

SISTER DAMIEN MARIE SAVINO, F.S.E., Ph.D.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Work: Aquinas College

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MEMBER: Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist

EDUCATION

The Catholic University of America,
Washington, D.C.

Ph.D., Civil (Environmental) Engineering

The Catholic University of America
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

M.A. Theology

M.S. Soil Science

McGill University, Montreal, Canada

B.S. Biogeography (High Honors)

EDUCATIONAL HONORS

“Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges”

2005

School of Engineering Full Tuition Doctoral Scholarship

(formerly known as Furfey), The Catholic University of America

2002-2005

Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Catholic University Honors Program

2001-2003

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

June 2016 – present

Dean of Science and Sustainability, and Associate Professor of Engineering, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Founding Dean. Responsible for supervision of the college’s science

departments and sustainability initiatives, including the Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography and Environmental Studies Departments and the Center for Sustainability. Liaison for Aquinas Nursing collaboration with University of Detroit-Mercy and a new Engineering collaboration with Western Michigan University. Responsible for oversight of Albertus Hall of Science building redesign, construction, and renovation, working with Tower Pinkster Architects and Pioneer Construction.

Involved in strategic planning, faculty development, fund-raising, science outreach, development and oversight of strategic partnerships and programs, curriculum management, science visioning, and the development of sustainability initiatives and programming across campus. Supervised the initiation of new majors or academic programs in: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Health Sciences; Environmental Studies; and Geospatial Technologies. In Spring 2017 taught a seminar course for junior and senior undergraduates, at student request, called “Sustainability and the Good Life.”

August 2013 – May 2016

Associate Professor and Chair, Environmental Science and Studies Department; and Joint Appointment in Environmental Science and Theology/Catholic Studies, University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas. Responsible for administration of Environmental Science and Studies Department. Environmental Science and Studies courses taught: Introduction to the Earth Environment, Energy for the Future, Field Studies in Ecology and Environmental Science, Senior Environmental Capstone, Science and Sustainability of Food, LEED Green Associate Certification, along with supervision of undergraduate internships and research. Theology courses taught: Reconnecting Catholicism with the Sciences, (co-taught with a Physics Professor), Theology of Creation, Catholicism and the Natural and Social Sciences, Teachings of the Catholic Church.

August 2008 – July 2013

Assistant Professor and Chair, Environmental Science and Studies Department; and Joint Appointment in Environmental Science and Theology/Catholic Studies, University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas. Responsible for administration of Environmental Science and Studies Department. Environmental Science and Studies courses taught: Introduction to the Earth Environment, Ecology, Authentic Development and Sustainability, Environmental Policy and Law. Theology and Catholic Studies courses taught: Mapping the Catholic Cultural Landscape, Catholicism and the Natural and Social Sciences, Theology of Creation, Sacred Arts and the Church (Italy Study Abroad); Church History II (Italy Study Abroad). Promotion and Tenure granted April 2013, with promotion to Associate Professor effective 2013-14 academic year and tenure effective 2014-15 academic year.

August 2007 – August 2008

Assistant Professor of Biology and Catholic Studies, University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas. Joint appointment in Biology (Environmental Studies) (2/3) and Catholic Studies (1/3).

September 2006 – May 2007

Visiting Assistant Professor, Biology Department, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan. Biology and Natural Resource Management courses taught: Environmental Science, The Climatic Factor, Practical Applications of Soil Science, Natural Resource Policy.

September 2005 – May 2006

Adjunct Professor, Biology Department, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan.

2001 – 2003

Teaching Assistant, The Catholic University of America Honors Program, Washington, DC. Course taught: Introduction to Environmental Science.

February 1998 – June 2001

Project Scientist, United Technologies Corporation (UTC), Hartford, Connecticut.

Member of the Environmental Remediation Group. Responsible for technical and financial oversight of soil and groundwater remediation projects. Through a research and development agreement (CRADA), collaborated with the U.S. Geologic Survey-Office of Ground Water in cutting-edge field research at contaminated fractured rock sites.

November 1992 – January 1998

Assistant Laboratory Director, Environmental Science Corporation, Middletown, Connecticut. Responsible for administration of laboratory operations for a small environmental laboratory. Developed technical seminars for engineers, municipalities, and industrial clients.

November 1988 – June 1992

Supervisor, Metals Department, Coffey Laboratories, Inc., Portland, Oregon. Supervised metals and agriculture departments for an environmental laboratory. Responsible for production and quality control; ICP, IC, NIR, basic inorganic analyses.

June 1987 – November 1988

Soil Scientist II/Assistant Project Manager, Fred C. Hart Associates, Inc., Rocky Hill, Connecticut. Responsible for project administration, hydrogeology fieldwork, and technical report preparation. Included field work at a hazardous waste site in Puerto Rico.

COMMITTEE & BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

- Board of Directors, Franciscan Action Network (FAN), Fall 2019 – present.
- Deans' Council, Aquinas College, Fall 2018 – present.
- Strategic Planning Team, Aquinas College, 2016-2018.
- Board of Directors, West Catholic High School, Grand Rapids, MI, Fall 2018 – present.
- Board of Directors, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, Hastings, Michigan, Fall 2016 – present.
- Development Committee Board Member, Franciscan Life Process Center, Lowell, MI, Summer 2018 – present.
- STEAM Advisory Board Member, Catholic Central High School, Grand Rapids, MI, Fall 2018 – present.
- Affiliate Member, The Society of Catholic Scientists, 2017 – present.
- Member of the UST Science Advisory Board, Fall 2009 – Spring 2016.
- Member of the Advisory Board for the UST Nursing School, Fall 2008 – Spring 2016.
- Advisory Board Member for the Pope John Paul II Forum for the Church in the Modern World, Spring 2009 – Spring 2016.
- Advisory Board Member for the UST Honors Program, Spring 2009 – Spring 2016.
- Deans and Chairs Subcommittee for the Core Reform, June 2009 – 2012.
- Natural Science and Math Subcommittee for the Core, Fall 2008.
- UST Faculty Senate, Math and Natural Science Senator, 2008 – 2014.
- Member of Planning Group, Center for Faith and Culture, Faith and Science group, Fall 2008 – 2009.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS AND TECHNICAL REPORTS

Savino, Sister Damien Marie (2021, in press). "Evangelizing through Land-Based Experiences and Dialogue with Science." In John Cavadini and Donald Wallenfang, eds. *Global Perspectives on the New Evangelization*, Volume 3. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications.

Savino, Sister Damien Marie (2020, in press). "Places of the Heart." In Corynne Staresinic, ed., *Letters to Women*. Chicago, IL: Pauline Books and Media.

Savino, Sister Damien Marie (2018). Proposing an Examen for Living the Ecology of Daily Life and Building a Culture of Care. *The Trumpeter: Journal of Ecosophy*. Vol. 34, No. 1. Special issue on *Laudato Si'*.

Savino, Sister Damien Marie and Clarage, James (2017, forthcoming). Reconnecting Catholicism with the Sciences: A Model for Teaching Science and Religion Core Texts. In *Bridging Divides, Crossing Borders, Community Building, Proceedings of the 23rd Annual Conference of the Association for Core Texts and Courses (ACTC), Selected Papers from the Twenty-Third Annual Conference of the Association of Core Texts and Courses (ACTC), Dallas, April 20-23, 2017*, eds., Tuan Hoang and Daniel Nuckols (ACTC Publications).

Clarage, James, and Savino, Sister Damien Marie (2017, forthcoming). Teaching the Big Bang and Cosmological Education in the Core. In *Bridging Divides, Crossing Borders, Community Building, Proceedings of the 23rd Annual Conference of the Association for Core Texts and Courses (ACTC), Selected Papers from the Twenty-Third Annual Conference of the Association of Core Texts and Courses (ACTC), Dallas, April 20-23, 2017*, eds., Tuan Hoang and Daniel Nuckols (ACTC Publications).

Savino, S. D. M. and Hittinger, J. P. (2016). Loss of Creation and its Recovery Through Aquinas and Bonaventure. *New Blackfriars*, 97: 5–21. doi:10.1111/nbfr.12161

Savino, Sister Damien Marie (2015). Facilitating Social-Ecological Transformation of a Vacant Lot on an Urban Campus: the Houston-Congolese Connection. *Cities and the Environment (CATE)*: Vol. 8: Iss. 2, Article 4. Available at: <http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/cate/vol8/iss2/4>

Savino, Sister Damien Marie (2015). Nature, Soil, and God: Soils and the ‘Grammar of Nature.’ In Peter Casarella, ed., *Jesus Christ: The New Face of Social Progress* (pp 311-323). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

Savino, FSE, Sister Damien Marie (2009). Atheistic Science: The Only Option? *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture*, 12(4), 56-73.

Savino, Damien Marie (2008). *The Contemplative River: The Confluence between People and Place in Ecological Restoration*. Germany: VDM Verlag. ISBN 978-3836467728.

Savino, Sister Damien Marie (2006). Ecology and Theology in Conversation: Interdisciplinary Principles for Restoration Engineering. In proceedings of a conference: “The Role of Engineering at Catholic Universities,” University of Dayton, Ohio, September 2005.

Lane, J.W., Jr., Williams, J.H., Johnson, C.D., Savino, Sr. D.-M., and Haeni, F.P. (2002). An integrated geophysical and hydraulic investigation to characterize a fractured-rock aquifer, Norwalk, Connecticut. U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigation Report 01-4133, 97 p.

Lane, J.W., Jr., Williams, J.H., Johnson, C.D., Savino, Sr. D.-M., and Haeni, F.P. (2001). “Application of a geophysical ‘tool-box’ approach to characterization of fractured-rock aquifers—a case study from Norwalk, Connecticut.” In *Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems*. Denver, Colorado: Proceedings Wheat Ridge, Colorado Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society, March 4-7, 2001; CD-ROM.

PROFESSIONAL SEMINARS AND TALKS

Creation Study Series, a 6 week study series (virtual) for the Diocese of Grand Rapids, MI, of the *Creation* DVD series. Salt and Light Media, June 11 – July 16, 2020.

“Faith In a Time of Crisis: *Laudato Si’* Special,” Salt and Light Media, May 21, 2020. Available at <https://saltandlighttv.org/blogfeed/getpost.php?id=98012>.

“Current and Emerging Issues in Science and Religion,” Roundtable Discussion with Christopher Baglow and Father John Kartje. *Emerging Issues and Best Practices in Science and Religion Education and Outreach Summit* (virtual), The Lumen Christi Institute 2020 Science and Religion Summit, May 14, 2020.

Disputatio on the Distinction between the Human Person and Other Animals: The Human Person as Gardener. Joint Presentation with Daniel Wagner, Assistant Professor Philosophy, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI. 43rd Annual Meeting of the American Maritain Association, Pittsburgh, PA, March 5, 2020.

“Connections between People and Place: The Story of Endocrine Disruptors.” Invited Presentation for Grand Valley State University, Department of Biology and Natural Resource Management Annual Lecture Series, Allendale, MI, January 23, 2020.

“Evolution, Ecology, and Faith: What is Man that You Are Mindful of Him?” Invited Presentation for University of Notre Dame Science and Religion Institute Day – *Creation and Evolution: Seeing the Harmony of Faith and Science*, McGrath Institute for Church Life in partnership with Go! Gulf Coast Faith Formation Conference, New Orleans, LA, January 9, 2020.

“The Hidden Face of Social Sustainability.” TEDx talk, Minds Aflame event – Office of International Education, Ferris State University, Big Rapids, Michigan, October 22, 2019.

“Evolution, Ecology, and Faith: The Catholic Difference.” Keynote for Curriculum In-Service Day, Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, October 11, 2019.

“Evolution, Ecology, and Faith: What is Man that You Are Mindful of Him?” Invited Presentation for University of Notre Dame Science and Religion Institute Day – *Science and Faith: Exploring the Relationship*, McGrath Institute for Church Life in partnership with Diocese of Evansville, IN, September 13, 2019.

“Fostering the Interior Journey to Creation Care and the Good Life.” Keynote for Faculty Sustainability Retreat, University of Notre Dame, at Spicer Lake Nature Preserve, St. Joseph County, Indiana, May 15, 2019.

“Banana Peels and Climate Change: A Daily Examen.” Retreat with Dr. Phil Sakimoto of the University of Notre Dame, for St. Pius X Catholic Church, Granger, Indiana, April 6, 2019.

“Modelling the Thomistic *Disputatio*: On the Distinction Between the Human Person and Other Animals.” Invited presentation for Aquinas College Campus Ministry, April 2, 2019.

“Care of Creation through the Lens of the Catholic Faith.” Duke Catholic Center Lecture Series, Duke University, North Carolina, March 28, 2019.

“Banana Peels and Climate Change: A Daily Examen.” Joint presentation with Dr. Phil Sakimoto of the University of Notre Dame, for the Franciscan Life Process Center Annual Spark a Conversation Speaker Series, March 21, 2019.

“‘Road Map’ of *Laudato Si*”. Invited presentation on Houston Interfaith Panel for Climate Change for a Symposium entitled: *Toward a Better Future: Transforming the Climate Crisis*, Rothko Chapel Symposium, March 1, 2019.

“Creation Care: Have We Gone Too Far or Not Far Enough?” Keynote. John Paul II Pastoral Center, Archdiocese of Vancouver, BC, January 18, 2019.

“Teaching Sustainability at the Undergraduate Level through the Lens of Human Flourishing.” Paper presented at *Fifteenth International Conference on Environmental, Economic, and Social Sustainability: From Pedagogies for Sustainability to Transformative Change*, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada, January 17-19, 2019.

“*Disputatio* on the Distinction between the Human Person and Other Animals: The Human Person as Gardener.” Paper presented at Expanded Reason Congress in Rome, co-sponsored by the Benedict XVI Foundation and the Universidad Francisco de Vitoria, European University of Rome, September 24 -26, 2018.

“Respecting Nature, Respecting Ourselves.” Presentation and workshop for faculty/staff training day, Franciscan Montessori Earth School, held at Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist convent, Bridal Veil, Oregon, August 21, 2018.

“On the Relationship between Science and Faith.” Organizer and co-presenter for Science and Religion In-Service for Grand Rapids Diocesan Teachers, Aquinas College, June 14, 2018. Co-presenter was Dr. Daniel Wagner, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Aquinas College, who presented “On the Principles of Natural Theology and Natural Ethics.”

“Proposing an Examen for Living the Ecology of Daily Life and Building a Culture of Care.” Plenary speaker for conference entitled: *Integral Ecology for the Common Good: Catholic Perspectives on Science, Sustainability, and Justice*, St. Thomas More College at University of Saskatchewan, March 22-23, 2018.

“Evangelizing through Land-Based Experiences and Dialogue with Science.” Presentation at an academic and pastoral conference organized by the McGrath Institute for Church Life in collaboration with the United States Council of Catholic Bishops, entitled: *Cultures of Formation: Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment*, March 5-7, 2018.

“One Sister’s Story to STEM.” Invited speaker for St. Thomas Aquinas Week, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI, January 23, 2018.

“Reconnecting Catholicism with the Sciences: A Model for Teaching Science and Religion Core Texts.” Presentation at the 23rd Annual Conference of the Association of Core Texts and Courses (ACTC), Dallas, TX, April 21-23, 2017.

“From Integral Development to Integral Ecology: Tracing the Path from Blessed Paul VI to Pope Francis.” Paper presented at a conference entitled: *The Soul of Development: 50th Anniversary of Populorum Progressio*, sponsored by the Center for Social Concerns, University of Notre Dame, March 23-25, 2017.

“Care for Creation: A Look through the Eyes of Two Medieval Saints: Aquinas and Bonaventure.” Annual St. Thomas Aquinas lecture, Aquinas College, January 27, 2017.

“Why Should We Care for the Environment?” Sustainability Brownbag Series, Aquinas College, September 9, 2016.

“Heeding the ‘Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor.’” Keynote address for Office of Catholic Social Justice Ministry Bishop Peter Rosazza Conference, Archdiocese of Hartford, CT, St. Thomas Seminary, June 11, 2016.

“Praise of Creatures and Catholic Life: Making *Laudato Si*’ Real.” Keynote for the Annual Meeting of the Bishops and Religious Superiors of Michigan, The Inn at St. John’s, Plymouth, MI, March 3, 2016.

“‘Border Crossings’ Through Urban Gardening.” Conference Presentation. Association for Environmental Science and Studies (AESS) Annual Conference: *Confronting Frontiers, Borders, and Boundaries*, UC-San Diego, June 24-27, 2015.

“*Gaudium et spes* and the Theme of Creation.” Conference Presentation, co-presented with Dr. John Hittinger, UST Philosophy Department. *The Church in the Modern World: Teaching and Understanding Gaudium et Spes after 50 Years*, University of St. Thomas–Minnesota, March 12-14, 2015.

“Ethical Concerns Related to the Practice of Fracking.” Presentation for the Cameron School of Business on a panel entitled: Energy – Independence, Regulation, and Fracking, October 22, 2013.

“Ecological Education: Teaching and Learning the Grammar of Nature.” Lecture presented for Symposium on Creation sponsored by the Lutheran Gulf Coast Synod, May 6, 2011.

“Learning from the Fringe: Scenario Planning for a Resilient Houston.” Paper presented at *Resilience 2011* conference, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, March 11-16, 2011.

“Mapping the Boundaries Between Science and Faith.” Talk at symposium entitled *Reality, Reason, and Freedom: At the Root of the Religious Quest*, co-sponsored by University of St. Thomas and Crossroads Cultural Center, University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas, February 10, 2011.

“Nature, Soil, and God: Soils and the ‘Grammar of Nature,’” Paper presentation and panel at *World Catholicism Week*, April 20-23, 2010, DePaul University, Chicago, IL, April 20, 2010.

“St. Thomas and St. Bonaventure on Creation: Comparing Their Wisdom.” Paper presentation at *Renewing the Face of the Earth: the Church and the Order of Creation*, a conference sponsored by The

Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity and The National Catholic Rural Life Conference, St. Paul, Minnesota, October 29-31, 2009.

“A Continuing Exploration of the Fertility of the Universe,” Fr. George Coyne, SJ, President of the Vatican Observatory Foundation, March 5, 2009. Sponsored by UST Center for Faith and Culture. One of three members on a UST faculty panel responding to Fr. Coyne’s presentation.

“Striving for Resilience in Urban River Restoration: The Anacostia River Case.” Poster presentation at *Resilience 2008: Resilience, adaptation and transformation in turbulent times*, an international science and policy conference, Stockholm, Sweden, April 14-16, 2008.

“Atheistic Science: The Only Option?” President’s Faculty Scholarship and Research Symposium, University of St. Thomas, Feb. 21, 2008.

“Beyond Stewardship: A Franciscan Look at the Christian Engineer as Mediator,” American Scientific Affiliation Annual Meeting: Christian Values in Engineering, Technology, and the Physical Sciences, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, July 28-31, 2006.

“Ecology and Theology in Conversation: Interdisciplinary Principles for Restoration Engineering,” presented at the conference, “The Role of Engineering at Catholic Universities” (RECU), session entitled “Present Examples of Melding Catholic Beliefs into Engineering Education,” University of Dayton, Ohio, September 2005.

OTHER INTERDISCIPLINARY ACADEMIC AND PASTORAL PROJECTS AND TRAINING

“The Call of the Prophet,” Invited Blog for Salt and Light Media, September 6, 2020 (23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time).

Invited participant in Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) Rome Seminar for Catholic college and university administrators, “Creating a Culture of Dialogue: A Dynamic Exchange between Catholic Higher Education and the Curia,” June 9-13, 2019.

University Life Fellow, University of Notre Dame, 2018-2019 academic year. Invited to be a University Life Fellow to create pedagogical materials on life-related issues for classroom use.

Invited Participant in Science and Religion training, University of Notre Dame Science and Religion Initiative of the McGrath Institute for Church Life, Capstone Course, June 15-16, 2018.

Intergroup Dialogue and Diversity Education Workshop, May 14-16, 2018. Participant in three-day training by the Institute for Intergroup Dialogue and Diversity at Hope College (<http://faculty.hope.edu/johnston/IDDECU/index.htm>), with regular follow-up meetings throughout the 2018-19 academic year.

Invited Participant in the 18th Annual Workshop for Senior Administrators: “Mentoring Faculty for Mission,” The Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts, Loyola Marymount University, October 26-27, 2017.

Invited Participant in Science and Religion training, University of Notre Dame Science and Religion Initiative of the McGrath Institute for Church Life, Foundations Course, June 19-23, 2017.

Writer and co-producer with Salt and Light Television (a Canadian Catholic TV network) of the six-episode documentary series, *Creation*. The series was completed in December 2015, includes six half-hour episodes, along with a study guide, and can be purchased at www.saltandlighttv.org/creation. (2010-2015)

Responsible for development, with students and Plant It Forward Farms (PIFF), of an innovative community vegetable garden on the UST campus. (2010 – Spring 2016)

Attended a science and theology seminar entitled “Pastoral Issues in Science and Human Dignity” at University of Notre Dame, February 12-14, 2014, at the invitation of His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo and the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Interdisciplinary research collaboration with Dr. John Hittinger of the UST Philosophy Department on cross-disciplinary studies related to creation and stewardship. Joint presentation at a conference on *Gaudium et spes* at University of St. Thomas, Minnesota in March 2015 and a co-authored article, “Loss of Creation and its Recovery Through Aquinas and Bonaventure,” published in *New Blackfriars* journal.

RESEARCH & GRANTS

- 2014 – 2015: Recipient of U.S. Department of Education Grant, UST/HCC STEM Scholars Program for Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). “Development of a Methodology for Air Quality Analysis of Ozone Precursors.” Collaboration with Houston Community College, Rice University, University of Houston. UST students: Marcus Walden, Elaine Flores.
- 2013-2014. “An Analysis of the Japhet Creek Watershed From July 2013 to January 2014.” Undergraduate research thesis. UST student: Jennifer Osorio.
- 2011-2012. Recipient of U.S. Department of Education Grant, UST/HCC STEM Scholars Program for Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). “Preliminary Analysis of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) in Houston Wastewater.” Collaboration with Houston Community College. UST students: Esther Hudson, Jennifer Osorio.
- 2009 – 2010: Recipient of a U.S. Department of Education CCRAA grant. “Preliminary Analysis of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons in Soil Sediment Samples from the Buffalo Bayou.” Collaboration with UST Chemistry Department and Houston Community College. Presented by students at 239th annual American Chemical Society (ACS) meeting in San Francisco (2010). Student: Tammy Huyhn, B.S. Env. Science.
- 2008-2011: GIS Mapping for Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, Lowell, MI. Collaboration with Dr. Edwin Joseph, Grand Valley State University, Michigan. UST Student: Elizabeth Rinaldi, BA Environmental Studies.
- 2008 – 2015: Recipient of annual \$10,000 grant to the Department of Environmental Science and Studies from the George Mitchell Foundation.

SERVICE

- Organize and sponsor lectures
 - “Science and Religion: The Myth of Conflict.” Organizer for Gold Mass and Science and Religion lecture by Dr. Stephen Barr, physicist and founder of The Society of Catholic Scientists, November 21, 2019.
 - “Redefining Progress in *Laudato Si'*: Power or People?” Facilitator for an Economicology Forum and interdisciplinary three-member panel exploring progress from

- the historical, economic, and spiritual perspectives and through the lens of integral ecology, September 17, 2018.
- “God and the Universe: A Dinner Conversation with Brother Guy.” Co-organizer with the Franciscan Life Process Center for a dinner lecture with Brother Guy Consolmagno, SJ, Director of the Vatican Observatory, March 16, 2018.
 - “Astronomy, God, and the Search for Elegance.” Organizer for a major lecture by Brother Guy Consolmagno, SJ, Director of the Vatican Observatory, Aquinas College, March 15, 2018.
 - “Grand River Revitalization and Rapids Restoration: Exploring a Holistic Approach to a Complex Project,” Facilitator for an Economicology Forum and interdisciplinary four-member panel exploring the “Restoring the Rapids” Initiative in Grand Rapids through the lens of integral ecology, February 15, 2018.
 - 2008 – 2015: Annual Earth Day lecture, University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX.
 - January 9, 2009: “Understanding Hurricane Ike: Does Size Matter?” Collaboration with the Weather Research Center.
 - February 17, 2009: “Benedictine Spirituality and Ecology,” Sister Augusta Collins, OSB, Ph.D.
- Faculty supervisor, Augustine Without Walls program (2013 – Spring 2016)
 - Friday afternoon “coffeehouse” program for the integration of Faith, Academics, and Life, run by student staff
 - Faculty advisor, Celts for Life (2008 – Spring 2016)
 - Annual trips to the March for Life (2010 – Spring 2016)
 - Faculty co-advisor, ECOS (Ecologically Concerned Organization of Students) (2008 – Spring 2016)
 - Various excursions with students to plant trees, restore marsh grasses, remove invasives, work on the Buffalo Bayou, the Gulf of Mexico etc. (usually 2-3 per semester).
 - USTrees Initiative, Fall 2008 – 2010.
 - University-wide initiative to plant thousands of trees on an island in the Port of Houston damaged by Hurricane Ike
 - Environmental Service Trip to Motherhouse of the Franciscan Sisters in Meriden, CT, Fall Break, October 2008.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS/RETREATS

- “Advent and the Spirituality of Waiting,” Keynote for Advent by Candlelight service, St. Francis de Sales parish, Muskegon, Michigan, December 2, 2019.
- “Creation Care in the Catholic Life,” St. James Parish, Montague, Michigan. October 7, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0EER6uDBnQ#>
- “Creating a Prayer Garden: Experiencing God through Nature,” Catholic Information Center, Grand Rapids, MI, July 24, 2018.
- “Pope Francis: Caring for Creation as Catholics,” Theology on Tap, Atwater Brewery, Detroit, MI, June 7, 2018.
- “*Laudato Si’, Mi Signore* – Praise to You, My Lord,” Lenten lecture on creation care and seeing creation as brother and sister, Lenten Speaker Series, Franciscan Life Process Center, March 14, 2018.
- “Faith and Reason: Friends or Enemies?” Koinonia Young Adults Group, Diocese of Grand Rapids, MI, March 13, 2018.

- “‘Catholic Environmentalism:’ What Makes Us Different? A Workshop on *Laudato Si’*,” Our Mother of Sorrows SFO Fraternity, Regional Meeting of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, Grand Rapids, MI, November 29, 2017.
- “Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’* and Technology in our Culture,” Tech Catholic Community at MIT, October 13, 2017.
- “Entrusted with Creation.” Presentation for GIVEN: The Catholic Young Women’s Leadership Forum, The Catholic University of America, June 10, 2016.
- “What the Popes are Saying About the Environment.” Lecture for the UST Seekers and Sages Luncheon and Lecture Series, September 10, 2014.
- “Service Learning and the UST Mission.” Presentation on service learning at UST Community vegetable garden for Freshmen Symposium Mentoring Session, August 15, 2014.
- “Catholic Perspectives on Urban Environmentalism.” Presentation for Legatus Forum luncheon, January 9, 2014.
- “‘Spiritual Hiking’ with St. Bonaventure: The Created World as a Path to the Spiritual,” invited talk for Serra Club lecture series entitled “Words, Deeds & Arts,” University of St. Thomas, November 18, 2010.
- “Ecology and Spirituality: Catholic Insights on Environmental Issues.” University of Houston Catholic Newman Center, Spirituality for Academics series, March 10, 2009.
- “Linking Natural and Human Ecology: A Franciscan Approach.” Lecture for University of Texas Law School Foundation Trustee Wives, May 8, 2009.
- Annual Retreat for Augustine Without Walls student staff (2008 – Spring 2016).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Academy of Catholic Theology

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

Association for Environmental Science and Studies (AESS)

Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (CTNS)

Fellowship of Catholic Scholars

Society of Catholic Scientists

U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)