

FALL 2017

# MOREOVER

Thomas More College

A Vision for



THOMAS  
MORE  
UNIVERSITY





Homecoming is an opportunity for alumni and current students to interact in a fun, festive environment. September 30, 2017, was a particularly mild and beautiful Homecoming day. Here President David A. Armstrong and wife, Leslie, pose with members of the Homecoming court: Michael Schwarz '18, Gillian Casey '19, Jash Patel '19, Mary Beth Odom '19, Will Neltner '18, Taylor Anne Walz '19, and Ramsey Warren '19. Court members not pictured are Sofie Vietas '19, Sam Simpkins '19, and Cameron Lane '18. For more photos, visit the online gallery at [THOMASMORE.EDU/MOREOVER](http://THOMASMORE.EDU/MOREOVER).





## THOMAS MORE COLLEGE



I am happy to report that Thomas More College is thriving. While we were glad to welcome 419 new students to campus this fall—one of the largest classes, yet again, in the College's history—I am noticing good things in other areas as well. Some are the results of work already accomplished; some are prospects for our future. All of them tie directly into our mission.

If Sister Fidelis Tracy's research is any indication ("Catholic Values and the Search for Truth," **pg. 10**), then Thomas More's devotion to Catholic Identity is bearing fruit. With graduates finding their faith strengthened and students discerning calls to ministry and other vocations, TMC is staying true to its Catholic roots while remaining a place that welcomes "students of all faiths."

You will find the service aspect of Thomas More's mission on display in these pages, too. Look no further than Chris Collins '98 (*Soldier/Poet*, **pg. 20**), who served honorably in our armed forces and is now turning that service into art. Jude Grosser '76 is also putting his TMC education into practice by combating a deadly disease threatening our country's citrus crops. Read more about his efforts on **pg. 14**.

There is someone else I could never fail to mention in a discussion of service—Villa Madonna graduate Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III '67. The TMC community mourned Bill's loss earlier this year as it awarded him an Honorary Doctorate in Laws at the 2017 Commencement ceremony. Bill's achievements as the President of the American Bar Association, a friend to Thomas More College, and a philanthropic leader in our local area will assure his legacy for many years to come. You can read a special tribute to Bill on **pg. 26**.

Last but not least, in this issue you will find a vision for making Thomas More College a university (*More than Before*, **pg. 3**). The accompanying growth in campus development and new academic programs, I believe, will strengthen Thomas More so that the quality education we offer is available to future generations. Even so, in the midst of all these exciting changes, we will continue to uphold the values that have always sustained us—faith, service, and responsibility to others.

TMC is the place to be! God Bless and Go Saints!

President David A. Armstrong, J.D.

## THOMAS MORE COLLEGE

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Editor: Judy Crist

Designer: Judy Crist

Contributing Writers: Sr. Tracy Fidelis '68, Tyler Harley

'18, Ethan Kohl '21, Courtney N. Neltner '17, Tony

Otten '15, Noah Welte, J.D. '05, Judy Crist

Photography: Ethan Kohl '21, Abby Mattingly '19,

Judy Crist

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SEND COMMENTS, STORY IDEAS OR LETTERS TO:  
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Thomas More College

333 Thomas More Parkway

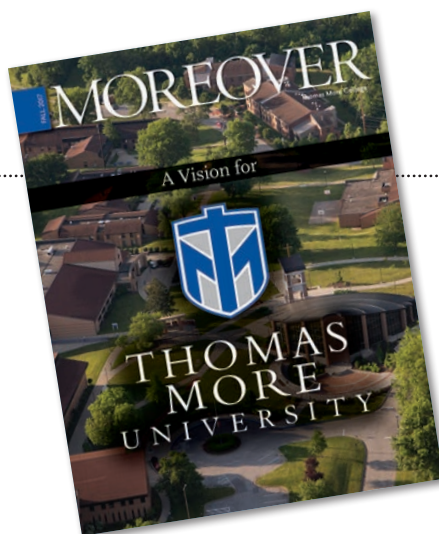
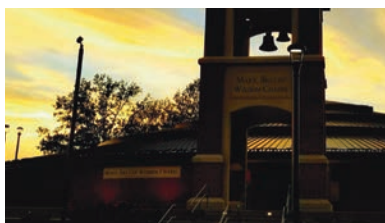
Crestview Hills, KY 41017-3495

Phone: 859-344-3309

Email: [moreover@thomasmore.edu](mailto:moreover@thomasmore.edu)

# MOREOVER

FALL 2017



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The next challenge for the College, which was founded to educate school teachers, is acting on the vision to become more... Thomas More University.

*If you see this graphic, this content is being presented in print before being shared online.*







# More than Before: TMC Looks to its Future as a University

SUBMITTED BY TONY OTTEN '15, ENROLLMENT PROCESSOR & COLLEGE STAFF WRITER

1<sup>ST</sup>  
IN  
PRINT

2018 marks fifty years since Villa Madonna College moved from Covington to assume a new name in Crestview Hills. Now, just a few years shy of its centennial, Thomas More College awaits another bold new phase—one aimed at securing its future in an era of challenges for liberal arts schools.

Over the last year, the College has sketched out a plan for renaming itself Thomas More University. Becoming TMU will mean more than buying different letterhead and ordering new decals for The More Store. Under the university model, Thomas More will be restructured to host three distinct, autonomous colleges: Arts and Sciences, Education and Health Sciences, and Business. And that change is only the beginning.

### **“The Soul of a College”**

When President David A. Armstrong, J.D., renewed his contract in 2016 with the intent of advancing the College’s five-year Strategic Plan, he knew he wanted TMC to become a university.

“We have been a great local college for many years,” Armstrong says. “[But] the move to a university will continue to extend our reach over the world.”

With the prospect of TMC’s new name come designs for major physical additions to the campus. The College recently announced the construction of a new residence hall slated to open in the fall of 2018. In the next five to ten years, Armstrong envisions a renovated academic building, a new science building, new athletic facilities, and a performing arts center. Beyond this, he wants the TMU

property to become a “destination of choice” with development to include condominiums and apartments, offices, shops, restaurants, and venues for physical fitness.

“I can see residents attending Mass in the Chapel, going to see plays in the theater,” he says. “This is a decision I believe will make us more viable for the future. We have to develop other sources of revenue to support our main mission: education.”

Armstrong intuitively that the university model will actually enhance the feature considered a hallmark of Thomas More—its small-school atmosphere built on interpersonal relationships. “Going to university, I hope, will help us do the personal element of education even better,” he says. “Faculty and students will deepen their sense of community within their own colleges and disciplines.” Quoting a faculty member with whom he discussed the matter, he adds, “We’ll have the mind of a university but the soul of a college.”

### **Same Identity, New Possibilities**

“It’s been discussed since before I arrived here [in June 2015],” Dr. Kathleen Jagger, Dean of the College, says of the university move. Dr. Jagger has overseen the exploratory process since last year when a task force of faculty and staff began assessing other institutions’ experiences with becoming universities.

She looks forward to the academic opportunities the new model will present while preserving the College’s heritage. “Part of this is to allow [us] to be more nimble and get new programs approved in

VISION CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



“Going to university, I hope, will help us do the personal element of education even better. Faculty and students will deepen their sense of community within their own colleges and disciplines.”

- President David A. Armstrong, J.D.

#### VISION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

a quicker time frame,” she says. “I don’t see us losing our liberal arts identity. It’s just that the liberal arts can apply to a lot of programs—for example, in Ethical Leadership Studies...the education we provide will prepare someone for any job, not just a job.”

According to Dr. Jagger, Thomas More is currently considering an online RN to BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing), a Special Education option in the Education major, a Master of Arts in Catholic Thought, a Master of Science in Nursing, and a low-residency Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing. She also expects Thomas More’s Gemini Dual Credit program to expand to more Catholic high schools.

While the College’s new title may anticipate big things for its future, Dr. Jagger dismisses worries that the move will change Thomas More’s focus from students to research. “Teaching is paramount” to who Thomas More is, she insists. “TMU will retain [the College’s] identity as a teaching institution, with the expectation that scholarship also makes faculty better teachers.” Any research done at TMU will ultimately benefit students, she believes, because professors who love what they do outside the classroom will communicate that passion to their students.

#### Unity within Community

Within the university, Dr. Jagger explains, the deans who manage the individual colleges will advocate for their own divisions in seeking community partnerships and grant funding. With a chance to figure out their colleges’ real needs, they will become

specialists at a level difficult to achieve for a single administrator overseeing every department at once.

Though quick to mention the advantages of multiple colleges, she remains adamant that TMU will have the same communal culture that TMC possesses now. Unlike larger universities, students at TMC will be able to double-major in programs found within different colleges, such as English and Business. Similarly, the physical mixture of offices and classrooms will guarantee that students and faculty from the three colleges have no walls between them. “I envision that we will have a common core curriculum across the University,” she adds, pointing to a common base of preparation for all students as another mark of unity.

Dr. Jagger hopes the transition will spark a new sense of belonging among nontraditional learners as well. “Moving to university will better integrate adult learners who may feel peripheral at a more traditional institution,” she says.

Jim Schuttemeyer ’76, Associate Professor of English and chair for the Humanities Division, sees other ways that fellowship will continue at TMU. “The faculty want to maintain a sense of community across the colleges,” he says. “We’ll interact through our shared governance structure and, I hope, do some interdisciplinary work with each other.”

As an alumnus and faculty member, Dr. Schuttemeyer finds the College’s recent growth encouraging. “Perceptually, it looks like we’re doing something right, and it’s bringing students in...There’s a lot of optimism here.”





## Learning Centered on Today's Student

Thomas More recently implemented a new online teaching platform called Canvas. According to Nathan Hartman, Director of Online Engagement, Canvas displays the cutting-edge caliber students expect at a university.

"People at the national conferences I attend are jealous that we have Canvas," he admits. "It's the Mercedes of Learning Management Systems. It's user-friendly for faculty and students, and we even purchased 24/7 technical support to go with it."

Hartman, who also worked as TMC's Director of Adult and Professional Education for twelve years, knows that a tool like Canvas is vital for serving nontraditional students. "We're operating in an asynchronous capacity in which students can work on their degrees anywhere, anytime, and that's key for growing online programs," he notes. "We're continuing to widen our reach beyond the I-275 beltway."

Canvas offers attractive elements for learners both on- and off-campus, such as access to Microsoft Office 365 and online personal tutoring through Pearson's Smarthinking service. For anyone concerned about online courses measuring up to the brick-and-mortar kind, Hartman points to the multiple forms of quality control that the College has enacted—training instructors in online pedagogy, insuring an overlap between faculty who teach online and in physical classrooms, and designing coursework with outcomes that meet the institution's mission.

With Canvas now removing barriers that had once kept working-age students from enrolling, Hartman sees Thomas More ready to advance in this fastest-growing sector of the higher education market.

## "Our next century of work"

TMC's transformation into a university will do more than expand its academic horizons; it promises a new degree of community interaction and financial stability. For instance, Robyn Hoffman, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, thinks that

VISION CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

*Catholic Identity is an important part of a TMC education, here Father Gerald Twaddell, D.Phil, teaches theology class as part of the core curriculum.*

## Q&A COLLEGE TO UNIVERSITY

### What is the difference between a college and a university?

Colleges are typically regional or local schools, many of which have only undergraduate programs. Most of their students are usually from the traditional age demographic (ages 18-22). Universities, however, command national and international profiles along with their regional reputations. They offer graduate degrees and their student populations tend to represent a wider range of ages and backgrounds. They are segmented into divisions called colleges, which house similar programs (e.g. College of Business, College of Informatics).

### What is the purpose behind Thomas More becoming a university?

The Diocese of Covington and the Board of Trustees want Thomas More's new title to signal aspirations for the future. Part of the purpose of renaming and restructuring the College is to galvanize changes that will sustain it for the long term, such as competing on an equal playing field in enrollment with other local institutions that are already universities.

### How does the university title fit Thomas More when it is still a small private institution?

You might be surprised how many similarities Thomas More already shares with universities. Like a university, TMC offers a multitude of graduate programs with even more under consideration. The College also has a strong foothold in the adult enrollment market, which distinguishes it from schools that rely wholly on traditional students.

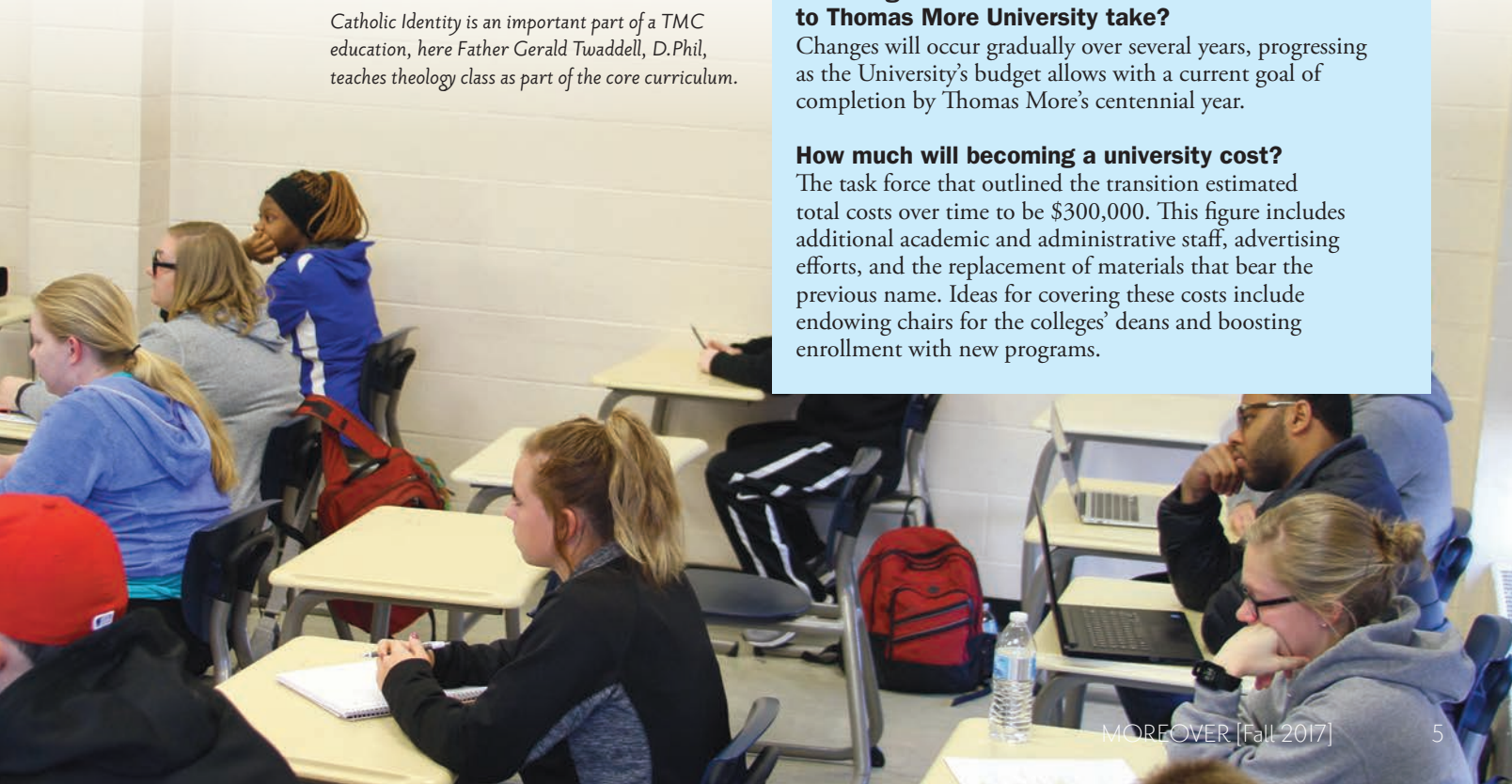
TMC's total full-time enrollment of 1,484 is comfortably within the range found at private Catholic universities within the region. For example, Wheeling Jesuit University (West Virginia) has roughly 1,400 students. Fontbonne University (Missouri) has about 1,500; Lourdes University (Ohio), about 1,400; and Quincy University (Illinois), about 1,300.

### How long will the full transition to Thomas More University take?

Changes will occur gradually over several years, progressing as the University's budget allows with a current goal of completion by Thomas More's centennial year.

### How much will becoming a university cost?

The task force that outlined the transition estimated total costs over time to be \$300,000. This figure includes additional academic and administrative staff, advertising efforts, and the replacement of materials that bear the previous name. Ideas for covering these costs include endowing chairs for the colleges' deans and boosting enrollment with new programs.







## VISION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

the multiple-college structure “will lend itself to attracting donors who desire to make more targeted investments” in specific fields such as art, business, or medicine.

With an eye toward Thomas More’s upcoming centennial, Hoffman has an array of plans for maximizing new investments in the University. Her current priority is working toward an updated athletic stadium as TMC prepares to leave the Presidents’ Athletic Conference at the end of this season. But other goals have her attention, too. “We’ve been focused on small and significant fundraising efforts, such as the Biology Field Station and St. Elizabeth Health Center for Health Sciences,” she says. “These endeavors are laying the groundwork for a comprehensive fundraising campaign.”

She intends that latter venture—something never undertaken in the College’s history—to generate proceeds for scholarships, building projects, the endowment, and other needs.

Hoffman relates that Thomas More’s alumni relations team conducted a survey on the university move and found the College’s graduates largely favorable toward it. She believes the surrounding region will likewise embrace TMU, especially as a destination for the arts and humanities: “We’re working to engage the broader community with our campus culture at events like the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra and the Institute for Religious Liberty lecture series.”

She emphasizes that the University’s new level of external connectedness will be an avenue, not an obstacle, for the mission that has always driven TMC. “We are embracing the College’s rich history and traditions,” she says, “but we are also positioning ourselves for our next century of work. It’s increasingly important that our students become global citizens.”

### Students Finding “Their Place in the World”

As a university, Thomas More will increase the global nature of its identity, found in both its mission statement and, more importantly, in its people. Examples abound. This past summer, the French club traveled to Paris, while the men’s and women’s soccer

teams combined volunteerism and sportsmanship with a two-week trip in Costa Rica. Students frequently spend semesters in Ireland and Britain through the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad. Others go to Jamaica for service learning or head to El Paso for a Border Studies course under the guidance of Dr. James Camp. Just this August, President Armstrong formalized an agreement with the University of Alaska Fairbanks for Thomas More’s Athletic Training students to intern with a Division I Hockey team, with hopes for a similar arrangement in Marine Biology.

Dr. Jagger, meanwhile, also values the reverse side of studying abroad—the opportunity for future international enrollment, particularly among Catholic populations in the Americas where she sees potential for growth. International learners “broaden our student body’s diversity, whether [studying] digitally or physically,” she says.

Maria Rechten ’18, president of the Student Government Association, notices other merits for the student population. “It’s great timing, because it ties in with the core curriculum discussion,” she says, referring to the faculty’s current efforts at revising Thomas More’s general education requirements. “This will give us an opportunity to work through two changes at once.”

She also perceives a chance for students to contribute their voices. “SGA will have a bigger job representing the interests of students in all three colleges. That means the need for SGA will grow...I think it will push students to get more involved and celebrate their pride in the school.”

### Looking Ahead...to 2121

President Armstrong often cites his goal of Thomas More reaching its bicentennial—over one hundred years away—as his vision for positioning the College. “As much as we love TMC,” he says, “TMU sounds pretty good, too.”

He does, however, see an upside in the not-so-distant future. “Something else to look forward to,” he jokes, “is that our More Store sales will definitely increase once the new gear comes in!”

MOREOVER



# Campus/Student News

## SUMMER SHAKESPEARE

The Villa Players (past and present) performed Shakespeare's *Tempest* for two weekends during the summer of 2017 at the outdoor amphitheater behind Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel. Prospero reigned supreme yet again in this TMC rendition. Summer Shakespeare will return in 2018, in the meantime plan to join the Villa Players for one of this year's theatrical productions. The complete list can be found at [tmcky.us/TMtheatre](http://tmcky.us/TMtheatre)



## ECLIPSE WATCH PARTY

What a way to start the new academic year and first day of classes! For the first time since 1979, a solar eclipse could be viewed in the northern Kentucky area. On TMC's campus, the BB&T Observatory and Softball Field welcomed students and the general public to view the 92 percent coverage of the sun as the eclipse lasted from 1-4 p.m., with the climax at 2:29. Thousands turned out for a chance to witness the event through telescopes and with free eclipse glasses. To find out more about BB&T Observatory events, follow them on social media at:


 **TMCobservatory**



Photo taken from a BB&T telescope.

## TOMMY MO - LOOKING GOOD!

Mascot update! Tommy Mo is sporting a new look, introduced in spring 2017. Say hello to the updated Tommy with a wider smile and more expressive features. The mascot is part of the spirit squad along with the Cheerleading and Dance Teams and makes appearances at TMC events for both students and alumni.



MOREOVER | Fall 2017



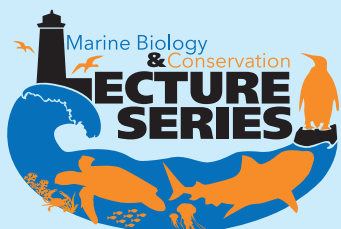
# Campus/Student News

## CONVOCATION 2017

TMC is always an exciting place to be, especially on Convocation Day! Saturday, August 19, marked another enrollment record for incoming students and the official start of the academic year as the Weeks of Welcome on the TMC campus kicked off. Move in occurred earlier in the day and festivities began at noon with a picnic lunch for students and their families. Activities included first year students meeting their instructors for first year seminar class, speaker Tish Norman addressing both parents/guardians and students about what to expect in the first year of college, celebration of the first Mass of the academic year in Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel with Bishop Roger J. Foys, D.D., as officiant, and the official Convocation Ceremony in Connor Convocation Center. President David A. Armstrong, J.D., addressed all those in attendance, welcoming them on campus. Class of 2012 graduate, Dr. James Schack, encouraged first year students to have a great TMC experience and offered words of advice based on his own Thomas More College adventures. Welcome Saints! For additional photos, visit [THOMASMORE.EDU/MOREOVER](http://THOMASMORE.EDU/MOREOVER)







Presented by:  
Thomas More College  
& WAVE Foundation at the Newport Aquarium

## THIRD YEAR OF LECTURE SERIES NOW UNDERWAY

The 2017-2018 series started off with Tom Kearney, Operations Manager for the Ocean Observatories Initiative Endurance Array, in September. The next lecture in the series presents Dr. Rachel Graham, Founder and Executive Director of Mars Alliance on Jan. 24, 2018. For more information, visit [THOMASMORE.EDU/LECTURES](http://THOMASMORE.EDU/LECTURES)



Photo by Rachel Brown

## COLLEGE WEEKEND WITH THE CINCINNATI REDS

There was a lot of blue in the stands the last Friday in August as TMC faithful represented at Great American Ballpark for College Weekend with the Cincinnati Reds. A specially designed Saints/Cincinnati Reds ballcap was available as part of the ticket purchase. Reds came out on top and attendees got free Larosa's pizza (11 strike outs), now thats a win-win!

## ROSARY RALLY

On a beautiful evening in late August, the stands were full at BB&T Field as students, staff, faculty, and friends of the College arrived to pray the Rosary as a blessing to start the new academic and athletic year. Led by Bishop Roger J. Foys, D.D., this is the third year for the Rosary Rally on the TMC Campus.



*Don't miss these stories available online at: [THOMASMORE.EDU/MOREOVER](http://THOMASMORE.EDU/MOREOVER)*

### A GRAND CELEBRATION

July 23 marked the 50th Anniversary Grand Celebration of the TMC Biology Field Station. Thanks to all that participated, enjoy a photo gallery of the event!

### GOLF OUTINGS BENEFIT TMC

TMC relies on two different outings to support scholarship funding and defray the cost of athletics. Thanks to all sponsors and participants for these successful outings.

### CORRE INTERNS

Each summer, select undergraduate college students spend their days as research interns at the TMC Biology Field Station. This blog gives a glimpse of what that means.



# Catholic Values

# and the Search for Truth (Part 2)

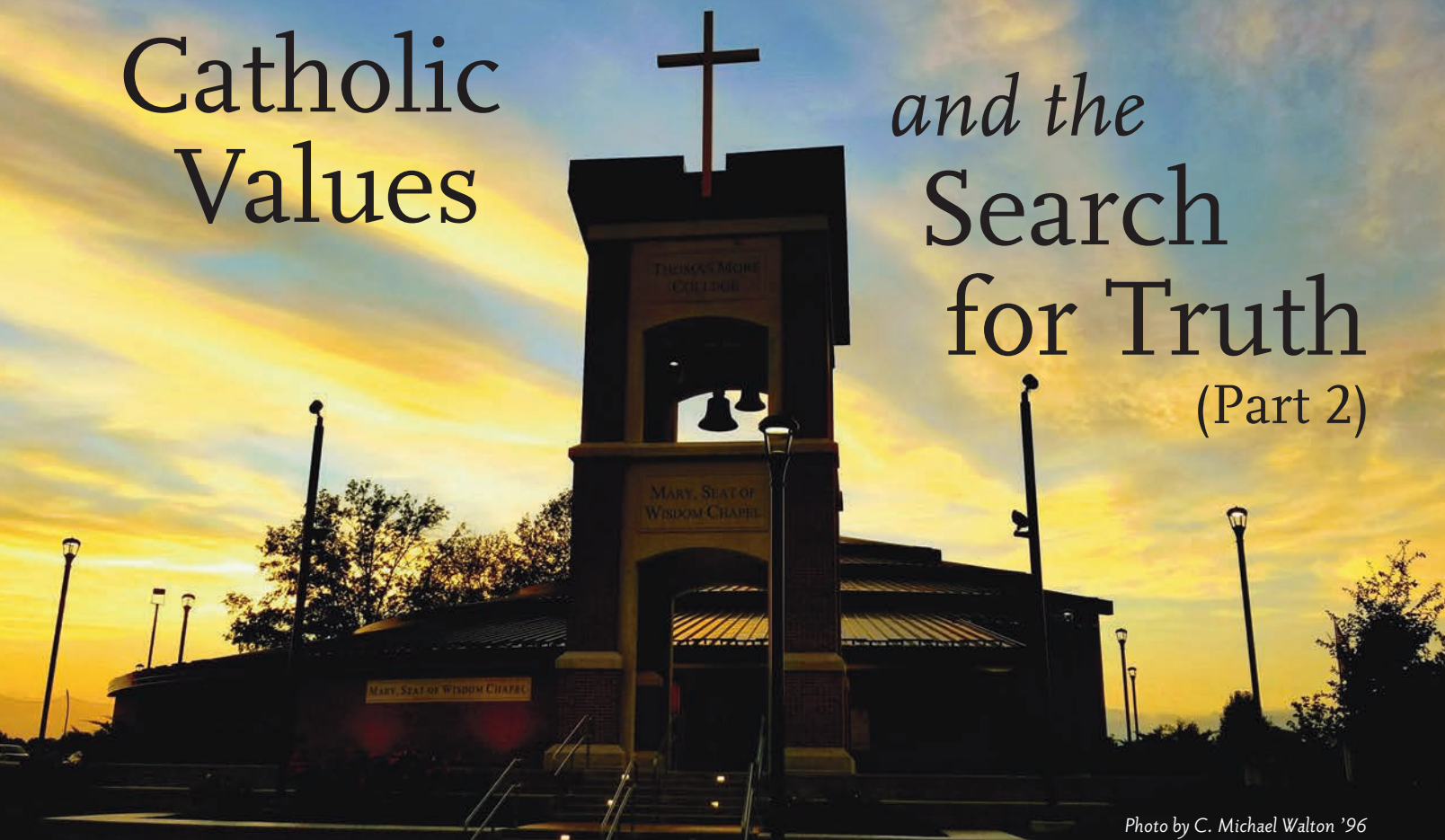


Photo by C. Michael Walton '96

SUBMITTED BY SR. FIDELIS TRACY, CDP '68, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR THEOLOGY



An article in the last issue of *Moreover* requested responses to questions about the experience of the Catholic Identity of Thomas More College. Here are clips from two respondents: one a recent graduate and the other a graduate from long ago when the campus was down town and the name was Villa Madonna College. Times have surely changed! Has the Catholic Identity held firm?

A 2015 graduate, who is presently preparing to become Catholic, reflected, "I came to Thomas More from a Protestant family, but it impressed me how my Catholic professors and classmates believed that reason led them to their faith rather than authority and tradition alone. While I did debate theology with them, they were content to let me disagree and show their faith simply through the way they lived."

A graduate of Villa Madonna reflected, "I remember a curriculum heavy with philosophy and theology. But my stronger memory is of how Catholic values and questions about life from a Catholic perspective permeated all my classes. Questions raised in history and literature classes related to Catholic values. Even my science classes revealed truths that affirmed my beliefs about God. Philosophy and Theology classes raised new questions that strengthened my faith."

Another response noted that a student, active in campus ministry, who would be entering his sophomore year has been accepted in the diocesan seminary to discern a call to the priesthood. Everyone has a call, a vocation within their Christian identity. The Catholic Identity which promotes a "culture of vocations" is evident when graduates are faith-filled scientists, writers, historians, educators, nurses, civic leaders, citizens, spouses....

A recent issue of *America Magazine* (the Jesuit Review of Faith and Culture), reported on a non-scientific poll about faith during the college years\*. Readers responded to a Facebook and twitter poll which asked the question, "How did your faith change in college?" (*America Magazine*, August 12, 2017)

The responses of people to this poll show that faith development is crucial during the college years highlighting the importance of emphasizing the Catholic Identity of Thomas More College. Of those who responded to the poll, 69 percent indicated that their faith was strengthened during college years. Interestingly, that number was higher for students who attended Catholic institutions, where 78 percent of the respondents reported that their faith was strengthened. The quotes in this article indicate that both coursework in theology and the atmosphere provided by the sense of community at the institutions supported faith development.

Clearly the ability of a Catholic institution to support faith development is not limited to theology classes, but is dependent on the culture of the college: the faculty, the staff, and the student body. It is in this larger venue that the Catholic identity is embodied.

The Catholic identity of the College is expressed by the visibility of Catholic values in all aspects of the life of the College. These values are:

- the search for truth,
  - the recognition of the dignity of each human person,
  - the provision of service to others,
- all within an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Do you hear those values in the responses gathered in this article? Is the Catholic Identity holding firm?

MOREOVER

\*To view the article/data, visit [TMCKY.US/AMERICAPOLL](http://TMCKY.US/AMERICAPOLL)



## WHY WE GIVE TO TMC - DR. GARRY & JANICE NELTNER

SUBMITTED BY TONY RODERICK, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



Garry and Janice Neltner both attended Villa Madonna College, and they are the parents of five children who ALL graduated from Thomas More College as well as the grandparents of two current students. As such, the Neltners understand and appreciate the value and significance of a TMC education. Garry credits his VMC/TMC start with helping to launch his career as a doctor of podiatric medicine.

As if those TMC ties are not significant enough, one of their daughters, Krista (Neltner)

Campbell '90, is a professor of psychology at the College and their son Marc '85 is the current Chair of the Board of Trustees! Garry and Janice certainly feel blessed by all of their family's Thomas More experiences and also feel a sense of commitment to continue to give back. Garry has had a real sense of humor when it comes to paying college expenses over the years. One of his favorite sayings is, "It is better to pay it in tuition than bail!"

This year, the Neltners took advantage of legislation that allows individuals aged 70 1/2 or older to make outright gifts to charitable organizations, through direct transfers from their IRA, without paying income tax on the distribution. "Now that Congress has passed permanent legislation regarding the charitable IRA rollover, this serves as a convenient way to satisfy our required minimum distribution while helping advance the mission of Thomas More College," Garry said.

## HOW TO USE YOUR IRA TO HELP TMC

On Dec. 18, 2015, Congress passed legislation to make the charitable IRA rollover permanent. People aged 70½ and older have a special tax-free opportunity to make a meaningful charitable gift annually to Thomas More College.

### How it works

This legislation allows individuals aged 70 1/2 or older to make outright (immediate) gifts of up to \$100,000 to qualified charitable organizations through direct transfers from their IRAs without paying income tax on the IRA distributions. If you are able to take advantage of this opportunity, you can improve your overall tax situation while helping us continue to meet our goals and achieve our vision for the future of the college and its students.

### You can make a direct transfer if:

1. You are age 70 1/2 or older on the day of the gift.
2. You transfer up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA. (This opportunity applies only to IRAs and not other types of retirement plans.)
3. You transfer the funds outright to Thomas More College.
4. You make your gift by Dec. 31, 2017.

### Benefits of an IRA direct transfer:

1. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you can benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions.
2. The transfer may count against your unsatisfied required minimum distributions.
3. You may transfer up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA, which allows you to make a significant gift and gives you the flexibility to create an improved tax situation.
4. Along with creating a powerful legacy, you can witness the benefits of your gift to the college now.
5. It's simple to do. Just call your IRA administrator to make the transfer.

## Monsignor Murphy Legacy Society

### CONTINUING THE MISSION OF VMC/TMC

We are deeply grateful to Gen Ann Harris '45 (1924-2017), for being a member of the Monsignor Murphy Legacy Society. Gen Ann was kind enough to name Thomas More College as a beneficiary of her estate and so has helped sustain the mission of providing a quality education to future generations of TMC students. Her family delivered the news, and her gift, to the college, in August 2017.

We encourage all alumni and friends of the College to consider naming Thomas More College as a beneficiary in your will or other estate planning document. To explore the opportunity of a planned gift or to notify the College of your intent to make such a gift, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at **859-344-3344**.

Visit **THOMASMORE.EDU/PLANNEDGIVING** for additional information about planned giving. All prospective donors are encouraged to consult with their legal and tax advisors.

*Photo: President David A. Armstrong, J.D., Board of Trustees Chairman Marc Neltner '85, and Dean of the College Kathleen Jagger, Ph.D., meet with Rick and Charlotte Read to accept Gen Ann Harris' Monsignor Murphy Legacy Society gift.*



For a photo gallery of pictures from Institutional Advancement events, go to **PAGES 29-32**.



## Construction Update

# COMING SPRING 2018



## CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES

at

## THOMAS MORE COLLEGE

SUBMITTED BY NOAH WELTE '05,  
THOMAS MORE COLLEGE LEGAL COUNSEL



*Gutted interior of the Barnwood Drive building.*

As enrollment at Thomas More College continues to reach unprecedented numbers, the capacity for growth in our existing space has presented challenges. Thanks to a generous \$1 million gift from St. Elizabeth Healthcare, the College was able to purchase a building at 196 Barnwood Dr. in Edgewood, Kentucky (formerly occupied by Tri-State Gastroenterologist), setting its sights on renovating the location for a new, modernized academic space. This created a home for the nursing program – one of TMC's long-standing and prestigious academic offerings – and it provided space for the new and quickly growing athletic training program. These programs will share space in what will be known as The St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center for Health Sciences.

A hallmark of the Center for Health Sciences will be the ability to provide state-of-the-art clinical spaces for nursing and athletic training, physical examination demonstration spaces, and health assessment simulation areas. These features will enhance the ability of our students to become the best of the best as they graduate from Thomas More College and begin their careers in healthcare, oftentimes serving the northern Kentucky community. Additionally, the plan calls for the creation of large, open classrooms, which will not only accommodate the needs of the growing programs, but will also provide the College access to larger meeting and conference spaces during times when nursing and athletic training courses are not in session.

Planning for the project began in late spring of 2017 and was completed over the summer. In September, the College obtained full approval from the Board of Trustees to move ahead with the project, and renovation on the St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center for Health Sciences has begun in earnest, led by Century Construction and REH&A Architects.

Thomas More College offers both a traditional four-year nursing program and an accelerated RN to BSN program. The employment rate for TMC nursing graduates has been 100 percent for the last five years. Athletic Training at Thomas More offers the only master's degree program in the region. St. Elizabeth Healthcare is one of the largest employers of Thomas More College alumni. The St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center for Health Sciences is expected to open in 2018.



*Plan for Lower Level*



*Plan for Upper Level*



# Groundbreaking Coming Soon!

## COMING FALL 2018

## RENAISSANCE HALL

MKC | ARCHITECTS



A brand new student residence hall is scheduled to open in fall 2018 featuring three floors of one- and two-bedroom units. Each floor includes two wings with a spacious area situated between the glass facades where students can gather, study, and interact. The design boasts features for daylighting - allowing the winter sun to enter into the building but shielding against the outside heat on warmer days. Each floor includes a full, working kitchen area and private, one-person restrooms. There are still opportunities to name the residence hall, as well as the wings and common areas. The groundbreaking for the building will occur later this year. For more information, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at **859-344-3344** or **ADVANCEMENT@THOMASMORE.EDU**

### NEW! Residence Hall

Three levels of student housing featuring:  
 24 Single Occupancy Units | 36 Double Occupancy Units  
 Each floor features:  
 Complete Working Kitchen | Common Areas  
 Private Restrooms | Laundry Facilities







# Jude Grosser '76: Bolstering the Citrus Industry

1<sup>ST</sup>  
IN  
PRINT

SUBMITTED BY TYLER HARLEY '18

PHOTO CREDIT PIERRE DUCHARME/THE LEDGER

**W**hen presented with an opportunity to write an article about Dr. Jude Grosser, and after learning about his past accomplishments and the work he is currently doing, I was intrigued and inspired to get to know him, and to help the entire TMC community realize the great value an education at Thomas More College brings to one's life. Thomas More College prepares its students to be leaders for life.

Because of the recent events involving Florida (specifically the impact of Hurricane Irma), and the lack of power throughout the state, I had an email conversation with Dr. Grosser. Throughout that conversation, I asked questions to help Thomas More College, and myself, get to know him better.

**Q. What drew you to attend Thomas More College?**

**A.** My oldest brother Tim ('72) went to Thomas More ahead of me – and majored in biology. Since I liked to play in the woods and creeks with an interest in nature, I also developed an interest in biology. Tim had a good experience at TMC, so it drew my attention. Tim went to med-school at the University of Louisville and has been practicing medicine in Maysville ever since. I followed his path to TMC, with two of my high school friends Bill Verax '76 (now a dentist) and Mike Halpin '76 (now a heart surgeon).

**Q. Did you have any class or research experiences at Thomas More that led to your interests in your work in Citrus Greening?**

**A.** In my opinion, TMC had the absolute best Biology Department faculty of all time. Sr. Mary Laurence (the Big Nun), Doc Wallace Humphries, Dr. Bill Bryant (the Chief), and Mr. Volker were all incredible and all had a big influence on me. Sr. Laurence got me interested in genetics and evolution; Doc Humphries in physiology; and Dr. Bryant in ecology. Mr. Volker was Mr. Enthusiasm. Each

one of these special teachers was a blessing – and they were also good friends that always treated us like family. Just check out the record – we had a small class, but nearly every one of us went on to either med school, dental school, or graduate school! I also had the great fortune of working on the Ohio River project for two summers. I still remember doing fish surveys with the home-made electro-shocker and classifying the multitude of algae species living in the river – this definitely spurred my interest in research. I can still visualize a rainy day on the research boat with the Big Nun in her black habit from head to toe wearing a bright orange rain poncho – standing tall in the boat going down the river in the pouring rain – you can only imagine! I called Dr. Bryant for advice when I was thinking about a Master of Science program at Morehead State University, and then again for the doctorate program at the University of Kentucky – he told me I could do it and I wouldn't know for sure if I didn't try – just the encouragement I needed each time.



**Q. What led to your interest in Citrus Greening?**

**A.** This was not by choice. After working for 23 years to solve the other multitude of problems existing in citrus, this scourge hit Florida and immediately began destroying the industry. Genetics and breeding are considered to be the ultimate solutions to this problem, so we immediately began to devote our full attention to solving this problem which threatens our industry. We have made a lot of progress with our research, and I feel we have just started to turn the corner, albeit this was set back by Hurricane Irma.

**Q. What is Citrus Greening?**

**A.** Citrus greening, also known as ‘Huanglongbing,’ is the worst disease scourge of citrus. It is a phloem-limited bacterial disease that is transmitted by a small insect called the psyllid. The disease is spread similar to how malaria in humans was spread by mosquitos. Once infected, trees rapidly lose their feeder roots, and the phloem becomes clogged – resulting in a starving tree. Citrus growers are primarily trying to control the disease by controlling the insect vector, but this is not working, as now nearly every producing tree in the state is infected. I am working on the development of rootstocks that can transmit some tolerance to grafted commercial scions (the fruit varieties), as well as new fruit cultivars that are more tolerant but still of high commercial quality. I have also been involved in some advances made with nutrition – that strongly interacts with genetics to provide tolerance. Roots of infected trees are severely deficient in nearly all of the secondary and micro-nutrients; so, methods of basically spoon-feeding that provide higher levels of these nutrients help restore tree health and productivity. This can be accomplished by using fertigation or controlled release fertilizers (CRF).

**Q. What inspired you to become a biology major, and ultimately a citrus breeder and geneticist?**

**A.** As mentioned previously, I’ve always been an outdoors kid interested in biology. I wanted to go into fisheries biology; I was accepted by two graduate programs, but no money was offered so I couldn’t pursue this. After my Master of Science in General Biology (working on algae and pollution), while working as a quality control technician at Kahn’s Meat Packing Co. in Cincinnati, Ohio (near to home in northern Kentucky - I wanted to be near home because my mother was suffering from breast cancer), I got a call from one of my teachers at Morehead. He told me there was an assistantship open in the Agronomy Department at UK in Lexington, Ky., in genetics and breeding of all things; thus SERENDIPITY! I was actually a bit intimidated by high-powered genetics at this time, but, on my interview there I really liked the professor (Dr. Glenn Collins) and was really impressed with his research program in crop biotechnology. He offered me an assistantship and here I am now! I have been blessed with outstanding, dedicated teachers at all phases of my education.

**Q. Has the Liberal Arts education provided at Thomas More given you an advantage in your post-baccalaureate education and in the workforce?**

**A.** Without question. I feel like I finally grew up during my senior year at TMC. I started at TMC as a naïve, fun-loving kid, never having to work very hard to get by. The TMC faculty, through a lot of their personal touch efforts, finally turned me into a good, more focused, and mature student. The TMC faculty peripheral to my biology education were also outstanding. I still remember learning a

**ABOUT DR. JUDE GROSSER ’76**

Jude graduated from Thomas More College in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology. After graduation, Jude went on to receive a master’s degree from Morehead State University, and then a doctorate in genetics and breeding from the University of Kentucky in 1984. He is married to Donna Hale Grosser who owns Family Learning Solutions LLC, a family counseling practice in Winter Haven, Fla, and has three daughters: Melinda, Molly and Heidi. Jude is a Professor of Citrus Breeding and Genetics, Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, at the University of Florida.

**ABOUT TYLER HARLEY ’18**

Tyler is a senior biology major who plans to get his master’s degree in physician assistant studies after graduating from Thomas More College. Tyler is a member of the Biology, Chemistry, Math and Physics, and Blue and Green clubs, as well as the Pre-Health Professionals Society. He is a member of the Saints baseball team and is the Senior Resident Assistant of Murphy Hall.

Dr. Grosser and his team members were featured in *The Ledger* in December 2016, to read the story on Jude’s work, visit [tmcky.us/JudeGrosser](http://tmcky.us/JudeGrosser)

lot from Sr. Rose (calculus), Sr. Casmira and Mr. Reed (chemistry), and others (physics, religion, etc.). Much of my life-long philosophy was molded by my TMC experience. I’m still part fun-loving kid, as my philosophy is to work hard, play hard, and follow the golden rule. When I got to the big leagues at UK, competing with other students from all over the U.S. and the world, it became obvious to me how well-rounded my education really was, anchored by my start at TMC.

**Q. Favorite memories from your time at Thomas More College?**

**A.** We probably staged the only (Big Fake) wrestling match ever held at TMC (at Seiler Commons). I had a sister and cousin with Down’s Syndrome, and my aunt (Bobbie Stone) was the President of the Northern Kentucky Guild for Children with Down’s Syndrome. She was looking for funding to support their efforts, so I volunteered that we would put on a wrestling show to raise money. I talked many of my life-long friends into participating as wrestlers, mimicking the crazy wrestlers on TV, and I choreographed the entire show. My friend that was a carpenter (Steve Beiting) built the ring, and he played the wild man from the Amazon jungle. He was supposed to fight in the second match; we carried him out at the beginning in a cage sitting on two poles. The first match was between the Psycho and the Black Obliterator. The Black Obliterator was supposed to ram the Psycho’s head into the turnbuckle three times, but the whole ring caved in after the first hit; thus we had to get the wild man out of the cage to fix the ring! My cousin Mike Stone, also a TMC student at the time, played the Troglodite Cave Man in the show, wrestling against Tex Kellinghaus. Several of my student colleagues worked the show, and we ended up making a few hundred dollars. Lots of fun – my best friend Don Young still has an original program.

**JUDE GROSSER** CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



## Leading the Call to Compliance

SUBMITTED BY NOAH WELTE '05, THOMAS MORE COLLEGE LEGAL COUNSEL



Thomas More College President, David A. Armstrong, J.D., in a recent public address, stated that higher education is “under attack,” especially at small, faith-based enrollment-driven institutions. As pressure from the public for accountability has mounted over the years, a new wave of regulatory obligations has been imposed at the federal and state levels, as well as from various governing organizations, aimed at promoting and protecting the best interests of student safety, student finances, and institutional value. While the demands on these institutions to adapt and enforce the complex web of guidelines, policies, and procedures continue to grow, administrators must seek to collaborate with these agencies through partnerships and sharing of knowledge to influence policy and law that places these colleges and universities on more solid ground.

Oftentimes, at institutions like Thomas More College, the reality of employees wearing many hats and limited resources poses additional challenges to maintaining compliance in all areas. On top of that, the penalties of non-compliance, such as monetary fines, accreditation sanctions, liabilities, and damage to the institutional brand, pose serious threats to the viability of small colleges and universities. With no end in sight to the regulatory obstacle course through which institutions must pass, it is paramount that we work smarter and more efficiently to address our concerns and satisfy our compliance obligations. Therefore, compliance must become an integral part of who we are and how we work to serve and promote the best interests of our most valuable asset – the student.

So, how has Thomas More College better positioned itself with the ability to attack the gamut of compliance regulations? By bringing the conversation to our own backyard, placing ourselves at the forefront of the discussion, and living out our mission.

At Thomas More College, our mission challenges us to examine our “responsibility to others.” With that purpose in mind, in April, President Armstrong announced the establishment of the Institute for Higher Education Compliance

to host an annual, affordable conference on our campus, where legal experts, college officials, and lawmakers can gather together in the spirit of collaboration to advance the conversation of how to navigate the regulatory hurdles we all face. Essentially, we invested in the knowledge of one another.

On Tuesday, July 18, over 100 individuals representing 27 different institutions (law firms, colleges, regulatory agencies, state officials, and a high school) joined us on campus for the inaugural Institute for Higher Education Compliance Conference. The Conference centered around the Institute’s four pillars:

- The **EDUCATION** of college professionals on the challenges associated with compliance;
- A **COMPREHENSIVE** survey of relevant topics, including Title IX, Accreditation, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Athletics Compliance;
- The importance of developing a **CULTURE OF COMPLIANCE** with emphasis on the hurdles facing smaller schools, like Thomas More College; and,
- The **RESPONSIBILITY** of all college stakeholders to focus on student welfare in their pursuit of compliance.

The Conference began with an inspiring opening keynote on “The Age of Compliance” from President Armstrong, who shared his experiences in the field that have led to him becoming a nationally-known speaker on Title IX, the Clery Act, and the Violence Against Women’s Act (VAWA) – a set of laws aimed at raising awareness to and protecting the rights of those involved in cases of sexual assault.

After attendees split up to spend the morning taking in sessions in our various tracks from a line-up that featured the best of the best, everyone gathered back in Steigerwald Hall for a President’s Panel over lunch featuring President Armstrong, President Fernando Figueroa of Gateway Community and Technical College, Dr. Bradley Bielski, Dean and Chief Administrative Officer of Kent State University Tuscarawas, and President Jamel Wright of Eureka College. The President’s Panel was moderated by Mr. Jim Newberry of Steptoe & Johnson PLLC and leader of the

“An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.”

– Benjamin Franklin

*Below: President’s Panel included President Armstrong, Dr. Bradley Bielski, Dean and Chief Administrative Officer of Kent State University Tuscarawas, President Jamel Wright of Eureka College, and President Fernando Figueroa of Gateway Community and Technical College. Moderated by Mr. Jim Newberry of Steptoe & Johnson PLLC and leader of the firm’s Higher Education Team.*





firm's Higher Education Team. The panel informed attendees on the challenges that college presidents face, issues that keep them up at night. The panel also offered the audience practical advice that they could take to better perform in their roles and support their presidents in understanding and ensuring compliance. The President's Panel served as one of the major highlights of the day.

After one final afternoon breakout session, the attendees once again regrouped to take in the closing keynote, "Culture of Compliance," delivered by the nationally-known and highly sought after experts in Title IX, Gina Maisto Smith and Leslie Gomez of Cozen O'Connor, a Philadelphia-based law firm who served as our major conference sponsor. Smith and Gomez wowed the audience with a wealth of knowledge and energy that enabled our attendees to return to their campuses armed with the ability to start their own discussions to bring about effective and positive change.

After the informational session of the conference came to a close, the attendees were able to come together in a true atmosphere of collaboration at our on-campus Networking Social prior to having the option to take in the Cincinnati Reds baseball game that evening.

With the establishment of the Institute for Higher Education Compliance and the hosting of an annual conference, Thomas More College answered the question of how institutions can respond to the rising level of regulatory demands by positioning itself as a leader in discussions on higher education compliance. While the weight of cumbersome regulatory responsibilities continues to present challenges to colleges and universities, fostering collaboration and dialogue around these key issues is central to meeting our obligations. For institutions like Thomas More College to thrive more at a time when we are most vulnerable, it is vital that we invest in knowledge because the path to compliance begins with us.

*Special thanks to the Institute for Higher Education Compliance Planning Committee: Kelly French, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment; Kevin Reynolds, Dean of Students; Noah Welte, Legal Counsel; Laura Custer, Director of Human Resources; and, Bill Wilson, Director of Campus Safety.*

MOREOVER

## CONFERENCE ATTENDEE COMMENTS:

"**THANK YOU** for hosting the Institute for Higher Education Compliance Conference. I can honestly say it was one of the best conferences that I have attended in a very long time."

"President Armstrong did an excellent job setting the tone for the day. In offering his background, insights, and key takeaways from each incident, and most importantly the approach of leveraging crisis situations for institutional (and individual) improvement."

"I appreciated that this conference spoke small school. I don't have the resources that DI schools do, and this conference offered programming that I could relate to and apply to my campus."

"The Thomas More President's keynote was very powerful. His approach and passion for small, faith-based institutions was evident and appreciated."

**SAVE THE DATE - JUNE 17, 2018**

for next year's Conference, details to follow!



Photo provided

*The Grosser family: Heidi, Molly, Donna, Jude, and Melinda.*

**JUDE GROSSER** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

### Q. Proudest accomplishment?

**A.** Along with my lovely wife Donna, successfully raising three beautiful daughters, all now college graduates. My oldest daughter Melinda has a doctorate from North Carolina in molecular microbiology and is now doing a post-doc at University of California, Berkeley. My middle daughter Molly has a Master of Arts from Lesley University and is working as an art therapist in Cambridge, Mass. Our baby Heidi just graduated from Florida State University in Tallahassee and is preparing for graduate school.

### Q. What is the most interesting aspect of your work?

**A.** I get to work on nearly all varieties and many research aspects of citrus. I work on developing new and improved sweet oranges, tangerines and tangelos, grapefruits and pummelos, lemons and limes, ornamentals, and rootstocks. I get to apply many biotechnologies to solve practical problems – involving pathology (disease resistance), insects, abiotic and biotic stresses, fruit quality, fruit maturation dates, etc.

### Q. If you could do it all over, would you see yourself in the same position you are in today?

**A.** Absolutely – if I could get so lucky twice!

### Q. What advice would you give to biology majors today?

**A.** Stay general until you know what specific area you want to pursue – get exposed to as many interesting topics as possible as there may be an interesting and rewarding niche out there that you haven't even thought about. This is the same advice I got from Dr. Bryant.

### Q. Has the use and development of technology made your job easier over your time as a citrus breeder/geneticist?

**A.** This is what got me the job at UF/CREC. I was hired to bring protoplast fusion/somatic hybridization technology to citrus. I developed this technology for clovers while earning my Ph.D. at UK under two incredible advisors (Dr. Glenn Collins in biotechnology and Dr. Norman Taylor the clover breeder). I was highly successful in adapting this technology in citrus, and now labs all over the world use techniques developed in my lab. We are also at the forefront of developing genetic engineering techniques in citrus, which has many applications including the development of our purple limes (purple margaritas anyone?).

MOREOVER



# Faculty Notes

## KUDOS TO TMC FACULTY ON THEIR ACCOLADES, PRESENTATIONS & PUBLISHED WORKS

**Kelly Camm**, adjunct professor, **Carrie Jaeger**, assistant professor, and **Dr. Jack Rudnick Jr.**, professor, department of business administration, recently achieved Black Belt Six Sigma status. The four-month certification program included weekly web-based classes, face-to-face meetings, and successful completion of a major project. The certification is based on the body of knowledge from the American Society of Quality. Dr. Robert Gee was the Master Black Belt Instructor.



Association Lasting Influence Award. This award honors a staff or faculty member who has made a difference in the career/life decisions of TMC alumni.



**Dr. Jodie Mader**, associate professor, department of history, was selected as one of twenty people from around the country to attend a summer seminar in Washington, D.C., entitled Visualizing

the Holocaust and the Use of Digital Humanities in the classroom. The seminar was led by Rachel Deblinger and Paul Jaskot and held at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum with the goal of training those attending on various online digital tools in order to help teach the Holocaust to the modern learner.



**Dr. Florence Dwyer**, associate professor, department of foreign languages, participated in fall 2016 in the Franco-American project, "French Art Discovery: Midwest Network." She was part of a team of educators from France and the Midwest who created pedagogical material on French artwork that can be seen in art museums in the midwest. Dwyer was responsible for the Cincinnati area and created files for paintings and sculptures in the Cincinnati Art Museum and the Taft Museum of Art. In Spring 2017, she presented "La Nuit de Feu: Expérience mystique chez Éric-Emmanuel Schmitt?" at the 37th Cincinnati Conference on Romance Languages and Literatures. The presentation focused on the spirituality in the work of the French contemporary Catholic writer, Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt.

**Dr. Chris Lorentz**, professor, department of biological sciences, Director of Environmental Science Program and Director of the Biology Field Station, was nominated and awarded the 2017 TMC Alumni



**Dr. Jack Rudnick Jr.**, professor, department of business administration, represented Thomas More College and the field of higher education as a panelist for the Northern Kentucky Region Program, "Bridging the Talent Gap." The program, sponsored by the Society for Human Resources Management, was held in Covington, Ky. Discussion, along with questions and answers, included recommended strategies for dealing with the skills and competencies that employers need from graduating students. Dr. Rudnick also had his research cited by the *New England Journal of Medicine* (332) in the article "Abuse and Neglect of

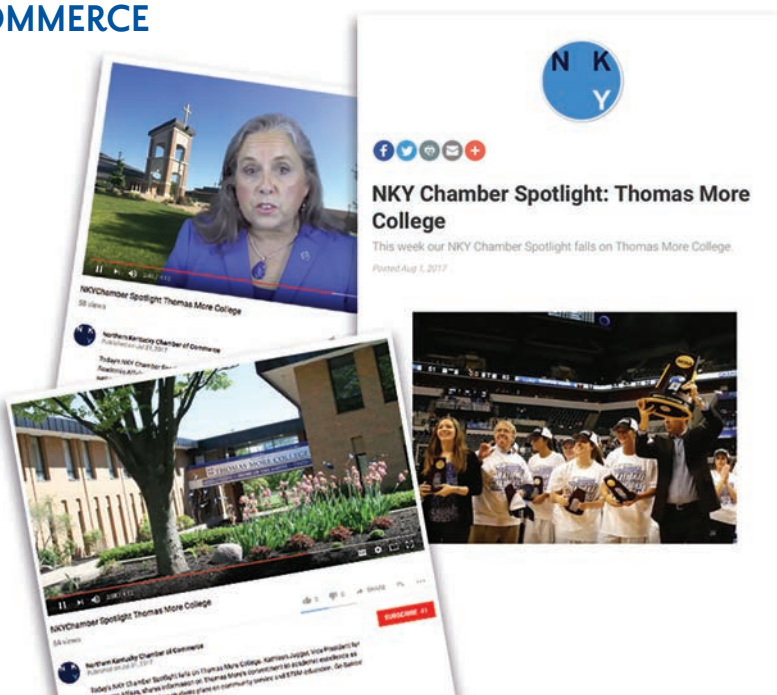
Elderly Person" (Lachs and Pillemer) and collaborated as a faculty advisor with faculty and staff from the master's degree program at the Yale School of Public Health and Jewish Senior Services to develop/co-author a paper "Interfaith Approach to Elder Abuse: Developing a Screening Tool to Assist Faith Leaders Reporting of Elder Abuse." The project, based in southern Connecticut, replicated his research in a 2008 Kentucky study on the awareness and knowledge levels of clergy members about the global elder abuse and neglect crisis. In addition to Dr. Rudnick, the collaborating team included Olayinka Agboola, MB.ChB, Suraj Arshanapally, Haeyoon Chang, Joan Monin, PhD, Debbie Humphries, PhD, and Elina Kurkurina from Yale School of Public Health, Erin Burk-Leaver MPH, MA, and Laura Snow MPH from Jewish Senior Services.



**Dr. Catherine Sherron**, professor and chair, department of philosophy, was selected from a competitive, national pool of nominees to participate in a faculty seminar on the teaching of interfaith understanding. The seminar is offered by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) and Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), with support from the Henry Luce Foundation. Twenty-five faculty members participated in the five-day Teaching Interfaith Understanding seminar in June at DePaul University in Chicago, Ill. The program aims to broaden faculty members' knowledge and to strengthen their teaching of interfaith understanding with the development of new courses and resources.

## NORTHERN KENTUCKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PUTS TMC IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce interviewed Kathleen Jagger, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, for a summer video segment used in the Chamber Spotlight Series. Dean Jagger shared information on TMC's commitment to preparing students with the soft skills that employers are seeking in the workforce today. Dean Jagger also spoke to the push for students to strive for excellence in all things they do, whether it is in the classroom, research, in athletics, participating in extra-curriculars, and service to the community. She touched on the 50th Anniversary of the Biology Field Station and its role in STEM education, as well as the introduction of new academic programs at TMC. To see all Dean Jagger had to say, visit [tmcky.us/NKYCCspotlight](http://tmcky.us/NKYCCspotlight)

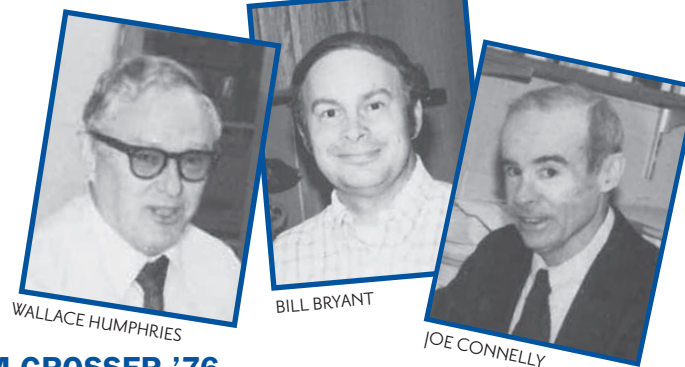




# Excellent Educators

## WHO WAS YOUR FAVORITE PROFESSOR?

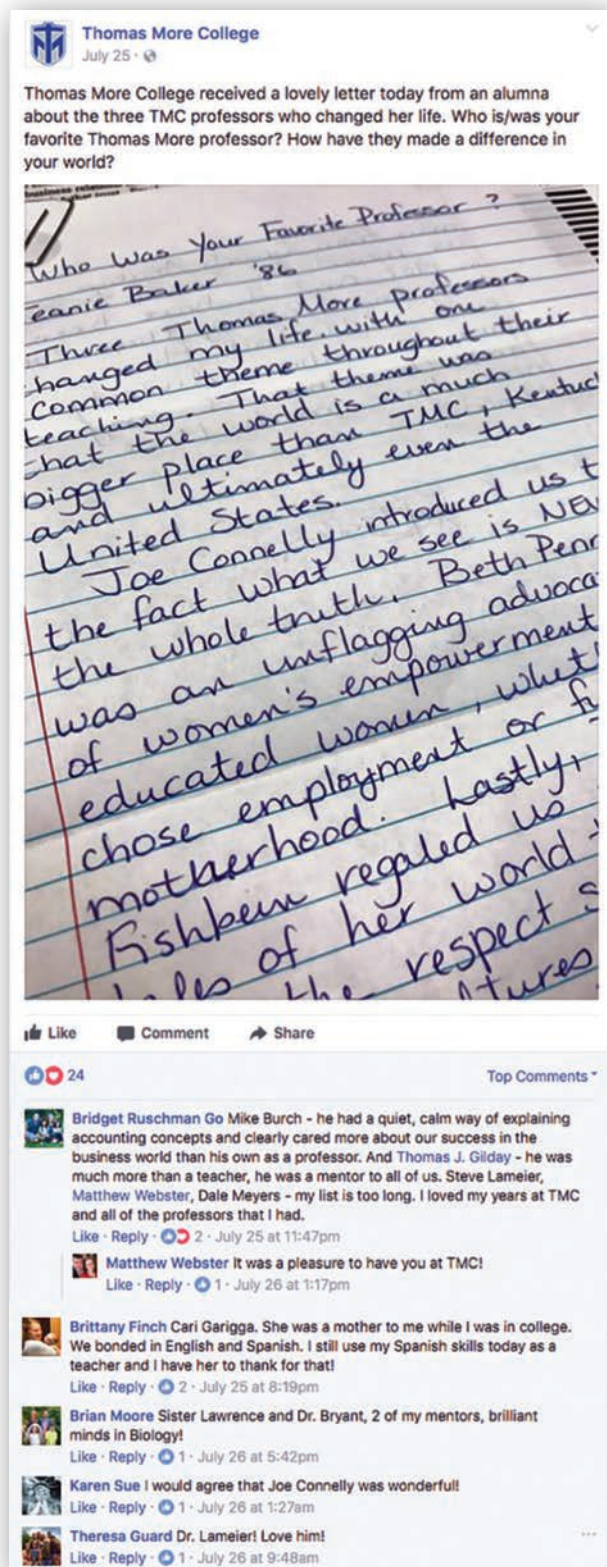
Don't see your favorite in the mix? Let us know by emailing **MOREOVER@THOMASMORE.EDU** or send a note in the envelope inside this *Moreover*. (Please include your name and class year.)



WALLACE HUMPHRIES

BILL BRYANT

JOE CONNELLY



### JUDE WILLIAM GROSSER '76

I graduated in 1976 from TMC with a BA in biology. I was fortunate to have incredibly wonderful teachers **Sr. Mary Laurence, SND '53**, **Dr. Bill Bryant** and **Dr. Wallace Humphries** – who clearly helped build my science foundation. Through Sr. Laurence, I was able to work on the Ohio River project for two summers. I was fortunate enough to visit with Sr. Laurence just a few months before she passed away.

**See page 14** for a profile on Jude.

### JEANIE BAKER '86

Three Thomas More professors changed my life, with one common theme throughout their teaching. That theme was that the world is a much bigger place than TMC, Kentucky, and ultimately even the United States.

**Joe Connelly** introduced us to the fact that what we see is NEVER the whole truth. **Dr. Beth Penn** was an unflagging advocate of women's empowerment as educated women, whether they chose employment or full time motherhood. Lastly, **Diane Fishbein** regaled us with tales of her world travels and the respect she showed for other cultures was inspirational.

I owe these three a world of gratitude as they truly steered my life path. I married a man from Saudi Arabia in 1987, and I have been living and teaching there ever since. Without their push to embrace diversity, I may never have made these choices.

### OOPS! WILL THE REAL LINDA FINKE PLEASE STAND UP?

Hello Moreover Staff Members,

I really enjoy receiving this magazine and especially enjoyed the lengthy history and update about the Biological Station (spring 2017), for which I was one of the original student researchers in its first year of student involvement.

However, I want to correct an error in your article "Who Was Your Favorite Professor?" I was surprised to see my name as having contributed a note for this column, and you indicated the entry was from Dr. Linda (Callan) Finke '71 so that led straight to me (my husband's name is Callan but I did not take his name upon marriage). That comment was surely submitted by a classmate of mine from Notre Dame Academy who also attended TMC, Linda Luken (class of 1970), who married a man named Tom Finke a couple of years after graduation and DID take his name. She was a history major (and, I believe, a biology minor?) whereas I never had a class with **Nancy Bruns**, although I know her reputation as a teacher was stellar. I was a biology major and both of us certainly appreciated **Sr. M. Laurence!** So, apparently, Linda submitted this entry and you delved into your student enrollment records to add the additional touches that led off in the wrong direction! I actually was almost left off the guest list for my 50th NDA reunion last year through a similar mistake by the organizers. It is all Linda Luken's fault!

Sincerely, Linda R. Finke '71 "The Original"

Our apologies to Linda (Luken) Finke and Linda R. Finke for the error, thank you both for submitting to *Excellent Educators*!



# Chris Collins '98

## SOLDIER

## poet

SUBMITTED BY JUDY CRIST, GRAPHIC DESIGN SPECIALIST

The complexities of what a person lives, becomes more evident as time passes. Everyone has a story to tell, some take the form of a memoir, some a diary, some even a novel; it can be written as fact or take on the form of fiction. For Chris Collins '98, the form is poetry and prose that comes from his heart. He chose to take his experiences as a soldier, having completed three combat tours as a soldier in the U.S. Army Reserve in Afghanistan and Iraq, and produce a collection of poetry inspired by family and war. The collection, entitled *My American Night*, creates a catharsis of emotions as the reader is drawn into his personal journey through the human destruction of war.

Chris' first recollection of involvement with writing goes way back to second grade, when a short story he wrote was published in the parish bulletin. He doesn't remember much about why he wrote the piece, it had something to do with a cat and mouse (a Tom and Jerry influence perhaps?). His first introduction to poetry, though, was two years later as a detention assignment in the fourth grade assigned by the school Principal. As a result of a "meat revolt" he led against mettwurst for lunch, he was required to memorize and recite Shakespeare's Sonnet 18. Thus began a love for the juxtaposition of words, their sonic mechanisms, an affinity for the rhythm and rhyme as the words were spoken. A seed was planted. Chris can still recite Sonnet 18, that one-hour detention sticking with him to this day.

In those early years, he always liked writing, but was not one to sit down for leisure and scratch out a few lines. Chris was not encouraged to write other than for the occasional school assignment. The turning point came at Thomas More College in fall 1995 when he took English 255: Special Topics Creative Writing with Fr. Murray Bodo, a member of the Franciscan Priesthood. Chris says, "I took Father Murray's class and he was the first person that ever said, 'You know you're a pretty good writer, have you thought about writing?'" Chris took three more workshops with Fr. Murray, who encouraged and pushed him, providing the one-on-one mentoring necessary to hone his craft.

Chris credits the dedicated faculty and his academic experience at TMC with the direction his life has taken – finishing his undergraduate degree in English (Chris was a transfer student), going on to complete two master's degrees, his calling to be an English teacher, becoming an officer in the military, and now working towards a doctorate in Creative Writing at the University of Cincinnati. Chris says, "At Thomas More, it's really the faculty that make the difference. If you've gone to a different university, you'd

1<sup>ST</sup>  
IN  
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realize how lucky you have it being [at TMC] because the faculty are always here to help you. You're not making an appointment for a 20-minute window to meet a professor. At Thomas More, I could always knock on the door and the professor was there." This was a blessing for Chris, who was employed full-time to pay tuition while attending school. As a first-generation college student, there was little time for other activities outside of school and work as he pushed towards graduation. In reflecting on his undergraduate experience, Chris shares that just as Fr. Murray inspired him to be a writer, Mr. Joe Connolly taught him how to analyze and to criticize his own work. "Professor Connolly was exceptional at literary analysis. He helped me see literary works in such different perspectives. He taught me how to take a work and to slowly pick it apart from different angles. He made me a better writer and a better observer of literature. To be a good writer you have to be able to take a step back and be self critical of your work." As a result, Chris won TMC's Dr. Sandra L. Cuni Literary Award in 1998, just one indication of great things to come. Ironically, the poem that won the contest was entitled, *The Veteran*. That poem still haunts him today.

The desire to serve his country was always present for Chris. Upon graduation in 1998, he enlisted in the Army Reserves. The first couple years were simple enough but then the tragedy of 9/11 struck, and the role of Army Reservists changed. During the ensuing War on Terror, his commitment to both training and service became more concentrated. Deployments were a regular part of life, and Chris was sent overseas to both Afghanistan and Iraq for up to 12 months or more at a time, seeing some of the harshest realities of what the war meant for both U.S. military personnel and the civilian population in those devastated areas. He continued to write while on mission, "I had a notebook that I would write stuff down in, just observations and notes. Some of my poems and nonfiction come out of what I had jotted down during that time."

A collection of poems was painstakingly crafted from that war-time experience. His service to his country lasted 12 years; developing the content for *My American Night* took 15 painful years before he felt the poems could be shared. "A lot of my writing deals with the human destruction of war. ... When I see the civilian population that is horrifyingly affected by war, especially the children of war, that's where a lot of my writing is born from. When I saw children killed or eating out of garbage dumps, that's where a lot of my writing wells up... After I had my own children, it became even harder because, as a father, I was picturing my own children there in that country,



Chris holds the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus that accompanied and protected him during deployments.

there in the faces of those children I saw each and every day. It's a sickening daymare to witness that." He still struggles with the "why" of what he experienced. Why was he able to go home when others did not? Why was there so much suffering for the civilian population who was so innocent?

Upon completion, Chris submitted the collection of poetry to several contests he saw advertised by the Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP), one being the Georgia Poetry Prize (GPP). Amazingly, the 2017 GPP picked the

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"Some Days"  
from *My American Night*

with this bayonet,  
I can cut your throat, can  
disarticulate your body  
from your head.

Some days, though, I can cut  
a dandelion's stem to place  
its yellow flower head  
into my daughter's hair.

My days are never balanced.

Some days I am for violence:  
Some days, for beauty.

---

collection up immediately. Chris says, "I was absolutely floored that they accepted it, ... it's a big press! I'm still kind of awe-struck." The collection is slated to be published in February 15, 2018 with a review on the cover by Vietnam veteran Bruce Weigl, one of Chris' favorite writers and author of *Song of Napalm*.

It is Chris' hope that his children, and in the distant future, his grand children, will never be subjected to war-time experiences, whether in service to their country or as civilians. He is still working his way through the complexities of what he experienced in Afghanistan and Iraq, both emotionally and psychologically. His words continue to flow from those repositories. A series of personal essays that deal with work, faith, family, morality, and disability are the current focus of his doctoral dissertation, a second book in progress. These personal essays are called *Pocket Medal Elegy*, named for a pewter statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus which Chris carried with him during his deployments. The statue was given to him by his grandfather-in-law, Pasquale (Pat) Giusseppe Cifardini, who also carried it with him while serving in Guadalcanal during WWII. Both men returned safely home from war. It's not hard to believe that there is a special purpose for Chris' writing when the Sacred Heart of Jesus is involved in the journey.

Perhaps the relating of his experiences through poetry and essay, and the healing that comes with it for himself and others, are meant to convince the rest of us, who read his words, that war creates more questions than answers. Is it possible to find another way to accomplish peace? Can we find that way?

**MOREOVER**

Chris' advice for current TMC writing students: "Do not give up. ... You will send stuff out and get rejected, left and right, I have been rejected so many times I could probably wallpaper my den three times over with rejection slips. Who knows what an editor will want? ... It took me over forty years to publish my first full-length poetry book. Do Not! GIVE UP!"

For more information about:

Chris, visit **[christopherphilipcollins.com](http://christopherphilipcollins.com)**

2017 Georgia Poetry Prize, visit: **[tmcky.us/17ChrisGPP](http://tmcky.us/17ChrisGPP)**

The current adventures of Fr. Murray Bodo, visit **[murraybodo.com](http://murraybodo.com)**





*Villa Players old and new gather after the spring 2017 production of Little Women.*

## Join the Fun!

Alumni events are a great way to reconnect, network, and socialize. Mark your calendar for these events in the coming year!

### DECEMBER

Friday | December 1 | 8 p.m.

UNIVERSAL ADG NIGHT

STEIGERWALD HALL, SAINTS CENTER

Saturday | December 9

FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF MARY, SEAT OF  
WISDOM CHAPEL DEDICATION &  
PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

10 A.M. | MARY, SEAT OF WISDOM CHAPEL  
MASS WITH BISHOP ROGER J. FOYS, D.D.

11 A.M. | STEIGERWALD HALL  
BRUNCH WITH PRESIDENT ARMSTRONG

### JANUARY

Wednesday | January 24 | 5 p.m.

INSTITUTE FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY  
LECTURE SERIES

### FEBRUARY

Sunday | February 11

LAWYERS' MASS & LUNCH

11:30 A.M. | MARY, SEAT OF WISDOM CHAPEL

CELEBRATION OF THE MASS

12:30 P.M. | STEIGERWALD HALL

LUNCH AND PRESENTATION

### MARCH

Thursday | March 8 | Time TBD

TAP ALUMNI GATHERING

### APRIL

Friday | April 6 | Time TBD

JAMES GRAHAM BROWN HONORS  
ALUMNI RECEPTION

Saturday | April 21 | 10 a.m.

ALUMNI KEENELAND TRIP

### MAY

Thursday | May 3 | 5:30 p.m.

YOUNG ALUMNI RECEPTION

Monday | May 21 | 11 a.m.

TMC SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC

For sponsorship information, contact

**ADVANCEMENT@THOMASMORE.EDU** or **859-344-3344**



### Get Connected!

Has your contact information changed?

Update your contact records by  
completing the alumni update form

online at **THOMASMORE.EDU/ALUMNI** or drop a  
note in the business reply envelope located in the  
center of this *Moreover*.



ThomasMoreAlumni



@TMCAumni



join group: Thomas More College Alumni Association



# Class Notes

## 1960s



**Gary Ahlrichs '61, Don Albrinck '61, Gerry Thelen '61, Ray Albrinck '60, and Ron Albrinck '61** paid their respects to Coach Charlie Wolf at the summer 2017 funeral of Coach's wife, Loraine Wolf. These five men played basketball at Villa Madonna College for Coach Wolf and still keep in touch to this day. (Photo from left: Gary, Don, Gerry, Ray, Coach Wolf, and Ron)

**Robert J. Kohlhepp '63.** If you attend a home game at XU in the near future, you will notice that the Cintas Center playing floor has been renamed the Kohlhepp Family Court in honor of Bob Kohlhepp, former Chairman and CEO of Cintas, and his family. Congratulations to Bob and family, what an honor!

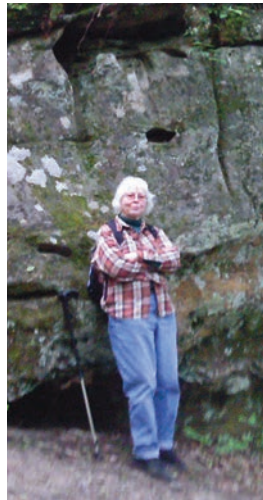
**Deacon Jerry Franzen '64** teaches a course entitled "The Mass as Prayer" among the catechetical courses offered by the Diocese of Covington Office of Catechesis and Faith Formation. He is also Professor Emeritus of the Chemistry Department at TMC.

## 1970s

**Vickie Cimprich '72** was one of seven Kentucky women selected for The Kentucky Foundation for Women's (KFW) 2017 Summer Residency Program "Voice Lessons," which took place from June 11-17. The program was held at Hopscotch House, KFW's retreat center, and led by George Ella Lyon, outgoing Poet Laureate of Kentucky. Lyon facilitated

group workshops and provided individual mentoring during this week-long immersion into writing craft, voice development, and community building. Cimprich seeks to renew her commitment

as an activist aligned with Pope Francis's teachings in "Laudato Si," as well as on behalf of human rights, the homeless, hungry and disabled. During the SRP, she developed poems for her new collection "Contrary-wise," which focuses on her over thirty years of residence and private retreats at St. Therese Oratory in Lee County, in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky.



**Dale Racinella '74,** continues his prison ministry, handling dozens of prayer appointments and death watch when executions are

scheduled. His work was included in an article published in the summer 2017 issue of the Catholic Digest. For more information on Dale's ministry, visit [IWasInPrison.org](http://IWasInPrison.org).

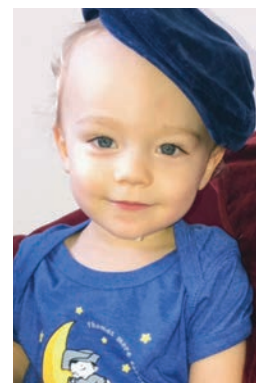
## 1980s



**Cody Goodin '84** exhibited artwork, along with other members of the Cincinnati Books Art Society, in the show *Naturally Inspired* held at the Clifton Cultural Arts Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, spring 2017.

## 1990s

**M. Scott McIntyre '97** and Dr. Carrie McIntyre introduce the adorable Michael Scott McIntyre, Jr., age one, to the Thomas More College community. Congratulations!



## Send Us Your Photos!

What have you been doing lately? We'd love to know! Email your news to [ALUMNI@THOMASMORE.EDU](mailto:ALUMNI@THOMASMORE.EDU), subject line: **CLASS NOTE**, or send using the envelope at the center of this *Moreover*. Include a photo. If emailing, for maximum quality in print, attach a high-resolution digital file that is clean, clear, and crisp in JPEG or TIFF format.





# 2000s



**Kimberly (Lotz-Wilke) Halbauer '00** was appointed to the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) by Governor Matt Bevin in July 2017. Kim was administered the oath of office by Jefferson District Court Judge Eric Haner at the CPE's September meeting in Louisville. She is a senior vice president and investment advisors executive at Fifth Third Bank.

**Marlon Styles Jr '02**, former executive director of curriculum and instruction for Lakota Local Schools, was chosen through unanimous vote by the Middletown Board of Education as Superintendent of Middletown City Schools in May 2017.

**Jennifer Schack '04**, former WLWT-TV meteorologist, accepted a position with the Diocese of Covington. "I am ... in a new role, titled New Media Correspondent. I work under *The Messenger* staff and focus on online digital content, as well as reporting for the weekly diocesan newspaper."



**Stacey (Ison) McMath '05** writes, "Eli James McMath made his debut into the world on Jan. 10, 2017! Big sister Mackenzie was very excited and is doing an

amazing job in her role as big sister. I can't wait to see both of them as Thomas More Saints!" Congratulations Stacey and Ryan on the new addition.



**Aaron Judd '09 and April (Husak) '15** Judd were married in Sept. 2016. Congratulations! On a professional note,

Aaron took a position as Vice President of Finance for Alpha Delta Gamma National Fraternity in August 2016, and in May 2017, April graduated from Xavier University with a master's degree in Human Resources Development.



# 2010s



**Morgan Baudendistel '10 and Alexa Hlebiczki '12** tied the knot on Dec. 17, 2016, at St. Thomas Church in Fort Thomas, Ky. Along side them are TMC graduates **Jacob Botkins '10, Jake Rebholz '10, Josh Horn '10, Nadia Osterbrock '04**, and the most recent grad, **Katrina Hlebiczki '17**.

**Emmy Kaiser '11**, the nation's top-ranked wheelchair tennis player in women's singles was one of four award-winners at the Northern Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame's reunion meeting in June at the Villa Hills Civic Club. In addition to being No. 1 in the nation, Emmy was No. 11 in the world in women's wheelchair singles on the International Tennis Foundation website. Her career records are 218-111 in singles and 107-93 in doubles, which includes matches at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London.

**Brent '12 and Ashley (Tucker) '12** Jefferson welcomed a new addition to the family in 2016. Ashley had this to say: "Lyanna Mae Jefferson arrived at exactly 10 p.m. on Sept. 27, 2016, after 33 long, long hours of induced labor. She was a tiny little thing at only 5.1 lbs, but she's



gotten SO much bigger. Fast forward to now, and she's a sweetheart. Total daddy's girl, but definitely has her mama's attitude! :) :)"

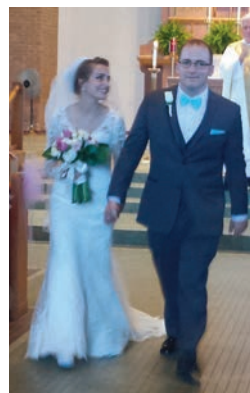


**James Schack '12** and wife Mahala, are happy to announce the arrival of their first child in July 2017. James recently returned to the area to perform his family practice residency with St. Elizabeth Healthcare and was the featured speaker to the 2017 TMC Convocation Ceremony. He brought mama and baby on campus with him for the celebration. Congratulations to the Schacks!

**Kyle '15 and Katie (Hagedorn) '16** Neltner, were married in June 2017 and are pictured here at the wedding reception with fellow TMC grads **Dagan '14 and Kelsey (Sparks) '14** Kaht.



**Ben Kleier '16**, as an employee of the the Cincinnati Art Museum, had artwork featured in an exhibition entitled Employed: A Staff Art Exhibition from Oct. 2016 - Feb. 2017. An independent juror selected more than 70 unique artworks, created by 37 working artists from the Cincinnati region who lead dual lives as artists and as museum professionals. Congratulations Ben!



**Craig '16 and Kristin (Klocke) '17** Schutzman, tied the knot in June 2017 at St. Joe's in Cold Spring, Ky. Best wishes to the happy couple! Craig, Kristin, and **Katie (Hagedorn) Neltner '16** (above) are all students at

University of Louisville Medical School.





THOMAS MORE  
COLLEGE

Alumni Association

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2017 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD HONOREES



Robert Ryan '70



Thomas A. Saalfeld '71



Terry Egan '71



Tim Rahschulte '93



Dave Schroeder '90



Christopher Lorentz, Ph.D.

On Saturday, September 30, the TMC Alumni Association honored five distinguished alumni and one faculty member, who were nominated by their peers in the categories of Citizenship, Service, Professional Achievement, and Lasting Influence. Those honored included: Robert Ryan '70 (posthumously) and Thomas A. Saalfeld '71 for Citizenship, Terry Egan '71 for Service, Tim Rahschulte '93 and Dave Schroeder '90 for Professional Achievement, and Professor Chris Lorentz for Lasting Influence.

Friends and family gathered in Steigerwald Hall to applaud the work of Bob Ryan, a driving force in the creation of the New Perceptions agency and Tom Saalfeld, who served on numerous non-profit boards, in addition to other volunteer work, while devoting 40 years of service to St. Elizabeth Healthcare. Their contributions in the field of Citizenship will be felt for many years to come. Terry Egan received the Service Award for tirelessly working to improve the Alpha Delta Gamma fraternity at TMC in addition to his other volunteer efforts through his parish and local community. For outstanding achievement professionally, Tim Rahschulte was applauded for his work helping companies with new product development, performance management, strategic road mapping, workforce planning, and talent solutions focused on building team cohesion and transforming business outcomes. Dave Schroeder was also recognized for his professional work as the Executive Director of the Kenton County Public Library (KCPL). In addition to guiding renovations, expansions, and additions to various branches of the Library, Dave also let KCPL to be recognized as the first library in Kentucky to be recognized by the publication *Library Journal* with a prestigious star ranking.

Faculty member Chris Lorentz, Ph.D., was honored with the Lasting Influence Award, the latest recognition for his tireless and ongoing efforts to provide TMC students with the best education possible.

Congratulations to all! To view a photo gallery and complete honoree profiles, visit **[THOMASMORE.EDU/MOREOVER](http://THOMASMORE.EDU/MOREOVER)**



Photo by Bruce Crippen

Group photo from the Awards includes: Chris Lorentz, Ph.D., Tim Rahschulte, Terry Egan, President Dave Armstrong, Tom Saalfeld, Steve Schroeder accepting for Dave Schroeder, and Shawn Carroll accepting for Bob Ryan.





## A Life Guided by Divine Providence: A Tribute to Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III '67 and His Years at VMC



SUBMITTED BY COURTNEY N. NELTNER '17, SUMMER ASSOCIATE IN INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT  
WITH SIDEBAR BY JUDY CRIST, GRAPHIC DESIGN SPECIALIST | PHOTOS PROVIDED FROM TMC ARCHIVES



**W**m. T. (Bill) Robinson III '67, referred to as one of Thomas More College's most prominent alumni, is often lauded for his many impressive achievements, including being named chairman of the National Judicial College Board of Trustees and the 135th President of the American Bar Association. On May 9, 2017, we lost this TMC Saint, but his legacy lives on in the people whose lives he touched and the

organizations which he helped. Most recently, at TMC, he was instrumental in the creation of the Institute for Religious Liberty and in establishing the Robinson Family Academic Mentoring Center (part of the Thomas More College Success Center). Before Bill left us, President David A. Armstrong, J.D., was able to sit down with him for an interview. In it, Bill spoke at length about his memories of Villa Madonna College (VMC).

When prompted as to why he chose Thomas More College (then Villa Madonna College) Bill answered honestly that, while he

would like to say it was a choice made after a lot of careful research, in actuality he asked his parents, "Which college is closest to where we live?" Upon them answering VMC, he made his decision: "Well, that's where I'll go." At the time that he attended VMC, it was still in its fragmented, less-aesthetic form in downtown Covington, Ky. Other alumni interviewed in the past by the *Moreover* have frequently remarked on the limitations of the old location and its hodge-podge of buildings (including a bar) converted into classrooms. There were no dorms, gym, or parking lot, but even so, it made no difference to Bill. He saw the time he spent as a child at the simplistic Holy Name Grade School as an advantage in this respect because, for him, "education was not about the physical facilities, it was about the quality of the professors and the quality of [the] education that we received, and the education at VMC, Thomas More College, was of the highest quality."

A high quality education does not come easy, however, as Bill found out once he started. Though he entered as an English major, he admitted that he had little guidance on what to study, and soon after made up his mind to switch majors. Having heard good things about VMC's history program and its reputation as good preparation for law school, he made an appointment with the head of the department, Sr. Mary Philip. After chatting with her a while





## Joan (Wernersbach) Robinson '69 Remembers the Covington Campus



Growing up on Greenup Street near 24th St., Joan (Wernersbach) Robinson, remembers well the downtown

Covington campus; she felt very comfortable with the 12 block walk to the north side of the College's footprint, which was spread out over several blocks. In her words, "Walking in the weather, walking from building to building ... you knew everybody, you knew freshman, sophomore, junior - everybody said 'hi' to everybody." The commonalities for most students included the commute and a thriving work ethic - almost everyone worked part time.

Bill graduated before the move to Crestview Hills, but Joan spent the second half of her junior year (the move happened in January) and senior year on the new campus. There was something positive to be said for the personal feel and camaraderie of the downtown campus, but the College's new location offered a nice respite to get out of the year-round weather walking from building to building over several city blocks.

Joan does remember how brutal the wind could be walking in from the parking lot. She commented on the fact that it was several years after the move, before women were allowed to wear slacks to class. This earlier era had a far more stringent dress code and Joan recalled that Sr. Mary Philip required history majors (Bill) attending her classes, to arrive wearing a tie. This requirement was to reinforce the value of projecting a professional appearance.

When asked if she had advice for current students, Joan said, "Just enjoy the experience, ... like anything in life, it's hard to take advantage of the moment and enjoy it because you are generally looking forward, looking past it. You have an opportunity to develop life-long friendships whether or not these people are in your same area of concentration. That's probably the greatest gift any of us took away from the college experience, those life-long friendships."



about the program, he said to her, "Sister, I've decided to attend the History Department," to which she tartly retorted, "Who invited you?" She then told him she would consider the matter and get back with him the next day with her decision. Bill knew from that moment that it wouldn't be easy but it proved to be exactly the challenge he needed and had been looking for.

He recounted with energy how intense the history program was then and is today, though back then each graduating history student had to take a four-year-comprehensive essay exam over all the history courses he or she had taken. Bill went on to say that he likes to think that preparing for his Bar Exam after Law School was a walk in the park compared to that History Department exam. Despite this final hardship, he remembered his time in the program very fondly, even stating that, "two of the best professors I've ever had in my life were Sr. Mary Albert and Sr. Mary Philip in the History Department."

Bill found not only that the quality of education was superior (despite the lack-luster facilities) but that being a small commuter "campus" would not stop him from getting involved in extracurricular activities and having a memorable college experience outside the classroom. Bill had spent his high school years and the first year of college in the seminary and had not experienced prom or other types of extracurriculars. He made the most of college by

*Photos 1) The highlight of Spring Prom 1966 was the coronation of royalty. As Social Committee Chairman, it was Bill's job to crown the king and queen. This photo includes Bill with his date, Joan, at center behind King Ben Fister '66 and Queen Tracy Hellmann '66, surrounded by attendants from the other classes. 2) Having fun with Alpha Delta Gamma brothers, Bill is second from the right. 3) Bill and Joan on the left with their "Most Original Costume" entry, a puppet show complete with sock puppets and theatre.*





*Student body Vice President Bill Robinson with President Tony Gertz.*

#### **HISTORY** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

figuring out how best to meet the most students and get involved in the overall VMC experience. He did this by running for President of Student Council - in his first year! Even if his opponent hadn't been the captain and center of the basketball team, Bill knew he wouldn't win but he accomplished his real goal of getting a chance to meet a lot of students and student leaders in the school community. He went on to stay in Student Council, congratulate his opponent, and volunteer to do whatever was needed to help.

This spirit of doing what he could to improve campus life persisted throughout his time at VMC. When he noticed there was just one fraternity, he co-founded Alpha Delta Gamma (ADG) to encourage student engagement by introducing a second option for Greek life; thereby bolstering group pride and creating a friendly rivalry. As one of a group of very active history students, he helped Sr. Mary Philip start VMC's own history honorary society chapter: Phi Alpha Theta. Fittingly, Bill was able to attend and speak at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the chapter's founding in fall 2016, along with other history alums and current students.

Going to VMC was one of the best decisions of his life in part, Bill said, because it was where he met his future wife, Joan Wernersbach. He was a junior in 1965 when his younger brother, a freshman, introduced the two, knowing that they were perfect for one another. He could not have been more right. The couple were both involved on campus, planned a prom together, and even won a prize at the Halloween dance in 1967 for "most original" costumes. They went on to marry in 1969, after she graduated from VMC.

When asked the final question of how his education at VMC prepared him for his prestigious career, Bill ended on the same note with which he started the interview: divine providence. He firmly believed that not only had his choice of going to VMC been subject to this holy influence but that the course of his whole life had been guided by it. At VMC he blazed his path of history into law, met his wife Joan, and recognized in himself a leader with the potential to not only do great things, but also to leave a great impact.

While it was the History Department specifically that prepared him for success in law school, it was Villa Madonna College as a whole experience that, "gave me confidence. It eliminated fear of failure. It gave me a religious base of faith and divine providence that made me feel very confident about God's support and destiny for me." **MOREOVER**



THOMAS MORE  
COLLEGE

## INSTITUTE FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

**J**ust over two years ago, Bill Robinson helped conceptualize the Institute for Religious Liberty and he personally raised the initial funds to seed the early work and programming of the IRL. It is our plan to carry on Bill's legacy by permanently endowing the IRL in his honor.

The Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III Institute for Religious Liberty (IRL) at Thomas More College will be a multidisciplinary entity that is centered on the premise that Religious Liberty is a liberty granted to us by God and protected in the First Amendment to our Constitution, and that each citizen has a duty to protect this right. The planned \$1 million endowment will ensure that the mission of the IRL continues through a variety of independent but related educational, research, and/or creative projects. The IRL will have an indefinite duration.

In June, 2017, two of Bill's treasured friends—Bill Butler and Bob Sathe—provided leadership gifts totaling \$150,000 to kick-start the endowment fundraising effort. With additional support and gifts (which can be made over a period of 3-5 years), we can fully fund the endowment in 2017, the 50th anniversary of Bill's graduation from the College.



*Photo by Bruce Crippen*

# \$1,000,000

*to endow the*

## WM. T. (BILL) ROBINSON III '67 INSTITUTE FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY at THOMAS MORE COLLEGE

Endowing the Institute for Religious Liberty (IRL) in Bill Robinson's name will not only celebrate his remarkable legacy, but it also will bring together under one formal structure that which Bill championed:

- His faith and devotion to Thomas More College
- His staunch support for the law and the Constitutional right to Freedom of Religion
- His celebration of discourse as a vehicle for promoting understanding

For additional information or to make a gift contact Robyn Hoffman at **859-344-3538** or **ROBYN.HOFFMAN@THOMASMORE.EDU**



# Snapshot!

## Campus Events & Happenings



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY BIOLOGY FIELD STATION!

The Grand Celebration for the 50th Anniversary of the Biology Field Station was held the afternoon of July 23, 2017. The Celebration included a groundbreaking for the new STEM Outreach Center, which is being funded by the generous support of the R.C. Durr Foundation, Inc., and the George A. & Delores E. Renaker Charitable Foundation. The afternoon's events included live music featuring the three-generation Tellico Family Band and Rabbit Hash String Band, tours of the Field Station and Lodge, plus food and beverages in a festive atmosphere. Thanks to all who attended! For a gallery of more photos, visit [THOMASMORE.EDU/MOREOVER](http://THOMASMORE.EDU/MOREOVER)

### SWINGING UNDER THE STARS

The Kentucky Symphony Orchestra's Swing Band Devou Doo Daddies made an appearance on the TMC campus midsummer to the delight of alumni and the community-at-large. A special reception was held before the concert for President Society members and after the concert, BB&T Observatory opened it's doors for star gazing.





## COMMENCEMENT 2017

Walking across center stage and receiving a diploma is the icing on the cake, so to speak, of accomplishing the task of earning an associates, bachelor's, or master's degree. The Eighty Ninth Annual Commencement Exercises at TMC took place over two days: graduate degrees awarded Friday, May 12, in Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel, and undergraduate degrees awarded Saturday, May 13, in Connor Convocation Center.

Each group honored outstanding faculty and students with awards. Kim Haverkos, Ph.D., received the Outstanding Graduate Teacher Award on Friday, in good company with Erin Bunner who received the Outstanding Graduate Award in addition to her Master's Degree in Business Administration. Saturday saw Ellie Megerle, Ph.D., receive the Outstanding Full-time Teacher Award and Greg Procaccino '10, Director of the Theatre/Villa Players, earn the Outstanding Part-time Teacher Award. Katie Bischoff received the Presidential Service Award in addition to a bachelor's degree and two minors, Megan Barton took the Outstanding Senior Award, and Carrie Howell received the Post-traditional Adult Undergraduate Student Award.

Honorary degrees were awarded to Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III '67 (Honorary Doctorate of Laws) and Gregory Schaffer (Honorary Doctorate in Music Performance).

Congratulations and welcome to the Class of 2017, the newest alumni of TMC!

To view a photo gallery of all things Commencement, visit **TMCKY.US/TMCGRAD2017**



Photo by Bruce Crippen

## BISHOP WILLIAM A. HUGHES AWARDS

On Thursday, Oct. 5, the twenty-second annual Bishop William A. Hughes Awards honored Mr. Bob and Mrs. Susie Castellini, and Mr. Garren '86 and Mrs. Susan (Kelsch) '89 Colvin in recognition of the outstanding support they have demonstrated to Catholic higher education and to Thomas More College specifically. Congratulations and thank you to these wonderful couples. View a photo gallery from the Bishop William A. Hughes Awards Dinner at **THOMASMORE.EDU/MOREOVER**

Photo by Bruce Crippen







## HOMECOMING 2017

This year, festivities kicked off with U(topia)-Fest on Wednesday, Sept. 27, a new family-friendly festival with live music, food trucks, and a color release (to view photos, visit **TMCKY.US/2017TMCUFEST**). Reunions for graduates from 1967, 1992, 2007, and 2012 (50, 25, 10, and 5 years) took place on Friday, Sept. 29 (photo above). Saturday, Sept. 30, the Saints Zone alumni tent was the place to be for the Saints v. Westminster Titans game. Following the game the 2017 Alumni Awards recognized five outstanding TMC graduates and a current faculty member (story on **PAGE 25**). More Homecoming photos on **PAGE 32**.

## MORE PHOTO GALLERIES AVAILABLE ONLINE:

>>TMC Scholarship Golf Outing  
>>Move-in day and Convocation Ceremony 2017  
>>TMC Alumni Awards  
plus more news can be found  
at **THOMASMORE.EDU/MOREOVER**

Photo by Bruce Crippen





# Snapshot!

## HOMECOMING 2017

For an additional photo gallery of Homecoming pictures, visit [THOMASMORE.EDU/MOREOVER](http://THOMASMORE.EDU/MOREOVER)

*Photos by Bruce Crippen*





## THOMAS MORE

## SAINTS



# Top Honors for Saints

SUBMITTED BY ETHAN KOHL '21, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE WORK STUDY | PHOTOS PROVIDED

Thomas More College won the 2016-17 President's Athletic Conference (PAC) Men's All-Sports Trophy. This is the Saint's first all-sports trophy, as the previous highest finish was third in 2010. In the 2016-17 sports season, the men finished with 90 points—12.5 points more than runner-up Washington & Jefferson College—giving TMC first place. The men's teams won PAC Championships in football, basketball, indoor track & field, tennis (a first in school history), and golf.

The Saints took second in the Women's All-Sports Trophy, missing the top spot to Westminster College by a mere 2.5 points. The women's teams won PAC Championships in soccer, basketball, golf, and softball.

Both of these are huge accomplishments and a great way to build momentum for the program into the new season. In addition, the Saints made Thomas More College history by winning nine conference championships in the same season!



## Saints Men's Golf Sets Record-Low Score



The men's golf team set a new team low score record of 289 in September at DePauw University's Dan Quayle Invitational at Deer Creek Golf Course in Clayton, Ind. Junior, Matt Striegel led the Saints with a 3-under par score of 68; sophomores Kyle Alexander and Zack Baynum shot 72 and 74 respectively, and senior Carter Hibbard came in with a 75. The 2017-2018 roster is rounded out with impressive talents from sophomores Jacob Zai and Blake Baioni and first-years, Nick Drake, Kyle Redden and Robby Case. The Saints are coached by Rachel Brown and Jimmy Kelley '17.

The previous record of 292 was held by the 2009-2010 team of Joe Ruzick, Brandon Dulle, Jarrett Gronauer, Jacob Bowman, Mike Pharo, Jacob Williams and Robert Gerdes. The team was coached by Marc Barone.







# Shooting Sports Take Aim at TMC

SUBMITTED BY KEVIN REYNOLDS, DEAN OF STUDENTS | PHOTOS PROVIDED

Sophomore biology major Brennan Kamer is among the top shooters in the state of Kentucky and is a proud Thomas More Saint. Throughout his high school career, Brennan spent his summers shooting on the Northern Kentucky Scholastic Trap competitive team, the “Top Guns.” This competitive team participates in the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP), a nationwide youth trap shooting program that is growing by leaps and bounds. Competing with the Top Guns, Brennan won multiple individual and team awards at the local, regional, and state levels in both Kentucky and Ohio. He also participated in the SCTP National Championships in July 2016 and came away the winner in the “Last Man Standing” event where he bested over 900 competitors.

During the college admissions process, Brennan shared his goal about shooting at the college level. Dean of Students Kevin Reynolds met with Brennan and the two began laying the groundwork for a program that would launch shooting sports at TMC. In his first year representing the College, Brennan shot in the 2016 SCTP Collegiate National Championships, where he competed against athletes from schools of all sizes including NCAA Division I teams. Brennan tied for tenth in trap singles and shot the highest score of any athlete from a Kentucky college or university. In July 2017, at the summer SCTP National Championship, he proudly represented TMC and took runner up in Last Man Standing at the collegiate level.

“I’m excited to be a part of something that allows me to shoot in college and that could attract other quality shotgun student athletes to Thomas More,” Brennan says. “I’d love to see a full squad of Thomas More Saints on the trap shooting line,” he adds. It looks like that goal could soon become a reality as TMC has announced the formation of Thomas More Shooting Sports, a club activity that will involve the expansion of the trap shooting program, as well as the formation of an archery team.



*Left top: Shooting Sports are now represented at TMC, thanks to Brennan Kamer.*

*Left bottom: Brennan shot for TMC at the 2016 SCTP Collegiate National Championships.*



## Softball Alumnae Double Up and Keep Playing

Softball alumnae came to play in their annual game on a beautiful Saturday morning in September 2017. Those in attendance included: Dana Bors '11, Alex Bohman-Walter '14, Megan Bohman-Walter '15, Jenny Weis '10, Eva Sandmann '16, Angie Sandmann '12, Krista Summe '16, Staci Stewart '16, Mamee Salzer '16, Ashley (Lloyd) Wise '11, Ashley Fletcher Shouse '14, and Catie Luck '15.

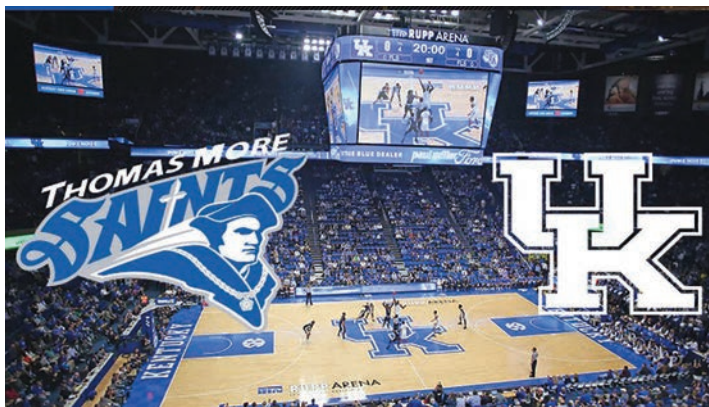
Several of these same players gathered one month earlier on Thursday, August 31, to participate in the second annual Battle of the Sexes versus the Florence Freedom led by three-time Olympic gold medalist Lisa Fernandez. Representing TMC were: Dana Bors, Ronni Burns '15, Kim (Kreimer) Ealy '07, Sam Ladenburger '11, Melissa (Jordan) Laake '99, Mamee Salzer, Angie Sandmann, Ashley Fletcher Shouse, Stephanie Stadtmiller '10, Staci Stewart, Krista Summe, Ana Walter '16, Alex Bohman-Walter, and Jenny Weis.

*Right top: A quick photo of softball alumnae as they prepare to take the field.*

*Right bottom: Saints represent at UC Health Stadium, home of the Florence Freedom.*







## Men's Basketball Plays UK and Xavier

As *Moreover* went to press, the men's basketball team was preparing to take on the University of Kentucky Wildcats in their preseason opener Friday, October 27. The Saints made the trip to Rupp Arena in Lexington, Ky., with students, alumni, staff and faculty in tow, ready to cheer on their team. Can Coach Cooper's team overthrow the young Wildcats? We shall see!

In addition to traveling south, the Saints will take a short trip north across the Ohio River to the CINTAS Center to take on the Xavier Musketeers on Saturday, November 4. Another preseason game against a Division I rival, is this the beginning of a new local rivalry? Cross-River Shootout here we come!

### *Saints Keep Representing in PAC Spring Academic Honor Roll*

Not to be outdone by fall sports, fifty Thomas More College winter/spring student-athletes were named to the 2017 Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) Spring Academic Honor Roll — tying the all-time high set in fall 2016. The PAC Academic Honor Roll recognizes student-athletes on varsity sports teams who have earned a grade-point average (GPA) of 3.6 or higher on a 4.0 scale during their semester of competition. To date, 732 Saints have been named to the PAC Academic Honor Roll since TMC joined the conference in the 2005-2006 academic year. Way to go Saints!

For a complete list of the students named to the Academic Honor Roll, visit [THOMASMORE.EDU/ATHLETICS](http://THOMASMORE.EDU/ATHLETICS) click on HEADLINES.

**SCHEDULES >> STANDINGS >> CALENDAR >>  
NEWS >> SHOP >> AND MORE**

**THOMASMORE.EDU/ATHLETICS**

**FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION**

Follow the Saints on social media #tmsaints



ThomasMoreSaints

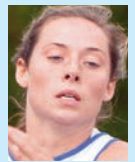


@tmsaints

# Standout Saints

## RUNAWAY SENSATION

**Christina Cook '18** (Independence, Ky./Simon Kenton) qualified for the NCAA Division III Outdoor Championship for the third-straight-year in the 400-meter dash. She also qualified in the 400-meter dash for the NCAA Division III Indoor Championship. Cook was named the 2017 Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) Indoor Track Athlete of the Year and the overall PAC Indoor Track & Field Most Valuable Player.



Cook

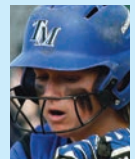
## DIAMOND STANDARD ON THE BALL FIELD

**Alix DeDreu '19** (Rising Sun, Ind./Rising Sun) softball pitcher/shortstop was named to the NCAA Division III All-America Team by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA). She was named to the third team after being named first team All-Central Region and the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) Player of the Year. DeDreu was selected at the at-large position because of her performance in the pitching circle and at shortstop.



DeDreu

**Laura Finke '18** (Fort Wright, Ky./Notre Dame), softball centerfielder, earned Academic All-America honors from the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Finke carried a 3.95 grade point average in biology and is a member of the James Graham Brown Honors Program. On campus, she is involved with Student Government Association, Biology Club, Student Ambassador, Pro-Life Club, Chemistry Club, Pre-Health Professional Society and Beta Beta Beta (biology honors society). Finke also volunteers her time at Christ Hospital, St. Elizabeth Healthcare, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Ronald McDonald House and Northern Kentucky Special Olympics.



Finke

On the diamond, Finke was named first team All-Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) and first team All-Central Region by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) this season. She started all 45 games for Thomas More.

**Ben Laumann '19** (Cincinnati, Ohio/Oak Hills), Saints second baseman, was named to the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) All-Mideast Region Teams. He led the Saints at the plate with a .381 batting average as he was 59-of-155). He had eight home runs, 13 doubles, 46 runs scored and 32 runs batted-in, while having a .619 slugging percentage and was 11-of-12 in stolen base attempts.



Laumann





## Minute Spiritual Break...

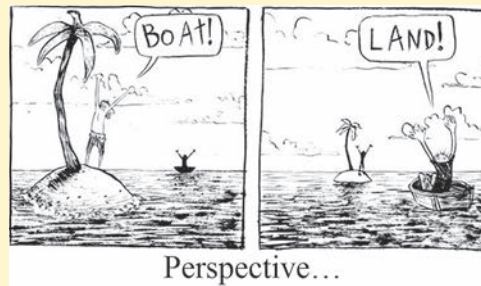
Segment from Reflections from the School for the Lord's Service, *the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery's blog*:\*

### PERPLEXITY, PERSPECTIVE AND COMPASSION

When watching the news in recent weeks, I have found myself experiencing sadness, anger, and perplexity as I watched stories of how people were treating each other. The actions and rhetoric in the descriptions of the events presenting a picture of disregard for life, respect, and care for others. In my prayer and thoughts, I found myself shifting from the emotional to contemplating perspective and what shapes our experiences.

Each of our perspectives is shaped by our experiences and choices. I think of how I have been influenced by my family, education, friends, my Benedictine community, and many joys and sorrows along the way. Each person on the news speaks and acts from their perspective, from their experiences along the way. Their perspective, like my own, is influenced by significant people, joys, and sorrows. Holding this thought, I found my anger and perplexity being tinged with compassion for the person, for the untold story... the sorrow and suffering which led to the actions and rhetoric seen on the news.

Now what do I do with this tension between compassion and perplexity? Hans Urs von Balthasar offered me a thought this morning, "Even if unity of faith is not possible, a unity of love is." There are many things in this world such as politics, faith, or even differing priorities which create disunity in our world. We have a choice of actions which create unity or disunity. We can choose to act in a way that fosters love



and compassion. We can work to build our capacity for compassion which allows us to broaden our perspective, to hold the story of another and to transcend

our differences. May we each strive towards unity in love in our actions, thoughts, and way of being with one another both near and far.

**Sr. Kimberly Porter, OSB**

*originally posted*

*Wednesday, June 28, 2017*

\*Thank you to the Benedictine sisters for giving Moreover permission to share their prayerful blogposts. God bless!

## In Memoriam

*"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen."*

**Thomas M. Borgio '77**, December 2, 2015

**Barbara (Butler) Brown '60**, June 20, 2017

**Mary Butler Brown '60**, June 20, 2017

**David C. Diedrich '73**, August 27, 2016

**Carl B. Gamel Jr. '50**, July 17, 2017

**Genevieve Ann Harris '45**, April 15, 2017

**Thomas Hater '67**, May 9, 2016

**Thomas K. Junker Sr. '82**, June 17, 2017

**Sr. Teresa Anne Keleman, CDP '49**, November 5, 2016

**Marcia (Adick) Klaene '67**, January 5, 2015

**Sr. Agnes Clare Kramer, CDP '59**, March 7, 2016

**Carol E. Phillips '86**, August 4, 2017

**Paul Radenheimer '56**, January 24, 2017

**David A. Rakel '72**, June 5, 2017

**Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III '67**, May 9, 2017

**Eric (Anthony) Ruff '13**, May 1, 2017

**Robert P. Ryan '70**, Sept. 5, 2015

**Sr. M. Hope Schenk, CDP '63**, October 30, 2016

**Albert M. Tabben '67**, February 14, 2016



# TMC Dedication Week 50th Anniversary: *A Time for Looking Back while Moving Forward*

SUBMITTED BY JUDITH A. MARLOWE, PH.D., FAAA, CCC-A '69, TMC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The year was 1968. *Mission: Impossible* was a network TV hit. For the Steering Committee planning the Dedication Ceremonies that would make the transition of Villa Madonna College to Thomas More College, however, the show's title took on a special significance as College President, Monsignor John F. Murphy, shared a secret one evening at their regular meeting. The mission, should President Lyndon Johnson decide to accept, was to include among the campus events a unique academic convocation during which the chief executive would receive an honorary degree. Could there be a serious hope that the leader of the free world would actually travel to a small college in Kentucky?

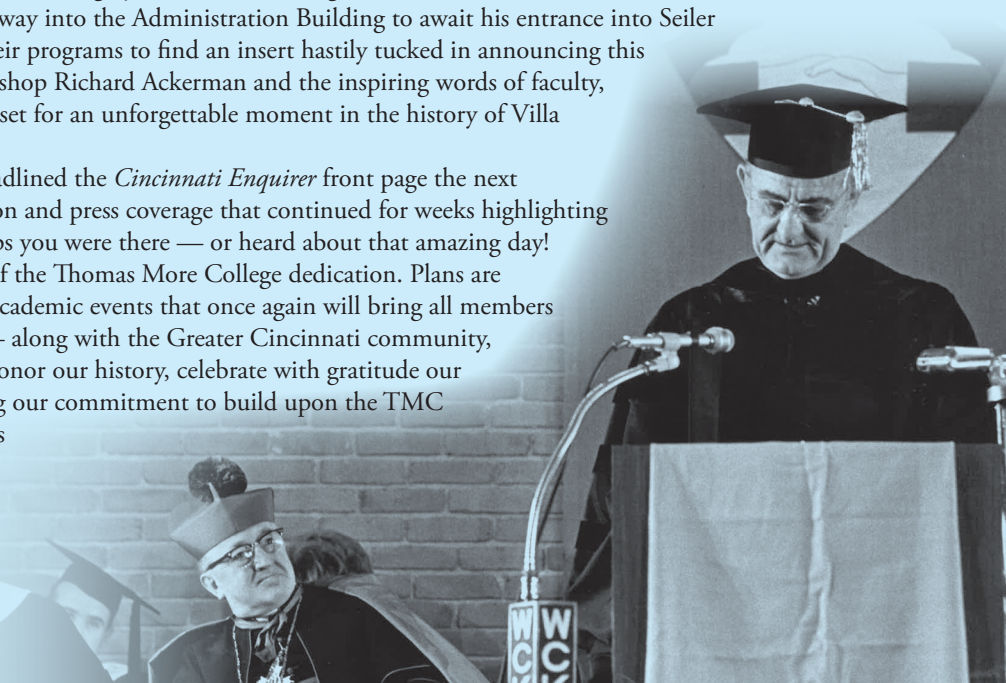
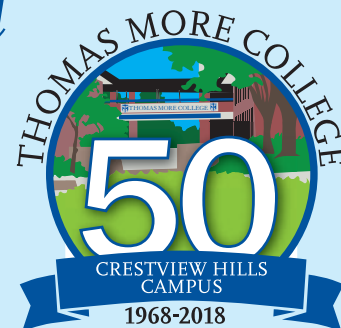
Thus began what some regarded as our very own *More-Mission: Impossible*, but one that certainly had the most successful ending imaginable. On that sunny afternoon, September 28, 1968, our "small Kentucky college" played host to a cast of Secret Service agents, news reporters, local dignitaries, faculty, students, and Crestview Hills neighbors all gathered on the college grounds as word spread of the important visitor approaching in a caravan of grey limousines. Pulling into the circle where he was welcomed with cheers and applause, President Johnson waved his way into the Administration Building to await his entrance into Seiler Commons where an excited crowd had opened their programs to find an insert hastily tucked in announcing this grand surprise appearance. With the blessing of Bishop Richard Ackerman and the inspiring words of faculty, alumni, and student representatives, the stage was set for an unforgettable moment in the history of Villa Madonna, now Thomas More College.

"Harvard for a Day - That's Thomas More" headlined the *Cincinnati Enquirer* front page the next morning as TMC enjoyed generous media attention and press coverage that continued for weeks highlighting all that was good about this "small college." Perhaps you were there — or heard about that amazing day!

September 2018 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Thomas More College dedication. Plans are underway for athletic, theatre, music, social, and academic events that once again will bring all members of the TMC family — students, faculty, alumni — along with the Greater Cincinnati community, together. This special milestone will be a time to honor our history, celebrate with gratitude our present blessings and opportunities while renewing our commitment to build upon the TMC legacy to ensure that future generations of students will transform their lives and the world.

Look for more details in the spring 2018 edition of *Moreover* and, most importantly, plan to join the festivities next September during the 50th Anniversary Celebration!

*President Lyndon Johnson addresses the gathering in Seiler Commons as Bishop Richard Ackerman looks on.*



## Know a Prospective Student?

*Tell us about a prospective student:*

Prospective Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interest of the Student \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation year (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation with Thomas More College \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return in the business reply envelope included in the center of this issue or submit online at [THOMASMORE.EDU/PROSPECT](http://THOMASMORE.EDU/PROSPECT). Thank you!*





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