

**BEYOND CAREER
TO CALLING**

**A LILLY ENDOWMENT
PROJECT.**

Volume 1, Issue 1
September 30, 2005

WELCOME FROM THE FORMER DIRECTOR

Welcome to the first edition of the *Beyond Career to Calling* newsletter!

A few years ago the Lilly Endowment became concerned about what it perceived to be a diminished interest among young people in pursuing church ministries. As a consequence, the Endowment invited colleges and universities around the country to conceive of programs to stimulate the theological exploration of the idea of vocation.

St Thomas was one of a handful of Catholic institutions to receive a very generous grant from the Endowment. Over the past three years, this grant has enabled us to support a wide variety of programs that encourage students to consider what God might be calling them to do. These programs have focused on three general areas: vocation to priestly ministry, to religious life and lay ministry in the Church, and to faith-filled professional life.

Most of the colleges and universities that received funding from Lilly established special offices to manage their projects. St Thomas took an entirely different path. We pursued a de-centralized plan

that, to date, has resulted in nearly 50 different programs managed by dozens of our faculty and staff colleagues. These programs have developed new courses, provided scholarships, organized conferences, brought speakers to campus and provoked faculty, staff and students to think about vocation in new ways.

We are proud of the work that so many caring and dedicated people have done, some of which is profiled in this newsletter. However, we are also aware that it is sometimes difficult to see the forest for the trees. Our purpose in presenting this newsletter to the University community is twofold. First, we want to call attention to the wonderful work being done with the support of the Lilly grant. And second, we want to help members of the St Thomas community see more clearly how this work fits together as part of the general project we call *Beyond Career to Calling*.

It has been my privilege to act as coordinator for this project since it began operation and to provide support

for a group of wonderful and inspiring people who do the real work. My thanks to each and every one of you. Beginning this summer I will be succeeded as coordinator by Dr Mary Reichardt, who will bring fresh energy and creativity to the project. I wish her every success and I commend to you the whole ensemble of programs that is *Beyond Career to Calling*.



Inside this issue:

Welcome	1
Beyond Career to Calling	2
New Project Director	2
BCC continued	3
Ireland Fund Grants	3
Themes of C2C	4
Example Ireland programs	4

Special points of interest:

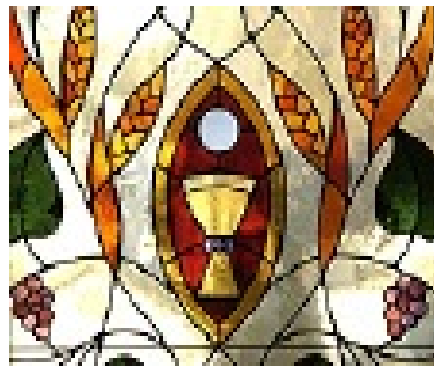
- Ireland Fund for New Initiatives application information provided in side.
- New Director named for Beyond Career to Calling
- Checkout our website at www.stthomas.edu/lillygrant/

WHAT IS BEYOND CAREER TO CALLING?

Three years ago, The University of St. Thomas was given a tremendous opportunity to participate in the initiative *Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation* funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc. The program named *Beyond Career to Calling* here at St. Thomas is part of a nation-wide effort to stimulate a theological exploration of the idea of vocation on college campuses.

St. Thomas is facing this reality head-on. The opportunity to work with the Lilly Endowment has helped by supporting the leadership and mission of St. Thomas in our work with students and the institution.

The original proposal submitted to Lilly states, “This new initiative is timely for the University of St. Thomas, which has, in recent years, dedicated significant thought, energy, and resources to developing programs ad-



ressing all three matters of vocation identified by the Lilly Endowment: (1) assisting students in understanding their future work in light of their faith and in terms of vocation; (2) identifying talented young people and providing them with opportunities to explore ministry as their life’s work; and (3) enhancing the university’s capacity to draw a new generation of leaders for church and mission.”

The source of the funds, Lilly Endowment, Inc is an Indianapolis-based endowment created as a private philanthropic foundation in 1937 by three members of the Lilly family through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company.

NEW DIRECTOR NAMED



Dr. Mary Reichardt takes over this year as coordinator of *Beyond Career to Calling*, a position first held by Dr. Robert Kennedy.

As stated previously, *Beyond Career to Calling* supports faculty and staff projects that help students discern a vocation to the religious life; that consider vocation in a larger sense in which all the major choices students make about their lives can be seen in terms of a call; and that focus on the vocation of St. Thomas itself as a Catholic university. Besides overseeing these university-wide efforts, Reichardt specifically directs two such projects: the Aquinas Fellowships, which awards fellowships to undergraduates, and the Ireland Fund

for New Initiatives, which funds faculty and staff proposals.

Reichardt sees this position as a natural evolution in her interests and skills. “I’ve always had a strong sense of ‘calling’ versus ‘career’ in my life,” she states. “A tail-end baby boomer who grew up in the otherwise unsettling times of the late 1960s and ’70s, I’m nevertheless grateful to have absorbed the prevailing attitude of the period—that our life’s work shouldn’t be directed toward mere material goals but be an end to which we can devote our-

“that our life’s work shouldn’t be directed toward mere material goals but be an end to which we can devote ourselves with passion and integrity, making use of God-given talents and inclinations. - Mary Reichardt

selves with passion and integrity, making use of God-given talents and inclinations. *Beyond Career to Calling* is meant to encourage all of us in the St. Thomas community—students, faculty, staff—to make life choices wisely and reflectively.”

Reichardt received a master’s degree in linguistics from the University of Illinois-Champaign and a doctorate in literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has taught at St. Thomas since 1988. A specialist in Catholic literature, she is the author of seven scholarly books including *Catholic Women Writers* (2001), *Exploring Catholic Literature* (2003), and the two-volume *Encyclopedia of Catholic Literature* (2004). She is currently co-authoring an anthology of early Catholic writing.

BEYOND CAREER TO CALLING...

These gifts remain the financial foundation for the endowment. However, the endowment is a separate entity from the pharmaceutical company with its own distinct board of directors. The three founders, J.K. Lilly Sr. and sons J.K. Jr. and Eli created the endowment to support the causes of religion, education and community development. The Endowment affords special emphasis to projects that benefit young people and promote leadership education and financial self-sufficiency in the non-profit, charitable sector.

St. Thomas was granted two million dollars to help initiate the theological exploration of vocation on campus. Lilly has given to 87 other Universities

for similar programs throughout the country over the last five years totaling more than \$178 million in grants.

The intention of Lilly and Beyond Career to Calling (B2C) is to renew “emphasis on the complex wholeness of the human person made in the image and likeness of God.” B2C, has and will continue, work to “firmly engender that perspective in our students, faculty, and administration through courses, internships, conferences, cross-faculty programs, publications, and intellectual as well as social events.”

The program here at St. Thomas is unique to the other 87 similar programs through out the country. The original

proposal states, “The bold uniqueness and strength of our approach; a decentralized university wide framework guarantees depth and breadth, both of which are critical to effecting real reform at the university.”

Because of the decentralized approach we are able to spread ownership throughout the university. Also, it allows for a greater impact in all areas of the university and not just those areas that might have a strong or more natural connection to a centralized office.

We are very excited about B2C and the lasting impact on our student and the University as a whole.

IRELAND FUND FOR NEW INITIATIVES GRANTS AVAILABLE

As part of *Beyond Career to Calling* the Ireland Fund for New Initiatives is an opportunity for faculty and staff to receive grants for start-up programs that directly impact our students or University. The Ireland Fund shares the same objective of the overall program of encouraging students to explore personal vocations to ministry and religious life, to prompt them to think of their education and career plans in terms of vocation, and to promote our University identity. The Ireland Fund shares the same three themes that must be addressed by any proposal. (the three themes are fully listed on the back of the newsletter).

Ireland Fund Criteria

The Ireland Fund Review Committee will consider the following criteria in determining which proposals ought to be funded and at what level. Awards are normally made in the \$3,000-5,000 range, although the committee may

consider larger awards in exceptional circumstances.

1. The proposal should include a faith based consideration of vocation as a natural element of its active ties

“The Ireland Fund for New Initiatives is a great way to fund new programs that were not part of the original proposal to Lilly Endowment, Inc. I think some of the best work of the whole project happens because of the opportunity these grants present for faculty and staff to directly impact students.” - Brian Green

2. The proposal should not duplicate what is already being done.

3. The proposal should be reasonable, i.e., the committee should have reason to believe that the planned activities can be executed at this time with the

resources that will be available.

4. The proposal should explicitly address itself to one of the three themes of *Beyond Career to Calling*.

-the vocation to priesthood or religious life.

-the vocation to faithful lay activity in the world.

-the vocation of the University as a Catholic institution.

5. The proposal should have a significant effect on the experience of students, especially undergraduates, and not be primarily oriented to faculty development unless an obvious benefit to students will result.

6. Preference may be given to proposals that affect a larger group of people and that provide a greater impact for the money invested.

7. Preference may be given to proposals for which other sorts of support (e.g., RAG, departmental travel funds) are not available.

8. Preference may be given to new ini-

University of St. Thomas
2115 Summit Ave.
Mail # 55-S
St. Paul, MN 55105

Phone: 651-962-5864
Fax: 651-962-5710
Email: bmgreen@stthomas.edu

Thank you for reading our Newsletter. If you would like to suggest a story that is part of Beyond Career to Calling please e-mail Brian Green at bmgreen@stthomas.edu.

We're on the Web: Visit
[www.stthomas.edu/
lillygrant/](http://www.stthomas.edu/lillygrant/)

Major Themes of Beyond Career to Calling

The **first theme** concerns priesthood and religious life. Projects focused on this theme will encourage students to consider these possibilities and to discern whether they might be called to the priesthood or religious life.

The **second theme** concerns vocation in a larger sense, in which all of the major choices students are making about their lives—career, marriage, public service, etc—can be seen in terms of response to a call. Projects focused on this theme may take a wide variety of forms but their purpose must be to help students think about their lives as integrated wholes, not loosely related parts. The program is particularly interested in proposals that will integrate faith with career preparation and move students to think of their careers as callings.

The **third theme** concerns reflection among the faculty and staff on the vocation of the University itself. What is our *institutional* vocation and how do we live it out in a coherent way? Projects focused on this theme could stimulate thinking among faculty and staff about the nature of a Catholic university or about how St. Thomas could be more coherent and unified by its Catholic mission. A project could focus on a single department or engage departments across disciplines.

CONT...CRITERIA AND EXAMPLE PROGRAMS: PROPOSALS ARE DUE OCT. 14

tiatives rather than requests for extended supplemental funding for programs already in operations, including programs previously funded by *Beyond Career to Calling*.

Examples of Successful Programs

The following programs are brief examples of successful ideas that have happened in the past. These may help spark some ideas of programs that could be created in your area.

I. Life Values in Medicine

A program directed by a Chemistry professor and aimed at students preparing for professional careers in health care. Its aim was to acquaint them more closely with the challenges of these fields, to encourage them to think of their work as a vocation, and to help them prepare for life issues they will face. Specifically, the project carried out four activities 1) a retreat on life issues; 2) a banquet of appreciation and

recognition; 3) development of a library on life issues; 4) developing a natural family planning course offering.

II. Theology Bridge Courses

The proposal by the department of Theology developed a number of interdisciplinary "bridges courses" to be team taught and focused on theology and other academic majors (such as Biology and the Christian Faith, Literature and Christian Theology, Theology and Politics, etc.). Each course is designed to allow students to understand how their particular academic major relates to a and can be integrated with the Christian faith.

III. Faculty Discussions: Great Books and the Vocation of Faculty Members

Directed by a faculty member in Theology, this set of on-going conversations focuses on a literary text and is now in its third year. Faculty from around the university participate in small, informal weekly group study of and reflection

on works such as Dante's *Divine Comedy*, Flannery O'Connor's *Collected Letters*, and Plato's *Republic*, discovering purpose and renewal in their sense of an academic calling.

IV. John Paul II and the Vocation of the Professional Women

The symposium directed by professors from the Philosophy and Theology departments focused on contributing to the Catholic understanding of the vocation of women and the critical role they play in the recovery of our culture. It was grounded in the writings of John Paul II. Twenty participants from across the university—faculty and staff—took part in the week long symposium that produced a collective work based on readings and reflections from the event.

Proposal for the Ireland Fund are due October 14th. Please visit our website for application information or call directly.