

Subject: ICUSTA NEWSLETTER

COLLEAGUES ICUSTA MEMBERS:

I wanted to send out the last Newsletter of 2012 and provide you with an update on events in the world of ICUSTA--- And of course wish all you all a joyous and **blessed** holiday season.

ICUSTA INFORMATION

*“11th Annual General Assembly Meeting of ICUSTA”

Hopefully you have all marked your calendars and have made plans to attend the 11th Biennial Conference of ICUSTA. The dates are: June 12, 13 and 14, 2013 and the site is at the Institut Catholique d’Etudes Supreieures. ICES will be sending information regarding Conference registration and the proposed schedule in January. Mark your calendar, ICES has planned for a most memorable event. (See also the entry under FRANCE, below for more information.)

** “Conference on Secularization and Catholic Higher Education”

This Conference, cosponsored by ICES and ICUSTA, was successfully held at ICES on October 16 and 17, 2012. ICES is publishing the Conference proceedings which will be distributed to members at the June meeting in 2013. The idea for the conference came from discussions at UST Manila Ph during our last ICUSTA biennial meeting. Many of us have come to the realization that it is increasingly difficult to evangelize in our Catholic Universities today due to the intrusion of the consciousness of secularism and relativism into our university communities. The Conference was well attended and a total of seventeen papers were presented during the two day conference. Conference reflections will be shared with the membership; an electronic copy of the minutes of the colloquium in English will be made available in the Spring; the published version will be distributed to our members at the General Assembly marking our 11th Biennial Conference in June. You may also wish to go to www.icusta2013.com for the recordings of the papers presented. Some of course are in French and some in English. The following ICUSTA member institutions attended and/or presented papers at the Conference: LUMSA University, Italy; Saint Augustine College, South Africa; Australian Catholic and Campion College, Australia; Catholic University of Valencia, Spain; ICES, France; Mary Immaculate College, Ireland; University of Santo Tomas, Chile; Angelicum Foundation, Chile; University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Ph; the University of St. Thomas, St Paul and the University of St Thomas, Houston, USA. ICES was a very gracious host for all who were fortunate to attend this important conference. We will discuss the conference and some of the outcomes during our 11th Biennial meeting at ICES in June 2013.

***“ICUSTA Biennial business meeting,” will take place on Friday morning June 13 2013. Important items on this year’s agenda for ICUSTA members to discuss are: the budget proposal for ICUSTA for 2013 and 2014; a complete revision of the ICUSTA By-Laws; endorsement and welcome to the seven new institution members of ICUSTA; and to consider recommendations that emerge from the agenda items discussed during the ICUSTA Biennial meetings held on June 11 and 12. The agenda for our business meeting will be sent out in the first part of 2013.

***ICUSTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, the composition of our Executive Committee has changed due to changes in the presidency at two of our members of this important committee. Mr. Bertrant Doat, the new President of ICES becomes the President of ICES and the Chair of our Executive Committee. Mr Doat will also serve as Chair of the ICUSTA Nominating Committee until the end of our 2013

meeting. Also joining the Executive Committee is Fr. Hermino Dagoboy, OP the new President of the Pontifical University of Santo Tomas, Manila. It is customary that the past president of ICUSTA also have a seat on the Executive Committee.

*****NEW PRESIDENTS AT ICUSTA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS, I am pleased to report that we have new Presidents at the following ICUSTA institutions. Members may wish to welcome our new Rectors/Presidents at the following institutions:

- + Campion College, Australia: Dr Ryan Messmore, r.messmore@campion.ed.au
- + ICES, France: Mr Bertrand Doat, bdoat@ices.fr
- + St Thomas University, Japan: Dr Shizuo Oi, shizho.prof.oi@st.thomas.ac.jp
- + Pontifical Univ of Santo Tomas, Phillippines: Rev Fr Hermino Dagohoy, OP:
dagsop71@yahoo.com
- + Catholic University of Valencia "San Vicente Martir," Spain: Dr Jose T Raga,
jtraga@ucv.es

*****NEW MEMBER OF ICUSTA, I am pleased to report that the ICUSTA Nominating and Executive Committee has unanimously endorsed the membership request of the Catholic University of Valencia (CUV) as our 32nd member of ICUSTA. Dr Jose Raga is the Vice Chancellor of CUV. Some of our older members may remember Dr Raga from the days when he served as Rector at Sao Pablo University in Madrid, Spain. If my memory serves me correctly Dr. Raga was the Rector of one of the first members of ICUSTA that did not have St Thomas Aquinas as the institutions patron saint. We now have more Catholic institutions in that same category than we do those who have the patron saint as their institutional name. We enthusiastically welcome back an old friend as a new member of ICUSTA. See their entry below for more information on CUV.

*****NEW GUIDELINES FOR THE TWO ICUSTA GRANT PROGRAMS, will be forthcoming in January and February. Watch for these opportunities. You may recall that we have had two competitions in the Gerardo Rocha Global Solidarity Fund (GRGSF) competition--one in 2011 and one in 2012. Receiving grants in 2011 were UST Mozambique to support a community enhancement project; in 2012 Ethiopian Catholic University of St Thomas, to provide computers and social work text books; and Wenzao Urusline College of Languages, for provide travel grants for students from our African ICUSTA member institutions to attend their Chinese Language Summer Institute. All of these ICUSTA institutions received funds to support their successful projects.

Guidelines for the St Thomas Aquinas International Exchange Program (STAIEP) funding opportunity will be sent out in February. The STAIEP opportunity was presented for the first time in 2012 year. The first year successful projects were funded for a cooperative program between Campion College (Au) and UST Santiago (Ch) introducing distance learning opportunities; and the cooperative program with Mary Immaculate College (Ir) and UST Houston (USA) to explore program development and cooperation and research opportunities in religious education.

***** ICUSTA ONLINE COURSE ON GLOBALIZATION, will once again be offered to interested members and their students in the Fall of 2013. More information, including the rules for participation, will be sent to all members in January. Last year about 80+ students from several ICUSTA institutions enrolled in the course. The course consists of modules, lectures and readings assigned by faculty from participating ICUSTA institutions. I have attached a brochure which includes a listing of faculty and institutions who presented modules and participated in the course in 2011. Dr Pierre Canac, project director, may be contacted at canac@stthom.edu

This ICUSTA sponsored course delivered through UST Houston (USA) is offered to ICUSTA members at no cost. (See the attached brochure.)

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*****NEWS FROM ICUSTA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS*****

*ANGOLA: "Universidade Catolica de Angola, (UCA)" has recently renewed its membership in ICUSTA. Some of you might remember Archbishop Damiao Franklin, UCA President, who was one of the founding members of ICUSTA. Archbishop Franklin recently contacted ICUSTA to express his renewed interest in ICUSTA. He informed us that he had been ill and that he wanted to extend his greetings to his friends in ICUSTA. I am sure his friends in ICUSTA extend a warm welcome, along with our prayers for good health for Archbishop Franklin. We look forward to renewing our friendships with our friends at UCA at our 11th biennial meeting in June 2013. Welcome back Archbishop Damiao Franklin and UCA.

*AUSTRALIA: "Campion College," Our good friend Dr. David Daintree has retired from the Presidency. The new Campion College President is Dr. Ryan Messmore. DR Messmore recently delivered the prestigious Acton Lecture at Campion on October 23. You may see the full text by going to: <http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2012/10/24/3617506.htm> We welcome Dr Messmore to ICUSTA and look forward to meeting him at the 11th biennial meeting in France in 2013.

*AUSTRALIA: "Campion College" received one of the first STAIEP grants awarded by ICUSTA in 2012. Funds were utilized to introduce their campus and faculty to the wonders of delivering education through online courses. Mr Jose Alvarez from ICUSTA member UST Chile, who is installing an online network for UST Chile, spent the better part of a week in discussions with colleagues at Campion College.

AUSTRALIA: "The University of Notre Dame," officially opened its newest addition on its Sydney Campus---the UND Sydney Schools of Law and Business. The building was constructed in 1908 and has housed a myriad of tenants and uses--- from clothing manufacture, to warehouses, and offices. Vice Chancellor Celia Hammond welcomed a distinguished list of guests, including Cardinal Pell who dedicated the new addition. UND sensitively restored the building to retain its distinctive character. VC Hammond also announced the intent of UND to build a state-of-the-art electronic moot court on the ground floor that will be named after the renowned Australian barrister the Honourable Thomas Eyre Forrest Hughes.

*CHILE: "AngelicvM Foundation," in conjunction with ICUSTA member Pontifica Universidad Catolica Madre Y Maestra (PUCMM), Dominican Republic, co-sponsored the First International Congress On Catholics and Public Life. The Congress, the first of its kind, was held in Santo Domingo on November 29 in conjunction with PUCMM's 50th anniversary. The Congress presented five panels of civil and religious leaders who reflected on the responsibility of Catholics in public life. The panels focused on the following topics for discussion: + The ideology of gender; + Globalization of solidarity; + The role of Catholics in the evangelization of culture; + Catholics in the media; + Life and family; +New world, major changes; and + Dreams and hopes of youth in the new era. The Congress was hosted by Pontifical University, and supported by the AngelicvM Foundation as a part of its commitment to supporting ICUSTA and promoting Christian values.

*CHILE: "University of Santo Tomas," acted as host for the annual U-6 Conference held in October on their campus on higher education. The U-6 is an annual conference composed of two mainland Chinese Universities, two universities from Taiwan (including ICUSTA member Wenzao Ursuline College of Languages), and ICUSTA members UST Santiago, Chile and UST Houston, USA. Papers read included presentations from faculty from three ICUSTA member institutions: Wenzao Ursuline College of Languages; UST Santiago, Chile; and UST Houston, USA. Next year's U-6 host will be Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, Guangzhou, China. The Conference is generally held in the second week of October 2013. The announced theme for the 2013 U-6 Conference will be "Innovation in Higher Education."

*FRANCE: "Institut Catholique d'Etudes Superieures", is preparing a rich and exciting program for the 11th Biennial Meeting of ICUSTA to be held at ICES on June 12, 13 and 14. Among the highlights include:

- + A Report on the colloquium "Secularism and Catholic Universities in the World," held at I.C.E.S in October 2012;
- + A Presentation on "Opportunities in online instruction," by Mr. Tom Kennedy, Regis College, Denver, (US), the Executive Director of the Online Consortium of Independent Colleges and Universities; followed by panelists from ICUSTA members with expertise in online teaching from CUA, Avila,(Es) Mary Immaculate College, (Ir) UST (CI) and UST Houston (US).
- + A Workshop for our ICUSTA members Directors of International Programs to encourage the development of more collaboration within ICUSTA.
- + A discussion on possible ways that ICUSTA institutions could collaborate in order to introduce a program on the study of St Thomas Aquinas and his application to contemporary society.
- + The opportunity to visit historical sites pertaining to the Wars of Vendee.
- + Time at the historical theme parc of the Puy du Fou, and its evening extravaganza. See www.puydufou.com
- + A visit to Nantes and the Castle of the Dukes of Brittany.

Watch for an important announcement from our friends at ICES coming soon about registration for the 11th ICUSTA Biennial Conference to be held at ICES June 12,13 and 14, 2013. You may wish to see also the conference website at: www.icusta2013.com

FRANCE: "IPC: Faculte's Libres de Philosophie et de Psychologie, has announced plans to sponsor a three day colloquium in November 2013 on the philosophy of nature. They are soliciting papers from among ICUSTA institutions from different points of view on the following three questions: + What is the impact of the main objections which appeared throughout the history of philosophy to the Aristotelian conception of time? ++ Why is physical time a natural reality? And, +++ Is time an essential component of causality? Faculty from among ICUSTA members may direct all inquiries about presenting and/or attending the colloquium to: Prof Emmanuel Brochier at ebrochier@ipc-paris.fr We anticipate a due date for abstracts by May 30 2013. Faculty whose papers are selected will receive financial assistance for travel and hotel expenses during the conference. Contact Professor Brochier for more information.

FRANCE: "IPC...,also invites interested faculty to a European Colloquium sponsored by AEFLIB to be held on Saturday April 13 2013. The Colloquium will be held in the Conference Room at Abat Oliba University in Barcelona, Spain. Michael Boyance, the President of IPC is also President of AEFLIB, the conference sponsor. The subject of the Colloquium will be "Civil Society and Associative Private Higher Education in Europe." The colloquium will be organized around four themes, with papers being

presented on each theme. The workshop themes are as follows: + “Higher Education and Knowledge Society: Lifelong Education,” ++ “The Formation of the Human Person and Its Self-development: which conception? +++ “The Financing of Private Education: How Much from the State, how much from the private sector?” ++++ “The Principle of Subsidiarity and Freedom of Education.” Members of ICUSTA interested in attending the Colloquium or desiring more information may do both by going to the AEFLIB website at www.aeflib.eu/colloque-europeen The conference will be presented in four languages.

*JAPAN: “St Catherine University,” Fr. Jovino San Miguel, OP was reappointed President for a new four year term. In the name of his friends in ICUSTA we extend to Fr Jovino our congratulations and best wishes. Fr Jovino has been a good supporter of ICUSTA and we wish him well and continued success in his reappointment as the President of St. Catherine University.

*SPAIN: “The Catholic University of Avila,” sponsored a successful Conference on Economics and Freedom: The Great Recession of Today” on November 22-24. [The Director of International Relations and the Study Abroad Advisor at UCA visited UST Houston \(USA\) in November. \(See below.\)](#)

*Spain: “The Catholic University of Valencia, San Vicente Matir (CUV)” the newest member of ICUSTA was formed in 2003 by combining the university work of several institutions in the region to create the new University. CUV was created by the late Cardinal Garci-Gasco, the then Archbishop of Valencia. Today CUV has 15,000 students, offering 25 bachelor degrees and 50 masters and doctoral programs. It is located on 15 different campus sites mainly in downtown Valencia and in the surrounding environs of Valencia. The University is organized into 8 different Faculties; 22 Research Institutes and 10 Enterprise Chairs. It includes a faculty of Law, Nursing, Veterinary and Experimental Sciences, and a faculty of Medicine and Odontology. CUV offers a permanent International Seminar dedicated to the study of the work of St Thomas Aquinas. This Seminar opens up scholarly opportunities for students and faculty to work with other institutions and institutes interested in the life and work of St Thomas Aquinas. CUV seeks to be high quality Catholic institution, proud of its Catholic identity, its friendly academic climate, and its personal relations between students and the University. CUV is proud to be the newest member of ICUSTA. Welcome aboard Dr. Jose Raga and the entire CUV Community.

*UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: “University of St Thomas,” entertained a host of ICUSTA visitors to UST during the fall months of 2012; while several UST faculty members visited or will visit other ICUSTA member institutions. Among those ICUSTA institutional representatives visiting UST included the following:

- + Dr. Patricia Kieran, Professor of Religious Studies at Mary Immaculate College, Ireland, who spent the better part of a month in consultation and research at UST Houston (US) in September/October, with the UST Center For Faith and Culture as part of her STAIEP Grant she received in 2012. Fr Donald Nesti the Chair of the Center worked closely with Dr Kieran in organizing her program at UST (USA).
- + Professor Fr. Michael Hayes, the new President of Mary Immaculate College, Ireland. Fr Hayes met with a number of faculty and staff at UST to familiarize himself with UST Houston and to explore opportunities for more collaboration. He also attended as a special guest the annual fund raising gala for the Center for Irish Studies at UST.
- + Dr. Fabio Labra, has a Ph.D from Catholic University Santiago, Chile in Ecology. Dr. Labra is a member of the Department of Basic Sciences at UST Chile. Dr Labra came to UST Houston (US) as part of a ICUSTA Lecture Exchange Program between the two institutions that has been in place for about ten years. Dr. Labra presented a President’s

Seminar at UST Houston on his research related to ocean acidification and its potential impact on marine invertebrates. While at UST (US) he worked closely with faculty and students in the UST Biology and Environmental Studies programs. He had two specific goals in coming to UST Houston that he successfully achieved. They were: 1, to seek and develop joint research efforts between the two universities; and 2, to learn about new strategies for teaching science to undergraduates.

- + Dr. Ana Gomez, the Director of International Relations at Universidad Catolica de Avila (UCA), and Annette Beermann, the Study Abroad Advisor at UCA, visited UST on November 13 and 14. They met with the UST Houston Study Aboard Advisor Dr Ulyses Balderas and Dr Ravi Srinivas and DR McFadden to discuss international exchange opportunities. One idea that came from their visit was to include a workshop for ICUSTA International Relations Directors at all future ICUSTA biennial meetings.

Among UST Faculty visiting other ICUSTA member institutions included:

- + DR. Ravi Srinivas, Dean and Dr. Ulyses Balderas, Professor International Studies, both presented papers at the annual U-6 conference held at UST Santiago, Chile in October;
- + Dr. Mary Catherine Sommers, Chair of Center for Study of St Thomas Aquinas presented a paper on St Thomas Aquinas on Medieval Fidelity at a Colloquium at ICES on October 11 organized by the ICES History department.
- + Sr Marie Faubert, CSJ, School of Education, who participated in the UST Houston, USA-Wenzao Ursuline College of Languages ICUSTA Faculty Lecture Exchange Program on the Wenzao campus.
- + Two other UST Faculty have been selected to present at forthcoming colloquiums sponsored by ICES in France. They are Dr Don Frohlich, Biology, presenting a paper "Evolution, Fides et Ratio, and the Practice of Science" at a colloquium on creation January 21 and 22, 2013; and Fr Charles Talar, presenting at a colloquium April 15 and 16, 2013 on Cardinal Newman and his reception in France sponsored by the Diocese of Lucon at ICES.

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Colleagues, two more things: +Check your entry in the attached ICUSTA Directory for accuracy; and ++ Check our ICUSTA website at [www.icusta.org](http://www.icusta.org) If you would like me to include an item on our website just let me know.

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Now, let me close this message of good tidings, by wishing you all a very Holy and Wonderful Holiday Season. May we meet again in La Roche sur Yon, France in June to strengthen one another in doing the Lord's work. God bless us all.

Most sincerely,

Dr Joseph "Tip" McFadden
ICUSTA Executive Director