

# Parents' Association Newsletter

Thomas Aquinas College

## Saying Thanks for Your Tremendous Sacrifice

**By April and Michael Shonnard ('16)**

Dear Mom and Dad,

Back when we chose to attend Thomas Aquinas College, you not only encouraged us to seek a faithfully Catholic higher education, you also made a heroic decision that made this edu-

Dear Fellow Parents,

When I travel the country and talk about Thomas Aquinas College, many are surprised to learn that

*Robert Bagdasarian*



# A Commitment to Catholic Healthcare

**Richard W. Cross, Ph.D. ('75)**

*Psychologist*

Worcester, Massachusetts

**Douglas T. Gillis, D.P.M. ('75)**

*Podiatrist*

**Bernard T. Pegis, M.D. ('94)**

*Family Practitioner*  
Front Royal, Virginia

**Lawrence Cecchi, M.D. ('95)**

*Ophthalmologist*  
Syracuse, New York

**Major Paul W. White, M.D. ('95)**

*Program Director, Vascular Surgery  
Fellowship*  
Walter Reed National Military  
Medical Center  
United States Army  
Bethesda, Maryland

**Zygyntas Binkis, D.D.S. ('96)**

*Managing Doctor*  
Stone Creek Family Dental  
Cincinnati, Ohio

**Samuel K. Caughron, M.D. ('96)**

*President & Managing Partner*  
MAWD Pathology Group, PA  
Kansas City, Missouri

**Shannon Martin ('96)**

*Registered Nurse*  
John C. Lincoln Deer Valley  
Hospital  
Phoenix, Arizona

**Mary Jane Gingras ('97)**

*Dental Hygienist*  
Alexandria, Virginia

**Caroline Johnson, M.D. ('97)**

*Internist*  
Rural Physicians Group  
Phoenix, Arizona

**Neill Mollard, M.D. ('97)**

*Cardiovascular Anesthesiologist*  
Associated Anesthesiologists, P.C.  
Lincoln, Nebraska

**Beau R. Braden, D.O. ('00)**

*Managing Partner*  
Braden Clinic  
Ave Maria, Florida

**Michael Ferri, M.D. ('00)**

*Psychiatrist*  
Franklin, Tennessee

**Paul Pedry, CNA ('00)**

Poplar Living Center  
Casper, Wyoming

**Tamara Twaddle, R.N. ('00)**

*Registered Nurse*  
Fredericksburg, Virginia

**Brooke Collins, R.N. ('01)**

*Registered Nurse, Oncology/Medical  
Unit*  
Community Memorial Hospital  
Ventura, California

**Hemma Clark, R.N. ('02)**

*Registered Nurse*  
Via Christi Hospital  
Wichita, Kansas

**Camille M. Jansen ('02)**

*Anesthetist*  
Washington Hospital Center  
Falls Church, Virginia

**Adrienne Rivera, M.D. ('02)**

*Pathology Resident*  
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School  
Newark, New Jersey

**Katherine Vincent, R.N. ('02)**

*Registered Nurse*  
Inova Health System  
Boise, Idaho

**Katherine Branch, R.N. ('03)**

*Registered Nurse*  
Mercy General Hospital  
Sacramento, California

**Kenneth J. Lashutka, N.M.D. ('03)**

*Physician*  
Peregrine Natural Medicine  
Phoenix, Arizona

**Molly C. O'Brien, B.S.N. ('03)**

*Registered Nurse*  
Children's Hospital  
Denver, Colorado

**Teresa L. Gisla, R.N. ('04)**

*Registered Nurse*  
UCSD Medical Center  
San Diego, California

**John Almeida, D.O. ('05)**

*Resident Physician in Emergency*  
Ohio Valley Medical Center  
Wheeling, West Virginia

**Jaelyn Hagon, M.S.N. ('06)**

*Clinical Nurse Specialist*  
Santa Barbara, California

**Karolyn Hershberger, R.N. ('06)**

*Registered Nurse*  
Mercy Hospital Systems  
Spring led, Missouri

**Johanna Rudolph, Ph.D. ('06)**

*Research Scientist*  
University of Texas at Dallas  
Dallas, Texas

**1LT David Gisla ('07)**

*Registered Nurse*  
U.S. Army Nurse Corps  
Mannheim Area, Germany

**Christina J. Holcomb, B.S.N. ('07)**

*Training Specialist*  
WellPoint, Inc.  
Denver, Colorado

**Laura Laubacher, R.N. ('07)**

*Registered Nurse*  
Arlington, Virginia

**Katherine Marshalian, R.N. ('07)**

*Registered Nurse*  
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center  
Los Angeles, California

**Thomas Du y, D.D.S. ('08)**

*Dentist*  
Dr. Steven Bowers, Bowers Dental  
Group  
Kirkland, Washington

**Elizabeth Oven ('08), D.O.**

*Physician*  
Northwest Physician Associates  
Meadville, Pennsylvania

**Nathan Reyes ('08)**

*Dialysis Technician*  
Satellite Health Care  
Santa Rosa, California



## An Interview with Cara Buskmiller ('11)

**F**rom a young age, Cara Buskmiller ('11) knew that she wanted to become a doctor. So when it came time to apply to college, she thought about attending a large university with a strong premed program “that would make it very easy to slide right into medical school.” Upon consideration, however, she decided to attend Thomas Aquinas College in order to receive a truly liberal education. Yet she still kept her dream of becoming a physician, and she spent her summers taking prerequisite classes



**By Valerie and Kevin White, M.D.**

**W**hen our oldest son, Khyber, first enrolled as a stu