vincentian Tradition'?" College of Arts and Sciences, Niagara University, Colloquia Series, February, 1984.

"Some Scholastic Logicians and Aristotle's `Perfect Syllogism'" at the Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Conference, Fall, 1984.

"**Manifestatio**: The Moral Usefulness of History in St. Thomas' *Expositio Super Iob*". At the Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Conference, Fall, 1985.

"Philosophy Beyond the Classroom: Adapting the *Catholic Worker* model to undergraduate teaching." At the National Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, April 4-6, 1986.

"The Philosopher as Worker: Why Thomas Aquinas Became a Dominican;" Aquinas Lecture, Notre Dame College, Cleveland, Ohio, January, 1987.

"The **Sarcina** Unpacked: Thomas Aquinas on the Episcopal State." At the Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Conference, Fall, 1988.

"Natural Law and the Right to Work". For the Philosophy Dept. Colloquia Series, Fall, 1988

"Ps.- Dionysius and Aquinas' Polemic of Perfection". At the International Society for Neo-Platonic Studies, Spring, 1989.

"Principles and Profits: Ethics in the Business World". For the Social Concerns Commission of the Diocese of Galveston- Houston and the University of St. Thomas, March 10, 1990.

"Martha's Part: Religious and the Active Life in Thomas Aquinas' Defense of the Mendicant Orders". At the conference on the Monastic and Mendicant Life in the Middle Ages, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto, February 21-22, 1992.

"The Corporation as a Friendship of Utility". At the annual meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, March 26-28, 1993.

"The Debate over Religious Perfection in the *Correctoria* Literature." At the Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Conference, Fall, 1994.

"Useful Friendships: A Foundation for Business Ethics." At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Conference Promoting Business Ethics, New York, 2-4 November 1995. *Deans' Award for Best Paper*.

"Poverty in the *Correctoria* Literature." At the Third Summer Thomistic Institute, University of Notre Dame, July 1996.

"Lifetime Employability and the EAW Principle." At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Conference Promoting Business Ethics, Niagara University, New York, 31 October-3 November 1996.

"Walter Burley: A Student of John D. Scotus?" At the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, 8- 11 May 1997.

"Virtue, Craft and Itinerancy." At the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference Promoting Business Ethics, St. John's University, New York, 30 October- 1 November 1997

"**Consilia** in the Moral Teaching of Thomas Aquinas." At the Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Conference, Fall, 1998.

"Hospitality: Virtue and Transience in the Contemporary Workplace." At the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference Promoting Business Ethics, St. John's University, New York, 21- 23 October 1999.

"**Consilium** as Act and Utterance in the Moral Teaching of Thomas Aquinas." At the 7<sup>th</sup> Summer Thomistic Institute, University of Notre Dame, July 2000.

"Tolerance, Hospitality and Global Community." At the 11<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Ethics, Business and Society, Barcelona, Spain, 4-6 July 2001.

"Imaging the Contemplative Life in Three Medieval Authors." At the Semiotic Society of America, October, 2001.

"GET A LIFE! Form and Confusion in Contemporary Society." Annual Aquinas Lecture, St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB, 28 January 2002

"Defense and Discovery in Thomas' Aquinas' *Contra Impugnantes*." At the Texas Medieval Association, October, 2002.

"Comment on `Employment-at-Will in the Context of Catholic Higher Education.'" At the annual meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, October 2002.

"Beyond Deely: If I follow the `Way of Signs', Where will I end up?" Book Session on John Deely's *Four Ages of Understanding* at 27<sup>th</sup> International Meeting American Maritain, Association, Chicago, Illinois 16- 19 October 2003. (To be published in *Semiotics* 2004)

"Maintaining the Soul of the University." At conference on *Christianity and the Soul of the University*. Baylor University 25-27 March 2004.

Center for Thomistic Studies Colloquium Series: "Crossing the Threshold: Derrida and the Laws of Hospitality" April 22, 2004

"Getting Started, Getting Better, Getting There: The Growth of Charity according to Thomas Aquinas." 39<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies Kalamazoo, MI. (May, 2004).

"The Hospitality of Hospice: Forming Temporary Communities for the Sick or the Dying." At the *Suffering & Hope* Conference. University of St. Thomas (Houston) October 2005

"Watch how these pilgrims travel": 'Life' and 'State' in Catherine of Siena's *Dialogue*." At the South Central Renaissance Conference. Houston, TX, March 2006.

"Intergender Dialogue: a Strategy for Adding Women Writers to the Curriculum." In "Teaching the History of Medieval Philosophy." 41<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2006.

"Marriage Vows and 'Taking up a New State'". At Ave Maria University, *Sacraments in Aquinas*, February 1- 3, 2007.

"Women and War." 43<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2008.

"Women's Courage: A Thomistic Perspective on Andromache, Joan of Arc and Rosie the Riveter." Thomas Aquinas Lecture at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame on October 6, 2008.

"Topsy-Turvy: The Problem of Providence in Aquinas' *Commentary on Job*. Plenary Address at the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual International Meeting of the American Maritain Association October 22-24, 2009, Houston, TX: *ST. THOMAS AND THE PROBLEM OF EVIL: CHOICE, HISTORY, & PROVIDENCE*.

"'Out of the Fullness of Contemplation': The Fate of Aquinas' Innovations to the Concepts of the *Vita Contemplativa* and the *Vita Activa*..” For the 2010 South-Central Renaissance Conference. *Exploring the Renaissance: An International Conference*, Corpus Christi, TX , 18-20 March 2010.

"Thomas Aquinas and the Triumph of 'Womanly' Courage." For the Mary T. Clark Chair of Christian Philosophy Lecture, Manhattanville College, 07 April 2011.

"Secular Time: Meaning & Remediation." For the Annual Fall Conference of the Center for Ethics & Culture, University of Notre Dame." *Radical Emancipation: Confronting the Challenge of Secularism.*" 10-12 November 2011.

"*Fides* and *Fidelitas* in Thomas Aquinas" to be published in the proceedings of the colloquium *Confiance, bonne foi, fidélité: la notion de "fides" dans la vie des sociétés médiévales 9<sup>e</sup> -13<sup>e</sup> siècle*. (at the Institut Catholique d'Études Supérieures, October 11th, 2012.)

## UNIVERSITY & COMMUNITY TALKS, INTERVIEWS, ETC.

for *South Africa and Me* (Fall 1987); for *Vita* (Fall 1990, 1992); for *Last Seminar Series* (November 1990); for *Rerum Novarum Revisited* (Spring 1991); “The Role of Wife & Mother (Mary as Model)” for *Lenten Lectures* (March 1992). St. Michael's Catholic Church, Houston, (March 1992, December 1992); St. Cyril's Parish (May 1993); The Unitarian Universalist Church, Houston, (August and September 1993); Our Lady of Guadalupe, Rosenberg (May 1993; Incarnate Word Academy, Houston (May 1994); Leadership Houston Graduate Diversity Colloquium (June 1994). Southgate Center: Lectures for University and Professional Women (October 1995, Spring 1996, Fall 1998). Service-Learning course, Rice U. (February 1996); “Sexuality and Identity”: A Framework for Good Choices” for *Vita* (Fall 1996); for The Learning Center (Fall 1996, Spring 1997, Spring 1998) “Sexual Harassment” (August 1997), “Residence Life at a Catholic University” (August 2000) for the Residence Life Staff; Texas Catholic Students Conference Workshop on Sexuality (March 1998); *Fides et Ratio* series (Spring 1999) “The Presence of the Body of Christ” & “Hospitality and the Body of Mary” at the Diocese of Brownsville Marian Conference (January 2000); “The Virtue of Hospitality” for *Mulier Fortis* (Spring 2000), for Phi Sigma Tau (November 2000). “Can ‘Good’ be better than ‘Best’?” for *Legatus* (Summer 2000); 3 interviews for Catholic radio (Fall 2003); 3 interviews for Catholic radio (Fall 2004); On *The Da Vinci Code*: “The Connection”, Houston PBS (March 2004), St. Michael's Catholic Church, Houston (July 2004); KGBC 1540 Catholic Radio (Fall 2004), St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church (October 2004); *Evenings at the Oratory Series* & Catholic Chaplaincy at Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario (Feb 2005). Funeral of JP II and election of Benedict XVI: Interviews for various radio/ tv stations and op-ed “The Bear and His Backpack” *Houston Chronicle* 20 April 2005. Interviewed for “Face Transplant Raises Ethics Questions” KUHf (December 8, 2005); Interviewed on KTRH re: Stem Cells (18 July 2006). “The Medieval World” for *Seekers & Sages*, University of St. Thomas, (January 19 2010). “The Authority of Women in the Church: An Historical Perspective.” Keynote Speech, 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial General Assembly of the Galveston-Houston Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, St. Mary Church ~ La Porte, TX (April 24, 2010). FOX in Focus: Benedict XVI and Condom Use, KRIV-TV (FOX) CH 26, Houston, 12/01/2010, 09:00 PM - 10:00 PM; “*Catherine of Siena's Vision of the Life-Saving Bridge*” for 3rd Annual Zambosco-Thomas Colloquium: "In Dialogue with St. Catherine of Siena & Florence Nightingale (February 22, 2011); Resignation of Benedict XVI and election of Pope Francis: ABC-13 2/17/13 Sunday morning; KPRC-HOU-2 (NBC) 2/25/13 6pm News; KHOU-11 2/28/13; 3/5/13; KRIV-HOU (Fox 26), 3/6/13 6am News; 3/12/13 7, 9am, 12, 5pm News; KTRH NewsRadio 740 | 03/12/13.

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

**Committees (regular):** Scholarship Committee (1989-98), **Chair** (1993-98); Honors Council, **Chair** (1989-98); Graduation Committee (1990-98); Extra-University Scholarship Committee, Rhodes, Truman, etc., **Chair** (1990-2000); Campus Ministry Advisory Council (1991-); Undergraduate Research Committee (1992-98); President's Seminar Series (1995-98); University Planning Committee (1998-2000); President's Administrative Council (1999-2000); Academic

Council (2000); University Mission Committee (2000); Promotion and Tenure Committee (2002-05); Graduate Council (2002-); Institutional Effectiveness Committee 2003-06; Core Curriculum Reform Committee (2007-09); Vice-Chair, Chair, Past Chair Faculty Senate (2007-10) President's Cabinet (2008-09); Campus Master Plan Task Force (2008-09); University Planning Committee (2009-) Academic Affairs Policy Committee (2010-)

**Committees (*ad hoc*):** Committee to develop Honors Program (1988); Undergraduate Educational Programs Committee, **Chair**, Self-Study for accreditation visit (SACS), (1991-93); Committee to revise the Protocol for the Human Subjects Committee, **Chair** (1998); Capital Campaign Objectives Committee (1999); First-Year Interdisciplinary Course Committee, **Chair** (1999-2000). Space Utilization Committee (2000); Parking Garage Committee (2000); Planning Committee, New Student Residence (2001-02), Grad Phil Library Committee (2002) Strategic Planning, Academic Programs Committee (2002- 03); Governance Task Forces 2006-08; Mendenhall Program Committee (2007-09)

**Search Committees:** for Theology Dept. faculty (1990), Director of Center, International Studies (1992-3), Director of the Center for Business Ethics (1997); English Dept. faculty (2001, 2002); CTS faculty (2002-03, 2005,2010); Presidential Search Committee (2003-04) VPAA Search Committee (2006)

**Faculty Advisor;** Vita (1989-2000); Delta Epsilon Sigma National Honor Society (1989-98); Aquinas Honor Society (1990-98)

### ***PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS***

American Catholic Philosophical Association  
American Maritain Association  
National Collegiate Honors Council (1988- 1998)  
Society for Mediaeval and Renaissance Philosophy  
Fellowship of Catholic Scholars