

FALL 2019

# MOREOVER

Thomas More University







*President Chillo converses with student Corey Zamrik '20 as he enters the CCC at the start of the Installation Ceremony.*





THOMAS MORE  
UNIVERSITY



It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that I lead Thomas More University as its 15th president. As a mission-driven, servant leader, I am dedicated to the academic excellence and student success that we provide here at the University. Since arriving on campus in June, I have seen a real vibrancy – and I see the great work that people are doing here at Thomas More – it's inspiring. You'll see some of these works as you dive into the pages of this edition of the *Moreover*. I firmly believe in the values-based, Catholic education we provide at Thomas More, and the stories ahead provide a glimpse of the lifelong impressions we are making on our students and the community.

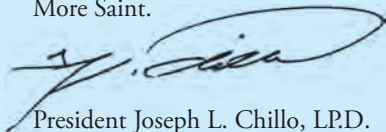
There has been a lot of excitement and transformation here since the spring. During the past six months, the University held my official inauguration, the football team played its first-ever home night game as BB&T Field glowed with new lights, we celebrated two incredible young women who were honored as Honda Inspiration Award winners, we introduced a new institutional aid initiative to support our diocesan graduates called the Diocese of Covington Guarantee, we handed out 443 total degrees during May commencement ceremonies, and we welcomed the class of 2023 to campus.

I may be a little biased, but my favorite event at the University since my arrival has been the inauguration. It was an honor to stand before our students, faculty, staff, and community in September to share my vision for Thomas More. Though this particular event marked a new era of leadership for the University, I can firmly say that the celebrations surrounding the Installation Ceremony were focused on our students – and I'd want it no other way. It isn't a secret that a dedication to student success is at the core of my commitment to Thomas More. As a first-generation college student, I know firsthand the impact our mission-driven, Catholic education is having on our 1,221 current traditional students and almost 1,000 adult, online, dual credit, and graduate students. Looking back to my student experience, I see now how it has deeply impacted my leadership and understanding of the students I serve today. You'll have an opportunity to read more about inauguration in the beginning pages of this edition.

I often say that we take a holistic – mind, body, spirit – approach to education as we prepare our students for their future endeavors. Brad McClain is one of our 2019 graduates. He was drawn to Thomas More because of the holistic education that we offer, and his story truly captures the mission of the University. As a non-traditional student who spent 18 years serving as a firefighter before arriving at Thomas More, I believe he said it best when he claimed that "Thomas More is not just an academic degree mill, but a place where education truly happens." He's right. At Thomas More, we're instilling in students the essential skills they need to be successful, and we're ensuring they are established so they can stand out and succeed upon graduation. I'm proud to call Brad a Thomas More alumnus, and I know you'll feel the same after reading his story.

As you explore the stories to come, I invite you to consider how you can make an impact at Thomas More. Whether it's through connecting with fellow alumni through the Alumni Association, impacting a student's experience through financial support, or attending an upcoming athletic event to cheer on our Saints, how can you make an impact and get involved with the University as we approach our centennial in 2021? My hope is to work together as a community to create a defining future for our students and our University.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this institution. I'm grateful and proud to be a Thomas More Saint.



President Joseph L. Chillo, LPD.

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# MOREOVER

FALL 2019



## FEATURES

### 3 Welcome President Chillo!

A new era begins as President Chillo arrives to guide the University with an eye towards service, collaboration, diversity, and student-centeredness.

### 18 President's Innovation Grants

Introduced in 2017, the Innovation Grants have now been expanded to include a Staff Challenge. Find out about the 2019 research and projects being funded.

### 22 From Firefighter to Grad

Brad McClain '19 retired from firefighting and went back to school. His dream is to make a direct impact on his community before an emergency arises.

### 34 Honda Award Winners

Recent grads Jenna Fessler '19 and Madison Temple '19 came back from adversity to become 2019 Honda Award winning athletes.

## SECTIONS

### 8 Campus/Student News

### 14 Giving Back

### 16 Faculty Notes

### 25 Alumni News

### 27 Class Notes

### 32 Snapshot!

### 34 Saints Sidelines

## COLUMNS

### 24 Changing Landscape of Higher Ed

### 30 Classic VMC



## ON THE COVER

President Chillo is focused, as a servant leader, on student success as it relates to the mission of Thomas More.





# Welcome Joseph L. Chillo, LP.D. 15th President of Thomas More University

SUBMITTED BY REBECCA STRATTON, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

September 25, signified a new era for Thomas More as Joseph L. Chillo, LP.D., was officially installed as its 15th president. Students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members filled the Connor Convocation Center to welcome and hear the new president speak to his vision for the future of the institution.

As the CCC began to buzz with excitement, Thomas More's

choir entertained the audience with an arrangement of "My Old Kentucky Home." The ceremony commenced with a musical prelude by the choir and band as the Board of Trustees, President Chillo, faculty, and student representatives processed in, presided over by Most Reverend Roger J. Foys, D.D. The ceremony flowed

**INAUGURATION** CONTINUED ON PAGE 4





#### INAUGURATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

seamlessly through a welcome, invocation, City of Crestview Hills Proclamation by Mayor Paul Meier, and greetings from student, alumni, staff, and faculty representatives, including Student Government Association President Erin Carrus '20, Alumni Association President Joe Durrett '05/'08, Athletic Director Terry Connor '92, and Professor Amy Thistlethwaite, Ph.D.

"I chose Thomas More for the opportunities, traditions, and for

the fact that even if a person is brand new to Thomas More, they're instantly welcomed in the way everyone should be," said Erin Carrus, Thomas More student body president. "President Chillo, we would like to welcome you into your role as our president and remind you that you and your family are already a part of ours."

Following the greetings, Judith Marlowe '69, Ph.D., chair of the Board of Trustees, introduced the new president, saying "Dr. Chillo is committed to service, collaboration, diversity, inclusion,



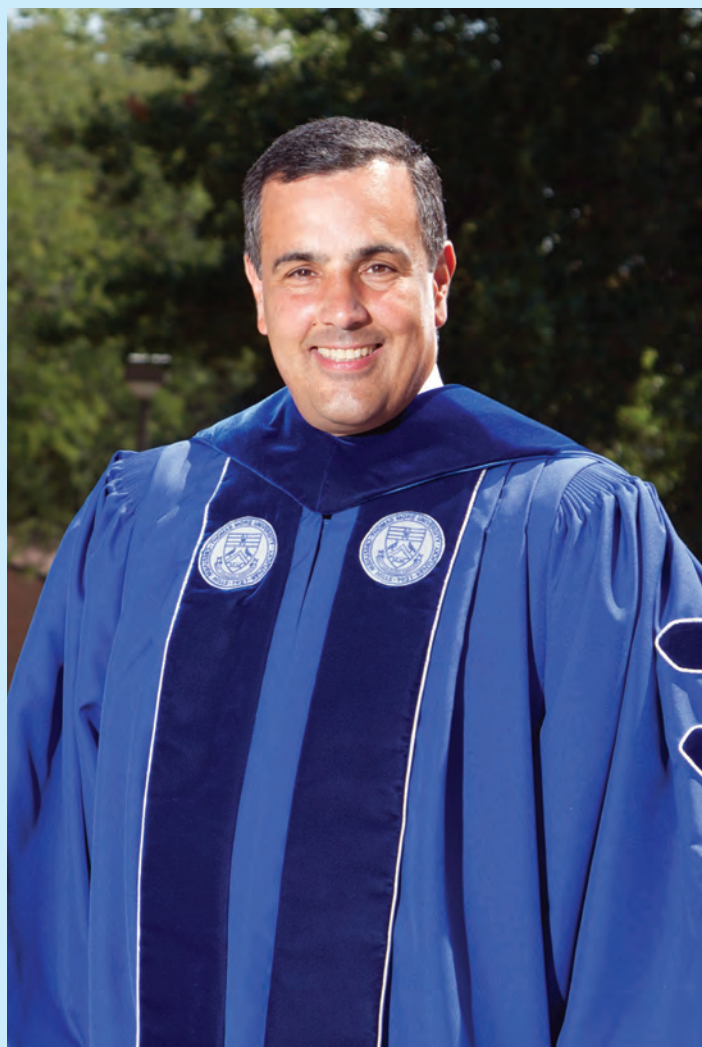
*The Sunday Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption was dedicated to the intention of a successful inauguration and presidency. Trustees, staff, faculty, and friends of the University that gathered to pray for the new presidency included: (front) Very Reverend Joseph Shelton, Greg Warner '17, Andrew Cole, Casey Guilfoyle '81, J.D., Joe Chillo and Pat Chillo (parents of President Chillo), Most Reverend Roger J. Foys, D.D., Emma Chillo, Colin Chillo, Judith Marlowe '69, Ph.D., Michelle (Wolfer) Connor '94, Reverend Gerald E. Twaddell, D.Phil, Marc Neltner '85, Gordon Blich, Very Reverend Ryan L. Maher, (back) Heather Konerman '22, Kevin Reynolds, Caitlyn Shaughnessy Dwyer, Christopher Powers, Ph.D., Todd McMurtry, Cari Garriga, Ph.D., Charlene Barlow, Laura Chillo, Laurie Munson, Joe Chillo, Rob Munson, Kim Haverkos, Ph.D., and Terry Connor '92.*





*Inauguration day began with Mass in Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel celebrated by Most Reverend Roger J. Foys.*

and student-centered leadership and has demonstrated these values energetically since his arrival as he explores new initiatives and provides intentional, strategic guidance aimed at advancing the academic excellence inspired by the Catholic Intellectual Tradition that distinguishes Thomas More University. We are delighted that Dr. Chillo, his wife, Laura, and their children, Colin and Emma, are now members of the Thomas More University community.” **INAUGURATION** CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



## JOSEPH L. CHILLO, LP.D.

Joseph L. Chillo, LP.D., became the 15th president of Thomas More University on June 1, 2019. President Chillo – a first-generation college student - holds his bachelor’s degree from Binghamton University, a Master of Public Administration from Long Island University, and a Doctor of Law and Policy from Northeastern University. He has pursued executive leadership development through the Council of Independent Colleges, the Harvard University Graduate School of Education Seminar for New Presidents, and the Institute for Educational Management (IEM) offered by Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

Prior to his leadership at Thomas More, President Chillo was the fifth president and professor of humanities at Newbury College, a private, independent college located near Boston. With more than 25 years of private higher education experience, prior to Newbury, his past positions included senior leadership roles at Colby-Sawyer College, Wheelock College, and St. Thomas Aquinas College. He also served as an elementary school principal in the Archdiocese of Boston. In addition to his classroom teaching, President Chillo has extensive experience in accreditation, strategic planning, student athletics, international education, capital campaigns, fundraising, and has expanded corporate partnerships to improve student experiential learning and internship opportunities.

President Chillo and his wife, Laura, reside in northern Kentucky and have two teenage children – a son and a daughter.

### EVENTS SURROUNDING INAUGURATION

#### THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY NIGHT AT THE REDS Great American Ball Park - September 20

President Chillo threw out the first pitch as the Reds took on the Mets.

#### DIOCESAN MASS

##### Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption - September 22

Designated Diocesan Mass to pray for the official installation of President Chillo as the fifteenth president of Thomas More University.

#### INAUGURATION DAY

##### Thomas More University campus - September 25 Inaugural Mass

Celebrated by Most Reverend Roger J. Foys

##### Installation Ceremony

Official installation of Joseph L. Chillo by Most Reverend Roger J. Foys and Chair of the Board of Trustees Judith A. Marlowe '69, Ph.D.

##### Reception

#### PIG ROAST

##### Thomas More University campus - September 29

Students, alumni, and friends of Thomas More wrap up the week in a family-friendly atmosphere with food, music, and games.





Photo courtesy Cincinnati Reds

Above and left: President Chillo with son, Colin, and daughter, Emma, on the field at Great American Ball Park to throw out the first pitch. Watch out, Tommy Mo pulls a photo bomb!



Judith Marlowe '69, Ph.D.



Erin Carrus '20



Joseph Durrett '05/'08



Terry Connor '92



Amy Thistlethwaite, Ph.D.



Mayor Paul Meier

## INSTALLATION CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTS

### Representing the Thomas More Community:

**Master of Ceremonies**  
**JUDITH A. MARLOWE '69, PH.D., FAAA, CCC-A**  
Board of Trustees Chairperson

**Student Representative**  
**ERIN CARRUS '20**  
Student Government Association President

**Alumni Representative**  
**JOSEPH DURRETT '05/'08**  
Alumni Association President

**Staff Representative**  
**TERRY CONNOR '92**  
Athletic Director

**Faculty Representative**  
**AMY THISTLETHWAITE, PH.D.**  
Professor and Department Chair, Criminal Justice

**Proclamation:**  
**MAYOR PAUL MEIER**  
City of Crestview Hills

### INAUGURATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity were then conducted by Bishop Foys, followed by an investiture and presentation of the presidential medallion to the new president.

Then, President Chillo took the platform to make his inaugural address, which began with gratitude and a defining of the foundation and unique characteristics of a Thomas More education. "The power of a Catholic, liberal arts education is needed more today than ever in our history," said the president. "We are building Thomas More University to ensure that our impact on the lives of our students remains relevant and needed as our alumni go out and transform the world."

President Chillo used his inaugural address to speak to his commitment to enhance the student experience, celebrate the importance of a Catholic, liberal arts education, and share his bold vision for positioning Thomas More as a regional and national leader as the institution evolves to become the agile university of tomorrow. He also used the opportunity to officially announce two new initiatives on the horizon to boost affordability, accessibility, and entrepreneurship: the Diocese of Covington Guarantee, which financially assists graduates of high schools within the Diocese of Covington, and the formation of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, which provides a new program and physical space that allows Thomas More students and faculty to collaboratively develop initiatives to better serve the future of the northern Kentucky region. "In the United States, now more than ever,



“A college education isn’t supposed to be a hoop to jump through or a box to check in order to get a good job. Education is a transformative endeavor, not a transactional exchange. It is a community, not a commodity.” - President Chillo

students and their families are feeling the burden of rising college costs. We are combatting this issue. The Diocese of Covington Guarantee ensures that all diocesan graduates, starting with this year’s high school graduating seniors, who meet our admission criteria will be awarded \$20,000 in institutional aid. Every diocesan student that wants to gain a Catholic higher education deserves the assistance to do so. Creating opportunity for our diocesan high schools to effectively position the values and significance of a Catholic higher education begins with our responsibility of being the diocesan University.”

The new guarantee was only one aspect of President Chillo’s student-focused vision. “I commit to each of the students here today, that I will continue to be present for you. I will be unyielding

To read President Chillo’s full inaugural address, visit [tmuky.us/chilloaddress](http://tmuky.us/chilloaddress).

in my commitment to student-centeredness and serving each of you as we embark upon our Thomas More University educational

journey together and set the tone for the next 100 years for our alma mater.”

The ceremony also officially launched the University’s new fundraising initiative focused on student scholarships called 1221: A

gift for every student, because every student is a gift! The initiative seeks 1,221 donors to support the 1,221 traditional students currently at Thomas More and is a response to President Chillo’s dedication to affordability and accessibility. The support ensures each student at Thomas More receives the financial and academic support necessary to make an impact in their community and the world. “Each student here at the University is a gift. I’m committed to ensuring that every student – all 1,221 of our traditional students and almost 1,000 adult, online, dual credit, and graduate students – receives the mentorship and financial support they need to make an impact in an evolving world and workforce.”

As a first-generation college graduate and product of a liberal arts education, President Chillo expressed the importance of providing each student with a holistic and transformational college experience. “A college education isn’t supposed to be a hoop to jump through or a box to check in order to get a good job. Education is a transformative endeavor, not a transactional exchange. It is a community, not a commodity.” President Chillo continued, “I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve this institution as a servant leader dedicated to the needs and aspirations of our students and alumni, the teaching and scholarship of our faculty, and the work of our administrative and staff teams to ensure that our future of providing a mission-driven education is unparalleled.”

MOREOVER

*Below: Bishop Foy’s closing remarks garner laughter from the platform party as he wraps up the solemnity of the Installation Ceremony.*





# Cleves 4 Scholars

Named for former Thomas More president and philosophy department chair, Monsignor William Cleves, the Cleves Scholars Program is a two-year student experience designed as a launchpad to success that focuses on the themes of transforming ideas into action and networking for career and social good. Students take specially designed courses for Cleves Scholars, engage in co-curricular activities, and provide service to the Thomas More and northern Kentucky communities.

SUBMITTED BY HEATHER ABBOTT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, JOHN ERNST, Ph.D., DIRECTOR OF THE THOMAS MORE SUCCESS CENTER, AND RACHEL MARCUM, COORDINATOR OF THE OFFICE OF STUDENT ACCESS AND ACCESSIBILITY | PHOTO BY KEDRICK SMITH

The Cleves Scholars Program had a very successful inaugural year in 2018-19, and programs are underway for an exciting year two! Each year focuses on two of the four Cs which stand for Character, Community, Career, and Classroom. In their first year, Cleves Scholars experienced activities centered around Classroom and Career. All scholars were enrolled in one of two first-year seminar classes with Reverend Gerald E. Twaddell, D. Phil., or Professor Sarah Blackwell '06, and through co-curricular activities with guest speakers from the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, regional businesses, and alumni, scholars learned about the importance of networking to build their careers. Year two focuses on Character and Community. Events planned for this year include "Serving Our Campus Community," where speakers from Master Provisions and Thomas More's Campus Garden will discuss ways that students can help provide food and resources to those less fortunate, "Implicit Bias: The Prejudice that Lurks Within," and "Using Your Character to Improve Your Community: a TED Talk Viewing and Discussion about Finding Your Voice." Cleves Scholars Heather Konerman '22 and Kansie Disney '22 talked with us about their experiences in the Program.

## What made you interested in applying for this Program?

**Heather (H):** I was excited to be a part of a new project at Thomas More. The networking opportunities and friendships also excited me.

## What activities stood out to you in the first year?

**Kansie (K):** My favorite session with the Cleves Scholars was a dinner and panel we had in the spring. Monsignor Cleves was there, and I remember he gave some of the best time management advice. Basically, Sunday nights, schedule your week. Leave time slots for yourself. If people ask to do something on those time slots, say no (because you have a meeting – a meeting with yourself). Giving yourself "you" time is very important - just as important as anything else in your schedule.

## How do you think the Cleves Scholar Program will benefit you after graduation?

**H:** The program has equipped me with networking skills if I decide to work right after college, and it has certainly prepared me well if I decide to take the graduate school route.

**K:** The Cleves Program will have helped give me that head start on things that I wouldn't usually deal with in a couple of years. I will have those networking skills, time management skills, etc.

## What is something you want the Thomas More alumni to know about the Cleves Scholar Program?

**K:** I believe this will be a great program for honors students.

**H:** The Cleves Scholar program has provided me with both lasting friendships and useful skills that I can use for the rest of my life. It is certainly a special group of students.

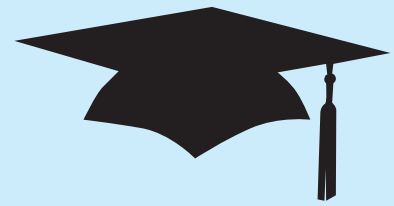
MOREOVER





# A Thomas More First!

## Class of 2019 - the first graduates under the University name



### 382 GRADUATES

104 in Graduate Programs  
278 in Undergraduate Programs  
(190 Traditional | 88 Adult)

### 443 TOTAL DEGREES

104 Graduate Degrees  
272 Baccalaureate Degrees  
(113 associate degrees or minors  
17 double majors | 84 with honors)  
67 Associate Degrees

### REPRESENTING 7 COUNTRIES

U.S. | Canada | England | Germany  
Haiti | Kenya | Nigeria

### AND 8 STATES

Georgia | Indiana | Kentucky  
Maine | Missouri | North Carolina  
Ohio | Pennsylvania

### ATHLETICS

110 participated as Saints  
52 current athletes

### GOAL ACHIEVED

GRADUATE STUDENTS  
Minimum age 22 - Maximum age 59  
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS  
Minimum age 19 - Maximum age 58

### MILITARY VETERANS

7 graduate | 8 undergraduate

### FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS

49% of undergraduate

For a photo gallery of Commencement 2019,  
visit [tmuky.us/tmugrad19](http://tmuky.us/tmugrad19)



# Welcome Week - Hello to the Newest Saints!

## CLASS OF 2023

The first Opening Convocation under the University name occurred on Saturday, August 17. This formal academic event welcomed all new and returning students for the upcoming year with pageantry and ritual. Guest speaker was 2015 alumnus Michael Orr. After convocation, a week of fun (and educational) activities were planned as a warmup to life at Thomas More. Just a few of the activities included: a pep rally, activities fair, resource training, special speakers (and a comedian), ice cream with the president, doughnuts with the deans, and more! Here's a snapshot of the newest class' stats:

### 418 NEW STUDENTS

367 First-year Traditional

51 Transfer Students

803 Returning Students

1,221 FULL-TIME TRADITIONAL STUDENTS

### 149 HIGH SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

41 Students from

DIOCESAN HIGH SCHOOLS

### NAIA RECRUITS

236 Athletes

### AVERAGE ACT

22.14

### AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOL GPA

3.39

**MORE THAN  
\$6,800,000  
IN INSTITUTIONAL  
AID AWARDED**







## BLOCK PARTY

Thomas More upperclassmen welcomed the newest Saints with a brand new tradition on August 18. This Sunday fun-day included food trucks, games, inflatables, and activities - the perfect way to meet new people before the beginning of classes. Human foosball anyone?



## ROSARY RALLY

An integral part of Welcome Week is the Rosary Rally, now in its fifth year. Led by Bishop Roger J. Foys, D.D., the rosary was prayed as a blessing on the new academic and athletic year at Thomas More. This year's rally was held Sunday, August 25, and in addition to Bishop Foys, new President Chillo and his family helped lead the prayers.



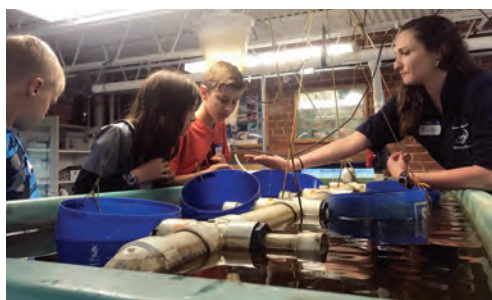




## RUSSIAN DELEGATION VISITS THE BIOLOGY FIELD STATION

Through the Rotary International (RI) Open World Program, a group of scientists and academics from Russia visited the tristate area in early October to learn about watershed management in the region. Activities at the station included presentations, facility tours, river sampling, and electro-fishing. The delegation also visited the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency labs, Northern Kentucky Water District, Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), Sanitation District 1, and the Newport Aquarium, among other sites. RI Open World Program brings leaders from post-Soviet countries to the U.S. to learn from their professional counterparts and exchange ideas.

Don't miss these stories available online at: [THOMASMORE.EDU/MOREOVER](https://thomasmore.edu/moreover)



### A DAY IN THE LIFE

Throughout the summer, Environmental Educator Arianna Riley '22 provided Moreover with up-to-date entries featuring the lives of the interns on the Ohio River.



### OFFICIAL MOVE TO NAIA

Effective July 1, Thomas More officially returned as a member of the NAIA in the Mid-South Conference. Don't miss a rekindling of old rivalries on the field of play.



### SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

Mark Messingschlager '11/'15 is not only a double alumnus, he is the director of financial aid at Thomas More. Find out more about Mark in an audio interview.



## NEW TO THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY THE DIOCESE OF COVINGTON GUARANTEE!

At Thomas More, we understand that when choosing to pursue a college education one of the biggest concerns is affordability. That's why we've introduced the **Diocese of Covington Guarantee**. This guarantee ensures that all diocesan high school graduates who meet the minimum criteria for admission are eligible for \$20,000 in institutional aid, making a values-based Catholic higher education within reach. The Diocese of Covington Guarantee bridges the gap for any student who expects to begin classes in 2020 and does not already have a \$20,000 scholarship package from the University.

Do you know a Diocese of Covington student who can benefit from a Thomas More education? Send in the form on the inside back cover using the envelope at the center of the magazine or have them visit [tmuky.us/prospect](https://tmuky.us/prospect).



Right: "Madonna and Child" (1867), loaned to the Gallery by the Benedictine Sisters, was Duveneck's first large-scale independent work produced during the earliest period of his career while working at the Covington Altar Stock Co.

Below: Professors Rebecca Bilbo and Elizabeth Neal pose with Gillian Casey '19, in front of two Duveneck portraits. Photo provided.



## THE YEAR OF DUENECK

Thomas More University made a significant contribution to Northern Kentucky's Year of Duveneck celebration this past summer by presenting the exhibition The Artist at Home: Northern Kentucky Collects Duveneck. The exhibit was curated by Thomas More Professor Rebecca Bilbo, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Creative and Performing Arts and a regional expert on American art, with installation by Eva G. Farris Art Gallery Director Elizabeth Neal. Recent art graduate Gillian Casey '19 created a wall graphic complementing the presentation with historical facts. The show featured paintings and prints by Covington artist Frank Duveneck (1848-1919) borrowed from northern Kentucky collectors, the Kentucky Historical Society, and St. Walberg Monastery in Villa Hills.

For information about future shows in the Eva G. Farris Art Gallery, please visit [tmuky.us/artgallery](http://tmuky.us/artgallery).

## SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

### Rachel Whitehill '19



*Rachel accepting one of several awards she received on Senior Awards Night, from past Dean Shelby Thacker, Ph.D.*

Rachel graduated this past spring with plans to continue her education in the professional writing and publishing program at Emerson College in Boston. Moreover asked her for the inside scoop on her craft.

#### When did you first become interested in writing?

**RW:** I've been interested in writing as long as I can remember. It was my mother who started the habit; she was always reading to me, and she was a writer herself. I think I invented my first superhero at the age of five and started making up stories for her.

#### Which of the stories you have written is your personal favorite?

**RW:** This is a hard question because I write in so many different genres and with so many different tones. Nonetheless, in regards to my favorite piece, I might have to say "Lost Souls" because it's written in the second-person and a future progressive tense and still works despite those things, which I think is quite a feat.

#### Where do you find inspiration for writing?

**RW:** Everywhere. In anything: dreams, friends, other works, etc. I'm one of those people who was blessed with so many ideas that I come up with at least two story concepts a day. This makes starting very, very easy. Unfortunately, it makes follow-through extremely difficult. My New Year's resolution is to finish everything I start before the end of the year. So, fingers crossed. That's only, oh, like three novels and some change.

#### Tell us about occasions when your work has been recognized.

**RW:** I've been chosen to present at the Sigma Tau Delta (English honor society) conference for three years running; there I presented the stories by reading them out loud at a breakout session. I also won second place in the Delta Epsilon Sigma (national scholastic honor society of Catholic universities/colleges) contest for creative non-fiction. My ten-minute play "Monetary Imbalance" has been published in "Bridge: the Bluffton University Literary Journal." I will also be published in the Dos Madres Press upcoming river anthology "Riparian."

#### Are you involved with other extracurricular activities or work study at Thomas More?

**RW:** Yes, I did quite a bit at Thomas More: I ran track, worked as a tutor in the Writing Center, was president of the Political Science Club, secretary for English Club, a Villa Player and acted in shows on campus including having directed one; I am a member of both the English and political science honorary societies; and belong to the James Graham Brown Honors society.

To read more of Rachel's interview, visit [tmuky.us/whitehill](http://tmuky.us/whitehill).



# Why I Give: The Morow Family Scholarship Fund



*Lynn and Rudy Morow*

SUBMITTED BY KEVIN REYNOLDS, VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT | PHOTO PROVIDED

The Morow Family Scholarship Fund, originally called the Floraetta Morow Scholarship Fund, has been providing financial assistance to students since 1988. This fund was established to provide scholarships to students pursuing a degree in education and was expanded to provide assistance to students majoring in business as well in 2008, to honor the late Rudolph (Rudy) A. Morow, long-time faculty member and chair of the business department, and his wife Lynn M. Morow, who taught in the nursing department.

According to Lynn, “Rudy established the scholarship to honor his wife, Flo, and her many years in education as a teacher. He decided that the best way to do this was to invest in the students at Thomas More. He loved teaching himself and was interested in the continued success of his students at Thomas More and in life after Thomas More.”

This past spring, Lynn was unable to attend the bi-annual Endowment Luncheon, which allows scholarship benefactors to meet with the students receiving their scholarship. Working with the Department for Institutional Advancement, Lynn was able to schedule

a dinner with the recipients of the Morow Family Scholarship.

Madison John '19, a graduate of the education program who benefitted from the Morow family scholarship as a student, said “My lasting impression of Ms. Morow is how genuine she is. She went out of her way to invite the Morow Family Scholarship recipients

to dinner because she was unable to attend the endowment luncheon. It was evident that she wanted to get to know us. I'm truly appreciative that I was awarded this scholarship.”

“I enjoy meeting the scholarship students,” Lynn said. “Their stories help me understand how much the scholarship money means to their goals and continued success at Thomas More. They are so grateful and will continue to honor the Thomas More legacy as successful alumni in the northern Kentucky community and beyond.”

The Morow family: Lynn, Andrea, Ken, and Lyle, provide a beautiful example of the extended Thomas More family continuing to give back to students and invest in the next generation of Thomas More alumni.

Establishing an endowed scholarship is a wonderful way to honor the legacy of a loved one or pay forward the educational experience that you benefitted from at Thomas More. If you would like to discuss establishing a scholarship fund, please contact Vice President for Institutional Advancement Kevin Reynolds at **849-344-3344** or **reynolk@thomasmore.edu**.

MOREOVER

## YEAR-END GIVING TIP: HOW TO USE YOUR IRA TO HELP THOMAS MORE

Congress passed legislation to make the charitable IRA rollover permanent. People aged 70 ½ or older have a special tax-free opportunity to make a meaningful charitable gift annually to Thomas More University.

### How it works

This legislation allows individuals aged 70 ½ 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 University and its students.

### You can make a direct transfer if:

1. You are age 70 ½ 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 University.
4. You make your gift by December 31, 2019.

### 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 University now.
5. It's simple to do. Just call your IRA administrator to make the transfer.

To give to The Fund, please visit **thomasmore.edu/thefund** or return the envelope at the center of this Moreover. For additional information, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at **advancement@thomasmore.edu** or **859-344-3344**.



# #TMU1221

A gift for every student, because every student is a gift!



It is a great honor and my distinct privilege to serve as Thomas More University's 15th president. I am excited to lead the University as someone who serves as a mission-driven, servant leader dedicated to academic excellence and student success. I firmly believe in the values-based education we provide at Thomas More, and I'm confident of the lifelong impression we make on each student.

I'm a first-generation college graduate, and I know firsthand the difference that your financial gift makes to a student. It provides opportunities and resources that might not be available to them otherwise. This academic year, we're making a symbolic and special call to action. Thomas More is asking 1,221 individuals to symbolically represent their support of our 1,221 students with a personally significant philanthropic gift.

We want to count you as 1 of 1,221 individuals who offer up a gift of support for these 1,221 students. Your gift to The Fund for Thomas More University ensures that every student will receive the resources and guidance they need alongside an invaluable Catholic education.

Here's to a gift for every student, because every student is a gift!

Joseph L. Chillo, LP.D., President

**the fund**  
for THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY

## Membership is All About **GIVING** - Become a Member of the President's Society



### A message from President's Society Chair Bob Sathe

The changing landscape of education presents significant challenges. The next generation of leaders need to be prepared to face evolving technology, a shifting workforce, and the rising cost of education. Thomas More University has a century-long tradition as a faith-based institution which produces principled, innovative leaders that are prepared to meet these challenges and rise above them.

As we welcome President Chillo and begin our new journey as a university, I am honored to invite you to join me as a member of the President's Giving Society - a group that gives to the University in the amount of \$1,000 or more in the current fiscal year. I have been continually impressed by Thomas More University's wonderful faculty, investment in our community, and most importantly its phenomenal students. If we are going to mold the leaders of tomorrow, it is imperative that we act as leaders in the present. Join the President's Society, and together we can forge a bright future for our community, our region, and our country.

For a photo gallery of pictures from Thomas More University events, go to **pages 32-33**.



# A Tribute to Professor William S. Bryant (1943-2019)

SUBMITTED BY SHANNON GALBRAITH-KENT '99, Ph.D., WITH JOHN AND JODI FERNER | PHOTOS PROVIDED

“What is a Seed?” Any student of Bill Bryant had this question asked in many ways over the years. The trick was that there was no simple answer and the concept applied to more than just plants. By asking the question, he taught us the three components of seeds: an embryo, a food source, and an outer covering. This idea of possibilities within a simple seed also illustrated his ideas of what mattered as a teacher and colleague - nurturing and providing opportunities for others.

In the 1970s, Bill was asked to define “loving” for a Thomas More alumni publication. He wrote, “Loving is opening yourself up and letting your heart say ‘hello’ to the world. Loving is the art of giving and receiving love. It’s a caring; a sharing; a believing; and an attempt at understanding. It isn’t always easy. It’s accepting others – warts and all. Loving is thinking kind thoughts, sharing tender moments and remembering good times; it’s thinking of others and not always of ourselves. Loving is what makes us whole.”

We measure the life of Bill Bryant as he did: in love. He had a love for his students and colleagues; a love of teaching; of forests, natural history and biology; of books and knowledge; of friends; and love of his dear wife Barbara, Ronda, Chris, and their family.

Bill’s career at Thomas More began in 1971. As the resident botanist and forest ecologist, he taught a variety of courses from ecology and botany, to invertebrate biology and aquatic biology.

His broad curiosity and deep intellect even led him to teach the history of Kentucky.

He was an exemplary colleague and one who embodied what many have said in different ways, that the “kindness, compassion and attention he gave his students was also extended to all of his colleagues. If all of us were to live that same way, we would think we had created a real Utopia.” Bill’s relationships with others was a strong and enduring part of who he was, as exemplified by his long relationship with Professor John Ferner, Ph.D. A colleague from another department referred to them as “the Brothers Biological.”

While he was very challenging in class, Bill had an open-door policy – always making time just for you. The relationships, trust, and respect formed during those office visits and “doorway conversations” showed how much he cared for us. And we loved him for that.

One of his long-time friends and faculty colleagues, Siobhan Barone, Ph.D., commented on his exceptional way of interacting with students. “Dr. Bryant just intuitively knew what any given student needed – a firm, but kind, reality check on life or maybe just some gentle encouragement,” she said. The guidance he gave on difficult decisions has led to so many fulfilling lives.

Many alumni have shared reflections on Bill’s enduring impact, including: “He taught me not just about biology, but how to approach and solve problems, how to think critically, and how to be a good person...” “Dr. Bryant was one in a million. He cared about us, his students, and I think we all had a special bond with

William (Bill) S. Bryant, Ph.D., passed away on August 5, 2019. In collaboration with his family, the Department of Biological Sciences established the “Dr.



William S. Bryant Memorial Fund for Student/Faculty Biological Research.” For details or to support this fund, visit [tmuky.us/bryantfund](http://tmuky.us/bryantfund).

him over the years remembering his passion for teaching, his encouragement, and his smiling face...” “Not only did he guide us through our studies, he guided us through our lives. ...he was constantly demanding the best out of you in the classroom.... He cared for his students like they were his children...”

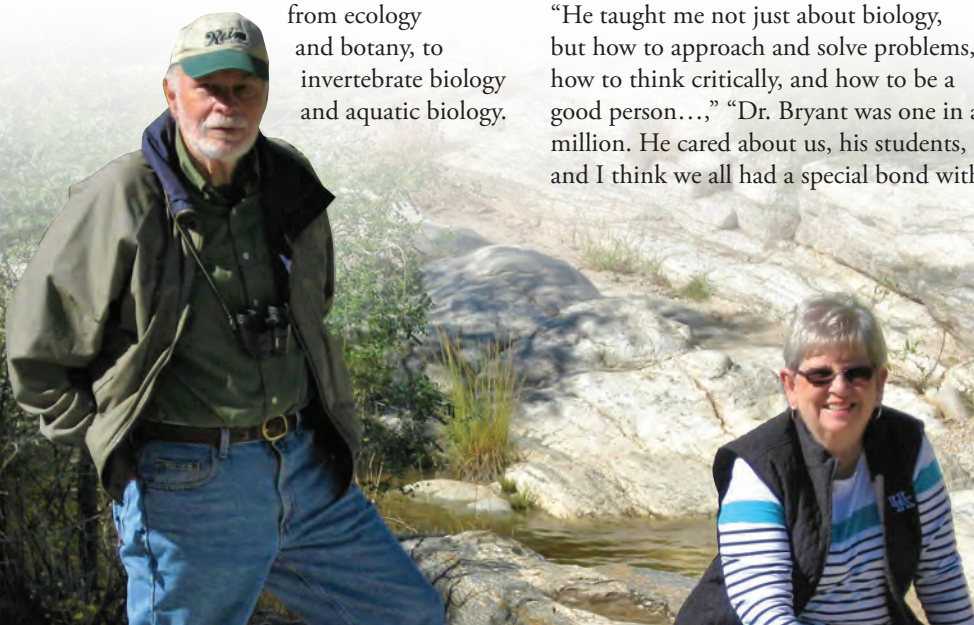
For the thousands of students he served, the hundreds of classes he taught, and all the subjects he mastered, Bill placed a high value on knowledge, learning, and critical thinking. Yet, it was his mentoring that changed so many of our lives – not only in our career paths – but in nurturing personal qualities of integrity, trust, and meaningful relationships.

His love of nature was contagious. Being on a class hike or doing forest research with Bill was truly special. He would always say, “well, we’re going out to see some Old Friends” – and by friends, he meant wildflower species – which annually return to greet us. An alumnus wrote, “Dr. Bryant fostered my love of the outdoors and gave me such a deep appreciation for nature – and I’ve worked hard to pass that legacy onto my children.” Whether by visiting Boone Cliffs Nature Preserve (which he helped conserve while leading the local chapter of The Nature Conservancy), or other beloved spots, his love for the natural history of Kentucky, and wanting to conserve and share these areas with others – lives on through so many of us.

In 2013, Bill returned to Thomas More to lead a tree walk through the William S. Bryant Arboretum – named in his honor in 2008. Alumni from across several decades came just to see him. Several said, “We just wanted to be his student again... we came because we wanted to learn from him – just one more time.”

After Bill passed away, Barbara found a small piece of paper neatly folded into ➔

*Bill and Barb Bryant on Gneiss rocks in Sabino Canyon, Tucson in November 2015.*





# KUDOS TO THOMAS MORE FACULTY AND STAFF ON THEIR ACCOLADES, PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLISHED WORKS



**Andrew Cole**, director of campus ministry, was appointed to serve on the Kentucky Board of Licensure for Pastoral Counselors. His appointment is for a four-year term. Andrew fills a

citizen seat on the board of five. This appointment fosters Thomas More's relationships with pastors of all faith backgrounds – a great example of the Thomas More Mission. Visit [tmuky.us/cole](http://tmuky.us/cole), to read more about this appointment.



**Raymond Hebert, Ph.D.**, Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences, was honored with a Ruth A. Eger Leaders of Distinction Award by the Northern Kentucky

Chamber of Commerce. The Leadership Northern Kentucky program celebrated its 40th anniversary and award recipients are individuals who have made notable contributions towards the advancement of the northern Kentucky community since participating in the program.

More since 2003 and, in that time, has contributed significantly to the academic life of the university. He has served as director of first year students, division chair of humanities, and—most notably and recently—as Faculty Government Association chair.

**Angela Crawford, Ph.D.**, dean and Carrie Jaeger, Department of Business Administration, College of Business, wowed a standing-room only crowd with an interactive workshop in July at the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce's "Igniting Passion within Employees: Designing Organizations for the Workforce of the Future."



**Sr. Kay Kramer '86, CDP**, Department of Nursing, College of Education and Health Sciences, was honored with the Outstanding Preceptor Award at the annual conference of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) in June in Washington, D.C. Sr. Kay was nominated for the award by the nurse-midwifery education programs at the University of Cincinnati and Vanderbilt University, the two programs for which she precepts midwifery students at St. Elizabeth Healthcare. The nominators mentioned Kay's love

for teaching, service to poor women and immigrants, and commitment to training future midwives, physicians, and nurses. At the same conference, Sr. Kay presented her paper

"When the World Moves into the Neighborhood: Providing Maternity Care to Immigrants." In addition to teaching at Thomas More, Sr. Kay maintains an active clinical practice at St. Elizabeth Healthcare. (Photo: Sr. Kay with Katie Moriarty, Ph.D., CNM, member of the board of directors of the ACNM.)



**Caitlin Shaughnessy Dwyer, M.T.S.**, Department of Theology, College of Arts and Sciences, published "Why You Won't Grow Up in College," a review of Lukianoff,

Greg and Jonathan Haidt, "The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas Are Setting up a Generation for Failure" (New York: Penguin, 2018) in "Humanum: Issues in Family, Culture & Science" (2019 Issue One). She also wrote a three-article series on "How to Answer Pro-Choice Arguments" published in The Messenger.

**R. Steven Flynn, Ph.D.**,

Department of Accountancy, College of Business, recently had his article entitled "Is a Board Chair's Association with Religiosity Contagious in the Financial Reporting Process? Nonprofessional Investors Render Their Prognosis," in "International Journal of Business Research," Vol. 19, No. 2, 2019.



**Jay Langguth, Ph.D.**, Department of Philosophy, College of Arts and Sciences, accepted the position of associate provost at Thomas More. Jay has been a faculty member at Thomas



**Jodie Mader '98, Ph.D.**, College of Arts and Sciences, starts her term as chair of the Department of History, International Studies, and Political Science. This past summer she traveled to Chicago and attended

the Chairs Workshop sponsored by the American Historical Association. In May, she presented a paper on the film "Dr. Strangelove" at the annual Society for Military History Conference in Columbus, Ohio.



**Samantha D. Palmer, M.A.**, coordinator of career planning with the Institute for Career Development and Graduate School Planning (ICG), earned her Society for Human Resource Management Certified

Professional® (SHRM-CP) credential in June. The credential is internationally recognized as an expert level understanding in the HR field. Samantha plans to use her credential and continuing education courses to stay up-to-date on what hiring managers are expecting of Thomas More graduating students.



**Daniel Parsley**, was awarded third place in the American Choral Directors' Association National Conducting Competition (ACDA). ACDA is the premiere professional choral organization in North America.

Professor Parsley was selected out of hundreds of applicants across the country. He is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music (CCM) and will graduate this December 2019. Congratulations to Daniel. Visit [tmuky.us/parsley](http://tmuky.us/parsley), for more information on the ACDA Competition.

a square in his pocket along with his Kentucky Coffeetree seed. We think he might have written it around the time he retired. It reads, "When I came to TMC in fall 1971, I didn't know how long I'd stay – 37 years later, I was still here. Why? Did I influence others or did others influence me? My colleagues, Dr. Fred Humphreys,

Sr. Mary Laurence, Mr. Bill Volker, Dr. John Ferner, Dr. Siobhan Barone, Dr. Chris Lorentz, Dr. John Hageman, and many others showed me the traits, dedication and love for students. My students probably influenced me more than I did them; I watched them grow, achieve goals, succeed, and fail. I remember them and I am most

pleased that they remember me in kind ways. I tried to set a good example. Others had influenced me."

So, when you recognize a plant you have seen before, you can say, "Hello, Old Friend" – and know that Bill is also nearby. We will love you forever, Bill Bryant.

MOREOVER



# President's Innovation Grants 2019

The President's Faculty Innovation Grant initiative was announced in summer 2017 as an investment into faculty-driven research and projects. Projects submitted for this competition were evaluated based on innovative in concept and design, Thomas More University mission focus, program quality, student outcomes, sustainability, affordable/fundable, and the potential to improve the University in the future. Using the success of the President's Faculty Innovation Grants as a starting point, the Thomas More Staff Innovation Challenge was introduced in February 2019. The staff challenge was made up of two parts. Part one included Innovation Awards which encouraged proposals that were evaluated to receive one of three grants available as an investment towards the resources required to complete the project. The second part, called Innovation Rewards, offered a cash reward for innovations completed in or by the spring 2019 term. Following is a synopsis of the latest projects/research funded for both faculty and staff in 2019.

## Faculty Innovation

### Long-Term Storage of Monoclonal Antibodies at Room Temperature

Submitted by Meenakshi Bansal, Ph.D., Department of Chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences

Abstract: Storage of biospecimens for a long duration of time is a crucial challenge as most biospecimens, when



stored at room temperature, are extremely unstable and degrade rapidly<sup>1</sup>. Current methods for storage are costly, require significant infrastructure, and are not practical for infield operations. We propose to develop a way to store biospecimens at room temperature

for a longer period of time using a novel one-step sol gel method developed in our lab. We will utilize the UV-Vis spectrometer and newly acquired Raman spectrometer at Thomas More to monitor the long-term storage of the biospecimen. This technology could lead to significant cost reduction from the storage methods currently utilized by the biomedical community. The proposed research will help advance the research and academic careers of our undergraduate students and expose them to real-world challenges in the clinical field.

To view this presentation, visit [tmuky.us/bansal](http://tmuky.us/bansal).

<sup>1</sup> Lou, J.J., et al., A review of room temperature storage of biospecimen tissue and nucleic acids for anatomic pathology laboratories and biorepositories. *Clinical biochemistry*, 2014. 47(0): p. 267-273

## Faculty Innovation

### 20 Years of Border Study: Looking Forward & Looking Back

Submitted by James Camp, Ph.D., Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences

Abstract: 2019 is the 20th year of the Mexican-U.S. Border Studies Program at Thomas More. It is time to look back with the hope that this hindsight will inform and guide the future of the program. The program's efficacy has always been grounded in the evaluation of its impact immediately following the border experience. It has always been assumed that there are some lasting impacts that unfold over time, yet there is only anecdotal evidence of this lasting impact. I proposed to interview alumni from the program to 1) develop a documentary of the program that provides a historical account and 2) assess the long-term



impact the program has on participants. This historical account can be used for promotional, recruitment, and educational purposes, but most importantly this story needs to be documented as evidence of the Thomas More community living, serving, and learning its mission.

If you took part in the Border

Studies program and would like to participate, please contact Professor Camp at **859-344-3385** or [campj@thomasmore.edu](mailto:campj@thomasmore.edu).

## Faculty Innovation

### Mission Minute

Submitted by Caitlin Dwyer, Department of Theology, College of Arts and Sciences



Abstract: The goal of Mission Minute is to familiarize Thomas More faculty and staff with the Catholic Intellectual Tradition (CIT) through a fun introduction to some of its greatest figures in an effort to foster the institution's Catholic identity. To that end, each week during the 2019-2020 school year, faculty and staff will receive an email profiling a different, prominent figure in the CIT.

There can be text and audio versions of the profile which take no more than one minute to read or listen to. Over the summer, faculty members received a PowerPoint presentation briefly explaining the CIT and after reviewing, each department was asked to submit one figure from the CIT to be featured in a Mission Minute. Each Mission Minute email will include a question for faculty and staff to answer. From those who answer the question correctly, one winner would be drawn each week with a small prize awarded.

To view this presentation, visit [tmuky.us/dwyer](http://tmuky.us/dwyer).

## EXAMPLE OF A MISSION MINUTE

Submitted by Wes Ryle, Ph.D.

### GEORGES LEMAITRE

We often hear stories of the ongoing battle between science and faith, but many exemplary individuals serve as proof that the two can exist in harmony. One such example is Georges Lemaitre, a Jesuit-trained Belgian priest, who lived from 1894-1966. After serving as an artillery officer in World War I, Lemaitre began to study physics and mathematics while also preparing for the priesthood. In 1927, he wrote a paper that explained the observed motion of galaxies as evidence for the expansion of the Universe. He went on to further suggest that the Universe had a beginning, a concentrated state he termed "the primeval atom." Despite push back from many prominent scientists of the time, including Einstein, Lemaitre's proposal became the foundation for the "Big Bang" model which is currently accepted as the explanation for the formation of our universe. In his attempt to explore the meaning of life and our place in the world - or in this case, our place in the universe - Georges Lemaitre succeeded at the grandest of scales. For this reason he is a key contributor to the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.



## Faculty Innovation

### Campus Garden: Connecting Student Research and Community Collaborations to Decrease Food Insecurity

Submitted by Shannon Galbraith-Kent '99, Ph.D., Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences

**Abstract:** Sustainability relies on a successful interaction of environmental health and scientific rigor, community collaboration, and economic contribution. Having our students truly understand how aspects of this process work benefits their personal and professional growth while also helping to decrease hunger and food insecurity on campus and in the regional community. The Campus Garden proposal seeks to initiate a vegetable garden on campus that can be sustainable and connect to the three Thomas More ROI values: 1) provide research opportunities and experience for students in the areas of plant biology, ecology, and agriculture, 2) be a source of community collaboration through interactions with local farmers and high schools, and 3) give the results of the garden (fresh produce) to those in need within our community. We hope the Campus Garden can serve as a model for sustainability on a local scale (with potential for future growth) and simultaneously live out the mission of Thomas More.

To view an interview with Galbraith-Kent, visit [tmuky.us/galbraithkent](http://tmuky.us/galbraithkent).



## Faculty Innovation

### Starlight Conquers Darkness – Supporting an Investigation of Eclipsing Binary Stars at the BB&T Observatory

Submitted by Wes Ryle, Ph.D., Department of Mathematics and Physics, College of Arts and Sciences

**Abstract:** We are in the process of expanding undergraduate research opportunities associated with the BB&T Observatory. In January 2019, a grant from the NASA Kentucky Space Grant Consortium was received that supports research stipends for myself and two students, along with travel to



visit NASA collaborators and present our work at a national meeting of the American Astronomical Society (AAS). The grant totals over \$62k, with some matching funds provided by the University. This grant will be used as part of the Thomas More match for this work. Bolstering support for research and innovation aligns well with the University's mission. The work completed by these students is an ideal opportunity for experiential learning in the field with our focus on eclipsing binary systems – a fundamental, yet relatively untapped source of precise physical parameters of stars. Knowledge of these parameters is key in a wide variety of active astrophysical subfields. This study will produce a series of publications and serve as a springboard for future research projects, broadening the research profile of the University.

To view this presentation, visit [tmuky.us/ryle](http://tmuky.us/ryle).

## Faculty Innovation



### Culturally Relevant Education and Health Services: Diversifying the CEHS Students' Thomas More Experience through Culturally Relevant Curricula and Intentional Placements

Submitted by Christine Griffiths, Ph.D., ATC, Department of Sports Sciences; Kim Haverkos, Ph.D., Julie Luebbers, Ph.D., and Christy Petroze, Ed.D., Department of Education; Rebeca Tacy '85, DNP, APRN, FNP, NP-C, and Lisa Spangler-Torok, Ph.D., RN, Department of Nursing, College of Education and Health Sciences

**Abstract:** Given the diversification of the American landscape, students graduating with service-oriented degrees—such as educator, athletic trainer, or nurse—must be prepared to work with a culturally diverse group of communities. Thomas More's mission asks faculty members, to prepare our graduates "...to examine the ultimate meaning of life, their place in the world, and their responsibility to others." For students in service-oriented career trajectories, developing the knowledge, skills, and values to meet the needs of diverse communities is key to their ability to achieve that mission. Our goal is to develop a new, collaborative, and college-wide curriculum that provides students with the ability to work within these diverse communities and deliver key services. We will search out specific locations within our region where hidden populations of marginalized people live and work to develop services that meet their needs and improve their lives. This type of service learning is a key form of pedagogy that helps students engage, reflect, and work towards new definitions of community.

To view this presentation, visit [tmuky.us/curriculum](http://tmuky.us/curriculum).



## Faculty Innovation

**A Statistical Journey of “White Dog”: the Evolution of Bourbon**

Submitted by Jyoti Saraswat, Ph.D., Department of Mathematics and Physics, College of Arts and Sciences

**Abstract:** White Dog, White Whiskey, White Lightning, or White Mash is the foundation of all American whiskey. White Dog is raw unaged whiskey which has never seen the inside of a barrel and this project will statistically map the journey undergone in the process of becoming bourbon. Building upon the previous collaboration with the OTR still house, we are collecting samples of White Dog almost every month. These samples will be analyzed to determine the changes in the chemical composition of the White Dog as it ages over a period of time. Identical bourbons aged for the same period of time in separate parts of the multi-tiered warehouse can taste drastically different, possibly the result of various factors like temperature, location of the barrel and a process called “Angel Share,” i.e. bourbon evaporation during aging. Data collected will be analyzed by multivariate statistical techniques and used to study this evolution. Little is known about the chemistry of bourbon maturation; our investigation hopes to answer some of these questions.

**From Barrel to Bottle: An Investigation into the Aging Process of Bourbon**

Submitted by William C. Wetzel, Ph.D., department of chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences

**Abstract:** Distilled alcohol spends a great deal of time resting in a charred, new oak barrel along its multi-year journey to become a bourbon. In this study, we examine that process by identifying the changes in chemical composition that occur during the first, formative steps of that progression from distilled spirit to a fine bourbon. The chemical composition, investigated by using both solid phase microextraction and gas chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry, will provide insight into the complex set of changes that take place during a bourbon's maturation process.

To view this dual presentation, visit [tmuky.us/bourbon2](http://tmuky.us/bourbon2).



## Faculty Innovation

**ELS 665: Research Methods with Edpuzzle**

Submitted by Anthony Schumacher, Ph.D., Ethical Leadership, Institute for Ethical Leadership and Interdisciplinary Studies



**Abstract:** ELS 665 is the Research Methods course in the online Master of Arts in Ethical Leadership program. The course focuses on a variety of skills needed to conduct research and culminates in a project with input from the faculty member and the student's employer. Since the program is relatively new, ELS 665 has only been offered twice and is now undergoing a review as part of a continuous improvement process. One of the challenges related to teaching an online course on research methods is providing engaging content for students. The purpose of this proposal is to revise ELS 665 through the utilization of Edpuzzle, a program that allows videos to be made interactive, thus increasing student engagement in the course. ELS 665 will be offered in summer 2019; upon completion of the revised course with Edpuzzle's integration, students will be surveyed on the usefulness of Edpuzzle as a content engagement tool.

To view this presentation, visit [tmuky.us/schumacher](http://tmuky.us/schumacher).

## Faculty Innovation

**Food and Culture in World History: History and Hands-on Learning**

Submitted by Luis Sierra, Ph.D., Department of History, International Studies, and Political Science, College of Arts and Sciences

**Abstract:** Students often believe, when they step into a history classroom, that the learning that takes place only engages one's listening, reading, writing, rote memorization, and recall skills. This project aims to break with that perception by creating a course with a direct experiential component focusing on World Civilization I and II—core requirements for many students. In 2018-2019, I developed thematic world civilization courses focused on food and culture. As the next step, I aim to create three lab components each for History 101 and History 102. The History 101 labs will teach students about foraging, tool-making, and agriculture to emphasize the importance of these activities to human society. In History 102, our first lab will focus on coffee and sugar chemistry and the commodity chain by purchasing and roasting our own coffee beans and making our own coffee. We will learn about distillation and the effects of sugar and rum on world history. Our third lab will examine how corn and its derivatives are employed by the modern food system. These labs demonstrate the importance of commodities to the development of the modern capitalist system.

To view this presentation, visit [tmuky.us/sierra](http://tmuky.us/sierra).





## Staff Innovation

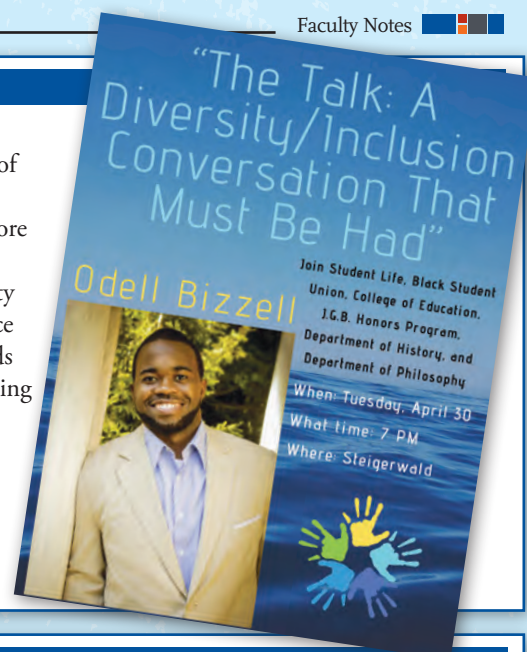
### Engage More: Diversity, Equity and Inclusive Excellence Learning Series

Submitted by Angel Curry, Charles Delp, Morgan Okello, and Summer Spille, Department of Student Affairs (with input from Professors Kim Haverkos, Luis Sierra, and Cate Sherron)

**Abstract:** This new, innovative, and mission-centric learning series introduces the Thomas More community to ideas and perspectives that will increase their understanding of the value of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Through workshops, dialogues, and presentations, community members strengthen their knowledge of strategies and tools to promote equity and to enhance social justice and inclusive excellence in their daily interactions. Using Social Justice Standards (Teaching Tolerance), which centers on the domains of identity, justice, and action, the learning series challenges community members to grapple with and reflect on their own personal journeys. The series also supports community members by placing them at the center of the learning and helps them co-construct new knowledge, abilities, and skills that will shift the institutional climate and promote change.

For more about this learning series, read the feature on **page 24**.

To view the presentation, visit [tmuky.us/inclusive](http://tmuky.us/inclusive).



## Staff Innovation

### Living the Mission

Submitted by Milissa Larkins, Human Resources



**Abstract:** Many employees are looking for more than a paycheck from their employer. Salary is not always the highest priority. Employees are searching for a connection to a higher purpose, an opportunity to make a social impact

through their work and a workplace culture that fosters healthy relationships. Living the mission is a new opportunity to encourage those behaviors at Thomas More, a workplace with an organic environment for meeting these needs through an employee nomination raffle. An employee nominates another employee for one entry in the monthly raffle when they witness an example of the individual living the Thomas More mission or vision at work.

## Staff Innovation

### Dedicated Space for Veterans – Saints Strong

Submitted by Michelle Vezina, Office of the Registrar

**Abstract:** Veteran students are a very important group. There are over 135,000 veterans\* in our region with 75 percent under the age of 35 and able to take advantage of Armed Forces benefits to attend college (themselves and/or their family members). This past year, the veterans' group on campus became an official club and to demonstrate Thomas More's commitment to current and future veteran/military students, the Saints Strong proposal will improve the dedicated space on campus for this group; moving them into a larger area that includes amenities that encourage learning and engagement on campus.

To view this presentation, visit [tmuky.us/saintsstrong](http://tmuky.us/saintsstrong).

\*According to the 2018 Tristate Veterans Community Alliance annual report

## Staff Reward - First Place

### An Innovative Program to Attract and Retain High Achieving Students: The Cleves Scholars Program.

Submitted by Heather Abbott, John Ernst, Ph.D., Robin Norton, and Samantha Palmer, Thomas More Success Center, and Tony Otten, Lam Pham, and Justin Vogel, Department of Admissions

**Abstract:** How can we attract and support more high achieving students?

**Innovation:** A new scholars program at Thomas More that leverages the Success Center institutes and faculty-led courses to help students take the next step for success through coursework aimed at translating ideas into action, co-curricular activities aimed at facilitating the 4Cs (Career, Character, Community, and Classwork), and service projects aimed at promoting responsibility towards others. This program is named after former President and Philosophy Department Chair Monsignor William Cleves. More about this program can be read in the feature on **page 8**.

To view the presentation, visit [tmuky.us/cleves](http://tmuky.us/cleves).



## Staff Reward - Second Place

### TAP Auto-packaging

Submitted by Mark Messingschlager '11/'15, Financial Aid



**Abstract:** All Thomas More Accelerated Program (TAP) cohorts previously operated under a non-term structure, meaning they did not follow traditional semesters. This allowed "rolling starts" into the program at any point throughout the calendar year making packaging financial aid very difficult and requiring that it be done manually for each student for each award year. After a series of major steps, the TAP programs are now offered in standard terms with modules which still allow multiple starts throughout the year, but also allows the financial aid process to be automated.

To view this Reward presentation, visit [tmuky.us/TAPautopackage](http://tmuky.us/TAPautopackage).





# From Firefighter to University Grad

SUBMITTED BY REBECCA STRATTON, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS | PHOTOS PROVIDED

Brad McClain '19 carried himself with pride as he walked across the commencement stage this past May, accepting his well-earned diploma from Thomas More University. Brad had spent the years leading up to this moment defying the societal norm as he pursued his bachelor's degree at age 43. His story captures the mission of the University, and his degree was a step closer to his dream of making a direct impact on the lives of others within his community.

Brad took a non-traditional path, having first completed and retired from a career as a firefighter before pursuing higher education. During his 18 years with the Lexington Fire Department in Lexington, Kentucky, he witnessed significant tragedies, many of which involved children. Brad recalls the difficulties of treating children who were the victims of trauma, like car wrecks or fires. The incidents he found the most challenging to make sense of were those involving child maltreatment. "The most difficult days were those involving runs in which children were sick, injured, or worse. Seeing a child lost in a fire, or a car wreck, or seeing some medical condition were some of the hardest things that I had to try and make sense of," Brad recalls.

Brad says that he relied on the very close-knit family atmosphere, or as some know it, the brotherhood/sisterhood that exists in the fire service to get through these difficult experiences. He loved helping people, especially at the time they

*Above: Brad with fellow psychology majors on Commencement day.  
Right: Brad with the 2019 James Graham Brown Honors program graduates and Director Cate Sherron, Ph.D.*



needed it most, and he loved sharing these experiences with other admirable people who continue to serve with distinction. "I was part of a very close team, and we counted on one another to get through the bad days. The career itself was very rewarding, and I always felt the sense that I was making a difference with my life and career choice. There are not many emotions that compare to saving a life or helping someone when they need it the most."

The profession of firefighting is an extremely noble and rewarding career, but just like many other firefighters, Brad understands that this calling can have an emotional toll on those who pursue it. He wanted to continue to make a difference, just as he did over the course of his career as a firefighter. After much prayer, he arrived at the decision to enroll at Thomas More. He says it was one of the best decisions he ever made and claims he found the same close-knit family environment that he experienced in the fire service among his peers and mentors at Thomas More. He excelled in coursework, was accepted as a member of the James



Graham Brown Honors program, completed service learning programs in Jamaica and the U.S./Mexico Border, and had many other notable accomplishments, which he says were made possible by the extremely professional and caring faculty, as well as the amazing support of the other students who completed their journeys alongside his.

Brad's admittance to the University was coupled with financial assistance through a scholarship from Will Ziegler '53, S.J.D., a Board of Trustees member. The Ziegler Scholarship allowed Brad to supplement his education with numerous, out-of-the-classroom activities surrounding his desire to better the well-being of the community. One of his volunteer activities included being a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) in Boone County. "In this role, I was assigned children who had been abused, neglected, or were otherwise dependent. In these cases, I performed investigations and monitored the child's situation to ensure their safety and advocated for their best interest to ensure they had the best possible outcomes. I was also able to complete two internships outside of Thomas More, one at St. Elizabeth in the Adolescent Intensive Outpatient Unit and one at Cincinnati Children's Hospital in the Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. In both of these placements, I witnessed the effects that childhood adversity has on families and children, and I'm sorry to say, the failings of the current methods of treatment. Many children are exposed to abuse, neglect, violence, and adversity, and yet they are still expected to develop and behave normally. These adverse conditions often remain undetected and unmitigated. These children don't need a mental health diagnosis and a handful of pills, they need a home free from fear and a place where they are nurtured as they grow and develop."

His time at Thomas More presented service learning opportunities. In the spring of 2019, Brad traveled to the U.S./Mexico Border with Professor

James Camp, Ph.D. During this experience, Brad and his fellow classmates assisted with the transportation of migrants to bus and air terminals, accompanying them and getting to know the true people behind the news stories. "Some of the major takeaways from that program for me were: some of the narratives circulating in the news and social media outlets are inaccurate; the vast majority of migrants are fleeing violence, oppression, and poverty. They are seeking a better life for their children, and who can blame them? They have the same hopes and dreams for themselves and their children as many Americans. There are a few bad seeds, drug smugglers, human traffickers, etc., but the vast majority are normal folks who braved an incredibly dangerous journey to ensure their children's future is better. I can relate. The majority of the Border Patrol agents are great people who are doing a very difficult job with the utmost professionalism and integrity."



*Brad accepts a Provost's Award of Excellence in Psychology from Caitlin Powell, Ph.D., for his research project presented at the 2019 Student Research Forum.*

Brad's dedication to helping those in need continues today as he combines what he learned at Thomas More with his career experiences in order to contribute to research that will impact some of the most vulnerable people, specifically children, within the community. "In the late 1990s, a study was conducted on Adverse Childhood Experiences. It found that a very large percentage of children in the U.S. are experiencing [domestic and other violence, drug abuse, child abuse/neglect, incidents involving unstable mental health conditions,] which then contributes to poor health outcomes and increased likelihood for addiction, suicide, and many other negative eventualities. Because I've seen this first hand, I understand what the children are going through, and I don't think the current mental health care and social service systems are adequately addressing these conditions. The increased rates of addiction, suicide, incarceration, violence, and prevalence of mental health diagnosis are indicators that the systems are failing to address the root causes. I want to help fix that.

**"Over the last two years, I came to understand that Thomas More is not an academic degree mill, but a place where education truly happens."**

*- Brad McClain '19*

"Over the last two years, I came to understand that Thomas More is not an academic degree mill, but a place where education truly happens." Brad has taken his degree, experiences, and lessons learned at Thomas More beyond campus and into the Greater Cincinnati area since his graduation, making real-life

contributions and meaningful changes to the current methods of practice in mental health care. Since May, Brad has spent his summer with family, volunteered with CASA, and prepared for graduate school. He is enrolled in the Master of Arts Psychology program at the University of Cincinnati. Once completed, he hopes to either continue his education by earning a doctoral degree or obtaining a job in research contributing to the improvement of the mental health care and social service fields, specifically focusing on interaction with children.

**MOREOVER**





# Viewing the World Inclusively

SUBMITTED BY CHARLES DELP, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT  
AND SUMMER SPILLE, COORDINATOR OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT | PHOTOS PROVIDED

One bedrock challenge facing higher education is addressing issues of diversity and inclusion (D&I) in a productive yet honest way. Owning and acknowledging the flaws of an institution while still pushing for productive change can be quite a balancing act. As Martin Luther King Jr. illuminated, “We must accept finite disappointment, but never lost infinite hope.” In Student Life at Thomas More University, we are finding that the one cannot be done without the other.

## BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Addressing D&I concerns can be a challenge for the two-hundred-year-old higher education system within the U.S. While many institutions are willing, it can nonetheless be difficult to navigate exactly how to make improvements within a system that wasn't originally built with those issues in mind.

Over the past few years, Thomas More has become more cognizant of D&I issues, following suit with many other institutions in this era of higher education. From the beginning of the Civil Rights movement until today, higher education has often been a microcosm where students, faculty, and staff wade through the political and social issues that are occurring in our nation. As a result, students, faculty, and staff are left to grapple with these issues in a new way, along with the factors of student voice and student responsibility.

## INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

How does faculty and staff responsibility come into play? For one of the primary offices that programs events for students, this can be a delicate task. There are very real issues and questions underlying the topic of D&I—questions affecting many different populations. These questions are often as difficult as they are real:

- ▶ How do you acknowledge or confront underlying issues while remaining constructive?
- ▶ How can this be done ethically and purposefully while remaining unbiased and approachable to the entire student body?
- ▶ When responding to a specific incident, how can this be done ethically for the whole community in light of student privacy?

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE LEARNING SERIES

For the Office of Student Life, the College of Education, and the Departments of History and Philosophy, we are embracing these challenges in a constructive way that looks forward. In spring 2019, these groups received a Staff Innovation Grant. The grant supports the new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Excellence Learning Series. This series includes both an annual thematic keynote and bi-monthly workshops which focus on deeper work that needs to be done within the student body, set to a theme agreed upon by

involved departments and student groups.

The purpose of the keynote is to promote the initiative as a whole, and the purpose of the additional events and workshops is to ensure that diversity and inclusion issues receive more than lip-service. It is difficult to ask deeper questions, propose suggestions, or advocate for real, specific change during a large-scale workshop, where the tone is more formal or informative. The workshops are a great second step to encourage constructive feedback.

The first keynote took place in April 2019 with Odell Bizzell of For College, For Life, Inc., and the first workshop was led by the Dean of the College of Education and Health Sciences Kim Haverkos, Ph.D. The focus was the intersection of race and communication. “It makes a person less reactionary,” said senior political science major Ben Noonan. “These issues never really go away, and this makes it visible and proactive.”

Student Life's goal is to be a multi-dimensional entity which includes social engagement, but also goes beyond surface-level activities. Programs and events should address multiple diverse aspects of the community—including the social, cultural, and spiritual. Dean of Students Antwone Cameron explained, “This particular series is important to Thomas More because we are educating future leaders on cultural competency so they can go farther in their careers and help move the needle positively in their own communities. It is my hope that students will behave in a manner that resembles one of light and that others will follow their example in their treatment of all people.”

The department makes an intentional effort to increase cross-departmental partnerships with recent partners including academic affairs, education, history, philosophy, campus ministry, and diversity and inclusion. On a national scale, programs like the Excellence Learning Series are incredibly important and gaining prominence. For Thomas More to continue to be competitive with its benchmark institutions, it is appropriate to launch a new initiative of this nature at this time.

## WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

To date, the biggest piece of student feedback is to ensure that this program, over time, addresses issues of D&I across a variety of spectrums. The series began with the topic of race, but will expand into broader conversations of gender, religion, and socioeconomic status. As the series moves forward, the programming will be further defined and assessed by its steering committee. Oftentimes, the part that is missed is the acceptance of finite disappointment. When this is not done at all, it leads to denial. When it is done in bitterness, it leads to resentment. But when it is done in a constructive, healing way, it can lead to restoration over time.

MOREOVER



Hopeful prize winners at the 2019 Alumni Wine Tasting.

# Join the Fun!

Events are a great way for alumni to reconnect, network, and socialize. Mark your calendar for the coming year!

## FEBRUARY

Friday-Sunday | February 7-9

Thomas More Theatre Production

### "AND THEN THERE WERE NONE"

For more information, contact Greg Procaccino

[procacg@thomasmore.edu](mailto:procacg@thomasmore.edu)

Sunday | February 9 | 11 a.m.

### LAWYERS' LUNCHEON

Mass in Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel

Lunch immediately follows in Steigerwald Hall, Saints Center

To RSVP, visit [tmuky.us/rsvplawyerslunch](http://tmuky.us/rsvplawyerslunch)

Thursday | February 13 | 7 p.m.



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

presents DAVID LAPP

Better Angels Co-founder and At-large Organizer

Steigerwald Hall, Saints Center

Tuesday | February 18 | Noon

### ENDOWMENT LUNCHEON

Steigerwald Hall, Saints Center

## MARCH

March 19-21 and 27-29

Thomas More Theatre Production

### "COLUMBINUS"

For more information, contact Greg Procaccino

[procacg@thomasmore.edu](mailto:procacg@thomasmore.edu)

## MARCH

Wednesday | March 25 | 5:30-7:30 p.m.

### YOUNG ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR

Dickmann's Sports Bar & Cafe

## APRIL

Monday | April 20 | time TBD

### STUDENT RESEARCH FORUM/ PRESIDENT'S SOCIETY PARTY

Connor Convocation Center

## MAY

Wednesday | May 6 | 6 - 8 p.m.

### ALUMNI WINE TASTING

Headquarters Event Center

Monday | May 11

### SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC

Summit Hills Country Club, Edgewood, KY

For additional information, contact Taylor Walz  
at [walzt@thomasmore.edu](mailto:walzt@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](http://THOMASMORE.EDU/ALUMNI) or drop a note in the business reply envelope located in the center of this Moreover.

Follow Thomas More Alumni on social media:



ThomasMoreAlum



Thomas More University Alumni



# MOREOVER SURVEY

We are asking for just a few minutes of your time to share your opinion and suggestions on how Moreover can best serve your interests. Thomas More values your input and with your participation we hope to enhance your connection to the University. You can return the survey in the business reply envelope at the center of this issue or respond online at [tmuky.us/survey](http://tmuky.us/survey). Please send your feedback by December 31, 2019. Thank you!

## What is your relationship to the University? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Alumnus/Alumna (graduate)    ☐ Attended (non-graduate)    ☐ Current student    ☐ Faculty/staff member  
☐ Donor    ☐ Parent/Relative    ☐ Retired    ☐ Other

## What is your age?

- ☐ Under 25    ☐ 25 to 34    ☐ 35 to 49    ☐ 50 to 64    ☐ 65 and over

## What is your gender?

- ☐ Female    ☐ Male    ☐ Prefer not to answer

## How often do you read the magazine?

- ☐ Two issues    ☐ One issue    ☐ Never read an issue

## How much of each magazine do you read?

- ☐ All of it    ☐ Most of it    ☐ Some of it    ☐ None of it

## How long do you typically keep an issue of the magazine?

- ☐ More than one month    ☐ Up to one month    ☐ Up to one week    ☐ Discard immediately after reading    ☐ Discard without reading

## How much time do you typically spend with an issue?

- ☐ 60 minutes or more    ☐ 30-59 minutes    ☐ 10-29 minutes    ☐ 1-9 minutes    ☐ Do not read it

## Do you prefer to read your magazine...

- ☐ In print    ☐ Online    ☐ Both

## Please rate the quality of:

	Excellent	Good	Poor	No Opinion		Excellent	Good	Poor	No Opinion
Content	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ease of Reading	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Photography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

## Please indicate your agreement with this statement: "Moreover strengthens my personal connection to Thomas More."

- ☐ Agree    ☐ Disagree    ☐ No opinion

## Please identify the ways Moreover strengthens your connection to Thomas More. (check all that apply)

- ☐ Reminds me of my experiences at Thomas More    ☐ Encourages me to volunteer  
☐ Encourages me to support Thomas More financially    ☐ Helps me feel more in touch with my graduating class  
☐ Provides useful career/networking information    ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## What actions have you taken as a result of reading Moreover? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Attended an event  
☐ Volunteered  
☐ Made a donation  
☐ Contacted a classmate/friend  
☐ Recommended Thomas More to a potential student/family member  
☐ Submitted a Class Note  
☐ Discussed/forwarded an issue/article  
☐ Saved an article/issue  
☐ Visited the institution's website  
☐ Wrote an email/letter to the institution  
☐ No action taken  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Do you consider Moreover to be a source of useful/relevant information about Thomas More?

- ☐ Agree    ☐ Disagree    ☐ No opinion

## Additional comments:

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*Thank you!*



# 1960s

**John Roth '69** retired in 2015 from the Department of Defense where he had worked for over 37 years. He first joined the Navy in 1971, where he served as an engineer. In 1984 he moved to St. Louis to work for the Army. From 1997 to 2015 John was in the Army and lived in Michigan. Roth now resides in Florence, Kentucky.

# 1970s

**Gary Cummins '70** received this year's Bonitatem Award (for service to the community) from his high school alma mater, Covington Latin School. He established the Cummins Scholarship at Covington Latin in 2016 which is awarded to current



students who show great promise and have financial need. In addition to the scholarship he meets with these students regularly and offers mentoring opportunities. Congratulations Gary!

**Michael E. Held '73, Ph.D.**, of the Saint Peter's University (NJ) Department of Biology, received the Elizabeth Ann Bartholomew Award from the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society at the Society's 2019 meeting held in Memphis, Tennessee. This award, the highest given by the Society, is in recognition of Michael's many contributions to botany in the eastern United States and his significant service to the Society. He was president of the Society from 2004 to 2006 and served as a member of the Society's Executive Council from 2008 to 2019.

**Rita (Koehl) Geiger '74** exhibited her art work in the Eva G. Farris Art Gallery on Thomas More's campus this summer from June 26 - July 11, with a closing reception held on July 11.

**Julie Geisen Scheper '76** was named to the board of Interact for Health. Julie has been a member of both the Covington Independent Public Schools and Kentucky state boards of education. She currently serves on the board and mentors for Covington Partners, a nonprofit that helps Covington youth achieve success.



**D. Lynn Meyers '77** was featured in the Cincinnati Business Courier because of



her work which directly affected the comeback story of the Ensemble Theatre. Lynn speaks about her experience working in theatre, Cincinnati, and how she got her start. To view the interview, please visit [tmuky.us/dlmeyers](http://tmuky.us/dlmeyers).

# 1980s

**Laura Koehl '80, Ed.D.**, received the Helen Carroll Champion of Education Award at the Outstanding Women of Northern Kentucky luncheon in spring 2019. Koehl has been an educator for 35 years and just finished her thirteenth year at Notre Dame Academy. For more information on the awards, visit [tmuky.us/2019OWNKY](http://tmuky.us/2019OWNKY).



**Garren Colvin '86** was awarded the 2019 Champion of Education by the Northern Kentucky Education Council and Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce at the 2019 Excellence in Education Celebration. As



the president and CEO of St. Elizabeth Healthcare, Garren is a champion of community engagement with an abiding interest in education. He serves on various boards including Horizon Community Funds. Most recently he helped form a partnership with NKU's Health Innovation Center to develop the next generation of healthcare leaders in Northern Kentucky. To read more about the awards and all honorees, visit [tmuky.us/edexcellence](http://tmuky.us/edexcellence).



**Fr. Martin Burnham '89, P.S.S.**, was conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Counselor Education and Supervision from the Department of Spiritual Care and Counseling during Loyola University Maryland's 167th commencement exercises in May 2019. In attendance to help Fr. Martin celebrate were fellow alums (from left): Gene '89 and Beckie '90 Schadler, P.S.S., Jim '89 and Lisa '86 Clark, and Monica Adams '89. Fr. Martin's dissertation was titled "Conceptualizing and Measuring Clericalism in Roman Catholic Priests." Fr. Martin has been assigned to the Provincial Staff of the United States Province of the Society of St. Sulpice located in Baltimore.

# 1990s

**Dave Schroeder '90**, executive director of the Kenton County Public Library, was honored with a Ruth A. Eger Leaders of Distinction Award by the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. The Leadership Northern Kentucky program celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2019 and award recipients are individuals who have made notable contributions towards the advancement of the Northern Kentucky community since

## Send Your Class Note!

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 in the envelope at the center of *Moreover*.



participating in the program. Both Dave and Thomas More Professor Ray Hebert were honored. For more information on the award and Leadership NKY, visit [tmuky.us/nkyegeraward](http://tmuky.us/nkyegeraward). (photo courtesy Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce)



**Jeanne-Marie Tapke '91, Ph.D.,** and husband, Dick, were this year's recipients of the Devou Cup which was created by The Northern Kentucky Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) to honor the generosity of individuals who make a profound difference in the quality of community life in Northern Kentucky, now and into the future. The Tapkes credit their experiences at Purcell and Marian High Schools, where they met, and Catholic education for cultivating the concept of community giving. For more on this honor and the Tapke's story, visit [tmuky.us/tapke](http://tmuky.us/tapke). (photo courtesy GCF)



**Todd Smart '92** returned to the women's basketball team at St. Henry High School as the head coach. Todd was an assistant coach at St. Henry for several years before stepping down after the 2017-18 season. For more information, visit [tmuky.us/smart](http://tmuky.us/smart).

**Kyle Niederman '95** was named the new head football coach at Lloyd High School. Kyle put his football coaching career on hold six years ago when he went into school administration. He spent five years in the Newport school system and has just finished his first year as Lloyd High School's vice principal. For more information on the move, visit [tmuky.us/niederman](http://tmuky.us/niederman).

## 2000s

**Alicia Townsend '00** was promoted to vice president and community affairs manager at U.S. Bank.

**Dena Espenscheid '01** from the Leadership Institute was hosted by the Garrett County Republican Women's Club in May 2019 to present "How to Grow Your Organization" before a bipartisan group. Dena serves as the director of grassroots coalitions at Leadership Institute with her work focusing on grassroots organizing, and training volunteers and fellow staffers.

**Matthew Galluzzo '01** became the president and CEO of Riverlife in September 2019. Previously he was executive director of the Lawrenceville Corporation. After graduating, he earned a master's degree in community organization and social administration from the University of Pittsburgh. He says some of the best training for his career was as an undergrad English student at Thomas More. To read more about Matthew's recent career move, visit [tmuky.us/galluzzo](http://tmuky.us/galluzzo).



**Yvan Demosthenes '04** is one of three new board members at SQUARE1, reflecting their enhanced services to startups throughout the region. Yvan has more than 20 years of experience in technology sales, application and system software, as well as consulting services and retail. Yvan is a top-producing sales executive and has proven results in enterprise software sales and consulting service sales.



**Tom Haggard '06** received the 2019 Outstanding Student Award from the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration. Tom is working towards his Master of Public Administration degree at Northern Kentucky University and is the workforce development director at the Brighton Center.



**Sr. Renee Kettering '07** professed her final vows as a Sister of Mercy of the Americas on July 13, 2019, at Mercy Center Chapel in Farmington Hills, Michigan. She entered the Sisters of Mercy as a candidate in August 2009 and was received as a novice in July 2011. Sr. Renee is currently an information technology specialist at the University of Detroit Mercy where she has worked since 2013. Congratulations Sr. Renee! For more information, visit [tmuky.us/kettering](http://tmuky.us/kettering).

## 2010s

**Katherine (Katie) Baker '10** was recently named chair of the St. Henry District High School fine arts department. Congratulations to Katie!



**Leah Cann '10** married Cody Schindler on October 13, 2018. Her best friend and fellow Thomas More alumna Elizabeth Fricke '10 presented the unity candle during the ceremony.

**John S. Hopper '10** opened the Law Offices of Farley and Hopper PLLC. They are located in Edgewood, Kentucky. F&H is a general practice firm that handles domestic, personal injury, probate and criminal defense. For more information, visit [farleyandhopper.com](http://farleyandhopper.com).





**Jonathon Mannarino '11** was recently hired as the Lakeside High School boys basketball head coach. "I'm extremely honored and humbled to become the head boy's basketball coach at Lakeside," he said. "I'm looking forward to working with our young student-athletes on building a winning culture." For the complete story, visit [tmuky.us/mannarino](http://tmuky.us/mannarino).



**Mark Messingschlager '11/'15** was the 2019 recipient of the Mary Schwab Award at Thomas More, which is awarded annually to an exceptional employee. Mark is the director of financial aid at Thomas More University. For more information, visit [tmuky.us/messingschlager](http://tmuky.us/messingschlager).

**Patrick Kolks '14** was named the new director of athletics at his high school alma mater Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception located in Oldenburg, Indiana. Patrick is also in charge of the day-to-day activities of the athletic department, while

being in charge of fundraising for the department. Oldenburg offers 15 varsity boys and girls sports and is growing.



**Mamee Salzer '16** participated in the BLDG 199c Art Show honoring the Reds in spring 2019. As her inspiration, Mamee drew on Reds legends Marty Brennaman and Joe Nuxhall. Imagine her surprise when Mr. Brennaman purchased the piece and treated Mamee and her family to a night at the ballpark! Congratulations Mamee.

**Anel Bosnjakovic '17, Jaime Leon '16, and Johanna (Christy) Smith '17** were three of 50 new officers who graduated in July 2019 from the Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) as part of the 109th class of recruits. Anel and Johanna are both officers with the CPD and Jaime is a member of UC police. Congratulations to all!

**Courtney Neltner '17** returned to the northern Kentucky area in the newly created position of public affairs coordinator with the Chamber of Commerce. Courtney serves as the main liaison to local government officials for the Chamber, providing updates and securing feedback from members, and advancing public policy items critical to the success of the NKY business community. For more information about Courtney and the Chamber, visit [tmuky.us/cneltner](http://tmuky.us/cneltner). (photo courtesy NKY Chamber)



## In Memoriam

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

**Frank De Salvo '65**, April 27, 2019

**Margaret (Graus) Fessler '48**, June 1, 2019

**Lynne (Meyers) Gordon '77**, March 29, 2019

**Peter Helmlinger '96**, June 10, 2019

**John Kaelin '63**, March 30, 2019

**Timothy Kruse, Sr. '62**, March 3, 2019

**Helen Laux '43**, May 29, 2019

**Norman Martin '73**, June 22, 2019

**Patricia O'Hara '56**, April 9, 2019

**Joseph Rager '76**, March 25, 2019

**William Seiter '55**, June 23, 2019



## THOMAS MORE ADG RHO CHAPTER TAKES NATIONAL AWARD

Thomas More's ADG chapter was recognized for the fourth year in a row with the Outstanding Alumni Chapter of the Year at the ADG National Convention in Milwaukee on August 10. In attendance at the National Convention were (from left): Vicky Sapp '95, Chris Sapp '95, Nick Whalen '05, Andy Schoettker '81, Zackary Fries '18, Aaron Judd '09, Jeff Wyrick '90, Caleb Finch '07, Mike Esselman '91, Dave Macke '81, April (Husak) Judd '15, Josh Vogel '10 (front).

## THOMAS MORE PRESIDENT CHILLO ON TOUR!

Alumni and friends, be on the lookout for special invitations to join President Chillo for events in the following cities this spring: Scottsdale, Arizona | Fort Myers, Florida | Jacksonville, Florida | Orlando, Florida | Lexington, Kentucky | Louisville, Kentucky | Indianapolis, Indiana | Columbus, Ohio | Dayton, Ohio | New York, New York | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | Washington, D.C.





# The VMC Story of Winnifred (Gerhardstein) Murnin '52, Ed.D.

SUBMITTED BY JUDY CRIST, DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE SERVICES

*Winn (fourth from right) with summer session classmates in 1951.*

The history column was created to give a voice to alumni who graduated from Villa Madonna College, upon whose humble beginnings current-day Thomas More is built. The stories of these young men and women are unique and for this installment I had the opportunity to catch up with Winnifred (Gerhardstein) Murnin, class of 1952. If you received the *Moreover* in 2008, you may recall a profile about Winn that spoke to her stellar career in education and the fact that Northside School District in San Antonio (still her home today) named an elementary school in her honor. Her career at Northside spanned 19 years and in addition to significant contributions to the district, she was the first woman to hold the position of assistant superintendent.

So what was the educational experience of a woman of Winn's caliber like at VMC? When I first reached out to her, Winn wasn't sure that she was a good candidate for the history column. She attended St. Louis University in Missouri, a Jesuit institution, her first and second year, and when she returned home to Fort Thomas, she transferred to Villa Madonna College to complete her degree. Winn was incredibly young, having graduated high school at 15. She started classes at VMC immediately because, in her words, she was a "girl in a hurry." By 18 she completed her undergraduate degree with the intention of being a teacher. "I knew I wanted to be a teacher from a kid on up," Winn explained. "I loved school and that was my intention for going to college."

Winn was raised in a strong Catholic environment, attending St. Thomas Grade School and High School in Fort Thomas. The only colleges she considered for furthering her education were Catholic

and known for their academic quality. Choices in this area were slim for young women and included Villa Madonna College, Mount St. Joseph, and Our Lady of Cincinnati. Winn chose VMC and made the trek to classes every day by streetcar and bus. She found the atmosphere welcoming and the faculty helpful and friendly. Classes were small, which ensured individual attention. Math and English were Winn's majors, in addition to preparing for educational certification. As a female math major, she recalls being something of an anomaly and being subjected to derisive comments by one

particular math professor while attending St. Louis University. This was not the case at VMC. Winn states, "I remember being in a class for differential equations and being taught by this very kind and supportive nun (I think she was the head of the department). Now I look back and think about the type of ridicule she may have endured as she was preparing to study higher math."

In those days, it was not assumed that a woman would continue her education. Career choices were limited and mainly included nursing or teaching. Most women attended college to have a fallback occupation so that in the event their husband passed away they had a way to take care of themselves and their family. Winn laughed, "A common line in those days was 'What are you going to college for?' and the answer was 'to get my

M R S' and that was very true!" Winn was just the second woman in her father's family to continue her education past high school and recalls the ridicule her older female cousin, Irene (Gerhardstein) Kosse '36 (also a VMC grad) sometimes received from family members, which included comments like, "Oh she knows



*Triskell junior year photo of Winnifred (Gerhardstein) Murnin*



everything, she's a college girl." Following in Irene's footsteps eight years later, Winn was spared those comments although there were still many challenges. Having lived through those early prejudices, Winn is thankful for today's changed climate, "Women used to have so few options, I am so happy that we have come to a time when women can do anything. It's marvelous and a great gift to have lived through that great change."

As a transfer student pushing hard to get her degree, Winn did not spend time on extracurricular activities while attending VMC. She knew some classmates who had also gone to St. Thomas High School and friends of her brother who had come from Latin School to attend VMC. She completed her secondary student teaching in Notre Dame Academy of Divine Providence in Newport (run by the Sisters of Divine Providence). One of her first jobs was as a part-time kindergarten teacher in one of the parish schools in Newport. Winn was so young when she graduated that, after receiving certification, she fudged her age a little in order to qualify for that first job. She recalls going to PTA meetings in the evening and there were pitchers of beer on the tables in the meeting hall for those in attendance – one of the perks of working for a good German parish!

The physical condition of the college was not a deterrent for Winn. "I remember the main building where administration and some classes were located, as well as the library. I did have classes on the second floor of the fire house. St. Louis University had a similar issue being downtown and land-locked; they had also bought private homes to have classes in. I will never forget one of my instructors saying, 'Education can be carried on in ramshackle buildings' and that was so true! One of the things that surprised me was the mixture of the religious orders as teachers at Villa. That was not my previous experience; I was used to one institution, one order. At times the orders were very territorial and competitive but that was not the case at VMC."

Winn took two summers of classes in order to wrap up her degree quickly. "I do remember summer classes were heavily populated with religious. The Sisters were teaching school all year, you did not need a degree to teach elementary school back then. They would come to college in the summer; there were maybe

five or six of us civilians. Unfortunately, I did not go through the graduation ceremony because I graduated at the end of the summer in 1952. When I got my master's degree and doctorate, I made sure I went through graduation!"

The education served Winn well over the years, "It got me started on a wonderful 31-year teaching career. I truly value it. The physical circumstances (of VMC) weren't great but we didn't care about that! We were there to get an education." After earning her degree, Winn married within a year and became a military wife. Their travels took the family all over the country and the world. Winn's story is a testament to being a life-long learner as she earned a master's degree and later, her doctorate at the age of 56. She raised five wonderful children to adulthood before pursuing her personal

dream of achieving a doctorate degree from Texas A&M University in 1989. Today, she is still very involved at "her" school at Northside, reading to each of the classes every year and attending PTA (minus the pitchers of beer!) and other school events. She continues relationships with staff members at Dr. Winn Murnin Elementary School; especially her grandson, Shane Murnin, who is a third grade teacher. In Winn's assessment, "Whenever I come to the school, they make me feel like 'The Queen has come!'"

When asked her thoughts on current day Thomas More, Winn said, "It's absolutely miraculous that from such humble beginnings as a local teacher's college, this institution became a

marvelous University with a beautiful campus. It's a testament to the forward thinking of those who started Villa and the support of the community." Her advice for today's students? "They (students) probably aren't aware that the original intent of colleges was to preserve knowledge and spawn ideas for the community, not just as a quick way to prepare for an occupation in life. Take advantage of every opportunity, it's a great time to try activities and ideas out and think things you've never thought. I did not do that and wasn't involved in extracurriculars, that wasn't important to me at the time. I may have missed something along the way but still value the education I received."

**MOREOVER**

For more on Winn's namesake school, visit [tmuky.us/murnin](http://tmuky.us/murnin).



*Winn's latest school photo.*

## Monsignor Murphy Legacy Society

### CREATE YOUR LEGACY AT THOMAS MORE

**C**an **YOU** leave a lasting contribution to the mission of Thomas More University? Charitable planning empowers you to create opportunities for generations to come. **THANK YOU** to all of the existing members. Through the Monsignor Murphy Legacy Society you can join a fellowship of devoted friends and alumni who have made a pledge to support Thomas More through their will or other estate planning documents. Your contribution will sustain the mission of Thomas More while creating a lasting legacy for yourself on campus.

Have you considered making a legacy plan with Thomas More? There are many options to explore which give you the freedom to craft your legacy, and it may be easier than you imagine. Contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at **859-344-3344** to explore opportunities for planned giving or to notify the University of your intent. Additional information can be found at [tmuky.us/plannedgiving](http://tmuky.us/plannedgiving).

All Prospective donors are encouraged to consult with their legal and tax advisors.





## GOLF OUTINGS BENEFIT STUDENTS/ATHLETES

In 2019, students at Thomas More benefited directly from two different golf outings. The Scholarship Classic, formerly known as the Bensman Golf Outing, was held in May 2019 with proceeds benefiting student financial aid. The classic welcomed 22 foursomes to Summit Hills Country Club to spend a beautiful Monday on the golf course. Later in the summer, the Athletic Department invited golfers to the links of AJ Jolly with proceeds helping defray the costs associated with 30 highly competitive varsity athletic programs. Thank you to all the golfers and sponsors associated with these successful outings!

*Above: Golfers enjoyed a glorious day for the Scholarship Classic at Summit Hills Country Club. Insert: The Thomas More welcoming crew from Institutional Advancement included (clockwise from bottom left) Michael Orr '15, Kristen Weber '17, Rebecca Stratton, Bailey Bundy, Lou Esselman '81, Taylor Walz '19, and Elizabeth Champ.*



## PRESIDENT'S SOCIETY SUMMER PARTY

One of the first events President Chillo hosted on campus after arriving June 1, was the President's Society Summer Party honoring the generosity of donors who gave a gift of \$1,000 or more to the University in the 2018-19 fiscal year. This casual event was an excellent opportunity to meet the 15th president of Thomas More.





*Twenty-fourth Annual*  
**BISHOP WILLIAM A. HUGHES**  
**AWARD DINNER**  
*honoring*  
**MOST REVEREND ROGER J. FOYS, D.D.**

Bishop Roger J. Foys, D.D., Chancellor of Thomas More, was honored at the 24th Annual Bishop William A. Hughes Award Dinner for his unparalleled support of Catholic higher education and Thomas More University. The event took place on September 26, at Drees Pavilion. "The quality education that we provide today, and aspire to enhance in the future, would not be possible without the leadership and support of our chancellor," said President Chillo.



**MORE PHOTO GALLERIES  
 AVAILABLE ONLINE:**

As Moreover went to press, Homecoming was just around the corner with events held from October 17-19. For a photo gallery of Homecoming, visit

**THOMASMORE.EDU/MOREOVER**







Congratulations!



The COLLEGIATE WOMEN  
SPORTS AWARDS  
presented by **HONDA**

Jenna Fessler '19  
2019 Honda  
Inspiration Award

Madison Temple '19  
2019 DIII Honda  
Athlete of the Year

## Congratulations Jenna and Madison - Honda Award Winners!

SUBMITTED BY REBECCA STRATTON, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS | PHOTOS BY ALLEN RAMSAY

Scholar C.S. Lewis once said, "Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny." As "ordinary" student-athletes, Madison Temple '19 and Jenna Fessler '19 had no idea the adversity and triumph that was to unfold leading up to their graduation from Thomas More. Both were acknowledged this past spring at the Collegiate Women Sports Awards (CWSA) for their extraordinary accomplishments. Madison was named the 2019 Division III Honda Athlete of the Year and Jenna was named the 2019 winner of the Honda Inspiration Award.

Madison experienced hardship during her basketball career beginning her sophomore year of high school, tearing both of her anterior cruciate ligaments (ACL) only one year apart. Unsure if the injury would result in the end of a dream, she prevailed. "I never wanted to be that person who gave up because of a little adversity," said Madison. "I figured if I was going to rehab for nine months, it wasn't going to be for nothing. I didn't want to let the fear of getting injured again stop me from doing what made me happy."

Before graduating, Madison was a star on the basketball court.

In four short years, she acquired numerous NCAA Division III national awards, including being named the Jostens Trophy winner, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Division III Player of the Year, and the WBCA All-American. She was also named the Google Cloud Academic All-American by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) and was an Academic All-American Collegiate Athletic Association Honoree. She led her team in scoring, rebounds, assists, and steals, helping the Saints win the 2019 NCAA DIII Championship title with an undefeated 33-0 record. She was third on the team in blocked shots, made 186 free-throws (single-season record at Thomas More), had 187 assists and 776 points (both stats are second in single-season records). Her 254 rebounds are third most in a single-season. Madison finished her career as the school's all-time leader in scoring, assists, made field goals, and made free-throws, while finishing third in rebounding.

When the title of Division III Honda Athlete of the Year was added to her athletic resume, she was overjoyed. "I cried, honestly, because this isn't just a player of the year in basketball, it's for all



sports,” said Madison. “To know that I am being recognized for all the hard work I’ve put in on and off the court in the classroom and community means so much to me. It makes me emotional to think of everything I went through with my ACL tears and the mental aspects of the game that I had to go through to get to this point.”

In addition to her ACL injuries prior to Thomas More, Madison claims she found it difficult to prioritize schoolwork, a job, and a social life with the demanding schedule of road trips during the basketball season. She recalls some cases where the team would return to campus at 3 a.m. and she’d be in class only five hours later at 8 a.m. for a test. She was more than willing to put in the effort to be the best version of herself to push towards an extraordinary dream. “The adversity I faced and overcame is a really special story that I can share with people,” Madison said. “I hope that my story can inspire other young athletes who may be going through a tough time or dealing with their own adversity.”

Also facing adversity and prevailing during her days at Thomas More is Jenna. As the 2019 Honda Inspiration Award winner, Jenna claims that she was filled with pure excitement and happiness when she received the call saying she won. “I never thought I would be winning this award because I never expected to get sick and have a story that is considered inspiring,” said Jenna. “True inspirations are my family and friends who helped me through the difficult times.”

Jenna arrived at Thomas More expecting to play volleyball for four years. During an annual family vacation to Destin, Florida, in the summer of 2016, Jenna began to experience headaches, lower back pain, and nausea which resulted in a drawn-out process of

“Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny.”

– C.S. Lewis

doctor visits and trips to the Thomas More athletic trainers. During a hospital stay, she was diagnosed with West Nile Virus, causing meningitis and encephalitis, swelling her brain. Unfortunately, the diagnosis wasn’t the end to the struggle. Just when she thought she was on the road to recovery, the disease came back more severely than before, causing Jenna to go into a coma for six days due to the swelling and pressure on her brain. She had to take a year off school and a year away from volleyball.

Slowly, Jenna began to regain her health and strength – a process that took a year. Though her body was fighting this life-threatening illness, Jenna had only one thing on her mind – getting back to her volleyball teammates. “My doctors did not know if I would recover enough physically to be able to play volleyball again, but I knew if I could, nothing was going to stop me,” said Jenna. “The thought of getting back on the court was one of the biggest things getting me through. I was not satisfied after my first two years of playing at Thomas More, and I know I had more in me, and I had more to achieve with my teammates.” Jenna returned for the 2017 volleyball season and played for the remainder of her college athletic career.

“There are many positive things that I was able to experience from

## Standout Saints

### SOFTBALL

#### Alix DeDreu ’19

(Rising Sun, Ind./Rising Sun)

- NFCA All-American
- National Pitcher/Player of the Year Finalist
- NFCA All-Region
- ACAA Pitcher of the Year
- First Team All-ACAA



DeDreu



Gahan



Odom

#### Andrea Gahan ’20

(Cincinnati, Ohio/Oak Hills)

- NFCA All-American
- NFCA All-Region
- First Team All-ACAA

#### Mary Beth Odom ’19

(Taylor Mill, Ky./Dixie Heights)

- NFCA All-Region
- ACAA Offensive Player of the Year
- First Team All-ACAA

### MEN’S GOLF

#### Kyle Alexander ’20

(Taylorsville, Ky./Spencer County)

- UPIke Invitational Medalist
- Thomas More single round record of 64 (-8)
- Thomas More tournament record of -9



Alexander

### WRESTLING

#### Avery Jones ’20

(Amelia, Ohio/Glen Este)

- Fourth at NCAA Regionals at 184 lbs.



Jones

getting sick,” Jenna added. “If I would not have gotten sick, I would not have played on the 2018 Saints Volleyball team that had one of its best years in quite a while. I never would have experienced beating the number one team in the country on their home court in five sets. I never would have experienced our NCAA Tournament run and the Sweet 16. Throughout all the challenges, I became so much stronger.”

Like Madison, Jenna achieved many accolades during her athletic career at Thomas More. She started all matches her senior season and was awarded the American Collegiate Athletic Association (ACAA) Setter of the Year, First-Team All-Conference, two-time ACAA Player of the Week, and All-Great Lakes Honorable Mention. Both women used their hardships to strive towards their destiny. Jenna is the new assistant volleyball coach at Thomas More and is planning to earn a master’s degree in sports administration. Madison is chasing her dream of remaining involved in basketball programs by working in sports analytics, becoming a sports agent, working for basketball operations or a program at a university, or working for ESPN as a sports reporter. Madison and Jenna were presented with their honors during a live telecast on CBS Sports Network on Monday, June 24.

MOREOVER





## SAINTS SPOTLIGHT RUGBY HEAD COACH JOHN FOX

Want to get to know more about people within the Thomas More community? We did, too! That's why Saints Spotlight was introduced – a series that lets students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the University tell us a little bit more about themselves! For this edition, we interviewed Thomas More Rugby Coach John Fox.

**How long has rugby been at Thomas More University?**

**JF:** We are starting our fourth year.

**Does Rugby fall under athletics or under clubs/organizations?**

**JF:** It is a varsity sport supported by the athletic department.

**Tell us about the overall success of last year's season that led up to qualifying for the rugby national championship?**

**JF:** In the 2018 fall 15s season, the Saints' Rugby program was a finalist in the Midwest College Rugby Conference (MCRC) Championships, and the top seed and automatic qualifier for the National Small College Rugby Organization (NSCRO) National Championships. During the 2019 spring 7s season, the Saints won the Vanderbilt University Oak Leaf 7s Tournament to qualify for the NSCRO 7s National Championships in Philadelphia in June. We placed eighth in the nation in 7s and made it to the Sweet 16 round for the 15s national championship.

**What is the team doing to prep for this year's season?**

**JF:** This year's squad had their first preseason thanks to the help of Terry Connor! We won our first game on Sept. 7 against Eastern Kentucky University, 32-0. Our team is very young with first years and sophomores comprising 75% of the roster. Although young, most of the underclassmen have four to six years of experience, playing in middle school and high school. Several of our players have played at the regional all-star level through Eagle Impact Rugby Academy, Rugby Ohio South All Stars, and the USA South Panthers Rugby Program. We also have players that were selected to attend the International High-Performance Unit directed by the Crusaders Professional Rugby organization in Christchurch, New Zealand.

**What are you most excited for during this upcoming season?**

**JF:** We have three goals: 1) Lifting the MCRC Championship trophy November 3, 2) Seeing our players get nominated for All-American status, 3) Witnessing our student-athletes perform well not only on the field, but in the classroom.

**Player Damon Jones '20, from Philadelphia, was nominated for the Penn Mutual Life of Significance award. Can you describe him as a player and as a person serving the community?**

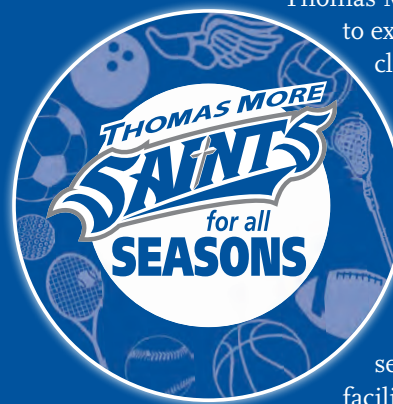
**JF:** Damon has been a member of our program since the beginning and was captain for the first three years. He was the backbone of the program. Damon has stayed an extra year in order to pass the accounting license test next summer in addition to graduating with an accounting/business degree. His mother told him to "Make a difference in this world!" He has been volunteering at the local food banks on Sundays since he started attending Thomas More! In addition to being a full-time student, Damon works a full-time job with Prudential as an intern, while playing rugby. He wants to help the younger players and support our newest leaders on the team. I appreciate his loyalty and the leadership he has displayed for our program.

## SAINTS FOOTBALL UNDER THE LIGHTS!

On a beautiful August evening, the Saints took on Kentucky Christian University for the first home football game of the NAIA season under the stadium lights installed this past summer marking a new era for Saints sports! #LetsGoSaints



## SUPPORT SAINTS STUDENT-ATHLETES join the Saints For All Seasons Booster Club



Thomas More is committed to excellence in the classroom, on the field of play, and in the local community. Your annual financial support provides the necessary resources to enhance student-athlete support services, upgrade facilities, and improve the quality of the Thomas More student-athlete experience.

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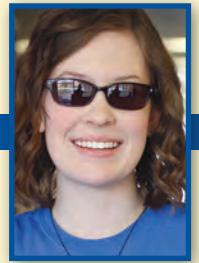






# Minute Spiritual Break...

Provided by Thomas More  
University Campus Ministry



## THE JOURNEY TO HEAVEN

As the school year starts and the calendar year winds down, we are reminded that we are all on a journey to heaven. Some paths are clearer and more defined than others. But no matter how clear our lives are, we are called to follow Jesus.

During the end of the Last Supper, St. Peter requested that Jesus not wash his feet because he was not worthy. Jesus replied, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later, you will understand (John 13:7)." Simply, Jesus was telling Peter that certain circumstances happen in our lives and at that moment, we do not know why. This confusion may cause anger and disappointment, but instead, we should welcome our trials as opportunities to grow in trust.

Different events will happen in our life and we are not always going to know why. At those moments, we must realize that it is trust that brings us closer to Christ. When Jesus appeared to St. Faustina (1578), He said, "The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive." We are all called to radically trust Christ because we do not have to have our life mapped out. That's God's job!

He is going to keep us on track and guide us and we just need to practice trusting Him more and more!

**Heather Faith Konerman '22**

*Christ Washing the Feet of the Apostles by Meister des Hausbuches, 1475*

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

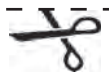
Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Affiliation with Thomas More University \_\_\_\_\_

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







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TUESDAY

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