

Robert D. Murray, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Professor of English
St. Thomas Aquinas College

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Administrative Experience

St. Thomas Aquinas College

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, 2015-present

Roles and responsibilities

- Advise the President on all academic matters and strategic planning.
- Promote and support the College Mission through curriculum, hiring, and policy.
- Oversee and manage the budget for the Office of the Provost.
- Liaison to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees.
- Member of the President's Cabinet.
- Provide leadership for 3 Deans, 4 Assistant Deans, 8 Direct Reports, 55 full-time faculty, and more than 100 part-time faculty.
- Recruit and support talented faculty for new and existing academic programs.
- Work with Faculty Senate to review and improve curriculum and clarify and adapt policies.
- Work with Dean of Support and Strategic Planning to improve retention and graduation rates.
- Create articulation agreements with two-year colleges to increase transfer rate, and with four-year colleges to increase graduate school opportunities.

Accomplishments

New academic programs

- B.S. in Exercise Science
- B.S. in Hospitality Management
- Masters of Public Administration in Criminal Justice Administration

- Masters of Science in Teaching in Art Education with Special Education concentration
- General Education Program
- Planned articulation agreements with St. John's University, New York University, SUNY Rockland, and LeMoyne College.

Technology and Innovation

- Created X-Lab, a multi-disciplinary Project-Based Learning course.
- Oversaw creation of the College Innovation Center and Think Tank Lounge.
- Created position of Campus Innovation Officer.
- Collaborated with VP of Administration and IT Office to plan renovations for Academic Technology Corridor, including updated Broadcast Studio and new Media Lab for Radio Production, Graphic Design, Creative Media, and Marketing programming.

Assessment and Middle States Reaccreditation

- Assessment Liaison Officer to Middle States Commission on Higher Education.
- Led the College to successful reaccreditation in March 2017.
- Chaired College's steering committee for Middle States reaccreditation and wrote Self-Study Design and Self-Study Report.
- Created new Academic Assessment structure for the College.
- Work with Deans to manage the academic assessment plan and produce assessment reports.
- Peer Evaluator for Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Other accreditations overseen

- NCATE/CAEP/AAQEP
- IACBE
- ABET (in progress)

Hired new faculty and staff

- Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences
- Two Assistant Deans of the School of Arts and Sciences
- Registrar
- Associate Registrar
- Director of the Library
- Systems and Technical Librarian
- Reference Librarian
- Faculty in Biology, Chemistry, Exercise Science, Hospitality Management, Criminal Justice, Special Education, and Mathematics.

Other

- Reorganized administrative structure Office of Academic Services and Retention; created position of full-time Student Accessibility Coordinator.
- Created Earth Day Festival with Lamont Doherty/Columbia University.
- Coordinated with Lamont Doherty/Columbia University on NSF grant.
- Speaker at Open Houses and Accepted Students Day
- Member of LHVCCC Provost Group

Administrative Direct Reports

Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences
Dean of the School of Business
Dean of the School of Education
Dean of Academic Support, Retention, and Strategic Planning
Registrar
Director of Institutional Research
Director of the Loughheed Library
Director of the Honors Program
Director of the Pathways Program

**St. Thomas Aquinas College
Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, 2012-2015**

Responsibilities

- Advise the Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs on curricular and faculty matters.
- Advise the President and Provost about the College's Strategic Plan.
- Provide leadership for more than 100 full- and part-time faculty in 22 disciplines of the School of Arts and Sciences.
- Create and administer Arts and Sciences budget.
- Work with Dean of Institutional Assessment to coordinate all assessment activities within the School, including Middle States and NCATE/CAEP.
- Work with the Vice President of Enrollment Management and Arts and Sciences faculty to create and implement new enrollment and recruitment strategies.
- Observe and evaluate the performance of all full-time faculty in SAS.
- Recruit, hire, and mentor new faculty.
- Create annual course schedules for all courses in the School of Arts and Sciences.
- Direct curricular program review and initiate new course and program development.
- Write annual School of Arts and Sciences Assessment Report.
- Respond to a range of faculty personnel issues.
- Respond to a range of student academic issues.
- Chair regular meetings of the School of Arts and Sciences faculty.
- Work with Provost to create strategic alliances with other institutions.

Administrative Direct Reports

Assistant Dean of Curriculum
Assistant Dean of Administration
Director of the Azarian-McCullough Art Gallery
Director of the Freshman Writing Program
Director of the Art Therapy Program

Accomplishments

- Founding Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, created positions/wrote job descriptions for Assistant Dean of Curriculum and Assistant Dean of Administration.
- Wrote Mission Statement for School of Arts and Sciences.
- Created new policies for curriculum oversight and a new plan for school structure.
- Created articulation agreements with Pace University's MPA program, St. John's University's MPH program, and Iona's MA English program.
- Drafted transfer agreements with Rockland Community College in Criminal Justice and Graphic Design.
- Worked with Art and Design faculty to create comprehensive new program in Visual Communications.
- Member of the Middle States Periodic Review Task Force, responsible for the response to academic recommendations.
- Member of the West Point Coordinator Search Committee.
- Worked with Science faculty to create a B.S. in Biochemistry.
- Worked with English faculty to create a B.A. in Creative Writing.
- Co-wrote (with President and Provost) the College's "2020: Vision of Our Future" report; planned associated Vision 2020 activities.
- Within last two years, hired new Assistant Professors in Chemistry, Criminal Justice, English, Mathematics, and Psychology.

St. Thomas Aquinas College Chairperson, Humanities Division, 2007-2012

- Wrote Annual Division Assessment Reports.
- Created Strategic Plan to improve the recruitment for and positioning of the Spanish and Religious Studies/Philosophy majors to increase enrollment.
- Worked with faculty to develop new minors and concentrations in Christian Traditions, Ethics, Philosophy/Pre-law, Social Media, and Social Justice.
- Wrote the NCATE-ACTFL reports for the Spanish-Secondary Education Major; assisted production of the NCATE-NCTE English-Secondary Education reports.
- Created a five-year set of strategic goals for the Division.
- Successfully resolved a number of difficult and contentious personnel issues.
- Secured funding for 15 new iMacs in the Digital Imaging Lab.

- Successfully appealed to the President to reinstate a search for a faculty member in Graphic Design; chaired search and hired two Assistant Professors of Graphic Design.
- Chaired search and hired an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies.
- Chaired search and hired an Assistant Professor of English.
- Coordinated a revision of the Humanities Division website.
- Wrote policies on new course development protocols and laptop use on the classroom.
- Developed interdisciplinary Business/Communication Arts Course with Provost and Chair of the Business Division (taught in London).
- Worked with faculty and admissions staff to create strategic plan to increase freshman enrollment in the Graphic Design major.
- Planned Annual Canned Food Drive and Sculpture Presentation for Rockland People to People.

St. Thomas Aquinas College
Assistant Chairperson of Humanities, 2000-2007

Responsibilities

- Assist and advise the Chair in scheduling courses in the Division.
- Hire and evaluate part-time faculty in Art, Communication Arts, English, Modern Languages, Music, Religious Studies, and Philosophy.
- Advise the Chair on curricular issues and personnel matters.
- Staff open houses and other recruitment activities for Admissions Office.
- Coordinate faculty advising.
- Write various enrollment, assessment, and curriculum reports, as assigned
- Respond to student issues.
- Assist and advise the Chair in developing assessment strategies for College-wide Program Review.

St. Thomas Aquinas College
Director of the Writing Program, 1999-2007

Responsibilities

- Write curriculum for nine writing courses.
- Schedule all English and Writing Program courses.
- Hire and evaluate adjunct writing faculty.
- Assist in the training of writing tutors in the Academic Skills Center.
- Respond to student appeals, faculty concerns, etc.
- Coordinate with writing mentors in the Pathways Program.

Committee Work (as faculty member)

Faculty Searches

English, 2008-2009; 2011-2012 (Chair)
Graphic Design, 2008-2009; 2010-2011 (Chair)
Religious Studies, 2007-2008 (Chair)
Aquinas Scholar, 2006-2007
Communication Arts/English, 2006-2007 (Chair)
Art, 2005-2006 (Chair)
Writing, 2005-2006 (Chair)
Journalism/Composition/Public Relations, 2001
English/First-Year Composition, 2001-2003 (Chair)

Other Search Committees:

Director of the Loughheed Library, 2011
Emerging Technologies Librarian, 2011
Assistant Director of Academic Services/HEOP, 2003
Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, 2002-2003
Director of the STAC Exchange, 1998

Standing Committees

Curriculum Committee, 2005-present
College Planning Board, 2005-present
Board of Trustees, Faculty Observer 2007-2012
Faculty Advisory Committee, 2002-2007 (Chair 2003-2005; 2006-2007)
Faculty Evaluation Committee (Chair), 2001-2003

Ad hoc Committees

Dean's Council, 2012-present
Middle States Self-Study Task Force, 2014-
Middle States Periodic Review Task Force, 2011-2013
Institutional Assessment Committee, 2006-present
First-Year Seminar Committee (Chair), 2006-2008
General Education Assessment Committee, 2006-2007
Middle States Steering Committee, 2004-2006
Middle States General Education (Standard 12) Subcommittee, Chair, 2004-2006
Program Review Committee, 2003-2006
Institutional Effectiveness Committee, 2003-2004
Faculty Manual Revision Committee, 2003-2006
Teagle Grant Committee for Enrollment Management, 2002-2004
NCATE review coordinator for English Program, 2001-2002
Student Affairs Committee, 2001-2002
Fiftieth Anniversary Faculty Colloquia Subcommittee, (Chair), 2001
Curriculum Committee, *ex officio*, 1998-2001

General Education/Core Curriculum Committee (Chair), 1998-2001

Other College Activities

Coordinator, Canned Food Drive and Sculpture Contest, 2009-2010
Faculty Advisor, Sigma Tau Delta, English Honors Society, 2003-2010
Ford Foundation Grant Proposal, "Seminars in Pluralism and Diversity," 2005
Faculty Research Retreat, "Hegel and American Realism," 2005
Participant, Teleconference, National Resource Center for the First Year Experience and Students in Transition, "Shaping the Future, Aspiration, Assessment, Action," 2004
Member, Rhodes Panel on Church-Relatedness, Fall 2000
Winner, Rhodes Essay Contest: "Religious Mandates, *Ex Corde*, and the Liberal Arts," 2000
Assisted Teacher Education Division in planning Master of Science in Teaching
Faculty Member, Summer Orientation, HEOP, Summer 2000 and 2003
Advisor for Aquinas Success Program, 1999-2007

Previous Employment

Virginia Military Institute

Committee Work

Committee on Co-education, Chair, Sub-Committee on Athletic Recruitment and Admissions, 1996-1997
Faculty Development Committee, 1995-1996
Composition Program Reform Committee, 1995-1997
Curriculum Review Committee, 1995-1997
Summer Reading Committee, Chair, 1995-1997
Co-director of the English Society, 1996-1997
Honors Committee, 1996-1997
Faculty Advisor, Fly Fishing Club, 1996-1997

Rutgers University

Campus Director of the Writing Program, Livingston College; University Coordinator, Expository Writing 102, 1994-1995

Trained and reviewed the performance of teaching graduate students; wrote curriculum for University's first-year research courses; directed all writing program activities at the Livingston College campus.

Assistant Director of the Writing Program; Director of the Writing Center, 1992-1994

Trained and reviewed the performance of 80 writing tutors who worked with nearly 6000 students every semester; maintained schedules and budget.

AT&T Bell Laboratories

Director of Writing Lab and In-house Writing Consultant for Engineers, 1986-1990

Publications

“Race, Contact Zones, and Student ‘Reconstitution,’” in *Professing in the Contact Zone: Pedagogy and Practice*, edited by Janice Wolff, NCTE Press, 2002.

“Power, Conflict, and Contact: Reconstructing Authority in the Classroom,” in *Race, Rhetoric, and the Writing Classroom*, edited by Keith Gilyard, in the series *CrossCurrents: New Perspectives in Rhetoric and Composition*, edited by Charles I. Schuster, Heinemann-Boynton/Cook, 1999.

“Contact and Power: Transcending Racialized Authority in the Classroom,” on ERIC database, 1998.

“Race and Realism in Afro-American Fiction,” in *Proceedings of the 1997 National Association of African American Studies Conference*.

“Assuming (and Unassuming) Authority in the Classroom,” *Breaking Barriers: Literature and Emerging Issues: Proceedings of the 1997 International Conference*.

Conference Presentations

“Education and Responsibility for the World Within Diverse Disciplines,” Panel Chair, 13th Annual Colloquium of Dominican Colleges and Universities, June 2014, Molloy College, NY.

“Interdisciplinary Approaches to American Regionalism,” Panel Chair, American Literature Association National Conference, May 2013, Boston, MA.

“Nature, Food, and the Essay in Jim Harrison,” Panel Sponsored by the Jim Harrison Society, American Literature Association National Conference, May 2013, Boston, MA.

“Time, Memory, and Region in American Literature,” Panel Chair, American Literature Association National Conference, May 2011, Boston, MA

“Heidegger, Harrison, Rilke: Form and Being in Jim Harrison’s Poetry,” Jim Harrison Society Panel, at the American Literature Association National Conference, May 2009, Boston, MA

“Landscape and Form in Willa Cather and Jim Harrison,” Jim Harrison Society Panel, at the American Literature Association National Conference, May 2007, Boston, MA.

“Concealment and Anti-Epiphanly in American Realism and Naturalism,” American Literature and Religion Society Panel, at the American Literature Association National Conference, May 2005, Boston, MA.

“Social Class, Labor, and Nineteenth-Century American Literature,” Panel Chair, at the Central New York Conference on Language and Literature, October 2001, Cortland, NY.

“Race and Realism in Afro-American Antebellum Literature,” at the Central New York Conference on Language and Literature, October 2000, Cortland, NY.

“Point of Power in the *Historia* of a Successful Basic Writing Program,” Chair, Conference on College Composition and Communication, April 1998, Chicago. (Selected; could not attend.)

“‘A Comfortable Thing’: Nationalism, Pluralism, and Class in *The Silent Partner*.” Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, April 1998, Baltimore, MD. (Accepted; could not attend.)

“Assuming (and Unassuming) Authority in the Classroom,” Breaking Barriers: Literature and Emerging Issues International Conference, October 1997, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD.

“Language as Power in Rebecca Harding Davis,” College English Association, April 1997, Baltimore, MD.

“Resistance and Realism in *Clotel*,” National Association of African American Studies Conference, February 1997, Houston, TX.

“The Man with the House on His Head: Jean Toomer's Grotesque,” College English Association, April 1996, New Orleans, LA.

“Contact and Power: Transcending Authority in the Classroom,” Conference on College Composition and Communication, March 1996, Milwaukee, WI.

“‘The Truth that History Has Let Slip’: The Two Histories of *The House of the Seven Gables*,” Annual Conference of the American Cultural Association of the South, October 1995, Richmond, VA.

“Modes of White Resistance in the Composition Classroom,” Temple University Conference on Discourse Analysis, April 1995, Philadelphia, PA.

“‘Neutral Territories’ and Racialized Spaces in Hawthorne,” Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, April 1995, Boston, MA.

“Tutoring and the Student Authority Model: A Re-evaluation,” New England Writing Center Association Conference, March 1995, Nashua, NH.

“Empirical Research on ESL Writing: Focus on Student Characteristic and Attitudes,” Panel Chair, Conference on College Composition and Communication, March 1995, Washington, D.C.

“Revisiting Minimalist Tutoring: Collaborative Methods and the Student Authority Model,” National Writing Center Conference, April 1994, New Orleans, LA.

“Integrating Students into Academic Discourse through Research” (with Jennifer Shaddock), April 1993, Association of Collegiate Writing and Learning Centers of New Jersey.

“Writing a College Essay,” Princeton University Freshman Seminar Lecture Series, Princeton University, April 1990.

Professional Workshops

Roundtable Discussion Leader, “Nurturing Junior Faculty.” Workshop for Department and Division Chairs: Creative Leadership with Limited Resources, Council of Independent Colleges, Cambridge, MA, May 2009.

Workshop for Department and Division Chairs: Marketing Your Department, Council of Independent Colleges, Albany, May 2008.

Workshop for Department and Division Chairs: Essential Tools for Leading the Academic Department, Council of Independent Colleges, Philadelphia, May 2007.

Workshop for Department and Division Chairs: Effective Strategies for Leading the Academic Department, Council of Independent Colleges, Boston, May 2006.

“Transformation of the College Library,” Regional Workshop, Council of Independent Colleges, Pittsburgh, PA, May 2004.

Workshop on Assessment Using the New Middle States Model, Middle States Commission on Higher Education, Philadelphia, PA, December 2003.

“Assessing General Education: A Practical Approach”; “Improving Learning in the Undergraduate Course: Assessing Critical Thinking”; “Integrating and Assessing General Education in the Classroom” at *Assessment: A Shared Commitment*, American Association for Higher Education National Conference, Boston, June 2002.

“Bridging College and High School Writing: A Discussion about Expectations,” Connecting Students with Literacy Across the Curriculum, St. Thomas Aquinas College, June 2001.

“Teaching the Conflicts: Race and Huckleberry Finn,” Workshop for Writing and Thinking, Bard College, April 1998.

“Practicing the Arts of the Contact Zone,” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Washington, DC, March 1995.

“New Directions in Writing Center Research: Creating Agendas for Action,” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Nashville, TN, March 1994.

Teaching Experience

St. Thomas Aquinas College

Professor of English, 2006

Associate Professor of English, 2002

Assistant Professor of English, 1998

Virginia Military Institute

Assistant Professor of English, 1995-1997

Composition I; Composition II; Race, Ethnicity, and Identity in American Literature; American Renaissance; American Literature Survey; Realism and Naturalism; Advanced Composition; Directed senior honors theses on Ambrose Bierce and Literature and Technology.

Rutgers University

Teaching Assistant; Adjunct Faculty Member, 1984-1993

Expository Writing 101; Expository Writing 102; Expository Writing 103; Advanced Expository Writing for Engineers; Graduate Seminar in Composition; Harlem Renaissance; American Literature 1860-present; 20th Century American Literature; History of Comedy.

Princeton University

Adjunct Faculty Member, 1988-1992

First-Year Composition; Major American Writers; Shakespeare; Senior Thesis Advisor.

External Service

Profession

Peer Reviewer, Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 2016-present
Content Advisory Committee, New York State Education Department, Evaluation of Teacher Examination Program, 1998-2007
New England Regional Representative to the Board of Directors, National Writing Centers Association, 1994-1995
Steering Committee, New England Writing Centers Association, 1994
Member, Board of Directors, Collegiate Learning and Writing Centers of New Jersey, 1992-1994

Community

United Way of Rockland County, Member of the Board of Directors, 2017-present
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Warden, Pearl River, New York, 2005-2007; 2010-2013
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Vestryperson, Pearl River, New York, 2003-2005
Orangetown Mighty Midgets Soccer, Parent Volunteer, 2000-2003
Piermont Police Athletic League T-Ball Coach, 1999-2001

Professional Organizations

American Association for Higher Education
American Religion and Literature Society
Conference on College Composition and Communication
National Council of the Teachers of English
Modern Language Association

Education

Ph.D. Rutgers University, 1993
English, with concentration in American literature.
Dissertation: "A Man with the Right Perception of Things: Reality and Hawthorne's Notion of Romance." Director: Donald Gibson
Committee: Arnold Rampersad, Myra Jehlen, Michael McKeon
M.A. Rutgers University, English, 1986
B.A. Rutgers College, English, 1980