Searching On and Beyond Solid Ground
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Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, students and faculty are returning from a four day weekend — our fall break. It seems like only yesterday we were welcoming our freshmen to campus. They arrived at Thomas More College from seven different states with the vast majority (94 percent) from Kentucky and Ohio. For the third straight year, their average ACT and high school GPA has increased. While these young men and women chose Thomas More College for various reasons — our program of study, our Catholic heritage, our intercollegiate athletics, our small size and faculty interaction — they have quickly made an impact on the campus. Their energy, ability and commitment are obvious in the classroom, on our teams and in student activities, including service programs.

As a diocesan college, we have a special rootedness in this community. We are especially committed to the men and women from this area. We work closely with our parochial high schools, area public schools, the businesses in this community and most recently, we have joined the yellow ribbon program for post 9/11 veterans. The College is focused on insuring that a TMC education is financially possible for all qualified students. And once again this year, we set a record for full time undergraduate and full time graduate students. We have over 1400 full time students on campus this year and an additional 450 part-time students.

While each one of these students is unique, they overwhelming are in need of and seek financial assistance from the College. Certainly, that has never been truer than this year. Our financial aid office has shared numerous stories from returning and new students whose plans were turned upside down this year due to their family's economic situation. This includes our adult students who were completing a degree using employer tuition assistance, only to discover their company is no longer able to offer that benefit.

Each year you receive a letter with a request to contribute to our annual fund. Many of you respond very generously and over the past four years the percent of alumni participation has increased to over 20 percent. This number puts us in the 65th percentile nationwide and is certainly something we celebrate! Based on my experience over the past five years as president, I know that our alumni overwhelming value the education they received at Villa Madonna/Thomas More College. I encourage you to continue to show your appreciation with a gift to our annual fund, endowment or capital projects. Help us give today's students the same quality education you received!

I thank you in advance for your generosity and wish each of you a blessed Thanksgiving.

Sister Margaret Stallmeyer, C.D.P., ’68
President

Sister Margaret Stallmeyer, C.D.P., ’68
President
**Volunteer Appreciation Picnic**
On August 6, 2009, Thomas More College welcomed to campus members of 12 volunteer committees for a picnic and the opportunity to thank them for their service to the College.

**Freshmen Hit Campus**
On August 16, the Thomas More College community welcomed the incoming freshmen to campus. More than 312 incoming freshmen participated in the activities offered during orientation, which included an opening Mass, opening convocation, orientation sessions, campus tours, receptions and social events.

**Bensman Classic**
September 14 was a beautiful day for golf as more than 100 participants enjoyed the 15th annual Thomas More College Bensman Golf Classic. The Cincinnati Bell foursome won the title of Champion for 2009.
**Endowment Lunch**

On September 16, Thomas More College hosted an endowment lunch to connect benefactors with the students who receive scholarship assistance from endowments. The luncheon gave students the chance to share the importance of scholarship assistance.

**Student Life’s First Family Weekend**

On Saturday, September 19, students welcomed their families to campus for the College’s first Family Weekend. More than 75 attendees enjoyed a grill-out with all the trimmings, including music and “a TMC family train ride.” They moved on to the TMC vs. Waynesburg football game, and afterwards students took parents on tours to see classrooms, dorm rooms, and so on. The night ended with “Family Game Night.” On Sunday, they attended a special Mass and then the President’s Brunch, where Sister Margaret Stallmeyer offered families a heartfelt welcome. The Office of Student Life organized the event, which will be held annually as a way to support the academic achievement of Thomas More College students.
The Cathedral Foundation honored Thomas More College President Sr. Margaret Stallmeyer, C.D.P., on September 17 as the fifth recipient of its prestigious Monsignor Murphy Award. The award recognizes members of the community whose work and character embody Monsignor Murphy’s dedication, vision and faith. We congratulate Sister Margaret for this distinction.

In her five years as president of Thomas More College, Sister Margaret has overseen an increase in enrollment largely attributed to her commitment to making an education at the College more affordable, especially to students from Catholic high schools. She has directed major renovations at Thomas More College including the library, science labs and athletic fields, and is currently pursuing funding for a free standing chapel on campus.

A native of Northern Kentucky, Sister Margaret has a two-decade career as an educator and administrator in two high schools in the Diocese of Covington. She has been judge and director of the Diocesan Tribunal in Lexington, Kentucky, treasurer for ten years for the Sisters of Divine Providence, and Chair of the St. Elizabeth Medical Center Board. She also serves on the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Foundation Board at Campbell Lodge Boys Home and the leadership team for Vision 2015.

Sister Margaret Stallmeyer receives Monsignor Murphy Award

Sister Margaret earned a B.A. in mathematics and secondary education from Thomas More College in 1968. She received a master’s degree in education from Xavier University in Cincinnati and a degree in canoon law from The Catholic University of America.

The Cathedral Foundation established the Monsignor Murphy Award in 2005 and has presented it annually. Monsignor Murphy was a past president of Thomas More College and The Catholic University of America. Perhaps alumni remember him most for moving Villa Madonna College from its campus in Covington to Crestview Hills, where it was renamed and dedicated as Thomas More College in 1968.
Dr. John Ferner, professor of biology at Thomas More College, in collaboration with the Thomas More College Alumni Association, has organized an expedition to Kenya in East Africa. The expedition is scheduled for July 29 through August 13, 2010. This trip will include visits to most of the well-known national parks and game reserves in Kenya, including Amboseli, Lake Nakuru, Mount Kenya, Samburu and the Masai Mara.

The experience will focus on observing and photographing the spectacular concentration and diverse array of big game and birds, but it will also provide exposure to the variety of cultures in Kenya.

Professor Ferner will host an information session on Tuesday, November 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the General Biology Laboratory (Room S319). Those interested in the expedition as well as those already registered are encouraged to attend.

Please contact Dr. Ferner at john.ferner@thomasmore.edu or 859-344-3374 for details on the trip.

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Saturday, November 21, 2009

**Evening of Observing**

at The Bank of Kentucky Observatory at Thomas More College

Are you interested in astronomy? If so, mark your calendar for an Evening of Observing at The Bank of Kentucky Observatory at Thomas More College on Saturday, November 21, 2009, at 6:15 p.m. This evening will include a brief talk in the Science Lecture Hall at 5:15 p.m., followed by a viewing at the Observatory. Thomas More College faculty and students will assist visitors in using the telescopes, weather permitting.

For more information and directions, call 859-344-3367 or visit us at www.thomasmore.edu/observatory. These events are free and open to the public.
Thomas More College Villa Players
2009–2010 THEATRE SEASON

Tickets on Sale Now
For reservations or more information, please call 859-341-5800.

Angel Street
by Patrick Hamilton ■ Directed by: Michelle Crowley

November 13 – at 8:00 p.m.
November 14 – at 8:00 p.m.
November 15 – Sunday Matinee at 2:00 p.m.
November 20 – at 8:00 p.m.
November 21 – at 8:00 p.m.
November 22 – Sunday Matinee at 2:00 p.m.

The thriller that inspired the films Gaslight and Angel Street is a masterpiece of suspense. Meet the Manninghams of Angel Street. Mrs. Manningham is apparently losing her mind and her husband is at his wit’s end. But all is not as it seems, as this melodrama unravels the dark secrets hidden (literally) in the attic.

$10.00 General Admission
$8.00 TMC Faculty/Staff/Senior Citizen Admission
$7.00 TMC Student Admission

You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown
by Clark Gesner (based on Charles Schultz’s characters) ■ Directed by: Alana Ghent

February 19 – at 8:00 p.m.
February 20 – at 8:00 p.m.
February 21 – Sunday Matinee at 2:00 p.m.
February 26 – at 8:00 p.m.
February 27 – at 8:00 p.m.
February 28 – Sunday Matinee at 2:00 p.m.

Join the Peanuts gang in this fast-paced, lighthearted musical, guaranteed to please audiences of all ages! Follow Charlie Brown, Lucy, Schroeder, Patty, Sally, Linus and, of course, Snoopy — from Valentine’s Day to baseball season, from a bright uncertain morning to a hopeful starlit evening.

$15.00 General Admission
$10.00 TMC Faculty/Staff/Senior Citizen Admission
$8.00 TMC Student Admission

Thomas More College goes green by offering the 2008–2009 Honor Roll and Annual Report online

In an effort to conserve resources, we are now publishing the Thomas More College Honor Roll and Annual Report online. The 2008-2009 Honor Roll and Annual Report, representing activity between June 1, 2008, and May 31, 2009, is available under the Giving section of the Thomas More College Web site at www.thomasmore.edu/giving. The Honor Roll is listed by giving society or by class year, including a class year participation rate. The Annual Report highlights the College’s financials for fiscal year 2008-2009.

Please note that we make every effort to be accurate in our donor listing. To report an error or omission, or to request a printed copy of the Honor Roll, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 859-344-3344 or e-mail us at advancement@thomasmore.edu.
Eva G. Farris Art Gallery

Upcoming Exhibits

2009–10 Exhibition Schedule
November 23, 2009–January 9, 2010
High School Invitational Exhibition

January 15–February 6, 2010
Helsinki Exchange Exhibition

February 12–March 13, 2010
Jennifer Feld (Paintings/Drawings)

March 19, 2010
Senior Show I

March 26, 2010
Senior Show II

April 9, 2010
Senior Show III

April 23, 2010
Student Show

Fall Gallery Hours
Monday–Thursday: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Located on the main level of the Thomas More College Library. For more information, call 859-344-3300.

Calendar of Events

November 2009
21 Thomas More College Fall Preview Day, Steigerwald Hall, Holbrook Student Center 9:00 a.m.
   Evening of Observing Science Lecture Hall and The Bank of Kentucky Observatory 6:15 p.m.

December
4 Universal ADG Night, Holbrook Student Center 8:00 p.m.

February 2010
20 Athletic Hall of Fame Awards, Steigerwald Hall Holbrook Student Center 6:00 p.m.

March
5 TMC Alumni Night at Turfway Park, Turfway Park, Florence, Kentucky 5:00 p.m.

April
9 Alumni Wine Tasting, Steigerwald Hall, Holbrook Student Center 6:00 p.m.

Thomas More Chapel Fund

UPDATE

Fundraising for the freestanding Chapel on campus has reached the half-way mark. The College has formed a committee to bring the campaign to completion. Committee members are as follows: Mary H. Brown, Garren Colvin, Robert G. Cooper, Anthony G. Depenbrock, Thomas R. Dietz, James A. Dressman, III, Gerald F. Dusing, Most Rev. Roger J. Foys, Daniel R. Gnomeck, Edwin T. Robinson, Robert B. Sathe, Cathy L. Silvers, Frank B. Sommerkamp, Jr., Sr. Margaret A. Stallmeyer, C.D.P., Jane M. Summe, Ken Wulfeck, Rev. Richard W. Wurth, and William J. Zeck.

Located on the main level of the Thomas More College Library. For more information, call 859-344-3300.
The basketball court has always been a place where Joanna Bess felt at home. She still feels at home there, even though her court today is thousands of miles away. Bess plays professional basketball for Club Deportivo Daimiel in Spain. (“Deportivo” is the Spanish word for “sport,” while Daimiel is the name of the town.) She is fulfilling the dream of many college athletes through her determination to play and her willingness to go where professional sports take her.

It was a roundabout journey to professional basketball for Bess. After graduating from Thomas More College, she became a member of the Atlanta Angels, part of the Women’s Blue Chip Basketball League. This competitive league for women age 20 and older has provided her with networking opportunities with professional international basketball scouts and agents, and broadened her exposure to higher-level professional jobs. After being named Most Valuable Player in Atlanta in 2007, Bess was offered a spot on a team that traveled to the Dominican Republic. There she met a member of the Daimiel basketball team.

Soon after, she received the call to pack her bags for Spain. At first she had difficulty communicating. However, she took a Spanish class every day, and within a couple of weeks everything started to fall into place. Most of her teammates are from Spain, although one other member also hails from the United States. As for the culture in Spain, it was “fairly similar” to the United States except for siesta time when everything closes from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. “That took some getting used to because I couldn’t just pop into the store to get something.”

The biggest thing Bess said she learned from living in another country is that all people are similar. Although the language and culture may be different, there are always commonalities, such as enjoying the same food, drink and activities. While there is diversity within her team she said it has never been a barrier: “When we play, we are all working toward a common goal. All our differences are set aside and the team becomes one.”

One cultural experience in Spain that stood out for Bess was Semana Santa, which is Easter. The holiday is taken very seriously with solemn parades each day from Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday. “Many people from the town dress up in costumes (a different color for each day), and they parade statues around,” Bess said. “I can’t explain the feelings that I had while viewing these parades. It was just amazing.”

Bess was able to spend some time at home in Kentucky over the summer since it was the off-season for basketball in Spain. The regular season began again in October. She feels blessed that she has been able to continue her basketball career at the professional level. While she knows she cannot play forever, she would like to continue for a while longer. When it is time to move on, she would like to become a personal trainer.

“I always hoped I would be able to play basketball professionally after college,” Bess said. “It didn’t happen right away, but I continued to pursue it year after year until my dream came true.”

For others who wish to pursue playing a professional sport after college, she advised, “If you really have the passion and desire to play, never give up. There will most likely be obstacles in your way, but keep working at it and you will overcome them. The end result is an exciting and wonderful experience.”
Thomas More College Improves Emergency Equipment

Approximately 350,000 Americans die each year from sudden cardiac arrest, an emergency requiring immediate resuscitation measures. The well-established practice of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), even when immediately and competently initiated, succeeds in only 5 percent of cases. The combination of the immediate initiation of CPR and the application of an automatic external defibrillator (AED), however, results in survival rates of 60–70 percent. Immediate initiation is key, as survival rates decline rapidly when more than three minutes elapse between the incident and the response [US Department of Labor, 2001*]. Clearly, a ubiquitous presence of AEDs is desirable, but their cost ($1,000–$3,000 each) has made their introduction outside healthcare facilities a slow process.

For some time only one AED has been available at TMC, in the Holbrook Student Center. This past spring, as part of an education project for healthcare workers, the Department of Nursing applied for a grant from the Center for Regional Health Care Sciences and Management Project to purchase two more AEDs. The project would involve students from the Department of Nursing teaching TMC students, staff, faculty and community groups to use AEDs. When the grant was approved, the Security and Athletics departments joined in the effort and purchased two more units. This means five AEDs are now available across the Thomas More College campus: in the Science Building, Administration Building, Holbrook Student Center, Conner Convocation Center, and one mobile unit in the campus security car.

Students from the Department of Nursing are currently planning education programs and ways to measure progress in reaching the goals of an informed campus population and a safer environment for all who work, learn, and visit the Thomas More College campus.

Social Justice

The Campus ministry is presenting a series of monthly social justice programs at the retirement home of the Sisters of Notre Dame.
The Alumni Association Awards Luncheon took place on Sunday, October 4. The Alumni Association Awards occur in odd-numbered years and honor outstanding alumni and community leaders whose talents and expertise have made a significant impact on Thomas More College and the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky community.

The Alumni Association Award Winners:

CITIZENSHIP CATEGORY:
- Kathleen Beechem Nadherny ’73
- Patrick J. Raverty ’73

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT:
- Laryl Lee (Lahrman) Delker ’49 (posthumously)
- Dr. Robert Hengehold ’56

LASTING INFLUENCE CATEGORY:
- Dr. William S. Bryant (former Biology faculty)

THOMAS MORE COLLEGE SERVICE:
- Jean (Germann) Hengelbrok ’56
- Andrew J. VonLehman ’75

Pictured left to right: Sr. Margaret, president, Dr. Robert Hengehold ’56, Kathleen Beechem Nadherny ’73, Patrick J. Raverty ’73, Dr. William S. Bryant, former Biology faculty, John Delker accepting posthumously for his mother Laryl Lee (Lahrman) Delker ’49, Jean (Germann) Hengelbrok ’56, Tony Depenbrock, chair of the board of trustees, Andrew J. VonLehman ’75.
Alumni and family cheered on the Saints and enjoyed gathering at the homecoming football game against Bethany College at The Bank of Kentucky Field. The Saints conquered Bethany 40-12.
A Gift of Education Gives Back to the World

The Zawadi Africa Education Program was founded by Dr. Susan A Mboya, a marketing director at P&G in Cincinnati, Ohio, and a native of Kenya. Thomas More College answered Dr. Mboya’s request that it participate in the Program by contributing four-year tuition waivers and room and board for two female African students.

As Mboya said in her proposal to Thomas More College, “The students in the Zawadi Africa program are simply outstanding young women who are selected based on demonstrated need and ability to lead under adverse conditions. Most Zawadi girls have overcome insurmountable odds to successfully complete high school, and are selected for their academic excellence (they are among the top 5 percent performers in their countries) and leadership qualities. Eighty percent of the Zawadi students are orphans, and all are defined as disadvantaged even by African standards.”

Thirty years ago, the late Tom Mboya, Kenya’s Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs and Dr. Mboya’s father, helped secure educational opportunities for young Africans in the newly independent East Africa Colonies.

Yet despite the strides Africa has made, the ratio of men to women receiving higher education is almost 10-to-1. According to Mboya, women lag behind their male counterparts on all key indicators of development, including literacy and spending power.

Two Zawadi-qualified women, MaryLucy N. Nchomama and Winter Achieng Okoth, are now studying at Thomas More College. Both are outstanding students and leaders in their African school communities, and they are continuing on this path at the College. Both have chosen fields of study that will help them make a positive difference when they return home. But even while they are with us, they are giving back to the College and larger community through their volunteer efforts.

Zawadi Means “Gift” in Swahili

Winter Achieng Okoth says she is thankful “for the precious gift of education” at Thomas More College. She arrived in 2008 from Western Kenya through the Zawadi Africa Education Program. “The scholarships have had great impact not only in my life, but also in the lives of people within and outside my precincts,” she said. Her vision is to become a pediatrician who will help save children’s lives in Kenya, Africa, and the world. Considering the academic excellence and leadership this young woman demonstrates as the oldest of four daughters and the first in her family to attend college, her dream of becoming a medical doctor seems likely to come true.

Despite many challenges, “such as living in the slums where life is so hard, particularly for children, not being able to continue with my education due to financial constraints, not welcomed in my society and being considered a weak and uncouth human being because I am female — I have always been passionate to achieve education and realize my dreams to the fullest,” Okoth explained.

She is majoring in biology and chemistry and is an active member of the biology and chemistry clubs, Pre-Health Professionals club, International Student Society, African American Student Association, Tri Beta Beta, Student Activity Board, Business Society, and the Resident Student Association. One of her poems appeared in the Thomas More College Words Journal 2009. She has also received Dean’s Honors for academic excellence.

Okoth plans to practice medicine in Kenya and to have a broader impact by working with organizations such as the United Nations, United States Agency for International Development, World Health Organization, and Habitat for Humanity. But her impact is already being felt. She volunteered with Habitat for Humanity in Louisiana helping “build hope and a house” for Katrina victims. She has served at the Henry Hosea soup kitchen and

WHY I GIVE TO TMC

Thomas More College was the right school for me because of its small class size and committed faculty. It gave me the tools for a bright future. Giving to Thomas More College is my way to help students of the next generation build strong foundations for their own bright future. It’s my way to say thanks.”

— Chris Perrino ‘84
In September 2009 the Office of Institutional Advancement secured gifts and pledges from 99% of the full-time faculty and staff at Thomas More College. In recent years, the Faculty/Staff Annual Campaign has consistently experienced top-notch levels. In 2008–2009, the employee participation rate was 95% and in 2007–2008 the campaign reached 100%.

Students Winter Okoth (left) and Marylucy Nchomama (right) from Kenya are attending Thomas More College as part of the Zawadi Africa Education Program.

volunteered at the Orphanage Kentucky and at St. Elizabeth Hospital. You may have heard her voice last spring when she was a caller for the College’s phon-a-thon.

Okoth is especially pleased with her work-study job on campus: “I thank God for bringing me this far and for the friendly people I have come to meet in the Thomas More College community at large.”

Making Smiles, Building a School
Marylucy N. Nchomama wants to be a dentist. She also wants to build a school. Her four-year scholarship at Thomas More College may help her do both.

Nchomama came to Thomas More College from the little village of Wamba, Samburu District, in the northern part of Kenya. She has two brothers and two sisters, and was able to attend grade school and high school — where she earned “Top Student at St. Theresa’s Girls School 2006,” and “Best Girl Samburu District,” excelled in sports, math, English and student leadership — because missionaries in the little church she and her family went to paid tuition and school fees.

“After graduation from high school, I was introduced to Zawadi Africa,” Nchomama explained. “I applied for scholarships and was lucky enough to be admitted to Thomas More College.” She is majoring in biology.

She is also continuing her track record of leadership and academic excellence as a member of the women’s soccer team, secretary of the International Students Society, student ambassador, member of the Biology Club, and in the Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge. Nchomama has worked in the Athletics Department selling tickets for basketball games and at the Thomas More College Biology Field Station, all while maintaining a place on the Dean’s List and receiving the Presidents’ Athletic Conference Academic Honor Roll award. She has also helped raise funds for Huruma, a home for disabled and mentally handicapped children in Wamba.

Nchomama has spoken to groups at Thomas More College and in the community about Kenya and the Zawadi Africa Education Fund, but her favorite presentation was in a public speaking class where she discussed Operation Smile.

“My dream is to help children and young adults receive dental care and corrective surgery, especially children with cleft-lip palate (which is the work of Operation Smile),” she said. “I also wish to give back to the community and society with education support. With the Zawadi Africa motivation to reach out to other needy people, I hope to build a high school in my village to offer quality education to unfortunate students.”

Thomas More College achieves 99 percent participation rate in Employee Giving Program

In September 2009 the Office of Institutional Advancement secured gifts and pledges from 99% of the full-time faculty and staff at Thomas More College. In recent years, the Faculty/Staff Annual Campaign has consistently experienced top-notch levels. In 2008–2009, the employee participation rate was 95% and in 2007–2008 the campaign reached 100%.
Searching On and Beyond Solid Ground

Faculty and alumni embrace “their place in the world”

...we challenge students to examine the ultimate meaning of life, their place in the world, and their responsibility to others.

This excerpt from our college Mission Statement comes alive in the vocations and avocations of three individuals — two faculty members and a graduate — who have traveled far, in different ways, to experience and discover their world.

■ ■ ■
I've Hiked the Whole Thing

Since 1948, some 10,600 men and women have hiked the entire Appalachian Trail (AT), a distance of about 2,160 miles. Jack Wells, Thomas More College associate professor in physics, is one of them. It took him 11 years to do it, averaging 200 miles of "section hiking" each year, but the unique beauty of the Trail and the people he met along the way made it all worthwhile. The task had other benefits as well.

"My life is imbedded in the comforts of our technological world like everyone else, but backpacking connects me back to our natural world — plants, animals, and weather," he explained. "I'm not hiking to escape from anything, but it is good to escape. It gives me a deeper appreciation for our world and a better sense of balance that would be harder to achieve without living in the woods for two-to-three weeks at a time. Long-distance hiking also teaches humility and self-reliance."

The AT runs from Springer Mountain (3,782 ft.) in Amicalola Falls State Park in Georgia to Mt. Katahdin (5,268 ft.) in Baxter State Park in Maine. It crosses 14 states and through towns such as Caratunk, Boiling Springs and Harpers Ferry, and camps such as Rainbow Springs, Chairback Gap and Horns Pond.

Along the way Wells carried a 35-pound backpack with shelter, clothes, stove, food, water, and gear. While hiking he saw bears, fox, deer, skunks, beaver, snakes, grouse, moose, turtles, loons, salamanders, mice and ticks. One night he watched a fisher (a smaller version of a wolverine) chase a large jackrabbit, with the two making figure eights right through the camp. It went on for 20 minutes. As Wells said, "Hiking is a unique way to experience an American wilderness."

He first heard of the AT as a child, and said he took a few overnight camping trips in college. In 1977 he took a five-day trip in the wilds of Idaho, Seven Devils region, and was hooked on backpacking. He has since backpacked many of the National Parks, including the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, and, of course, the Great Smoky Mountains.

"The AT travels for about 80 miles through the Smokies," he said. "I have hiked this portion three times, the first in 1983 as part of a Sierra Club trip." (He is a founding member of the Northern Kentucky Sierra Club Chapter, which held meetings at the College for nearly 20 years, while he was an officer.)

Clearly, Wells has covered a lot of ground, even during winter months, which some experienced hikers call "the death march." But he finds winter hikes offer a different kind of beauty. And while Maine may be the most beautiful part of the AT, he found it the most difficult: "For much of the trail, I can hike about two miles per hour. In the lower 200 miles of Maine, my rate was about one mile per hour. So in Virginia 10 hours of hiking can take me 20 miles, but in Maine 10 hours of hiking only takes me 10 miles. That's a big difference!"

This past June Wells walked his final stretch, a 100-mile section from Erwin, Tenn., to Damascus, Virginia. "It was a great feeling to complete it," he said, "but it was partly having the big goal that was fun and rewarding."

What next? Wells will certainly continue to backpack and return again and again to the AT. "The AT is a unique experience, partly because of the people you meet along the way." He's also looking west for new ground to cover — the Pacific Crest Trail.

Ferner's Fanged Frog

In May 1994, Dr. John Ferner, Thomas More College professor of biology, went on an interdisciplinary expedition to the Philippines to survey the biodiversity of eastern Mindanao Island. The trip was his third to the Philippines, all of which were supported by the Cincinnati Museum Center and Thomas More College. The
1994 expedition, however, was the first of its kind in this section of the islands. As before, it included scientists with a multitude of specialties and the goal of collecting samples of indigenous species.

In one particular part of the forest they found a tree farm that featured conservation areas for native species. Here, Dr. Ferner and the group (including Kelley Reis ’95 with a BA in biology) collected a sample of three frogs.

Fast-forward 15 years to a team of scientists from the University of Kansas. This group includes Rafe M. Brown, curator of herpetology at the University of Kansas, and one of the individuals who participated with Ferner in the 1994 expedition. At the time, Dr. Brown was a graduate student at Miami University.

This year, Brown and his team determined that the frogs collected during the 1994 trip with Ferner are actually a new species of fanged frog. “Although no additional specimens have been collected in the nearly 15 intervening years,” their report explained, “we are compelled to take taxonomic action at this time because the new species is so distinct and because ignorance of biodiversity in part contributes to forest destruction throughout the Southern Philippines.”

That’s right, the frog in question is now known as Ferner’s Fanged Frog, in honor of Ferner’s contribution to the field and the guidance he provided to a student and colleague.

Ferner recalled another highlight of his career, the 1992 discovery of a new genus of small skinks (lizards) on the Philippine island of Panay, which he described with Rafe Brown and Allen Greer (of The Australian Museum) in 1997.

This time, he received an e-mail from Brown with the subject heading “your frog.” “It’s nice to have something named in your honor while you are alive,” he said, “and it is pretty humbling to think there is a species out there named after me.”

In the last several years, Ferner has been working on conservation efforts in the planted forests of Malaysian Borneo with Robert Stuebing (a Cincinnati transplant to Southeast Asia) in an attempt to maximize the biodiversity in areas where logging is taking place.

Laura Burns ’98, research scientist for NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center

Dreaming of Her Walk on the Moon

Laura Burns ’98 has been a space enthusiast for most of her life. How often have we all heard, “You have to be a rocket scientist to understand this?” Well, she is one — a research scientist for NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. When she was a child she was asked if she wanted to be the first woman on Mars. She told the questioner, “No, I want to be the first...
PERSON on Mars.” This sums up Laura Burns to a tee.

“Sometime during elementary school I decided that space was cool, and that was the kind of work I wanted to do,” Burns explained. The Space Challenger Disaster did not dissuade her interest in space, but rather cemented it. “More than ever I wanted to be involved in the space program.”

From that point on, pretty much all of her decisions with regard to education were focused on space. “At the time, I thought that my goal to work in the space industry was very specific. Little did I know how broad the field actually is,” she recalled.

While a student at Thomas More College, she was selected to participate in the NASA Academy Internship Program at the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. After graduation, with degrees in physics, math, microcomputer application systems, and technical management (from Johns Hopkins University), she had a summer internship at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. The internship at Goddard was on a test bed project for the Next Generation Space Telescope (later the James Webb Space Telescope). At the end of the summer she was offered a permanent contractor position.

During the summer of 2007, this role took her to the International Space University (ISU) in China. The curriculum was all about addressing the interdisciplinary, international and intercultural aspects of space. Students from 26 countries all lived and worked together in Beijing. She said that one aspect of ISU was building a network of people to call upon in meeting the challenges of a difficult and risky business.

The project was to build a concept study for a data archive on the moon, essentially to back up the Earth’s knowledge base. This system would come into play if a major catastrophe hit Earth. “As horrible as hurricanes such as Katrina are, we were looking at issues far worse,” Burns explained. “We were looking at things (e.g., asteroid impact) that would affect the entire planet and have the potential for setting back the planet’s culture and society. This system would provide some level of disaster relief (via the Earth-based support systems) as well as a data archive located on the moon that would transmit critical information to Earth in case of disaster. This lunar archive would also hold information about science, history, economics, personal photos and more for access by the survivors of a disaster.

Sounds pretty science fiction, but it isn’t. Not surprising then, that beyond her interest in space, she is a long-time science fiction and fantasy fan.

The window for Burns to become the first person on Mars has closed, but someday she wants to go to space, ideally to the moon. “I dream of putting my feet in the truly foreign dirt of the moon, standing there in the sun and looking back at our fragile blue home.”

With the recent surge of private investment in space, all of this can happen in her lifetime. If nothing else, Burns will enjoy standing on planet Earth, waving to people whom she may know as they break through the atmosphere to peer beyond.

You can follow Burns for news on the space industry on Twitter @ moonrangerlaura.
Bishop William A. Hughes Awards Presentation

During the Bishop Hughes Awards Dinner on October 15, Thomas More College honored two leaders in the community who have made significant contributions to Catholic higher education, Mr. Edwin T. Robinson ’63 and Mr. Matth. Toebben.

The annual event was established in 1996, the 75th anniversary of Thomas More College, in honor of Bishop William A. Hughes, former Chancellor of the College, and retired Bishop of the Diocese of Covington, whose love for the College and Catholic higher education was evident at all times.
A L U M N I  P R O F I L E

Hooked on Neurosurgery

Teacher, surgeon and research scientist, Dr. Phillip Tibbs wears three hats and all of them very well. He graduated with honors from both Thomas More College (in 1969) and from the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Medicine (in 1973). He joined the UK faculty in 1979 and has been director of UK’s Spine Center since 1998. He became chair of the UK College of Medicine Department of Neurosurgery last year, and he has received continuous funding for his research over the last 31 years with more than 20 funded projects.

It all started at Holy Cross High School in Latonia, Kentucky, where biological sciences captured his imagination. “Even then I was fascinated with the brain and nervous system, its order and complexity,” he remembered. He attended Villa Madonna College (now Thomas More College) on scholarship, and upon entering declared his major as pre-med with the goal of becoming a neurologist. He attributed much to professors and mentors, Sr. Mary Laurence Budde, S.N.D., and Dr. Wallace Humphreys: “I am eternally grateful for the encouragement and support I received throughout my four years at Thomas More College.” In medical school, the more he learned about the neurosciences, the more intrigued he became with surgery. He observed that, “Surgeons fixed things. After witnessing a number of brain and spine operations that saved lives, restored mobility and relieved pain — I was hooked on neurosurgery.”

Since then, Tibbs has gained national and international recognition through his research in the treatment of metastatic tumors of the brain and spine. He said that after the mid-to-late 1980s, the literature suggested surgery had no benefit over radiation therapy for these conditions, so patients would live for a few more months with poor quality of life. However, Tibbs and Dr. Roy Patchell, a neuro-oncology colleague, developed a research team to see if outcomes from these diseases could be improved.

Their first clinical trial consisted of random patients, half receiving surgery plus radiation, and the other half receiving radiation alone. The results of this trial, along with advanced surgical techniques, were published in the New England Journal of Medicine in 1990 and changed the care for treatment of metastatic tumors.

“Lance Armstrong’s brain surgeon told me he probably would not have operated on Lance’s metastatic brain tumor if he had not read our article,” Tibbs recalled. The research team did a second clinical trial that proved that even with total removal of the tumors, whole brain radiotherapy benefited the patients. “This established the standard for post-operative radiotherapy and was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 1998.”

The third major research project for Tibbs and Patchell ran from 1998 to 2005 and consisted of patients whose metastatic cancer compressed their spinal cord. According to Tibbs, this trial showed that surgery “was not for everyone, but in selected cases, the patients had remarkable recovery of paralysis and most could maintain their ability to walk for as long as they could survive their systemic disease.” This research was published in 2005 in the prestigious journal Lancet. Tibbs has published more than 100 peer-reviewed papers and abstracts.

A typical workweek for Tibbs has him spending two days performing surgery (perhaps seven or so each day); one day and a half seeing patients in his clinic; and another day and a half in formal teaching conferences with residents. He teaches in the clinic and operating room also. As chair of the Neurosurgery Department, he tends to administrative duties: planning schedules, giving work assignments, and restructuring curriculum. At the same time, he is involved with several ongoing research projects. He said he cherishes his role as an educator and is most proud of his cancer research.

With all his professional accomplishments, Tibbs has been able to achieve a balance in life. He and his wife, Trudy, enjoy travel, and they own a historic home and farm in Carlisle, Kentucky, which he described as a passion. They have an antique pharmacy in Paris, Kentucky that they run as a coffee and gift shop called Vardens (www vardens.com), and purchased Athens School, an old elementary school where they now hold monthly antique shows with several vendors. He said reaching a work-life balance was not without difficulty at times, but that “at this stage it is achievable and enjoyable.”
In July, the Natural Science Division at Thomas More College offered its fifth annual Summer Science Institute, a week-long enrichment program for high school students. Students applied to the program, and participants were selected based upon their scholastic achievement and related career interests. This year’s participants included: Stephanie Biecker (Notre Dame Academy), Hank Bischoff (Covington Latin School), Marissa Doerger (Holy Cross High School), Ryan Laber (Villa Madonna Academy), Devan Macke (New Richmond High School), Melissa Miller (Roger Bacon High School), Bennett Paradis (Highlands High School), Brooke Taylor (Mount Healthy High School), and Jessica Tiettmeyer (McNicholas High School). During the week, students stayed in Murphy Hall and worked alongside faculty and undergraduate researchers at the Biology Field Station, Observatory and Science Wing. Their activities included a variety of hands-on projects in the field, on the rivers, and in science laboratories.

The Institute began Sunday with an opening dinner for families and a tour of Thomas More’s Bank of Kentucky Observatory. Monday’s work began bright and early at the Field Station, where participants tested water from the Ohio River and surveyed the microbiology of the river and ended late that night at the Observatory, where they learned about astronomy while viewing the night sky. Tuesday included physics and chemistry activities on campus, followed by an evening of relaxation, swimming and playing volleyball at Five Seasons Sports Club. Wednesday continued with additional chemistry activities on campus and was followed by an evening of “electrofishing” at the Field Station. Thursday included a stream assessment and kayak trip down the Licking River, as well as a behind-the-scenes tour of the Newport Aquarium. The week finished up with participants presenting to their families what they had explored and learned through their experiences.

Thomas More College science professors, Dr. Lorentz and Dr. Ryle, and college mentors (Kat Diersen, Ashley Osbourn, Michelle Smith and Josh Vogel) offered an up-close and personal view of campus life and our unique science facilities and gave participants a real sense of life as a science major and scientist.

Information pertaining to next summer’s Science Institute can be found at the Biology Field Station website: www.thomasmore.edu/fieldstation. The Field Station welcomes groups of all kinds and ages and offers a variety of workshops, courses, seminars and other related events for students, educators, scientists and the general community. For information about these or other programs, contact fieldstation@thomasmore.edu.
Readifest a Success in Latonia
Imagine vendors, kids, parents, faculty, and district personnel interacting amiably on a warm Saturday morning. This was the case on Saturday, August 8, in the play area at Latonia Elementary School, Latonia, Kentucky. More than 300 parents and children were there visiting booths to pick up school supplies and a host of information from vendors. Teachers provided tote bags filled with school supplies. Parents and students received dental supplies as well.

Thomas More College, as the BEST partner for Latonia Elementary, was well represented with a table filled with College admissions information; bookmarks designed by the MAT Program; and pencils donated by Barnes and Noble through the campus bookstore. Dr. Joyce F. Hamberg, MAT coordinator and Education Department faculty member, represented the College at this important back-to-school initiative.

Diversity Expert Addresses Packed Audience
An award winning expert on diversity, Dr. Charles Behling of the University of Michigan, spoke on September 25, 2009, to a standing-room-only audience of students about the application of psychological data to “real world” issues of prejudice and discrimination. Behling’s presentation was sponsored by the Psychology Department and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

New Music Courses Made Available This Fall
Three new music courses have joined Thomas More’s fall 2009 course schedule. Steve Goforth now teaches beginning piano and voice courses. He accepted three piano and three voice students. Rebecca Wells teaches a conducting course (MUS290). Each of these new courses satisfies requirements for the associate of arts degree in music.

History Student Chapter Elected “Best”
Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society in History has given a Best Chapter Award to the Thomas More College chapter for the 2008-09 school year. During that period, with senior history major Laura Jarboe as president, the chapter participated in the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial, sponsoring campus presentations by historians Mark Neely (Penn State University), James Ramage (NKU), and John Cimprich (TMC). The chapter joined the TMC Honors Program on a trip to Springfield, Illinois, to see New Salem Village, Lincoln’s House, and the Lincoln Museum. Activities included a paper reading by Julie Bauerle, senior history major, at the Kentucky Regional Conference, picnics and community service activities.
How do you combine business, science and international cultures? Ask fellow alumnus, Nick Lowry. He seems to have hit the perfect combination. Lowry is an account executive in Client Services for Burke, Inc., the number-one-ranked market research company, which came about not long after Lowry obtained his undergraduate degree from Thomas More College in 2003. He and fellow alumnus, Brandon Klar, began working for a local biopharmaceutical consulting company, and Lowry says, “I was quickly hooked by a unique combination of business and science.” After he received his MBA from Thomas More College, Lowry wanted to seek the more research-based strategies that he found so appealing in the biopharmaceutical industry. Working for Burke, Inc., he has found non-healthcare-related research opportunities as well.

His arrival on this path was influenced by several professors at Thomas More College. He credits Dr. Patricia Lynch-Knoll and Professor Patricia Raverty with instilling in him confidence in his communications. He said Drs. James Camp and Cate Sherron, “were incredible at getting me to think critically and to back up my opinions with data, a skill that has served me well as a marketing researcher.” Drs. George Euskirchen and Steve Flynn taught him more about economics and accounting than he ever thought possible.

Lowry is living in Atlanta, Georgia, for five months as he consults for a top biopharmaceutical company in that area. The majority of his travel tends to be domestic, but he has traveled to international locations, including Munich, Amsterdam, Paris, Stuttgart and London. He found the most interesting place to be London, not only because of its rich history, but because he also led a project there evaluating a technique to treat non small-cell lung cancer. This project gathered the United Kingdom’s top pulmonologists, oncologists and radiologists at a resort that had been converted from an old monastery in Ashdown Forest. He said it had served as the basis for the setting of the Winnie-the-Pooh stories. Each evening, Lowry and the physicians enjoyed professional instruction in shooting clay pigeons in the English countryside.

In his international work, Lowry finds that “for the most part, people across cultures are fairly similar.” He respects the foundation of his business relationships, and when he acknowledges the inherent cultural differences, “things typically proceed smoothly and amicably.” As far as differences, most of them are found in the way people respond to each other. For instance, in the United States people respond to e-mails fairly quickly (within a few hours) and go directly to the point. He said that when working with his international colleagues, it can take days to receive a response. One client of his preferred direct phone calls, which can be difficult when you take time zones into account, but when he did speak to the client, “it was more about what was going on outside of his professional life.” Another cultural difference he described was in the responses to the research surveys he’s conducted: “German respondents are much less likely to give high ratings compared to U.S. respondents, while Japanese respondents tend to give ‘middle-of-the-road’ ratings on any given scale.”

A typical work day for Lowry might resemble any business person’s day — making business development calls, designing proposals, analyzing results, moderating research programs, meeting with clients — anything to help companies understand their markets and stakeholders better. Lowry said it is the actual research being done, the type of research, and the clients he serves that make his day.

Lowry is proud of what he has achieved in his 28 years. He said he is, “married to the best wife anyone could wish for” and has the “world’s best group of friends.” He is also involved with the local non-profit agency Be Concerned, serving as a board member. Summing up, he said, “Both personally and professionally, I feel very fortunate to have been able to forge relationships with the people I have encountered here and across the globe.”
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Class Acts

Students Present at Psychology Research Conference

Twenty-three psychology majors and three faculty members attended the 28th annual Mid-America Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference held in April 2009 at Franklin College in Franklin, Indiana. Five students presented papers, and 18 students presented poster sessions.

BEST Program Planning for 2009-10

Education Department faculty member Dr. Joyce F. Hamberg, who is TMC liaison for the Business Education Success Teams (BEST) program, went to Latonia Elementary School at the end of July to meet with Principal Lee Turner and Family Resource Center Coordinator Sherry Madrick. They planned for the continued success of this BEST partnership in the upcoming school year. (Initiatives implemented during the 2008-09 school year had merited the coveted BEST Project of the Year Award, which was presented in May at the Eggs and Issues Breakfast hosted by the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.)

Goals for the 2009-10 school year are aligned with the school’s Comprehensive School Improvement Plan.

Plans are to:
- Continue the after-school art program for six weeks in October and November 2009
- Continue and expand tutorials — grades 3-5 math, reading, and science, and grade 5 social studies
- Provide tutoring to third graders through the One-to-One Reading Program
- Work with the CHAMPS Program, a proactive approach to school-wide discipline
- Continue book sharing with education classes
- Attend sports events on campus
- Plan a campus tour to coordinate with the Chemistry Department for lab experiments, and discuss careers
- Participate in the School’s Readifest, Literacy Week Read-a-thon, Education Week, and Book Sharing.

Members of the faculty, alumni association and staff are welcome and encouraged to become involved in BEST Program initiatives with Thomas More College at Latonia Elementary, R.C. Hinsdale Elementary, and Holy Trinity Elementary. Please contact Dr. Hamberg at 859-344-3338 or the Education Department at 859-344-3626 for information.

New Psi Chi Members Hear about Psychology Career

Dr. Kristy Fritz ’00 (front row, third from left) was keynote speaker for the Psychology Department’s Psi Chi ceremony where 13 new members were inducted. Fritz, a graduate of the department, spoke with students about her career as a pediatric clinical psychologist and her work with children with transplants, burns, AIDS and other serious illnesses.
Faculty Notes

Dr. Robert A. Arnold, professor, Business Administration, and Dr. Jack Rudnick, Jr., assistant professor, Business Administration, co-presented to 250 attendees at the 2009 Explorer Conference on May 21, 2009. This was a continuing education program sponsored by the Northern Kentucky Respiratory Care Education Council at Northern Kentucky University. Arnold and Rudnick spoke on “Ethics in Healthcare for 2009,” which focused on emerging issues pertaining to respiratory care professionals, patients’ rights to self-determination, and professionals’ duty to care.

Dr. John Cimprich, professor, History, wrote the “Afterword” for Kent T. Dollar et al. eds., Sister States, Enemy States: The Civil War in Kentucky and Tennessee (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2009). He also spoke at the July 31 meeting of the Northern Kentucky Civil War Round Table on “Fort Pillow during the Civil War.”

Dr. Rex B. Easley, associate professor, English, had a poem, “Urban Planning,” appear in the fall 2009 issue of Kansas City Voices, a national literary journal funded in part by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

Dr. Erwin F. Erhardt, III, professor, History and Economics, presented a paper titled “Preventing the Emergence of a Fourth Reich: Mission: Impossible (1966-1973), Nazi Conspiracies, and the Hunt for Hitler’s Treasure” and chaired a session on “Cold War Television” at the Popular Culture Conference/American Culture Conference held in New Orleans, Louisiana, April 8–11, 2009.

On July 6 and 7, Erhardt attended a symposium hosted by the University of Portsmouth and the British Universities Film & Video Council titled “Researching Cinema History: Perspectives and Practices in Film Historiography.” The conference was held at Burlington House, London, U.K. Erhardt then traveled to the University of Aberystwyth, Wales, where he attended the International Association of Media and Historians (IAMHIST) Conference held July 8–11. There he presented a paper titled “The End of the ‘Golden Age of Television’ and Emergence of the ‘New Moral Order’: American Television’s Challenge to Social-Moral Norms of the Nation in the 1970s.”

Erhardt presented a paper titled “A Curtain Call for the Golden Age of Television: Britain’s Adventures of Black Beauty (ITV/London Weekend Television, 1972–74) becomes an International Success” at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association International Conference held July 27–31 at the University of Turku, Finland.

In September, Erhardt returned to the U.K. to attend the Children in War: a Multidisciplinary Conference held at the University of Reading. He presented a paper titled “A Trilogy of Children in War: Representations of German, French, and British Youth in the Final Televised Season of Combat!” Erhardt is now serving in his fifth year as associate director of the Centre for Evacuee and War Child Studies at the University of Reading.

Dr. Erhardt attended the European Studies Conference at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, October 1–3. At this conference, Erhardt presented a paper titled, “Meltdown in Iceland: Economic Devastation, Political Revolution, and the Road to National Recovery” and chaired a panel, “Nation Building in Modern Europe.” In addition, he served on the Steering Committee of the concurrent Global Studies Conference held at the University of Nebraska at Omaha where he presented a paper, “The Return of the Military Coup to Latin American Politics: Honduras and Constitutional Government in a State of Crisis.”

Dr. Jodie N. Mader, associate professor, History, will be presenting a paper at the Southern Historical Association/European Section conference in Louisville, Kentucky, November 5–7, 2009. The paper is titled “Legal War Mongering? The British Anti-War Rhetoric of the South African War, 1899–1902.”

Dr. Malcolm Robinson, professor and chairperson, Economics, was a featured panelist on KET’s Kentucky Tonight program on April 20 and again on July 20, 2009, discussing the economy. He was joined by representatives of the University of Kentucky, Western Kentucky University, and Somerset Community College.

Dr. Jack Rudnick, Jr., assistant professor, Business Administration, presented an academic paper titled “Elder Abuse and Neglect: Clergy Awareness, Knowledge, Intervention Preferences and Perceived Severity” at the second annual symposium at Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, North Carolina, on June 4, 2009. The theme at this international symposium was “Life Course Perspectives on Spirituality and Health in Diverse Religious Communities.” It was sponsored by the School of Medicine’s Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health.

Mr. Kenneth A. Taylor, associate professor, Math, spent a week in Kansas City grading AP calculus exams taken by 304,490 high school and foreign students. This resulted in 1,826,940 calculus questions that needed to be graded, a task accomplished by 835 high school and college teachers.
How long have you worked at TMC?
A: I’ve been teaching at TMC full time for 30 years. This is the only full-time job I have ever had. I have taught part time at UC, NKU, and Covington Catholic High School.

What profession would you have entered if you weren’t a professor?
A: I’m not really sure what I would be doing if I weren’t a professor. When I graduated I interviewed for several industrial chemist positions, but they all told me I was more suited for teaching.

What was your first job?
A: At 15 I was flipping burgers in Vestal, New York (upstate New York).

What are your hobbies?
A: Cars and trains. I own a restored 1966 Mustang fastback that I tinker with to keep it running and looking good. I have been restoring the undercarriage of the car, but no one ever sees that part. I also have a 1993 Mustang Cobra in original condition and with about 33,000 original miles. I am the second owner of that car. My kids, JC and Melissa, have fueled my interest in cars because I am always fixing/modifying their vehicles. I have painted body kits, replaced exhaust systems and installed stereos and amps, just to name a few things. My interest in trains came from when I was small. I have always had a train layout — currently half my basement is a train layout. My grandson Trey, who is 5, has been helping me with the train layout since he was 2. Trey and I enjoy visiting train museums and watching trains.

What are you passionate about?
A: Learning! I love to learn new things. In 2000 I earned a master’s degree in computer information sciences, and currently I am taking graduate and non-credit courses in the area of forensic science. I have a stack of books on numerous subjects (including computers, car painting, pin striping, building robots, digital electronics, woodworking...) that I want to learn. Every time I go into a bookstore I see a book on some new subject that I want to explore. Learning goes beyond books and classes — every time I walk into a class that I’m teaching I expect some student is going to teach me or show me something I don’t already know. I have learned quite a bit from my grandchildren!

What awards/honors have you received?
A: I was named Teacher of the Year at TMC way back in 1993-94.

What motivates you as a faculty member?
A: My biggest motivation is students. I enjoy interacting with them and watching them learn and grow. To see how a student matures in four years at Thomas More College is very exciting. Having been in the sciences for many years, it is truly rewarding to see how our students have made an impact in the community. Many of the doctors I now see as a patient were students I taught when I first came to Thomas More College.

Where is the last place you traveled and why?
A: This last summer my wife and I took our children and grandchildren (Trey and Ava, 1-year-old) on a vacation to Disney World in Florida. We spent a week visiting with Mickey and Minnie.

What is six things most people don’t know about you?
A: 1) I teach part time at Covington Catholic.
2) I coach a coed soccer team of 5- to 6-year-olds at the YMCA in Kenton County. I started coaching at the YMCA 23 years ago when my son JC was 5. I have coached (and occasionally play) recreational soccer for the last 20-plus years.
3) I am currently taking graduate courses in forensic science at the University of Florida.
4) I maintain two vintage automobiles.
5) I haven’t shaved in more than 20 years! My son JC (TMC ’08) has only seen me once without my beard, and my daughter Melissa (TMC ’09) has never seen me without a beard. The one time my son saw me (he was 2 or 3), he screamed and then cried.
6) Karen (my wife TMC ’88) and I married each other for the second time (1979) in the TMC Chapel (now a computer lab); both of our children were baptized in that same TMC Chapel; and both of our grandchildren were baptized in the current chapel at TMC.

What is in your CD/MP3/iPod right now?
A: Lynyrd Skynyrd.

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Villa Players 50th Anniversary:
The Villa Players celebrated their 50th Anniversary on June 13, 2009, with more than 100 alumni in attendance. Special commemorations were given to Drs. Bob Jackson (posthumously) and Ron Mielech for their contributions over the years.

Alumni Riverboat Cruise 2009:
The third annual TMC Alumni Riverboat Cruise was held Saturday, August 15, 2009, with 120 alumni on board as we sailed up and down the Ohio River aboard the River Queen.
Keeneland Trip:
Two charter buses took 90 alumni to “TMC Alumni Day at Keeneland” on October 24. As the weather improved, the day was full of great horses, great races, great alumni and a great time had by all.

2009–2010 Alumni Association Board of Directors:
The Alumni Association Board of Directors held its first meeting on August 25, 2009, and welcomed several new members. Pictured back row left to right: Bill Schmaedecke ’56, Dr. Chris Lorentz, faculty representative, Wayne Wycoff ’97, vice president, Brad Voegele ’01, president, and Ted Zalla ’90. Pictured front row left to right: Carol (Willenborg) Burns ’70, immediate past president, Diana (Thomas) Henke ’83; Alice (Rabe) Wintersheimer ’56; Monica Ginney ’93, director, Alumni Relations, Sue Banks ’81; Annette Brink ’77; Anita (Scheper) Stautberg ’64; and Jim Stautberg ’65.
Alumni News

1960s

John Macaulay ’61 celebrated his 70th birthday with family and friends in September. Fellow alumnus, Mike Holman ’60 is pictured here with John holding a recent issue of Moreover.

Barbara (Niemand) Uriage ’62 and her husband, Jerry, and Charles Trenkamp ’62 and his wife, Jane, vacationed together in Savannah, Georgia, earlier this year. Their visit included a stop at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

Ronald Eckerle ’63 retired in 2007 after 32 years with Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley in Dayton, Ohio, 30 of those years as executive director. He and his wife are now enjoying retirement in the Outer Banks, North Carolina.

1970s

Jan Hoffman ’74 published his third children’s book, Seven Tales of Syhanji the Lion. His other two books are The Case of the Odd Furped and Sleigh Ride for an Elf and Other Stories.

1980s

Paul Bens ’84 published his first novel, Kelland, which was released in paperback on September 1, 2009, through Casperian Books.

Chris Perrino ’84 has been appointed chair of the Corryville Catholic School Board (formerly St. George School), an urban consolidated school serving 180 students in pre-school through grade 8.

Jamie (Noll) Schroeder ’87 was recently named assistant director for the Office of Catechesis and Formation for the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky. This office oversees religious education in schools and parishes, as well as the catechists’ certification program.

1990s

Chris Bryson ’93/00 accepted the position of program director/general manager of Talbert House Spring Grove Center in October 2007. The facility has since obtained its full operating license from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and scored 100 percent on its most recent accreditation audit by the American Correctional Association.

Bryson will have an article published in the winter 2010 newsletter of the Ohio Community Corrections Association.

Dawn (Butsch) Bloomer ’95 recently earned her master’s degree in public health from Walden University in Baltimore, Maryland. She works as a nursing instructor at Gateway College and in the emergency room at The Christ Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Victoria (Hoening) Sapp ’95 was named Art Teacher of the Year for her work at Mildred Dean Elementary in the Newport Independent School District in Kentucky by the Kentucky Art Education Association (KyEAE). She is now the state regional coordinator for KyEAE.


Tammy Masters ’98 went back to school full time at Parkland College to pursue her certification in Web design and management.

Chris Wells ’98, former Thomas More College linebacker and now a professional mixed martial artist (MMA), took on Johnny Rees at Belterra Casino in Indiana as part of the MMA Big Show this past summer.
Andrew Hebbeler ’99 was selected to receive a 2009 American Association for the Advancement of Science 2009 Science and Technology Policy Fellowship. The program is designed to advance academic scientists into the U.S. government policy arena. He has begun a two-year professional assignment at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., specifically within the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation in the Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction.

Emily (Brass) Himonidis ’99 won the Theater Educator Award from the Cincinnati Arts Association in May 2009. Her students at St. Henry District High School in Erlanger, Kentucky, secretly nominated her for the award.

Christy (Hoffeditz) Oehler ’99 and her husband, Bryan, welcomed their first child, Ryker William, on February 5, 2009. She has been a 911 police dispatcher with Boone County (Kentucky) Public Safety for nine years. The family resides in Cheviot, Ohio.

Michelle (Westhoff) Ryan ’99 is employed as a speech pathologist at Cardinal Hill of Northern Kentucky’s Center for Rehabilitation Medicine.

**2000s**

Jamie Calhoun ’00 received her Ph.D. in English from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, this past summer. She and her husband have moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, so she can begin her tenure-track position at Penn State University.

Kimberly Halbauer ’00 was recently promoted to vice president, director of Private Banking for Fifth Third Bank. She leads the Private Bank teams throughout Northern Kentucky, Cincinnati and Dayton, Ohio.

Jessica Hammersmith ’00 married Jerry Gels ’99 in April 2009. She teaches advanced placement (AP) English literature at Boone County High School in Florence, Kentucky, and he teaches biology at Lloyd High School in Erlanger, Kentucky.

Nicole (Sturgille) Ignatowski ’01 is employed at Avon Products, Inc., as an e-mail customer service specialist. She is active in local arts and drama as a volunteer and is enrolled in the MAT (master of arts in teaching) Program at Thomas More College.

Chris Xeil Lyons ’02 is running for West Chester (Ohio) Township trustee this November. She hopes to combine her Thomas More College education with her 14 years of economic development experience and long-time community support to secure this leadership position.

David Van Meter ’02 recently obtained his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Cincinnati. He and his wife, Petra (former Student Life coordinator), now reside in Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

Tara (Cunningham) Alvey ’03 is enrolled in the doctoral program at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee in language, literature and culture.

Sarah Hattfield ’03 is employed as a speech pathologist at The Ohio State University Medical Center.

Thomas Beck ’04 and his wife, Amanda, have moved back to Kentucky after he had been stationed in California for two-and-a-half years with the Marine Corps. He was promoted to Captain and assigned as Inspector Instructor, Military Police Company A in Lexington, Kentucky.

Callie Clare ’04 is enrolled at Indiana University where she is working on completing a Ph.D. in folklore.

Quinton Jefferson ’04 is currently employed at Villa Madonna Academy in Villa Hills, Kentucky, as the campus minister and high school theology teacher.

Stefanie Kremer ’04 graduated from Michigan State University in August 2009 with an M.S. in forensic science. She has been working as a trace evidence analyst at the Hamilton County (Ohio) Crime Laboratory since August 2007.

**Send Us Your Photos!**

We would love to include photos of our alumni and their families as part of Class Notes. Please follow these guidelines when submitting photos for publication:

**Photographic prints:** Moreover accepts all photograph sizes, but prefers 2x3 inches (wallet size) for headshots and 4x6 for photos featuring several individuals. Both black and white and color prints are acceptable. Mail your photos to the Office of Alumni Relations, Thomas More College, 333 Thomas More Parkway, Crestview Hills, KY 41017.

**Tips for sending photo prints:** The photos sent for publication in Moreover should be sharp and clear. Photos that are out of focus, have shadows or contain red-eyed subjects may not be usable.

**Digital photos:** For print reproduction of digital photographs, we require high resolution files (a minimum of 300 pixels per inch or 300dpi) in as large a format as possible. Digital photos should be saved in a JPEG or TIFF format. To submit a digital photo, attach it to an e-mail message with your class note to alumni@thomasmore.edu.

**2000s**

Nick Partin ’04 married Lindsay Kreko on June 27, 2009. He teaches world history to 7th graders at Twenhofel Middle School in Erlanger, Kentucky. The couple resides in Independence, Kentucky.

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**Send Us Your Photos!**

We would love to include photos of our alumni and their families as part of Class Notes. Please follow these guidelines when submitting photos for publication:

**Photographic prints:** Moreover accepts all photograph sizes, but prefers 2x3 inches (wallet size) for headshots and 4x6 for photos featuring several individuals. Both black and white and color prints are acceptable. Mail your photos to the Office of Alumni Relations, Thomas More College, 333 Thomas More Parkway, Crestview Hills, KY 41017.

**Tips for sending photo prints:** The photos sent for publication in Moreover should be sharp and clear. Photos that are out of focus, have shadows or contain red-eyed subjects may not be usable.

**Digital photos:** For print reproduction of digital photographs, we require high resolution files (a minimum of 300 pixels per inch or 300dpi) in as large a format as possible. Digital photos should be saved in a JPEG or TIFF format. To submit a digital photo, attach it to an e-mail message with your class note to alumni@thomasmore.edu.

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Alumni News

Michael Fay ’05 received his M.S. in chemistry from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, in May 2008. This past summer he bought a new home in Erlanger, Kentucky, where he teaches at St. Henry District High School.

Becky Haltermon ’05 is employed as the environmental educator for Boone County Solid Waste. She writes a monthly column for the Boone County Recorder and was recognized by the Solid Waste Association of North America for her innovative environmental education programs.

Ali Johnson ’05 has relocated to Paris, France, to teach English as a foreign language.

Kari Sanders ’05 and Dave Matthews ’03 were married on July 25, 2009.

Elizabeth Chilbert ’06 is enrolled in the Ph.D. program in composition studies at Florida State University.

Vanessa Augsbach ’08 is enrolled in the English graduate program at St. Andrews University in Scotland.

Hank Backer ’08 has completed his master’s degree in fine arts at Boston University.

Melinda Borchers ’08 is teaching at the University of Cincinnati in the graduate program.

Tammy Kitts ’08 notes, “Thomas More College was the best choice I ever made.” She is working as an RN at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital (Ohio).

Kelli Kleisinger ’08 accepted a full scholarship to Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University.

Steven Klosinski ’08 and his wife, Amy, welcomed their first child, Paul Steven Klosinski, on May 4, 2009. The family resides in Burlington, Kentucky.

Kathryn Trauth ’08 is teaching at the University of Cincinnati in the graduate program.

Megan Edwards ’09 was accepted into the Ph.D. program for English at Miami University.

Laura Linneman ’09 accepted the graduate teaching assistantship in English at University of Dayton, Ohio.

Patricia Turner ’09 is attending Northern Kentucky University to complete her master’s degree in communication.

Moreover • Fall 2009 • Thomas More College
Update your records with the College!

In order to comply with the Identity Theft Prevention Policy, Thomas More College needs to ensure that the proper alumni record is being updated. Therefore, we are asking you to complete and sign this form for verification of your change of address and/or name before any database changes can be made to your record. Please note the required fields below, including signature. Thank you for your time and assistance.

**Personal Information**

Name: __________________________________________ Class Year (required): ______________________

Last 4 Digits of SSN (required): __________________________ Birthdate (required): ______________________

New Name (if applicable): ____________________________________________________________________________

Previous Name: ____________________________________________________________________________________

New Address: ______________________________________________________________________________________

Previous address: __________________________________________________________________________________

Current Phone: __________________________ Personal E-mail: ______________________________

Dependents (Names, ages, birth dates): ______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

**Employment Information**

Employer: __________________________________________ Occupation: ________________________________

Street Address: __________________________________________ Work Phone: _____________________________

City: __________________________ State: _______________ Zip: ______________

Work E-mail: ______________________________________________________________________________________

Please send alumni events and announcements: □ Personal E-mail □ Work E-mail

News you wish to share for Class Notes: ______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

Signature (required): __________________________________________ Date: __________________________

Please complete this form; send via:

- **fax** 859-344-3613
- **online** [www.thomasmore.edu/alumni](http://www.thomasmore.edu/alumni)
- **mail**
  
  Thomas More College
  Office of Alumni Relations
  333 Thomas More Parkway
  Crestview Hills, KY 41017
Fishburn Named Academic All-American

Fishburn, a sports and entertainment marketing major, carries a cumulative 3.98 grade point average and is the first Thomas More College baseball player to be named an Academic All-American since Noah Welte in 2005. He has been named to the Presidents’ Athletic Conference (PAC) Academic Honor Roll three times and has been named All-PAC twice.

Fishburn led the team in 2009 with a .385 batting average in 35 games this season with 50 base hits in 130 at-bats with a team-high 44 runs scored and 13 doubles, four home runs, two triples, 31 runs batted-in and four stolen bases. He was also hit-by-pitch seven times and had a .608 slugging percentage, .443 on-base average and a .887 fielding average.

After three seasons at Thomas More College, Fishburn is batting .343 with 142 base hits in 414 at-bats with 107 runs scored, 23 doubles, five home runs, three triples, 73 RBI and 25 stolen bases.

In order to be named an Academic All-American, a student-athlete must be a starter or key reserve, maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.30 on a scale of 4.00, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standings at his current institution and be nominated by his sports information director. The college division includes all NCAA Division II, III and NAIA institutions. Members of the College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-American committee select the squads.
Senior linebacker Brandon Kohrs was named by the National Football Foundation (NFF) as a semifinalist for the William V. Campbell Trophy and one of 34 Division III semifinalists. The Campbell Trophy recognizes one individual as being the best in the country for academic success, football performance and exemplary community leadership. Kohrs is a biology major with a cumulative 3.85 G.P.A. at Thomas More College. He plans to attend medical school after graduating in the spring of 2010.

As a semifinalist for the Campbell Trophy, he also automatically becomes a candidate for the NFF 2009 National Scholar-Athlete awards.

Kohrs is a three-year varsity letter winner at Thomas More College and a two-time ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District IV honoree. He was named honorable mention All-Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) in 2007 and 2008, and has been named to three PAC Honor Rolls. For his career he has 189 tackles, including 27.5 for a loss, eight sacks, five pass break-ups and two forced fumbles.

Saints Have Highest-ever Finish in the Learfield Sports Director’s Cup Standings

Thomas More College had its highest-ever finish in the Learfield Sports Director’s Cup standings as the Saints completed the 2008–2009 athletic season with 164 points to place 118th out of 419 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III members.

The 2008–2009 standings were announced this past summer at the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics 44th Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida. Schools earn points from where they finish in NCAA Championships. The Saints had four teams qualify for NCAA Championships in their respective sports and picked up 25 points each from the football and men’s basketball team, 50 points from the softball team’s regional semifinalist finish, and 64 points from the women’s basketball team’s “Sweet 16” appearance.

“This is a tremendous accomplishment for our entire athletic staff to finish among the top 28 percent of Division III programs,” Thomas More College Athletics Director Terry Connor said. “I congratulate our athletic department staff for finding ways to both maximize the resources we have available in recruiting top-notch student-athletes and in using their coaching ability to make this honor possible.”

In the 16-year history of the Director’s Cup, Thomas More’s previous best finish was 127th during the 2003-2004 athletic season.
### 2009–10 Fall/Winter Athletic Home Events Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| **November 28** | 4 p.m. Women’s Basketball vs. DePauw  
7:30 p.m. Men’s Basketball vs. Transylvania |
| **November 29** | 4 p.m. Women’s Basketball vs. Oglethorpe  
December 5 | 1 p.m. Women’s Basketball vs. Chatham * |
| **December 19** | TBA Women’s Basketball vs. Wittenberg  
**December 27** | 7 p.m. Men’s Basketball vs. Mount Union |
| **December 28** | 7 p.m. Men’s Basketball vs. Baldwin-Wallace  
**January 2** | 1 p.m. Women’s Basketball vs. Geneva  
3 p.m. Men’s Basketball vs. Geneva |
| **January 30** | 1 p.m. Women’s Basketball vs. Westminster *  
3 p.m. Men’s Basketball vs. Westminster *  
**February 6** | 1 p.m. Women’s Basketball vs. Washington & Jefferson*  
3 p.m. Men’s Basketball vs. Washington & Jefferson* |
| **January 16** | 1 p.m. Women’s Basketball vs. Thiel *  
3 p.m. Men’s Basketball vs. Thiel *  
**January 20** | 5:30 p.m. Women’s Basketball vs. Saint Vincent*  
7:30 p.m. Men’s Basketball vs. Saint Vincent * |
| **January 23** | 1 p.m. Women’s Basketball vs. Grove City *  
3 p.m. Men’s Basketball vs. Grove City * |

*denotes Presidents’ Athletic Conference contest

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### JOIN the Saints Sideliners

The Saints Sideliners is a group of supportive alumni, parents and fans of Thomas More College athletics. This group helps to maintain and improve Thomas More’s tradition of sports excellence. You’re invited to become a special part of Thomas More College athletics.

Please send the following:

Name: ______________________________________________________________

Address: _____________________________________________________________

City: ________________________________ State: ____________ Zip: ___________

Phone: ______________________________________________________________

E-mail: ______________________________________________________________

To: Terry Connor  
Director of Athletics  
Thomas More College  
333 Thomas More Parkway  
Crestview Hills, KY 41017

or

E-mail the information to terry.connor@thomasmore.edu.
Each candidate must meet the following general requirements for eligibility:
1. Must have been a former student-athlete in good standing.
2. Must be a graduate of Villa Madonna College/Thomas More College or a non-graduate whose entrance into professional sports interfered with the completion of a college degree.
3. Must have had two years of varsity team participation.
4. Must have made a noteworthy contribution to the athletic program while participating as a student-athlete.
5. Must be at least five years removed from graduation or the anticipated year of graduation for non-graduating professional athletes.
6. Must have exemplified the character and integrity of a valued member of the Villa Madonna College/Thomas More College community during their tenure at the College in a manner consistent with the teachings of the College’s patrons, The Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Thomas More.
7. A special category for non-graduates are eligible including, but not limited to, coaches, athletic directors, trainers or others closely associated with the College’s athletic program for a period of five or more years. Criteria for such candidates will be viewed on a case-by-case basis as deemed appropriate by the Selection Committee. Such criteria must be clearly articulated and consistent with criteria number 6 above.

Name of nominee and class year (if applicable):
________________________________________________________________________

Sport(s) participation at varsity level:
________________________________________________________________________

1. Achievement and/or leadership in sports competition as evidenced by:
   a) Post-season honors, such as All-American, All-Region, etc.; b) Holding position of team captain; c) Athletic performance, including statistics and records held.
________________________________________________________________________

2. Areas outside of sport in which individual had an impact on the College community as evidenced by:
   a) Academic honors; b) Membership in clubs, etc.; c) Demonstrated leadership through responsibilities/offices held.
________________________________________________________________________

3. Post-graduate achievement in sports as evidenced by:
   a) Outstanding amateur/professional performance in a sport; b) Achievement in the coaching and/or training of athletes; c) Achievement in other sport-related areas such as management, journalism, etc.
________________________________________________________________________

4. General contributions to society as evidenced by:
   a) Leadership in community, professional and church affairs; b) Loyalty to alma mater.
________________________________________________________________________

Nominated by: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________
Save these Dates! visit www.thomasmore.edu/alumni for more information.

Saturday, February 20, 2010 • 6:00–9:00 p.m.
Athletic Hall of Fame Awards
Steigerwald Hall (Holbrook Student Center)

Friday, March 5, 2010 • 5:00–11:00 p.m.
TMC Alumni Night at Turfway Park
Turfway Park, Florence, Kentucky

Friday, April 9, 2010 • 6:00–8:00 p.m.
Alumni Wine Tasting
Steigerwald Hall (Holbrook Student Center)