

# THE torch

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

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ST. THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

Volume 40. Fall 2013

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dear Friends:

As the year comes to a close, I reflect on all that I am grateful for as president.

*The National Center for Ethics & Social Responsibility* at St. Thomas Aquinas College has called the college community to

research, teaching and service around the global issues of Sustainability & Climate Change. One visible sign of our actions can be seen on the front cover – as our college students planted ninety trees in a Trees-for-Tribs program in conjunction with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservations. Also this fall, the Provident Bank Chair for Corporate Responsibility welcomed to the campus an international expert in business ethics.

Our students continue to actualize their potential through academic excellence, participation in a myriad of student programs, active engagement in internships, study beyond experiences, and community service. In the name of each student who receives your support, I thank you.

This is a beautiful time of year where we as a country celebrate Thanksgiving, and a time when our religious traditions celebrate life and hope. Know that you, and all those you love, are in my prayers.

May God bless us all.

Sincerely,

Dr. Margaret M. Fitzpatrick, S.C.  
President

## STAC RECEIVES \$25,000 DONATION FROM O&R UTILITIES, INC. IN SUPPORT OF SCIENCE STUDY LOUNGE



St. Thomas Aquinas College has received a \$25,000 donation from Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. (O&R) to

refurbish a multi-use general study area adjacent to the College's advanced science research laboratories, announced Dr. Margaret M. Fitzpatrick, S.C., President of the College.

"O&R's generous gift will help enhance the collaborative nature of the important scientific study conducted here by our students and faculty," said Dr. Fitzpatrick. "But most of all, this gift carves out for us another venue where we can pursue learning, develop understanding and share knowledge," she added.

The "Meeting Lounge for the Sciences," located in Costello Hall, is the primary

gathering spot for students, faculty and the public immediately adjacent to the Chemistry, Physics and Biology research labs. Costello Hall is a second home for many of the College's science students who spend a majority of their academic time in class and labs.

St. Thomas Aquinas College's School of Arts & Sciences offers a variety of science based program including: majors in Biochemistry, Biology, Forensic Science, Natural Sciences (with Biology, Chemistry and Physics); dual degree programs in Biomedical Engineering, Chiropractic Medicine, Physical Therapy, and Podiatric Medicine; and minors in Biology, Biotechnology, Chemistry, and Physics. Student can also opt for a pre-medical or pre-dental track. The School of Education offers options for students to pursue teaching science at the childhood and adolescent levels. For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 845-398-4100 or [admissions@stac.edu](mailto:admissions@stac.edu).

## STAC WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL MEMBERS



Amanda Bartlett



Michael Beckerle



Courtney E. Boniface



Jordan Baker-Kilner



Kevin Kilner

The President's Council is a dynamic and talented group of alumni, business professionals and community leaders who provide thoughtful counsel and leadership to help St. Thomas Aquinas College fulfill its educational mission.

This is a group of outstanding individuals in the Rockland community who give of their time, expertise, talent and energy to a College that they want to see succeed for generations to come.

It is with great pleasure to introduce our newest 2013-2014 President's Council members:

**Amanda Bartlett, Esq.** Associate, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

**Michael Beckerle** – Controller, Beckerle Lumber

**Courtney E. Boniface, Esq.** – Cane & Boniface, PC

**Jordan Baker-Kilner** – Founder, Room For Thought

**Kevin Kilner** – President, Relentless, Inc.

## ST. THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE RECOGNIZED AS A TOP-TIER UNIVERSITY: ACCOLADES POUR IN!

In recent months, St. Thomas Aquinas College has been recognized for our overall and financial strength, our value as an investment, and our dedication to our military community and communities in need. Most notable of the College's accolades is our being named as a Top-Tier Regional University (North) by *U.S. News & World Report* in their 2014 Best Colleges annual report. The rankings include over 1,400 schools nationwide and are based on survey information collected and by peer ratings conducted by *U.S. News & World Report*.

"The entire St. Thomas Aquinas College community is proud to be recognized by *U.S. News & World Report*," said Dr. Margaret Fitzpatrick, President of the College. "We have been ranked highly by multiple external reporting agencies over the years. We have always considered our students and faculty to be Top Tier and this is a tribute to the entire College Community."

In an August 2013 edition of *Forbes Magazine*, St. Thomas Aquinas College was ranked in the Top Tier for its financial health among colleges and universities nationwide.

In the recent online listing of *Affordable Colleges* St. Thomas Aquinas College was ranked 47th as a Top College among 472 NYS colleges and universities for return on investment. This website conducted a study of the New York State colleges and St. Thomas earned the accolade for low tuition rates and higher lifetime earnings for alumni.

The *2014 Colleges of Distinction* designation was earned by St. Thomas Aquinas College in both the New York and Catholic editions. The accolade is earned by colleges and universities who excel in the key areas: alumni success; quality of its teaching faculty; and the atmosphere on its campus. In addition, these colleges take a holistic approach in their admissions decisions and have a strong national reputation.



St. Thomas Aquinas College received the 2013 and **2014 Military Friendly School** designation by the organization for doing the most to embrace the military service members, veterans, and their families and ensure their success on campus. St. Thomas provides a Yellow Ribbon Scholarship to all eligible veterans, enabling them to receive up to a full tuition scholarship each year they are eligible. In addition, St. Thomas offers a West Point and Stewart Air Force base program for active military and an online associates and master's degree at a deeply discounted rate for active military members.

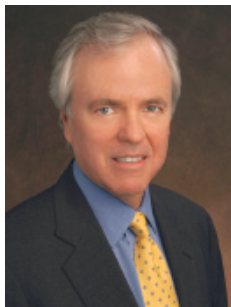
St. Thomas Aquinas College earned the **2013 President's Community Service Honor Roll** designation by the Corporation for National and Community service for their commitment to bettering its communities through service. This federal designation points to many of the activities that students and employees are involved in such as serving the homeless with Midnight Runs and a multitude of student-run activities that benefit the greater community.

"We've continued to grow our campus and our offerings. St. Thomas students and alumni are the beneficiaries of our growth and maturity as an institution and this latest accolade is a reaffirmation of what we are and where we are going as a premier liberal arts college," Fitzpatrick added.

To stay up-to-date on the College's latest news, visit our Online Press Room at <https://sites.google.com/a/stac.edu/stacnews/>.

## STAC APPOINTS A NEW TRUSTEE

Mr. Paul C. Fitzpatrick has over forty years of investment banking experience with a concentration in the hospitality industry. He has been responsible for transactions in excess of \$1.5 billion during his career and has been a principal in several significant mixed use developments in the northeast.



Currently, Mr. Fitzpatrick is the Managing Director of the Four Diamond Lodge at Woodloch, a luxury destination spa resort in Northeast Pennsylvania. Prior to becoming Managing Director at Woodloch, he was a Senior Managing Director and Founder of the Hotel Transactions Group at Cushman & Wakefield, working from C&W's world headquarters in New York City. He has also served as Senior Managing Director at CB Richard Ellis in New York City where he represented major hotel owner/operators in facilitating purchase

and sale of hotels throughout the United States and the placement of debt and equity.

Mr. Fitzpatrick is a graduate of Fordham University. He is active with numerous non-profit organizations and is a Trustee of the Ridgewood Savings Bank, Ridgewood, NY. Paul and his wife, Una, have residences in West Nyack, New York and Hawley, Pennsylvania. They enjoy spending their free time with their four children and seven grandchildren.

## FIRST NIAGARA FOUNDATION AWARDS \$5,000 GRANT TO ST. THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

IN SUPPORT OF "ENHANCING AND ENRICHING LITERACY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM" EVENTS

First Niagara Foundation recently awarded St. Thomas Aquinas College a \$5,000 grant in support of the "Enhancing and Enriching Literacy Across the Curriculum" series of events for students, teachers, and community members. The series included three events during the months of September, October and November 2013.

The first event was held on September 28th and was a wonderful success. Over 100 people attended the First Annual Campaign for Artful Resistance: A Celebration of the Arts, an initiative designed to recognize and restore arts education in the curriculum. The Celebration included a showcase of visiting artists who perform in schools. The foundation supported The 18th Annual Rockland Literacy Extravaganza on Saturday, October 19, 2013, which was a professional conference for practicing teachers and administrators, along with graduate and pre-service students. It focused on teaching research-based best practices for achieving Common Core State Standards success in reading and writing across the curriculum, Pre-K through Grade 12.

The third event the foundation will support is The 18th Annual Rockland Storytelling Festival on Sunday, November 17, 2013 at Haverstraw King's Daughters Public Library, which is a free event to support the joys of storytelling including presentations from recognized storytellers and hands-on arts and crafts projects for participants.

"Literacy skills can be improved, but not without the proper staff development," said Sara Tucker, First Vice President, Regional Team Leader, First Niagara. "First Niagara is proud to support a program that is putting professional development at the heart of its efforts through training teachers, as well as helping children through their literacy challenges." Dr. Michael Shaw, Professor of Education and coordinator of the series, thanked the First Niagara Foundation by saying, "I am so grateful that First Niagara is supporting our St. Thomas Aquinas College initiatives to 'Enhance and Enrich Literacy Across the Curriculum. These events enable us to provide the highest quality of professional development to teachers and pre-service teachers to enable students to successfully learn methods for teaching close reading and academic writing that will enable students to achieve Common Core State

Standards success. The grant also enables us to focus on the importance of restoring arts education in schools that has been significantly cut back because of the overarching focus on year-long test preparation, including the joys of storytelling. First Niagara is making a very strong commitment to support enhancing and enriching literacy across the curriculum".

First Niagara Bank has nine branches in Rockland County, and their Foundation believes in supporting educational initiatives in the local communities they serve. One of their Foundation's focus areas is Youth and Education, which ties into the three St. Thomas Aquinas College events this grant will support.

THE  
torch  
Fall 2013

## 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT A GREAT SUCCESS – AS THE COLLEGE RAISES MORE THAN \$118,000!

Monday, June 3, 2013 was a perfect day as 180 golfers climbed into their golf carts for another exciting tournament!

If you missed this year's tourney, mark your calendars for our 42nd Annual Tourney, Monday, June 2, 2014 at the prestigious Rockland Country Club!

A heartfelt thank-you to all our sponsors, hole-in-one prize partners, silent and live auction donors, and the most wonderful and generous golfers and volunteers who supported this year's tournament!

As always, the tournament's net proceeds go to enable student scholarships at the College and help to continue the legacy, the tradition and the promise of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill... which is "... to Enlighten the Mind through Truth..."

### THANK YOU TO OUR 41ST ANNUAL TOURNAMENT MAJOR SPONSORS:

**President's Partnership:** Capgemini, Inc.

**President's Tournament Reception:** Dr. Charles Poggi & The Poggi Press, Inc.

**President's Tournament Reception:** Dr. James Mooney & Virgin Media

**President's Tournament Brunch:** Donald Hazelton & Friends

**Golf Shirts:** Sam Fratto & IBEW Local #363

**Golf Balls:** Vincent Sabatino and Eagle One Roofing, Inc.

**Golf Balls:** Thomas Rau & TD Bank, Inc.

**Green's Fee's:** Ina Fitch & Academic Federal Credit Union

**Golf Carts:** Anthony DiPilla & Quality Communications, Inc.

**Golf Carts:** Dr. James and Mrs. Gloria Costello

**Golf Carts:** Ridgewood Savings Bank

**Halfway House Station:** Dave Wemmer '82 & Korn Rosenbaum, LLP

**18 Tournament Flagsticks:** Michael Kennedy & the Kennedy Companies

**18 Tournament Flagsticks:** Pavarini Construction, Inc.

**Tournament Beverages:** Steve Wilson & Aramark, Inc.

**Tournament Beverages:** Vincent Abbatecola & Abbey Ice & Spring Water Company

**Tournament Beverages:** Peter Unanue '90 & Rafael Toro at GOYA Foods, Inc.



### HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZE PARTNERS:

Our tournament is long famous for our Hole-in-One contests which presents a winning opportunity for our prize sponsors as they get the benefit of promoting their product and the prospect of selling an automobile... Moreover, tournament players have the excitement and drama of trying to win one or all of the cars and motorcycles on the course... as well as qualifying to win \$1,000,000 in our Hole-in-One Million Dollar Shootout!

### THANK YOU TO OUR HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZE SPONSORS!

**Craig Schultz and Chris LaMantia,** Schultz Ford Lincoln Mercury

**Leon Gjoni,** Interstate Toyota

**Bobby Everett,** West Coast Chopper

**Alex Marsiglio,** Prestige BMW & Prestige Cooper Mini

### THANK YOU TO OUR 2013 GOLF COMMITTEE

Scott Baird, Eric Black, Frank Borelli, Jr., Dan Castrillon, Tom Collins, Dr. Rob Conenello, Anthony DiPilla, Barry Dorfman, Bobby Everett, Paul Fitzpatrick, Br. Michael Harlan, Patrick Lambert, Philip Liebman, Michael Monahan, Bernie Nicolosi, Jim Patterson, Peggy Raso, Vincent Sabatino, Robert Salmon, Barbara Wallenstein, Rose Werner, Steve Wilson, Brig. Gen. Robert Winzinger

### THANK YOU TO OUR 2013 GOLF VOLUNTEERS

Many of our volunteers began their day as early as 5 AM in order to assist with signs, cars and players' bags for our golfers. Many more continued throughout the day, positioned at each par-3 hole and helping out with prizes, registration, food and beverage services, silent auction and more. We are deeply grateful for your commitment and genuine enthusiasm for this event to support our students.

We look forward to seeing you on June 2, 2014. For information, please contact Judy Perrin at 845-398-4045 or [jperrin@stac.edu](mailto:jperrin@stac.edu).



## EXPANDING TEACHING OFFERINGS TO MEET NEEDS OF A CHANGING POPULATION

St. Thomas Aquinas College recently expanded its graduate degree offerings to include a Masters in Special Education with a specialization in Autism and an Advanced Certificate in Autism.

"Media reports over the last decade have highlighted the growing incidence in autism spectrum disorders amongst children. Students with autism find social interaction and communication difficult. In the classroom these students find it challenging to recognize non-verbal cues that teachers might use during instruction. They may also find working in groups and co-operative learning problematic. More than ever it is important for classroom teachers to understand the needs of these children in order to teach them effectively," Dr. Meenakshi Gajria, Dean of the School of Education at the College, said.

Jill Sheridan, a Math Resource Teacher at Ramapo High School (Franklin Lakes, NJ), started the Advanced Certificate in

Autism this fall. Sheridan, a Rockland County native, completed her B.S. in Math with Grades 7-12 Certification and her M.S.Ed. in Special Education at St. Thomas. She was drawn to the Advanced Certificate in Autism at her alma mater as she looked to start her 'plus credits'. St. Thomas' convenient class offerings for working teachers and its noted reputation as a National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) school, only made the decision to return easier.

"It has become more common for students to be diagnosed with autism. I currently work as a Special Education teacher and work with students who are on the spectrum. I feel that the Autism Certificate program will increase my knowledge on autism as well as help me to be better able to teach students in my class with autism," said Sheridan.

Coursework in these programs will cover Applied Behavior Analysis, Curriculum

and Instruction for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, and Language and Social Communication development in students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The degree programs which are offered at both the Elementary level (Grades 1-6) and the Secondary level (Grades 7-12) are 36 credits. The certificate program is 12 credits. Upon completion of the programs, candidates will be able to apply for teaching certification in special education with an annotation in severe and multiple disabilities. Candidates will be able to teach in a range of classroom including co-taught general education classrooms, resource room and self-contained specialized classrooms.

St. Thomas Aquinas College also offers graduate education programs in Literacy, Special Education, Educational Leadership, and Teacher Leadership, as well as a program for individuals seeking teacher certification for the first time. For more information visit [www.stac.edu/graded](http://www.stac.edu/graded).

## SUMMER "LITERACY CAMP" MAKES A HUGE IMPACT

The Graduate Literacy Program capstone Practicum in July implemented a "Literacy Camp" model to once again make a huge impact on motivation, engagement, and reading and writing achievement for struggling readers and writers, grades 1-8, including students from diverse backgrounds. Using research-based best methods, we implemented a paradigm of authentic reading and writing instead of skills/drill; accelerated/enrichment instruction rather than remediation; integrated instruction and active inquiry instead of isolated instruction; and ongoing authentic assessments with positive, constructive feedback rather than scoring correct answers on tests.

The camp model centers on linking reading, writing, and research with student interests and creating special enrichment activities that culminate with a celebration for families and guests. The celebration includes Power Point or dramatic presentations that highlight inquiry projects and also includes musical reader's theater performances coordinated by Associate

Professor of Music Dr. Evan Matthews where students dramatize stories and poems using a variety of instruments. Other enrichment activities include raising money to support the Urifiki Center School in Tanzania highlighted by a lemonade stand (Students raised \$174.00), collaborating with Biology Professor Dr. Jon Rosko to collect fish samples for study and learn about protecting the environment, a family reading party to show parents how they can help their children at home, a celebration of National Ice Cream Day, a pajama party to celebrate reading, a celebration of pizza, a lesson on bullying by Director of Security Jim Nawoichyk, and podcasting. All enrichment activities are directly linked with reading and writing.

In final evaluations, all 20 parents "strongly agreed" that their child had a "positive learning experience" that motivated their child to learn and increased reading achievement. All parents also "strongly agreed" that their child had a "knowledgeable, caring, dedicated professional teacher." One parent noted,

"You embrace children with all types of needs, and your kindness and love for them shines through all that you do." Another wrote, "We don't know what we would have done this summer without this program."

Families with children who are struggling with reading and writing can apply for admission which is decided on a case-by-case basis. Visit the School of Education web site or contact Dr. Michael Shaw at [mshaw@stac.edu](mailto:mshaw@stac.edu) for more information.

~Dr. Michael Shaw,  
Professor of Education



Director of Security, Jim Nawoichyk, reading a story about bullying to promote a positive response.

## “A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE”... Shining with a Degree in Business and What St. Thomas Aquinas College Means to Me!



Moving from the Bronx to Pearl River, I became friendly with former Alumni who attended STAC. After going through the traditional evaluation process of where

I would hang my college hat, it became glaringly apparent that STAC would be my school of choice. St. Thomas gave me a true sense of foundation for success both personally and professionally. The life values that the College taught me helped me to become a better business person – grounded in fundamentals such as trust, ethics, respect and integrity. These truly became the building blocks for the success I was fortunate enough to experience in my life and career.

These fundamentals coupled with a rewarding and challenging business

program at the College enabled me to excel in my career as a responsible leader and in addition, offered me the opportunity to attend the Harvard Business School Program for Management Development.

As I reflect on my experience at St. Thomas, I can't help but to remember the impact the faculty and staff had on providing me the guidance and support I needed in my career and in my life. I particularly remember both **Sr. Patricia Ann Reilly** and **Father Keats**.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my career. I'm currently consulting for the investment firm of Guggenheim Partners on digital media initiatives after holding a post as President of the Consumer Products Division at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Prior to this, I was Divisional President of The Princeton Review, Knowledge Adventure and Riverdeep, a provider of digital educational services.

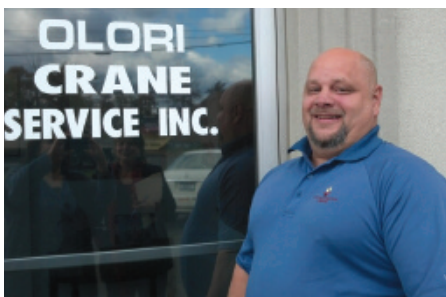
Moreover, selling The Learning Company, a business we built through the 90's to toy giant Mattel, Inc. was also most rewarding!

I have found great balance between my career and my wonderful wife and two fabulous boys. It truly starts with life fundamentals.

If you would like to learn more about STAC's School of Business, I invite you to attend their Winter Open House on February 1, 2014. For details, go to [www.stac.edu/events](http://www.stac.edu/events). Thank you St. Thomas for the great business education and values based teaching!

~Anthony J. Bordon,  
Class of 1980

## MY FAVORITE TEACHERS



As a student of Don Bosco Prep High School in Ramsey, NJ, great emphasis was placed on college entrance. I was less than a model student and, needless to say, my college acceptance list was short. I started my freshmen year of college at a school I was less than enthused about and left after a week. After days of arguing with my parents I did not return to “the school that shall remain nameless” and I enrolled in St. Thomas. I never regretted the change.

Thinking back, I had many interesting

Professors at my four years at STAC but two stand out in my mind.

First is **Dr. Marie Postner**. I had taken her college algebra course. My math skills through high school were less than stellar so I was expecting to struggle and squeak by in college. In Dr. Postner's class I actually understood and had confidence in my math ability for the first time in my life. The only regret was my curriculum did not require any additional math classes.

The other professor and my all time STAC favorite was **Mr. Ken Reddin**. I had taken his Macroeconomics course, and after warnings from many people about how dry and dull economics can be I was prepared for the worst. As anyone knows who had a class with Ken Reddin he was anything but dull. He was extremely colorful and not your average professor. I enjoyed his class so much I took him for all my economics curriculum

as well as my business electives. I remember his stories about the many countries he would visit and how the varied cultures related to business. They were very applicable in his international business courses. It brought a true sense of reality to the class having a teacher that had first hand experience with many diverse cultures.

I could have never predicted the economic downturn the country has been experiencing. In my role as partner in Olori Crane Service the education I have received at STAC is fundamentally sound, and provides the ability to navigate the most difficult business environment.

~Ron Olori Jr.,  
Class of 1985



Fr. Michael Ramos is pictured standing to the left of Cardinal Sean

## '72

**Sr. Susan Dunn** (B.S., Education) received a new position as Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs at Siena College.

## '73

**Brooke DeGroat** (B.S., Social Science) and wife Linda recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They enjoyed a party thrown by their three children and a 10 day vacation to St. Lucia. Brook is enjoying his retirement and spending time with his friends, family and eight grandchildren.

## '77

**Alan M. Brenner** (B.S., Psychology) has formed [www.starfiveproductions.com](http://www.starfiveproductions.com) a corporation which produces and directs Doo-Wop and Rock n Roll shows.

## '78

**Fr. Michael Ramos, O.F.M. Cap.** (B.S., Mathematics) was ordained a Priest on June 1, 2013 at Sacred Heart Church in Yonkers, NY. Father has been assigned to Rutland, VT, where he serves as an administrator of St. Alphonsus Parish in Pittsford, VT.

## '79

**Kerrin (Kory) Mahaffey** (B.S., Business Administration) was selected to Lead the Rockland Community College Foundation Board.

## '85

**Catherine C. Skae** (B.S., Psychology) is proud to announce her appointment as Vice President for Graduate Medical Education at the Montefiore Medical Center as well as Associate Dean for Medical Education at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

## '87

**Fr. Kenneth Riello** (B.S., Business Administration) was ordained a priest. He celebrated his first Mass on May 25, 2013 at St. Barbarigo Church in Garnerville, New York.



Fr. Kenneth Riello

## '89

**Mark & Donna Santilli Quirk** (B.S., Accounting) are proud to announce that their twin boys Anthony and Michael have graduated from Clarkstown South High School this past June. Anthony plans to study music at Berklee College of Music in Boston; Michael will be studying engineering at Virginia Tech.

**Rebecca (Solomon) Mizrahi** (M.S.Ed., Reading) as of June 2011, has received her Certification of Advanced Study - School Building Leader & School District Leader from The College of St. Rose, Albany, NY. This year she has served as Interim Assistant Principle of the James Farley Elementary School in North Rockland.

## '90

**Frank Messina** (B.A., English) co-hosted and presented a reading at the Kerouac Project Benefit event on September 29, 2013 in New York, NY.

## '94

**Jeannine Lake** (B.S., Social Science) recently published an article in the Lee's Summit Journal about her love of Phoenix University and the opportunities for the students. She hosted a campus event on Aug 7th entitled "Fine-tune Your Career Path" allowing students of the college to connect with prospective student, alumni and future community employers.

## '99

**Ryan Hidalgo** (B.S.) is Mall Manager at The Shops at Nanuet in Nanuet, NY.

## '01

**Michael Milisits** (B.S., Accounting) was appointed to the Board of Directors for the New York Society of Certified Public Accountants in May 2013.

## '02

**Jessica Beale** (B.A., Therapeutic Recreation and Leisure) is currently living in South Carolina and is employed as the Director of Activities, at Life Care Center in Hilton Head, SC.

## '02

**Ryan Smith** (B.A., Communication Arts) gained a position as Vice President of MMW, a top tier public relations firm, in August 2013. In addition, Ryan lead the "Stronger Than the Storm" campaign to promote New Jersey residents to rebuild after Hurricane Sandy.

## '05

**Sean McCormack** (B.A., Communication Arts) co-owner of BMC Plumbing and Heating Inc., published an article, in the July 2013 Edition of the *Plumbing & Hydronic Contractor News* magazine concerning the importance of employee assistance entitled *Helping Hands: The Art of the Helper*.

## '08

**Anthony Anaya** (B.A., Communication Arts) was hired as an International Assignment Manager with Mondelez International, in August 2012. Anthony was married to wife Kristine M. Geraci on February 12, 2013.

**Jessica M. Liss** (B.A., Communication Arts) is proud to announce her new position at Lifetime Television as Marketing Coordinator.

## '09

**Megan Halvorsen** (B.A., Communication Arts) is proud to announce her recent promotion at Phoenix Marketing Solutions Company in Warren, NJ.



Ryan Hidalgo on Opening Day at The Shops at Nanuet





**'09**  
**Arwen Thomas-Belloni** (B.S., Social Science) is currently employed at Chase bank as a Mortgage Banker in Yorktown Heights, NY.

**'10**

**Tom Schwind** (B.S., Business Administration) is currently employed as a Regional Manager of Sales for Hilti Corp. in San Francisco Bay. He thanks his former STAC Professor Nikolas Papavlassopoulos, for the substantial influence he has had over his career decisions and aspirations.

**'11**

**Frank Fittipaldi** (B.A., Communication Arts) has secured a job as a Coordinator of Social Media for Major League Baseball.

**'12**

**Kathleen Roepken** (B.A., Art Therapy) is studying Clinical Art Therapy at Long Island University. She is also employed by Healthplex Insurance Company on a full-time basis.

**Kozeta Lleshi** (B.S., Biology) attends Dominican College's accelerated nursing program and works part-time as an EMT at Congers-Valley Cottage and Haverstraw Ambulance Corp.

**Krista Fucci** (B.S., Psychology) is currently pursuing her Graduate degree in Social Work at Fordham University. Krista currently has a full-time internship in which she works with young adults diagnosed with Autism. She commends STAC's Career Services for their help in leading her in the right direction for post-graduate life.

**'13**

**Michele Beach** (B.S., Biology) has been accepted to Seton Hall University's Physician Assistant Program which she will attend in September 2014. She is also excited to announce her new job as a Medical Scribe in the Emergency Room Department at Good Samaritan Hospital.

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



David, Edward Estok

**'02**

**Matthew Estok** (B.S., Psychology) and wife Jennifer (Ferdon) Estok (B.S. Social Science) '03 are proud to announce the birth of their first child, baby boy, David, Edward Estok born June 27, 2013 and weighing 6lbs, 12.5oz.

## WEDDING BELLS

**'01**

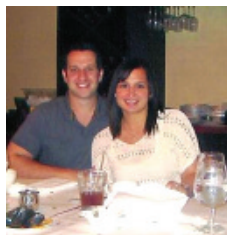
**Terri Brockman Weiss** (B.A., English) married Gerard Weiss, Jr. on October 5, 2012.

**'07**

**Camille (Fremont) Rich** (M.B.A., Finance) has announced her marriage to Jason Rich.

**'08**

**Nicole D'Angelo** (B.S., Psychology) has announced her engagement to Christopher Barbarino. A wedding is planned for July 14, 2014.



Nicole D'Angelo '08 and Christopher Barbarino Engagement

## ATTENTION ALUMNI

Photos and announcements for weddings, births or professional advancements should be submitted to the Office of Alumni Relations [alumni@stac.edu] within one year of the event.

To have your photo submitted for publication, it must meet these minimum requirements:

- Photos must be in color
- We can only accept digital photos. The original must be a high-quality jpeg, at least 300 dpi and at least 2-by-2.5 inches.

**HINT:** If the file size is less than 1MB, then it's not the right quality.

## IN MEMORIAM

**'64**

**Sr. Kathleen Ann Gorres** (B.S., Education) passed away September 5, 2013.

**'76**

**Marianne Hartel** (B.S., Psychology) passed away on August 9, 2012.

**'80**

**Robert C. Curry** (B.S., Business Administration) passed away on October 8, 2012.

**'92**

**Shirley Kolkebeck** (B.S., Elementary Education) passed away on February 18, 2013.

**'02**

**Vincent L. Binetti** (B.S., Criminal Justice) passed away on August 16, 2013.

**'82**

**Alan Wieteki**, (B.S., Mathematics) passed away on March 31, 2013.

**'88**

**Anne K. Wieteki** (B.A., Fine Arts) passed away on October 26, 2012.

# Faculty/Staff Kudos

FALL 2013

**Kevin P. Duignan**, Vice President for Institutional Advancement was named to the Board of Directors of the Rockland Country Club Foundation and effective January 1, 2014 he will also become a member of the Board of Directors of the Rockland Economic Development Corporation.

**Dr. Florette R. Koffler**, Professor Emeritus of Modern Languages and Literatures, will be giving a talk at the Tappan Library on Thursday, January 23, 2014, on Italy and the Jewish population during the Second World War.

**Gerald McCarthy**, Professor of English, was selected to participate in a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute hosted by the Georgia Historical Society (GHS) this summer that explored two centuries of African-American life and culture in Savannah and Georgia's coastal islands. Participants of the program examined the centrality of place in the African-American experience in Georgia's Lowcountry and the larger Atlantic world. Gerald was chosen from more than 100 applicants.

**Dr. Carl Rattner**, Professor of Art, had several of his works appear in Fall 2013 exhibits. "Morph" (maple) and "Walnut Hook" (walnut) appeared in the "Change and Transformation" exhibit at the Blue Hill Art and Cultural Center, Pearl River, NY. In October, "CHILD" (mahogany and poplar) appeared in "Re-imagine GARNER" exhibit at the Garner Arts Center, Garnerville, NY.

**Dr. Maria Ann Roglieri**, Professor of Foreign Languages, has just finished the latest book in the series of The Gluten-Free Guides. The new book is *The Gluten-Free Guide to Spain* ([www.gfguidespain.com](http://www.gfguidespain.com)). She also gave a lecture on gluten-free travel at Phelps Memorial Hospital in the spring.

**Dr. Michael L. Shaw**, Professor of Education, had a chapter published in the book *Literacy Research, Practice and Evaluation* entitled "Reading and Teaching Thoughtful Literacy to Readers who Struggle: Increasing Motivation, Engagement, and Comprehension". He also presented a session at the 2013 International



Dr. Maria Ann Roglieri



Dr. Carl Rattner



Dr. Michael Shaw

Reading Association Annual Conference entitled, "Common Core Standards Instruction for Struggling Readers: Teaching Close Reading Beyond the Scripts." Dr. Shaw also received two grants to support 18th Annual Rockland Literacy Extravaganza Professional Conference, the 18th Annual Rockland County Storytelling Festival, and the First Annual Campaign for Artful Resistance: A Celebration of the Arts at STAC from the First Niagara Foundation.

**Monica Wendel**, Asst. Prof., Composition & Creative Writing, had her chapbook (half-length poetry manuscript) *Pioneer* accepted for publication by Thrush Press, and it will be published by Thrush Press in the Spring 2014.



Morph by Carl Rattner

## A WARM WELCOME to the following new members of the College Community!

- **Tobin Anderson**, Asst. Dir., Athletics & Head Men's Basketball Coach
- **Lauren Barbara**, Admissions Counselor
- **Moddie Breland**, Sr. Library Asst./Circulation Tech
- **William Diano '10**, Testing Coordinator, Pathways
- **Tara Diviny '03, '05**, Admissions Records Clerk
- **Dr. Deirdre Engles**, Asst. Prof., Marketing
- **Cindy Calderon Garvey, '09, '11** Financial Aid Counselor
- **Dr. Bartholomew Grachan**, Director, Admissions
- **Jennifer Hawk**, Visiting Asst. Prof., Chemistry
- **Huma John '02 MBA**, MBA Program Office Asst.
- **Dr. Amanda Mazin**, Asst. Prof., Education
- **Maureen Mulhern**, Director, Career Development
- **Patricia O'Kane Fitzpatrick**, Mentor, Pathways
- **Dr. Nathaniel Rothschild**, Asst. Prof., English
- **Dr. Benjamin Wagner**, Asst. Prof., Psychology

THE  
torch

Fall 2013

# Faculty/Staff Kudos

FALL 2013

## CONGRATULATIONS to the following faculty and staff!

- **Vincent Crapanzano '84, '00** was promoted to Senior Vice President.
- **Linda Hayden** was promoted to Office Asst., CAPS, Career Development, and Athletics.
- **Deena Lise '11** was promoted to Mentor in Pathways.
- **Tim Morgan '06** was promoted to Regional Admissions Coordinator.
- **Ashley Scales** was promoted to Admissions Counselor and Student Ambassador Coordinator.
- **Kathryn Van Bomel** transitioned to Admissions Counselor & Special Program Advisor.
- **Dr. Robert Vermilyer** was promoted to Professor, Computer Science.
- **Monica Wendel** was promoted to Asst. Prof. Composition and Creative Writing.

- **Danielle Young '11** was promoted to Admissions Counselor and Admissions Social Media Coordinator. She is also a new member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

## SPOTLIGHT ON PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL



### Thomas F. Collins, Member and 2014 Spartan Award Honoree

As a former Director of Athletics at both Albertus Magnus High School and the Pearl River School District, I have been involved with St.

Thomas Aquinas College in one way or another practically my entire life. I graduated from Albertus Magnus High School where STAC's academic prowess was widely talked about. My uncle, Jim Maloney, was the head of maintenance at STAC for many years and from him I heard so many great stories about what STAC was doing next. I have watched

how STAC has grown through the years from new dorms to a new athletic field to expansion of majors, minors and specializations. STAC is truly a great school, a great experience for students and a real asset to Rockland County.

When I was asked to join the President's Council, I jumped at the opportunity to be part of the College which makes so much impact and a real difference! I am proud to be part of such a fine institution of higher learning.

I encourage everyone who is considering a college education, be that undergraduate or graduate, to seriously consider St.

Thomas. Become part of the success stories at STAC! You will be glad you did!

I encourage everyone to go to the St. Thomas College website [www.stac.edu](http://www.stac.edu) and see for yourself what I am talking about. STAC is a school that really cares and takes a serious interest in every single student, which is priceless!

If you are interested in the President's Council, please call Judy Perrin at 845-398-4045 or [jperrin@stac.edu](mailto:jperrin@stac.edu).

~Tom Collins,  
Director, Rockland County  
Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)



### Anthony DiPilla, Member and 2014 Spartan Award Honoree

STAC is an unbelievable College in so many ways. I am a huge fan of Dr. Margaret Fitzpatrick, President. Her unwavering leader-

ship, vision, dedication and devotion are extraordinary. I also have the highest regard for Kevin Duignan and his staff in Institutional Advancement – it is always a pleasure to work with them.

The faculty at St. Thomas are first rate, they challenge their students every day to live up to STAC's standards of excellence, integrity and ethics. As Dr. John Durney, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, states, "As faculty

members undertake scholarly inquiry, their teaching is strengthened, their disciplines informed and expanded. To remain intellectually stimulated and professionally motivated is at the core of academic life and what makes a learning community vibrant."

The President's Council has been a big part of my life – I love being involved. At every meeting I learn something new not only about the College but about life in general. At one of the meetings, STAC students spoke about their trip to Nicaragua where they stayed in a village and worked side by side with the villagers to help build homes and improve the water supply. The maturity, devotion and passion of these students inspired me

to always do a little bit better than the day before.

As owner of Quality Communications, which sells, services and installs business telephone systems and data connectivity hardware, I try to conduct my business with the values that STAC teaches its students – values of trust, integrity, giving back and responsibility. People do business with people they trust and like. Thank-you St. Thomas for everything I have learned from you.

~Anthony DiPilla,  
President, Quality Communications

## STAC's 60th Anniversary Raffle Winners!

In December 2012, Dr. Margaret Fitzpatrick chose the two winning raffle tickets that had been sold all year to celebrate STAC's 60th Anniversary. The excited Grand Prize winners were Bob and Theresa Bartha who won the one week Trip to Italy. "We had a truly amazing time and would like to extend a special thank-you to the the Coccia Foundation and St. Thomas Aquinas College who sponsored our trip," said the Bartha's.

Peggy Raso '82 was delighted to win the Second Prize of a 60th Anniversary College Ring custom made for STAC by Jostens. As Peggy said, "Because my children needed braces, the purchase of a college ring was out of the question, at the time of my graduation. Dreams do come true...a remembrance of my great years at last...thank you STAC!"

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the raffle and made it such a success.

All proceeds benefitted STAC's General Scholarship Fund, one of the most important sources of student assistance enabling students to fulfill their dreams of a college education.



Ponte Vecchio, Florence, Italy



St. Peter's Square, Rome, Italy

## HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT OUR STAC ALUMNI REWARDS CARD PROGRAM?

Experience true financial freedom while helping to support your alma mater with the *STAC Alumni Rewards Card*. Every time you swipe your card you'll earn bonus points redeemable for merchandise, travel, and more. In addition, your participation in the program helps fuel future *STAC Alumni Association* programs and events.

	<b>STAC Alumni Rewards Card</b>	<b>Two Options To Choose From</b>
	Apply today and start saving with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No Annual Fees</li> <li>● No Cash Advance Fee</li> <li>● ScoreCard Rewards Program</li> <li>● Exclusive Member-Only Discounts</li> </ul>	<b>Classic:</b> Limit: \$10,000 APR: 15.4%

So what are you waiting for? Join the non-profit movement today! For more information on this exclusive STAC Alumni Rewards Card, call us at 1-914-923-3608 or visit [www.AcademicFCU.org](http://www.AcademicFCU.org) today. It's time to be smart with your money. It's time to switch to **Academic Federal Credit Union**.



[www.AcademicFCU.org](http://www.AcademicFCU.org)



## 2013 HONORS CONVOCATION AND COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

St. Thomas Aquinas College celebrated the accomplishments of its students on two important occasions last spring.

On April 8th, the College was proud to induct more than 200 students into 11 different national honor societies and recognized over 150 students named to the Dean's List at the St. Thomas Aquinas College 2013 Honors Convocation. Mr. Keith T. Darcy, Executive Director of Ethics & Compliance Officers Association and Chairman, St. Thomas Aquinas College National Center of Ethics and Social Responsibility, delivered the Convocation Address and received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. The College also bestowed an Honorary Doctor of Pedagogy upon Dr. Elizabeth Anne Logan '64. Dr. Logan retired from her position as Superintendent of the Solanco School District, Pennsylvania in 2001. She remained involved in education as an educational consultant for Pennsylvania

Added Assessment Systems and Employee Assistance Programs until 2011.

On Friday, May 10th, more than 400 students graduated with degrees at levels from Associates to Post Masters Certificates at St. Thomas Aquinas College's 56th Commencement Exercises. More than 2,500 family and friends looked on as the graduates received their diplomas on the College's front lawn. Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., president of DePaul University, delivered the Commencement Address and received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree. The College also bestowed an Honorary Doctor of Commercial Science to Mr. Denis O'Leary, retired Air Force Major, retired Merrill Lynch Branch Manager, and a long-time Trustee of the College. Professor Emeritus status was conferred upon Dr. Joseph Coyne, Professor Emeritus of Psychology; Dr. Florette Koffler, Professor Emeritus of Romance Languages; Dr. Roger Levy,



2013 Commencement

Professor Emeritus of International Banking and Marketing; Professor Ronald Smith, Professor Emeritus of Accounting and Business Administration; and Dr. James Vendetti, Professor Emeritus of Communications.

## ARE YOU THAT SPECIAL ALUMNA OR THAT SPECIAL SPARTAN? IF YOU ARE, THEN SHOUT IT OUT – BY QUIETLY TALKING WITH US!

There is no better way to create your legacy and become a generous supporter of the College you love than to create a planned gift. No one is too old to start thinking about estate planning and planning for the future well-being of family and loved ones.

The best thing about a planned gift is that no money is required now. A planned gift could be as simple as a bequest in one's will, an IRA/Pension Plan distribution or a life insurance policy naming STAC as beneficiary – a particularly good choice for our younger alumni and friends when the premiums are low.

Please let us know if you have included STAC in your estate plans. By letting the College know now when you can make your important life decisions....



- You'll be sure that your gift will be used as you intend!
- You'll become a member of the Aquinas or Spartan Societies!
- You'll be creating a family legacy that will last forever!

If you would like to discuss remembering St. Thomas in your estate plans and

**Plan for the security of you  
and your family – It is  
never too late to start**

becoming a member of our community of planned giving donors and an important partner in preserving the future of our dynamic institution, please contact Judy Perrin, Director of Development at 845-398-4045/ [jperrin@stac.edu](mailto:jperrin@stac.edu) or Kevin Duignan, VP for Institutional Advancement at 845-398-4017/ [kduignan@stac.edu](mailto:kduignan@stac.edu).

# Alumni Calendar of Events

FALL 2013

## NOVEMBER

Wednesday, November 6

### Alumni Affairs & Career Services

#### Event - Welcome to the Real World

Alumni ready seniors for the "Real World"

McNelis Commons Private Dining Room

6 - 7:30 PM

FREE

## DECEMBER

Saturday, December 7

### Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting

Borelli Hall Conference Room

8AM - 10 AM

All visitors welcome

Sunday, December 8

### Alumni Association Sponsored Event

#### Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Radio

#### City Music Hall and/or Rockefeller

#### Center Ice Skating

8AM - 4 PM

\$10 per person for bus transportation

only

SOLD OUT

Saturday, December 14

### Alumni Association Sponsored Event

#### Semi-Annual Defensive Driving Course

MCPDR

8:30 AM - 4 PM

\$30 per person includes full breakfast

SOLD OUT

## JANUARY

Friday, January 24

### 17th Annual St. Thomas Aquinas

#### College Hall of Fame

The Rockleigh in Rockleigh, New Jersey

6 PM Cocktails, 7 PM Dinner

\$200 per person

## FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 1

### Winter Open House

1 PM

[www.stac.edu/events](http://www.stac.edu/events)

Thursday, February 13

### Educator's Reception

Alumni in Education mentor Education

Students

President's Private Home

4:30 - 6 PM

## MARCH

Sunday, March 23

### STAC Alumni at Pearl River Parade

To Celebrate the Feast of St. Patrick

Shop-rite Parking Lot

11 AM

## APRIL

Saturday, April 12, 2014

### Defensive Driving Course

STAC Campus

8 AM - 4 PM

Please contact us if you would like to take part in any of these events.

[Alumni@stac.edu](mailto:Alumni@stac.edu) or call 845-398-4284.

Can't make it? Support students so that

they can attend by making a donation to

the STAC Fund.

## ON THE COVER

STAC STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN HUDSON ESTUARY TRESS-FOR-TRIBS PROGRAM

STAC students enthusiastically participated in a tree plantings project in October with St. Thomas Professor, Dr. Rosko. The Ecology class planted 90 trees along the Sparkill creek that runs through the STAC Campus.

The project was led by Ms. Beth Roessler, Stream Buffer Coordinator, from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The trees varied from Red Maple to Flowering Dogwood to Sweet Gum.



## THE torch

THE MAGAZINE OF  
St. Thomas Aquinas College  
(845) 398-4020

Vol. 40, Fall 2013

Dr. Margaret M. Fitzpatrick, S.C.

*President*

Lanny Cohen

*Chairman, Board of Trustees*

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Joanne Favata

Linda LoRe

Judy Perrin

### Contributing Writers

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Dr. Michael Shaw

Some photos in this issue courtesy of:

Terry Lynch, Studio Eleven

Design - Universal Marketing, LLC

For a listing of all campus events  
visit our online calendar at  
[www.stac.edu](http://www.stac.edu)

# Your News

FALL 2013

## WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Below is an opportunity to share your news with us. Use the envelope in this edition of *The Torch* to mail this coupon back to us, or fax it to *The Torch* at (845) 359-8136. Need more space? Send us an email with your updates to [alumni@stac.edu](mailto:alumni@stac.edu). Photographs are welcome (jpeg format preferred).

What's new with you?

Moving    New Job/Promotion    Engagement/Marriage    Birth Announcement

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like us to contact you?

E-mail Address (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  Work Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Have an idea for *The Torch*? We'd like to hear your suggestions. Please call us at (845) 398-4284 or e-mail your ideas to [alumni@stac.edu](mailto:alumni@stac.edu)



Did you know that as a STAC alum, you could **save up to \$427.96 or more** on Liberty Mutual Auto Insurance?<sup>1</sup> You could save even more if you also insure your home with us. Plus, you'll receive quality coverage from a partner you can trust, with features and options that can include Accident Forgiveness<sup>2</sup>, New Car Replacement<sup>3</sup>, and Lifetime Repair Guarantee.<sup>4</sup>

**CONTACT  
ME TODAY  
TO START  
SAVING**

**Barry Dorfman**  
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This organization receives financial support for allowing Liberty Mutual to offer this auto and home insurance program.  
<sup>1</sup>Discounts are available where state laws and regulations allow, and may vary by state. Figure reflects average national savings for customers who switched to Liberty Mutual's group auto and home program. Based on data collected between 1/1/2012 and 6/30/2012. Individual premiums and savings will vary. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten; not all applicants may qualify. <sup>2</sup>For qualifying customers only. Subject to terms and conditions of Liberty Mutual's underwriting guidelines. Not available in CA and may vary by state. <sup>3</sup>Applies to a covered total loss. Your car must be less than one year old, have fewer than 15,000 miles and have had no previous owner. Does not apply to leased vehicles or motorcycles. Subject to applicable deductible. Not available in NC or WY. <sup>4</sup>Loss must be covered by your policy. Not available in AK. Coverage provided and underwritten by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and its affiliates, 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA. ©2013 Liberty Mutual Insurance



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# THE torch

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Friday, January 24, 2014**

**6 PM Cocktails 7 PM Dinner**

**The 17th Annual St. Thomas Aquinas College  
Hall of Fame & Reunions Dinner**

at

**The Rockleigh in Rockleigh, New Jersey**

## **Alumni Hall of Fame Honorees**

**Sr. Eileen Richard Leavy, OP '64**

**Christian Kopf '77**

**Janet Ubriaco Humiston '82**

**Jeanne Ubriaco Costello '82**

**Leonard Guddemi '84**

**James and Hayley Schneider '86**

**Blair DeWitt '93**

## **2014 Spartan Award Hall of Fame Honorees**

**Thomas Collins**

**Anthony DiPilla**