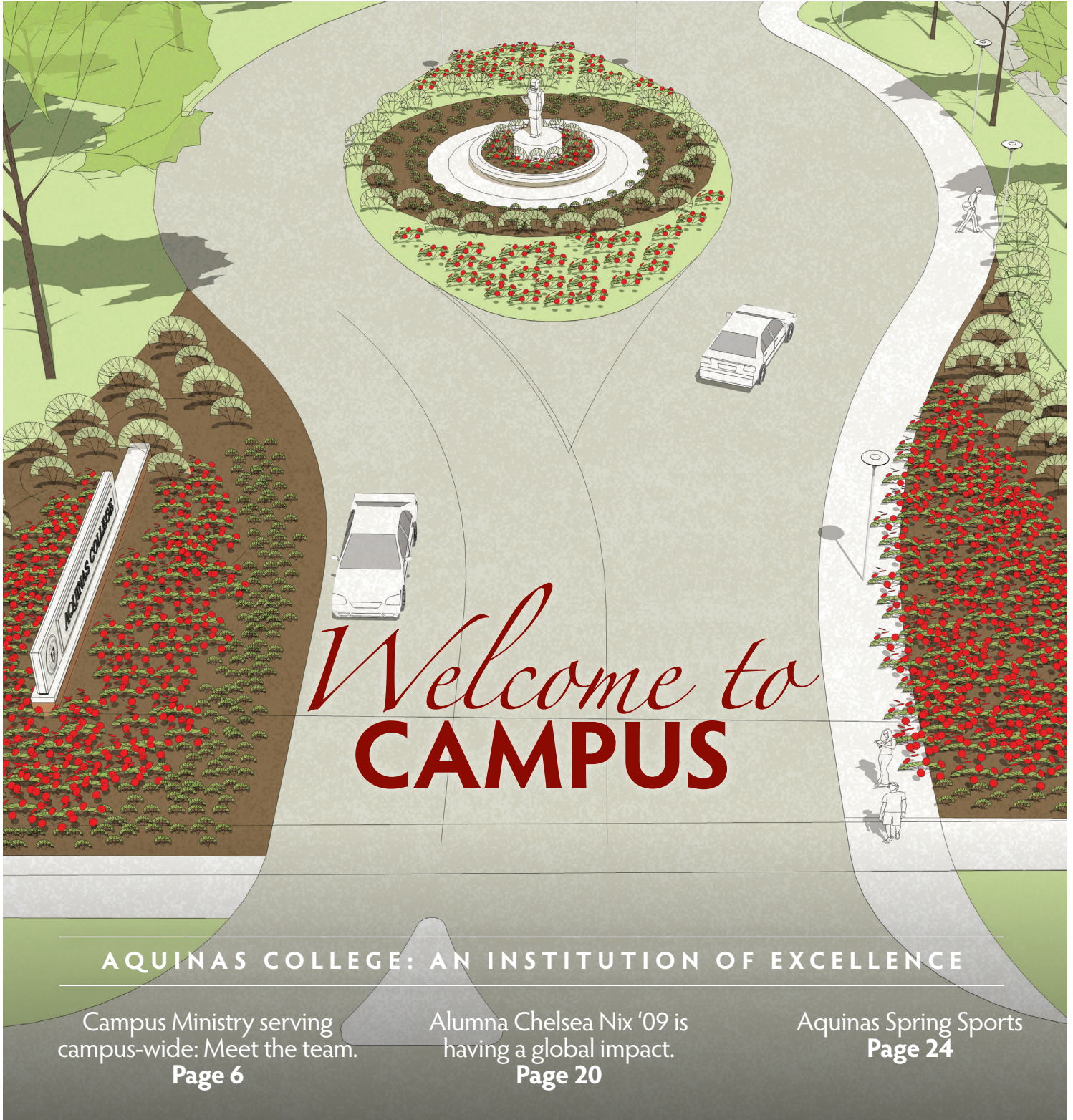


AQUINAS

SUMMER 2014

THE MAGAZINE OF AQUINAS COLLEGE



Welcome to
CAMPUS

AQUINAS COLLEGE: AN INSTITUTION OF EXCELLENCE

Campus Ministry serving
campus-wide: Meet the team.
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Alumna Chelsea Nix '09 is
having a global impact.
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On the Cover

Architect rendering of the Fulton Street entrance. Center statue is of St. Thomas Aquinas.

MISSION STATEMENT

Aquinas College, an inclusive educational community rooted in the Catholic and Dominican traditions, provides a liberal arts education with a global perspective, emphasizes career preparation focused on leadership and service to others, and fosters a commitment to lifelong learning dedicated to the pursuit of truth and the common good.



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Alumna Chelsea Nix '09 is having a global impact

Chelsea Nix '09

Features

When selecting a college, I lingered; I did not know exactly what I wanted for my future. As many often say, I felt that Aquinas College chose me. It was an excellent beginning for my new life, post high school. I studied, learned, played, met new people, and tried to take advantage of every presentation, club, or activity I could possibly fit into my day.

Four short years later, I graduated with a Liberal Arts degree. I majored in communication with minors in studio art and German. However, when I look back on Aquinas, I don't talk or think about that diploma I received that represents those four years. I feel I received an education in the values of Aquinas College. It was there that I explored and questioned important areas of life, such as: prayer, study, service, and community. Aquinas gave me the space I needed to creatively pursue and discover my passion.

My sophomore year, Aquinas offered a Haitian studies class that followed with a service trip. There I discovered curiosity, fascination, excitement and the desire to visit developing countries and learn more about photography. My routine became: work hard, save and then take flight. I was addicted to learning about new cultures, experiencing a new way of life, and determining what my role in this world would be. I wanted to "help" by immersing myself into different situations while searching for my place—a place where my skin and soul were at

peace. I believed this is how I would find my mission in life.

In 2011, two Aquinas friends and I traveled to Calcutta, India to volunteer with the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic religious congregation started by Mother Teresa. We were researching different ways we could "help." On our journey, life had some other plans for us. Soon after our travels began I met my now husband, Mariano Cortez, and my girlfriend was reunited with her family in Vietnam. After this excursion, life started to happen, and happen fast. My husband and I dated internationally for two years and began travelling together.

In 2011, the idea of SIM-PLE was born after meeting a volunteer named Gusman in Krishnanagar, India. Gusman lives a life of simplicity and devotes himself daily to the needs of others; running an orphanage of 260 girls. The daily work of Gusman, and the simplicity in which he lives, prevents him from having the necessary resources needed to promote his work with the orphanage. After this experience, we realized how many people are globally making a difference, yet struggling to do so. Their devotion and passion, dedication without excuses, and the simple way of life, inspired us to promote their jobs and to be part of their projects. Thus, SIM-PLE was born.

Currently, we are promoting projects in Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and India. We concluded our first fundraiser, "A SIM-PLE March," and were able to help two communities in Latin America. I feel blessed that my passion has evolved into my life's work. I have Aquinas College to thank for encouraging my values, and for choosing me. ■