§ From the Director

During the past year the Center for Thomistic Studies has continued its contribution to society and the Church by educating graduate students and producing scholarship. As you read through the following pages consider the scholarly achievements of the faculty, students, and alumni, as well as their influence in forming students, seminarians, and the culture at large. The visit of our Aquinas Lecturer, Fr. James Schall, who drew on his years of teaching and publication to explain the importance of Thomism in today’s political, cultural, and religious context has been particularly encouraging.

The scholarly and professional achievements of our students and faculty are many, as can be seen in the following pages. We were saddened by the loss to cancer of our former colleague, Dr. John Deely. Dr. Brian Kemple, Dr. Deely’s first doctoral student, was able to defend his dissertation shortly before Dr. Deely’s passing, due to the assistance of Dr. John Hittinger, who served as co-director.

During this past year our students have been greatly assisted by support from the George Strake Foundation. Mr. Evan Williams, one of four members of the “George Strake” cohort, has completed his course work, while the other three are returning for further course work. Ms. Rose Langley and Mr. Jacob Alexander will return for the first year of their Ph.D. studies, and Mr. Grossheim will return for his second year in the M.A. program. The Foundation’s support will also be used to assist one of our three incoming students, Mr. Elliot Polsky.

You may have heard of the financial difficulties that the University of St. Thomas has experienced and their effect on the Philosophy Department and the Center for Thomistic Studies. Although all of us on the Center faculty primarily teach undergraduate courses, we think that the graduate program is important not only for its enrichment of our undergraduate program, but also for its wider contribution to UST and to the academic community. The Center has never been in a better professional and academic condition, but it faces new financial challenges. The administration and Board of Directors have recently indicated their commitment to the further existence and success of our graduate program. We will be working with a Development Advisory Board to develop plans to ensure financial support for graduate students comparable to the support given by our peer graduate programs in philosophy. If you would like to make a gift to the Center for Thomistic Studies or learn more about leaving the Center in your will, please contact Steven Jensen at (jensensj@stthom.edu) and Tina Medlin, Assistant Vice President for Development, UST, at medlinbt@stthom.edu or 713-525-3168.

After serving as interim Director during the Fall of 2017, Dr. Jensen has agreed to become Center director for the next academic year. We expect continued professional and academic success, and are confident that we can find the necessary financial support. I am reminded of the telegram that Pope St. John Paul II sent us through Cardinal Casaroli in 1979, which stated “He [Pope John Paul II] invokes [the] assistance of God on [the] University and its work of increasing knowledge and understanding in particular through its Thomistic Studies, with prayers for [the] success of [the] announced Center.”

This sign indicates a Center Historical Document. You may find more such documents at the Center Archives at http://www.stthom.edu/Academics/Centers-of-Excellence/Center-for-Thomistic-Studies/Archives/Index.aqf
Reverend James V. Schall, SJ Professor Emeritus at Georgetown University delivered the 38th Aquinas Lecture on Jan. 26. Fr. Schall has written hundreds of essays on political, theological, literary, and philosophical issues in academic journals. He contributes regularly to Crisis and Homiletic & Pastoral Review. He is also known for his expertise on G.K. Chesterton. He is the author of numerous books on social issues, spirituality, culture, and literature including: Another Sort of Learning, Christianity and Life, The Distinctiveness of Christianity and A Student's Guide to Liberal Learning. In his lecture “Is Intelligence Impractical?: Reflections of a ‘Rigid’ Thomist,” Fr. Schall explained the way in which current intellectual trends show the need for a revived Thomism. He also gave a class on political philosophy and a colloquium on “Where does political philosophy fit in the order of things?” Faculty, students, and the general public all appreciated Father Schall’s acute observations on the intellectual life.

Dr. Osborne inducts Fr. Shall into the Order of St. Thomas

Aquinas and the Arabs:

June 1-2, 2017: Dr. R. Edward Houser presented a paper on “Created and Uncreated Creators: Avicenna and Aquinas” at the Warburg Institute in London. The Warburg Institute hosted the meeting of the Aquinas and the Arabs International Working Group which was devoted to the topic of Creation and Artifice in Medieval Theories of Causality.

Upcoming Events

August 25, 2017: Meeting of the Aquinas and the Arabs International Working Group at the University of Notre Dame.

November 16-19, 2017: Aquinas and the Arabs International Working Group will sponsor a lecture by Dr. R. Edward Houser on “Avicenna and the Five Ways” at the 2017 Annual ACPA Meeting at the Westin Dallas Downtown in Dallas, TX.
§ Pavel Kilbergr

My name is Pavel Kilbergr and I am a student of philosophy with a particular interest in Virtue ethics and its connection to psychology. My alma mater is the Faculty of Theology at the University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice. Dr. Tomáš Machula, Ph.D., Th.D. is my supervisor.

When I began my doctoral study, I wanted to focus on Thomas Aquinas and his philosophical approach. Thus, I decided to visit the Center for Thomistic Studies in order to meet with authorities at the Center. Thanks to the support of the University of South Bohemia, I was able to visit the university twice and had a very productive time. My first visit focused on the virtue of justice and its earlier sources in Peter Lombard. This resulted in an article. My second visit focused on a comparison between virtue ethics as discussed by Aquinas in the *Summa theologiae* and its renovation found in the work of Philippa Foot and Alasdair MacIntyre. The result of this work will be published at the end of May.

The time spent at the Center was very valuable to me. In particular, my consultations with Dr. Houser, Dr. Osborne, Dr. Jensen and Dr. Hittinger were fruitful. I am thankful for the time and effort they devoted to me. I am also grateful for my many discussions with the students at the Center. These greatly expanded and enriched my understanding in the realm of Thomistic philosophy. In short, UST proved to be a splendid place for philosophical research. I particularly enjoyed the weekly colloquia which were made even more delightful by the devotion and professionalism of Ms. Valerie Hall.

Thank you for the great study time at your Center!

Best wishes,
Pavel Kilbergr

§ John Paul II Forum:

During the past academic year, The John Paul II Forum in conjunction with the Department of Philosophy and the Center for Thomistic Studies sponsored the following events:

**September 26, 2016**—Professor Piotr Jaroszynski, University of Lublin spoke on John Paul II and the New Evangelization.

**October 22, 2016**—Mass Honoring the Feast Day of John P. II at the Chapel of St. Basil, UST

**November 30, 2016**—Dr. Fran O’Rourke, Professor of Philosophy, University of Dublin spoke on “Thomas Aquinas in the works of James Joyce.”

**April 26, 2017**—Fr. Witold Kania, University of Silesia at Katowice, Poland spoke on “Saint John Paul II on Work and Workers.”

Thomistic Studies Center opened, praised

By Jude Richard

To celebrate the formal opening of the Center for Thomistic Studies at UST, approximately 80 people gathered in Cullen Hall on Sunday, Nov. 2 at 3:30 pm for a series of speeches by a group including the Center’s Director Fr. Ronald D. Lawler, O.F.M.Cap., and Former Director Prof. Vernon Bourke of St. Louis University (SLU) at St. Louis.

On Nov. 4 at 11:10 am, Fr. Lawler also said a special Votive Mass in honor of St. Thomas Aquinas, the Center’s Patron, in UST’s Student Chapel to mark the occasion.

The Center’s Offices will occupy a section of Sullivan Hall’s first floor, while the Hugh Roy Marshall Graduate Philosophy Library, named for a UST alumnus, will be housed in Doherty Library’s basement.

The speeches delivered at Cullen centered mainly on explaining plans for the new Center, such as its graduate philosophy program and its work as a research center.

Bishop John Morkovsky, D.D., of the Houston-Galveston Diocese, opened the Cullen ceremonies with a benediction, followed by Philosophy Department Chairman Fr. Victor Brezik’s welcoming address.

In his speech, Fr. Brezik said he hoped that the Center for Thomistic Studies would help to make St. Thomas Aquinas’ philosophy more widespread. He also thanked Hugh Roy Marshall “for making an impossible dream come true.” It was Marshall’s donation in the Spring of 1975 which formed the foundation for the present Thomistic Center.

After Fr. Brezik, UST President William Young, C.S.B., took the podium to express his desire that “... the Center will accentuate the uniqueness of the University of St. Thomas.” Young later labeled its opening a significant event in the history of UST.

Dr. Vernon Bourke, director of the Thomistic Center until Fr. Lawler’s appointment in August and a Thomist philosopher with a professorship at SLU in St. Louis, spoke next, having come from St. Louis for the occasion.

Although no longer director, Dr. Bourke holds a post on the Center’s Advisory Board and will remain as a Research Professor here.

The keynote speaker, Fr. Lawler, delivered a 15-minute address laying down his own guidelines for the Center’s future. Before coming to UST, Fr. Lawler taught at Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. An “ardent Thomist,” as described by Fr. Brezik, he formerly held the Dean of Theology post at Josephinum, the Pontifical College, did his doctoral work at SLU, and his post-doctorate at Oxford.

In his speech, Fr. Lawler emphasized the fact that the new Center is one designed for the study of Thomistic philosophy. Drawing on a lecture by Pope John Paul II, he said, “Many philosophies of modern times have grown old quickly, and become weary, because (men) ... had lost hope of finding ways to grasp what truly is and what is truly good ... Thomism (however) has remained young over the centuries, and is continually being renewed in its spirit ...”

Fr. Lawler also called Thomism a philosophy which builds bridges between other contemporary philosophies.

Concerning future plans for the new institute, he stated, “We plan not merely to have an excellent graduate program, but also to be an institute in which there can be advanced research into those issues that are of greatest human importance in our own day ...”

Fr. Lawler said that he expected to bring in many important thinkers to visit, lecture, and work here. To make research productive, he also expressed his hope for a continued bolstering of the philosophy library in Doherty and the provision of facilities to encourage effective research.

The Center for Thomistic Studies has received both national and international attention in its brief life...
§ Center Colloquia Fall 2016:

Under the care of Dr. Thomas Osborne, the Colloquia featured a mixture of students, Center Faculty, UST Faculty, and illustrious invited guests. Here is the line-up of speakers for Fall 2016:

**September 23:** John Skalko, Center PhD candidate spoke on “Can One Tell a Lie or Sin Against Nature for the Common Good?”

**September 30:** Dr. John F.X. Knasas, Professor of Philosophy, Center for Thomistic Studies spoke on “Thomistic Existentialism and Leibniz's Cosmological Reasoning: Possible Liaisons.”

**October 14:** Dr. John P. Hittinger, Rudman Chair of Graduate Philosophy, Center for Thomistic Studies spoke on “Aquinas, Budziszewski and Following an Erring Conscience.”

**October 21:** Dr. R. Edward Houser, Bishop Wendelin J. Nold Professor of Graduate Philosophy, Center for Thomistic Studies spoke on “Aristotle and Property: Implications Then and Now.”

**October 28:** Dr. Ted Rebard, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of St. Thomas spoke on “Passionately knowing the Truth.”

**November 4:** Patrick Madigan, SJ, Editor, Heythrop Journal, Heythrop College, University of London spoke on “Expressive Individualism, the Cult of the Artist as ‘Genius,’ and Milton's Lucifer.”

**November 11:** Catherine Peters, Center PhD candidate spoke on “The Objective Relativity of Goodness: A Rapprochement between Peter Geach and Thomas Aquinas.”

**November 18:** Dr. Robert Koons, Professor of Philosophy, University of Texas at Austin spoke on “The Many-Worlds (Everett) Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics: A Hylomorphic Critique and Alternative.”

**December 2:** Dr. Robert Wood, Professor of Philosophy, University of Dallas spoke on "Why Hegel Now?"
§ Center Colloquia Spring 2017:

Under the care of Dr. Thomas Osborne, the Colloquia featured a mixture of students, Center Faculty, UST Faculty, and illustrious invited guests. Here is the line-up of speakers for Spring 2017:

January 20: Dr. Turner Nevitt, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of San Diego spoke on “Aquinas on Essences and Real Definitions.”

January 27: Rev. James V. Schall, S.J., Emeritus Professor of Government, Georgetown University spoke on “Where Does Political Philosophy Fit in the Order of Things?”

February 3: Jeffry Zents, Center PhD candidate spoke on “Pyrrhonian Skepticism and Some Possible Implications for Philosophy.”

February 10: Daniel Wagner, Center PhD candidate spoke on “On the Elegance of APo, II.19 as Platonic Division.”

February 17: Dr. R. Edward Houser, Bishop Wendelin J. Nold Professor of Graduate Philosophy, Center for Thomistic Studies spoke on “Avicenna and the 5 Ways.”

March 3: Dr. Gaston LeNotre, Northwest Vista College spoke on “Thomas Aquinas and His Latin and Arabic Sources on the Role of Logica Docens.”

March 10: Fr. Mario O. D'Souza, CSB, PhD, Basilian Fathers Chair in Religion and Education University of St. Michael's College spoke on “Maritain and the Unity of the Person.”

March 24: Dr. John F.X. Knasas, Professor of Philosophy, Center for Thomistic Studies spoke on “Aquinas: Which Division of Philosophy Proves God?”

April 7: Dr. Ted Rebard, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of St. Thomas spoke on “A Brief Introduction to Gender Reality.”

April 28: Dr. Thomas Osborne, Director, Center for Thomistic Studies spoke on “Which Essence Is at Stake in the Essence/Existence Distinction?”

May 5: Dr. R. Edward Houser, Bishop Wendelin J. Nold Professor of Graduate Philosophy, Center for Thomistic Studies spoke on “Creative Creatures and the Creative God.”


CERTER FACULTY

§ John P. Hittinger

PhD 1986 The Catholic University of America
MA 1978 The Catholic University of America
BA 1974 University of Notre Dame

Research:

Two week trip to Franciscan House in Lowell, Michigan for research and writing on Saint John Paul II. A paper was delivered.

Two week trip to Katowice and Lublin, Poland for research on Saint John Paul II. Two papers were delivered.

Trips to Pasadena, Ca (International Conference on Saint John Paul II) and Portsmouth, RI (International Conference on Religion and Public Life)

Presentations made:


“John Paul II and three principles on the vitality of culture,” lecture presented at a conference of on Global immigration and the problem of culture, Catholic University of Lublin, May 17, 2016.

Presentation Pilgrimage to Poland, John Paul II Forum Summer Workshop, Houston, Tx, June 2016


§ R. Edward Houser

PhD 1981 University of Toronto
MA 1973 University of Toronto
MSL 1976 Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies
BA 1968 University of Texas
Publications:
Editor and contributor of two essays, Aquinas and Hope, in the series Aquinas and the Virtues Series, Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press. Essays complete in 2015-16. Dr. Houser is General Editor of this seven book series, for which he has a formal agreement with Catholic University of America Press. Dr. Mary Catherine Sommers is Associate Series Editor, and Dr. Benjamin Smith, Aquinas College, Nashville, is Assistant Series Editor. This book will be submitted shortly.
“Creators—Created and Uncreated: What Aquinas Learned from Avicenna,” accepted for volume to be published by the Warburg Institute.
Conferences:
Professional Service:
Member, Editorial Board, Bonaventure Texts in Translation Series (BTTS), Franciscan Institute, St. Bonaventure University. Ongoing.
Member, Editorial Board, Aquinas Translation Series, Catholic University of American Press.
Ongoing. Director, Center for Thomistic Studies, Publications, 2009 to present.

§ Steven Jensen

Ph.D. 1993 University of Notre Dame
B.A. 1987 University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

Reviews:
Presentations:


“Non nisi te, Domine,” invited lecture at the Third International Conference on Thomistic Studies at the University of St. Thomas, Santiago, Chile, July 19–21, 2016.

Professional service:

National Treasurer for the American Catholic Philosophical Association, 2008 to present.

§ John F. X. Knasas

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

Submitted for Publication:

“Suffering and the “Thomistic Philosopher”: A Line of Thought Instigated by the Job Commentary”

“The Role of Sense Realism in the Initiation of Thomistic Metaphysics”

“Thomistic Existentialism and Leibniz’s Cosmological Reasonings: Possible Liaisons”

Prof. Knasas has also been at work on a new book entitled, Thomistic Existentialism and Cosmological Reasoning. He has completed nine of a proposed twelve chapters.

§ Christopher Martin

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

This year I have been continuing with my project on analytical Thomism, extending my classes on this field into philosophy of the mind, using especially the work of Geach and Anscombe, as well, of course, as examining relevant texts of St Thomas. This has turned out to be unexpectedly closely connected with work on the moral psychology which underlies Catholic teaching and practice in the field of moral theology.

I have also taught an undergraduate course on Faith and Reason, which has also opened up unexpected fields. The intentionality of faith and repentance are surprisingly closely connected.

I am also working on St Thomas’s commentary on Aristotle’s work on friendship, in the *Nicomachean Ethics*. I have recently been involved in discussions related to the philosophy of law, particularly in the fields of contracts and truth-telling.

§ Mirela Oliva

Ph.D. 2007 Albert-Ludwigs-Universitaet Freiburg (Philosophy)
B.A. 2000 University of Bucharest (Philosophy)
M.A. 1999 University La Sapienza Rome/University of Bucharest (Political Sciences)
B.A. 1998 University of Bucharest (Political Science)

Publications:


Conference Papers:


Research Stay:

Oxford University, St Benet's Hall, June 2017.

Professional service:

National Secretary of the American Catholic Philosophical Association.
§ 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

Articles:


Professional Service:

Board of Advisors, Nova et Vetera (English Edition), 2012-
Wissenschaftlicher Beirat, Das Lindenthal-Institut (Koeln), 2010-
Editorial Advisory Board, Post-Reformation Digital Library, 2010-

§ Mary Catherine Sommers

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

Scholarship:

Presented a paper “Aquinas, Hospitality and the Stranger’s Debt” in a session, Aquinas and Postmodernity 1, at the American Catholic Philosophical Association Annual Meeting Justice: Then and Now 3-6 November 2016 in San Francisco CA.
Professional Service:

Chaired two sessions at the American Catholic Philosophical Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco, Ca 3-6 November 2016: “Justice in Aristotle & Modernity” and “Thomistic Personalism: Current Issues, Future Relevance.”

Chaired a session at Aquinas and the 'Arabs' International Working Group conference Creation and Artifice in Medieval Theories of Causality 01-02 June 2017, Warburg Institute, University of London.


Reviewed articles for American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly.

Presented a lecture on “The Authority of Women in the Church” at the Archdiocesan Fall & Spring In-Service for the Catholic Schools Office 10 October 2016 and 20 February 2017.

Presented a lecture on "Philosophy and University Teaching " at Incarnate Word Academy annual Career Day 06 March 2017.

§ From Fr. Brezik:

Founder of the Center for Thomistic Studies

Anyone who agrees with the above analysis [that the modern crisis is the result of a collapse of belief in the existence of “truth”] will quickly understand the responsibility and the burden which falls upon the shoulders of Catholic colleges and universities. Instead of moving with the academic tide of de-emphasis on metaphysics, the world crisis calls for an effort to stem the tide. Instructors are faced with the urgency of trying to make students more conscious than ever of the basic metaphysical problems and by prudent and courteous dialogue with the staffs and students of non-Catholic schools to spread that interest to other campuses.

Victor B. Brezik, CSB
(The Basilian Teacher, Vol. VI, No. 2, November, 1961)
CENTRAL STUDENTS

§ Dissertations Defended:

Brian Kemple, “Ens Primum Cognitum in Thomas Aquinas and the Tradition.” Brian Kemple successfully defended his dissertation on August 26, 2016 before the following board: Dr. James Clarage, (Department of Physics, UST), Chair; Dr. John Deely, Director (In absentia); Dr. John Hittinger, Co-Director; Dr. Mirela Oliva, Reader; Dr. Steven Jensen, Reader; Dr. Thomas M. Osborne, Jr, Reader; and Dr. Peter Redpath (Professor of Philosophy, St. John’s University, Staten Island), External Reader. Dr. Redpath joined by conference call.

Casey Edler, “Thomas Aquinas and the Kalam Cosmological Argument: Tension at the Heart of Natural Theology.” Casey Edler successfully defended his dissertation on September 16, 2016 before the following board: Dr. James Clarage, (Department of Physics, UST), Chair; Dr. John F.X. Knasas, Director; Dr. R. Edward Houser, Reader; Dr. Christopher Martin, Reader; Dr. John P. Hittinger, Reader; and Dr. Robert Koons (Professor of Philosophy, University of Texas at Austin), External Reader.
§ Dissertations Defended:

**Nelson Ramirez**, “From the Natural Understanding of Truth, to Aquinas’s *adaequatio rei et intellectus* Definition of Truth, and Beyond.” Nelson Ramirez successfully defended his dissertation on February 13, 2017 before the following board: Dr. Clinton Brand, (Department of English, UST), Chair; Dr. John F.X. Knasas, Director; Dr. Steven Jensen, Reader; Dr. R. Edward Houser, Reader; Dr. Thomas Osborne, Jr., Reader; Dr. Michael M. Waddell (The Edna and George McMahon Aquinas Chair in Philosophy, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN), External Reader.

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**Charles Robertson**, Charles Robertson successfully defended his dissertation on March 31, 2017 before the following board: Dr. Albert Ribes-Zamora, (Department of Biology, UST), Chair; Dr. Steven Jensen, Director; Dr. John F.X. Knasas, Reader; Dr. Christopher Martin, Reader; Dr. Thomas Osborne, Jr., Reader; and Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, PhD (Director of Education and Ethicist, National Catholic Bioethics Center), External Reader.
§ Dissertations in Progress:

**John Boyer**, *Causality and Scientific Explanation in Aristotle* (Dr. Houser, Director, Dr. Hittinger, and Dr. Martin).

**James Capehart**, *Gilson and Christian Philosophy* (Dr. Hittinger, Director, Dr. Knasas, and Dr. Sommers).

**Alexander Lynch**, *Reason’s Relationship to the Passions* (Dr. Houser, Director, Dr. Jensen and Dr. Martin).

**Matthew Moore**, *Did Aquinas Teach a State of Pure Nature for the Human Being?* (Dr. John F.X. Knasas, Director, Dr. Hittinger and Dr. Deely).

**Nathan Poage**, *Aristotle, Avicenna and Aquinas on the Subject and Principles of Metaphysics* (Dr. Houser, Director, Dr. Sommers, Dr. McGinnis-Professor of Philosophy, University of Missouri).

**John M. Schaff**, *The Person: Empathy and Sympathy in Edith Stein and Max Scheler* (Dr. Hittinger, Director, Dr. Oliva, and Dr. Haney).

**John Skalko**, *Why Is It Intrinsically Evil to Violate the Purpose of a Power or Use Assertions Unnaturally?* (Dr. Jensen, Director, Dr. Osborne, and Dr. Martin).

**Daniel C. Wagner**, *φύσις καί ἄνθρωπος: The Aristotelian Foundations of the Good of the Human Person* (Dr. Hittinger, Director, Dr. Houser, and Dr. Jensen).

**Brandon White**, *Plotinus: Reclaiming Existentialist Metaphysics for the Platonic Tradition: The Platonic Protest against Aristotle’s Essentialism* (Dr. Houser, Director, Dr. Sommers, and Dr. Damian Caluori, Trinity University, San Antonio).

**Jeffrey Zents**, *Abstractive Thomism and the Pyrrhonian Skeptical Tradition* (Dr. Martin, Director, Dr. Knasas, Dr. Osborne).

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CONGRATULATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING ACHIEVEMENTS

§ PhD Degree Awarded:

- Dr. Casey Edler
- Dr. Brian Kemple
- Dr. Nelson Ramirez
- Dr. Charles Robertson

§ Dissertation Topics Approved:

Catherine Peters’ dissertation proposal *The Causality of “Nature” in Avicenna’s Physics of the Healing* was approved by her Dissertation Board: Dr. Houser, Director, Dr. Osborne, Reader and Dr. McGinnis, Reader on February 20, 2017.

§ MA Degree Awarded:

May 2017: Jacob Alexander, Keaton Lambert, Rose Langley

§ Successful Completion of Comps:

Jacob Alexander, MA; Keaton Lambert, MA; Catherine Langley, MA; Rose Langley, MA
STUDENTS MAKE CTS LOOK GOOD

UST’s Philosophy Program Wows at Home and Abroad an on-line article featuring grad students Brian Jones, Francisco Plaza, Catherine Peters and John Skalko found at: https://www.stthom.edu/Academics/Centers_of_Excellence/Center_for_Thomistic_Studies/About_the_Center/News_Article.aqf?

John Boyer and his son, James, at the Aquinas Lecture Reception.


Joseph Grossheim, Evan Williams, and Jacob Alexander listen intently at the Aquinas Lecture by Fr. James Schall.

Fr. James Schall speaks at a satellite session for the Society for 21st Century Thomism at the 2016 meeting of the ACPA.

Catherine Peters and Daniel Wagner at the ACPA Conference in San Francisco.

Keaton Lambert, Joseph Cherny, Jon Haines, and Evan Williams at the Aquinas Lecture Reception.

Thao Nguyen, Catherine Peters, and Keaton Lambert at the Aquinas Lecture Reception.
§ Jacob Alexander

Mr. Alexander completed his Master's comps, was awarded a Master's degree and was admitted into the Ph.D. Program.

From June 15 to June 16, He attended the Society for Aristotelian Thomistic Studies Conference co-sponsored by Thomas Aquinas College. The theme of this year’s conference was Epistemology and Logic.

§ Maureen Bielinski

Conference Papers:


She is preparing to defend her dissertation proposal under Dr. Thomas Osborne. The provisional title is “Connecting the Virtues: The Integral Parts of Prudence, Moral Perception, and the Cogitative Power in Aquinas.”

§ John Boyer

Conferences:


Publications:


Service:

Co-founded the Society for 21st Century Thomism, with Daniel Wagner, Catherine Peters, and Francisco Plaza.
§ Joseph Cherny


Attended a Discussion Day, "Readings in the Tradition of Supply-Side Economics" at Sam Houston State University on April 22 hosted by Dr. Brian Domitrovic.

Accepted to present a paper "The Natural Desire for God as an "a Priori" Structure of the Mind: The Argument From Desire in Transcendental Thomism" at the 2017 Dominican Colloquium in Berkeley: "Person, Soul, and Consciousness: Philosophical and Theological Perspectives."

§ Andrew Grimes


Took part in the Society for Aristotelian-Thomistic Studies, 2017 West Coast Meeting: "Epistemology and Logic" at Thomas Aquinas College, CA, June 16-17, 2017.

Served as Assistant Editor of the ACPA Proceedings 2016.

§ Jon Haines


§ Timothy Jacobs

Conferences:

Attended the Evangelical Philosophical Association in San Antonio on November 15–17, 2016.


Publications:

§ Brian Jones

**Essays and Publications:**


“Are We Still Social Animals?” Forthcoming, *The Federalist*.

“Contemporary Education and the Question of Upward Mobility?” Forthcoming, *Catholic World Report*.

“Wendell Berry, The Liberal Arts and the Quest for Place.” Forthcoming in a collection of essays from the “Leisure and Labor: Liberal Arts and the Professions,” Conference at St. Gregory’s University (Published by Ignatius Press).

“Countryside or City, or Countryside and City?” Forthcoming, *Those Catholic Men*.


“What is a University For?” Forthcoming, *The American Conservative*.


“Conserving America: Patrick Deneen and Recovering the Practice of Political Theory.” The Imaginative Conservative (May 24, 2017).


**Conferences:**


§ Brian Kemple

Brian defended his doctoral dissertation, *Ens Primum Cognitum in Thomas Aquinas and the Tradition* on 26 August, 2016 and was awarded his PhD. The dissertation has since been accepted for publication in Brill’s *Gilson Series*, edited by Peter Redpath, is in press, and anticipated to be published before the end of the calendar year. The book addresses foundational issues of a Thomistic philosophy of knowledge.

Furthering this research, Brian is under contract for a second book, *Peirce and Heidegger in Dialogue: The Intersection of Phenomenology and Semiotics*, to be included in Mouton de Gruyter’s *Semiotics, Communication and Cognition* series. The manuscript is currently under review and publication is anticipated in either late 2017 or early 2018.

Additionally, Brian’s presentation at the 2015 American Maritain Association’s annual conference was published in the proceedings volume, *Engaging the Times: The Witness of Thomism*. Currently, he is working on several articles for publication, covering topics in semiotics, phenomenology, and Thomism.

He will present “Sophists and Semioticians” at the Aquinas Leadership International World Congress, 2017 July 15, on a panel in memoriam of his dissertation director, Dr. John Deely.

§ Catherine Peters

Catherine Peters spent the summer of 2016 attending an Italian Immersion Program in Rome at the Società Dante Alighieri Scuola di Italiano before participating in the Summer Seminar of the Lumen Christi Institute for Catholic Thought (“Aquinas’ Five Ways and Where they Lead”) with Fr. Stephen Brock at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome.

She returned to the United States for the 11th Annual Witherspoon Institute's Thomistic Seminar (“Aquinas and the Philosophy of Nature”) in Princeton in August.

Ms. Peters is a founding member of the Session of the Society for 21st Century Thomism and chaired their inaugural session (on “Politics, Culture, and the Modern Crisis”) with Fr. James V. Schall, held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association in San Francisco in November, 2016.

In March, 2017 she presented her work on “Jacques Maritain on Dianoesis and Perinoesis in the Natural Sciences” at the American Maritain Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA.

She presented her paper “Participation and the Thomistic Definition of Natural Law” at the 52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, MI) in May, 2017.

Ms. Peters was invited to present at the upcoming Catholic and Dominican Institute's Seventh Annual Philosophy Workshop, "Aquinas on Metaphysics," held at Mount Saint Mary College in June, 2017.

§ Francisco Plaza

In the fall of 2017, Mr. Plaza (along with Brian Jones, Catherine Peters and John Skalko) was featured in an article on-line at the UST web site. You will find the article at:

http://www.stthom.edu/About/Online_Newsroom/News_Detail.aqf?Content_ID=107442&0=0&Source_URL=%2FAbout%2FOnline_Newsroom%2FNews_Features.aqf%3FNewsScriptAction%3DAdvanced_Search%26AQ_Year%3D2016

At the ACPA meeting in San Francisco during the fall of 2017, he presented a paper on “Jacques Maritain’s Philosophy of Culture,” at the satellite session “Society for 21st Century Thomism,” founded by him, Daniel Wagner, John Boyer, Catherine Peters, and Brian Jones. Three papers were presented at the session: Mr. Plaza’s Brian Jones’ and Fr. James Schall.

He also presented his paper “Maritain's Philosophy of Culture: A Bridge between Metaphysics and Politics” at the American Maritain Association held in March, 2017 in New Orleans.

He has been accepted to participate in two different seminars in Harvard at the end of this Summer. The first is "Kierkegaard and the Happy Life" run by the Program on Integrative Knowledge and Human Flourishing, and the second is called "Tocqueville, Murray, and the American Proposition" run by the Abigail Adams Institute.
§ Charles Robertson


In November of 2017, he presented his paper "Is Marriage a Basic Good?" at the regular session of the American Catholic Philosophical Association's meeting in San Francisco. This paper will be published in the Proceedings of the ACPA.


§ John Skalko

Publications:


Book Review:


Conference Papers:


“Can One Tell a Lie or Sin Against Nature For the Common Good?” Center for Thomistic Studies Colloquium Series. The University of St. Thomas. Houston, TX: September 23, 2016.


§ Daniel Wagner

Presentations:


“On the Elegance of APo, II.19 as Platonic Division,” Colloquium at The Center for Thomistic Studies, Houston, TX, Feb 10, 2017.


Appointment:

He was appointed to the tenure track position of Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Aquinas College (MI), beginning in the fall, 2017.

§ Evan Williams

In May 2017, Mr. Williams presented his paper on "Job as Divine Bachelor: Scholastic Disputatio in the Scriptum super Iob ad litteram of Thomas Aquinas," at the 52nd Annual International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University.

This summer he will participate in the Lumen Christi Institute Summer Seminar on Catholic Social Teaching at the University of California, Santa Barbara with Dr. F. Russell Hittinger.

§ ALUMNI NOTES

§ Dr. Dominic D’Ettore (Ph.D. 2012)


Dr. D’Ettore’s book, The Defence of Analogy in Demonstration: Some Medieval and Renaissance Thomists, has been accepted for publication by the Catholic University of America Press.

§ Dr. John Macias (Ph.D. 2016)

Dr. Macias recently accepted the position of Residence Life Scholar at University of Mary in North Dakota.
§ Dr. R. Mary Lemmons (Ph.D. 1999)  

Served as President of University Faculty for Life and served as the local conference organizer for the 2017 annual conference highlighting fundamental issues in bioethics with keynotes focusing on genetic manipulation (Dr. David Prentice and Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald), personhood (Dr. Pat Lee), and prolife convictions (Dr. Robert Spitzer, S.J.). Next year at the University of Dallas, the conference will focus on Building Prolife Culture; details at www.uflfl.org.

Served as President of the Society for Thomistic Personalism and organized the upcoming 2017 ACPA satellite session with keynote speaker Dr. Daniel Philpott focusing on restorative justice. STP’s website at http://courseweb.stthomas.edu/rmlemmons/STP-home.htm.

**Book Publications**

Republished *Ultimate Normative Foundations: The Case for Aquinas’s Personalist Natural Law* as a paperback with a revised index. Book argues that love is the foundation of natural law. Lexington Sales Discount available on the website: http://courseweb.stthomas.edu/rmlemmons/

Edited and published a collection of essays in *Woman as Prophet in the Home and the World: Interdisciplinary Investigations* (Lexington 2016). Book analyzes the nature and contributions of the feminine genius and argues women are called to be prophets of other-centered love and develop John Paul II’s vision of personalist feminism.


**Forthcoming article:**

“Modes of Re-Enchantment: John Paul II and the Role of Familial Love.” *Journal for Interdisciplinary Studies* XXIX (2017) forthcoming. Article argues that although there are various modes of re-enchantment/evangelization, familial love plays a crucial role.

§ Dr. Joseph Magee (Ph.D. 1999)  


§ Dr. Ben Smith (Ph.D. 2008)  


“The Primacy of the Common Good” Inaugural Colloquium on the Thought of St. Thomas Aquinas, School of Arts and Sciences, Aquinas College, Nashville, Tennessee (Jan. 27, 2015).