Discussions of intelligent computers and their theological impact? Helping faculty renew their academic calling through reading *The Divine Comedy* or Plato? Enabling engineering students to invent a breadfruit shredder for Haiti? In many ways, career is more than employment. The life of the mind is a connected, not an isolated, existence.

In 2001 St. Thomas received a generous five-year, almost $2 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. as part of a nationwide effort to stimulate a theological exploration of the idea of vocation on college campuses. As Father Dennis Dease, president of St. Thomas, commented when the grant was announced, this initiative "will allow members of our university to consider deeply the meaning and mission of their lives."

So far "Beyond Career to Calling," as St. Thomas' Lilly program is titled, has funded more than 30 different projects on campus in a wide variety of departments and disciplines. They include the vocation of professional women, life values in medicine, law students serving the marginalized, team-teaching theology "bridge courses" such as Theology and Politics, and engaging first-year students in St. Thomas' urban mission.

"Beyond Career to Calling" differs from similarly funded Lilly programs at other campuses because its framework is decentralized, that is, faculty and staff propose, then direct, individual projects tailored to their department or discipline. "Beyond Career to Calling" is coordinated by Dr. Mary Reichardt, Catholic Studies and English departments. Here are three recently funded projects.

**Vocation in Action: Design of a Breadfruit Shredder for Haiti**

By Dr. Camille George, engineering, and Dr. Ashley Shams, Classical Languages

One interdisciplinary project, funded by the Ireland Grant for New Initiatives (one part of the Lilly Grant), involved St. Thomas' engineering and French students in helping women's cooperatives in Haiti harvest breadfruit for use as a flour substitute in making breakfast bars for school children.

Breadfruit, a naturally occurring food in Haiti, spoils quickly in that highly humid environment. With Dr. Camille George's mentorship, St. Thomas' engineering students designed a manual device to shred fresh breadfruit evenly. The breadfruit is then sun-dried, and the resulting dried shreds have a shelf life of up to a year.

With Dr. Ashley Shams' mentorship, St. Thomas' French students then created appropriate visuals for the Haitian users of this breadfruit shredder to understand and maintain that technology. The final design for the "Tommie Shredder" was produced by a graduate student in manufacturing engineering and will be delivered along with the culturally appropriate manuals developed by the French students to Haiti very soon.

St. Thomas' mission to "Challenge Yourself (and) Change Our World" is especially evident in this project. Developing appropriate sustainable technology and helping ensure that the users can work with it effectively provided a meaningful context and objective for students in both major fields to anchor their academic learning. Most importantly, the project helped foster a theological sense of vocation in the students' lives. The engineering students understood that their skills can be channeled toward creating a world in which every citizen has adequate food and water and access to a renewable energy supply. The French students used their language skills in an authentic service context while working alongside other professionals. For both sets of students, the experience gained from this project broadened their understanding of work as a calling as well as their awareness of cultural and global issues.

Dr. Camille George