

FALL 2021

# MOREOVER

Thomas More University



THOMAS MORE  
UNIVERSITY

1921 • 100 • 2021  
CENTENNIAL

The celebration begins!











THOMAS MORE  
UNIVERSITY

Make It **More.**

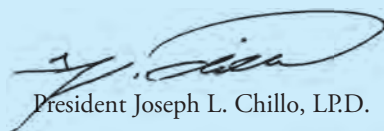


What an incredible fall term we've had thus far at Thomas More University. In August, we saw yet another record enrollment, welcoming 448 new students to our community and welcoming back 825 returning students. This returning number is significant as it represents an 84.7% persistence rate, the highest retention rate the University has ever seen. This is truly a testament to the incredible work of our faculty and our staff, as we have remained steadfast in our commitment to increase retention and persistence rates towards graduation for all students. Our outreach across the globe has also increased with record international enrollment, as we welcomed students from Mexico, Spain, Italy, Argentina, the Netherlands, Germany, the United Kingdom, Kenya, and Panama this fall.

September was a particularly exciting month in the history of Thomas More University, with the celebration of our centennial anniversary. Throughout this magazine you will see photos and highlights of the wonderful events that took place to kickoff our 100th year as an institution. The home football game, fireworks, centennial Mass, founders' day reception, academic convocation, campaign kickoff, and the inaugural Saints Serve were wonderful celebrations, but the pictures can hardly do justice to the contagious and palpable spirit of community that permeated throughout the weekend. The celebrations are far from over, as we will continue to honor the centennial for the rest of the year.

As we took careful time to honor the legacy of the Benedictine Sisters, who founded Villa Madonna College, and the Sisters of Notre Dame and the Congregation of Divine Providence who joined in 1929 to assist with the administration and teaching for the institution, it was equally important to look forward and begin our second century with a new and bold vision for the future of Thomas More University. On Sept. 13, we kicked off the Second Century Campaign: It's time for More. This \$30 million comprehensive capital campaign is the most ambitious fundraising initiative in University history and is directly tied to supporting the goals of the new Strategic Plan: Lighting the Way, which we announced in the Spring 2021 *Moreover* issue. I am thrilled to report, that we are more than 50% to our goal already, with more than \$15.7 million in commitments to the campaign. We are well on our way to funding the various projects in the campaign, including the construction of a new academic center, the relocation, enhancement, and construction of new athletic facilities, which will support our plans to join the NCAA Division II, and to grow the endowment, which has increased over the past two years from \$23 million to \$35 million today.

I want to thank all the alumni and friends who have been so supportive of my time as president. I am thrilled to tell you that the Board of Trustees has invited me to extend my contract by an additional five years. On behalf of my wife Laura, and my children Colin and Emma, we are so grateful to be a part of the Thomas More family.  
Go Saints!



President Joseph L. Chillo, LPD.

## THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY

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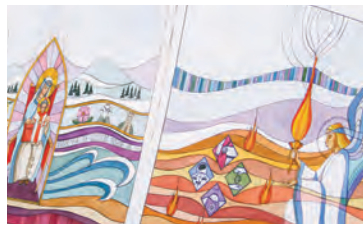
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# MOREOVER

FALL 2021



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This nod to the historical connection of the permanent collection includes pieces by alumni, faculty, and a member of the founding religious order.

### 19 The Benefits of OER

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## ON THE COVER

Building on the past, while looking to the future, Thomas More's kickoff of the centennial blended together events that appealed to alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the University. All are grateful for the solid foundation provided by those that came before.



@ThomasMoreKY





PHOTO BY JOE HUMPHRIES

# A Celebration 100 Years in the Making



Sept. 12 marked the official centennial anniversary date when Villa Madonna College held its first class. In 2021 events took place from Sept. 11-14, to commemorate an amazing start to a year's worth of celebrating!

Thomas More's centennial celebration kicked off with a collective series of events commemorating the 100th anniversary of the University over the weekend of Sept. 11-14, 2021. The Thomas More community, including students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the University, marked the festive occasion with signature

*Top: Students create a 100 commemorating the anniversary. Left: Fireworks over Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel follow the Saints' Sept. 11 home opener.*

events that gave a nod to and celebrated the treasured past while looking to the future.

The action started on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021, with the Saints

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*From upper left: Saints football returned on Saturday, Sept. 11 to start off the celebration of centennial weekend. Veterans, law enforcement, and first responders were honored during the game in acknowledgement of 9/11. On Sept. 12, anniversary day, a founders' day reception hosted by Covington Latin School took place immediately following the celebration of Mass in the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption attended by alumni, staff, faculty, and friends of the University.*



**Centennial Celebration  
Sept. 11-14, 2021**  
To view photo galleries, videos  
and additional coverage of the  
centennial events please visit  
[thomasmore100.com](http://thomasmore100.com).





season home opener football game under the lights at Republic Bank Field versus the Faulkner University Eagles of Alabama. It was the first home game that allowed guests in the stands and tailgating areas since the pandemic hit in 2020. There were pre-game festivities as President Chillo welcomed and honored active military, veterans, and first responders, most of whom were alumni or family members of active students and alums. This was done in recognition of the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and as acknowledgement of the continuing relationship the University has had with the military since 1945 when the return of World War II veterans and passage of the G.I. Bill marked the beginning of co-education at Villa Madonna College, and in 1947 the introduction of athletic programs. The evening culminated with a spectacular Rozzi's fireworks display above Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel.

Sept. 12, 1921, marked the official date when the Sisters of St. Benedict welcomed seven young women entering the convent to classes at Villa Madonna College with the goal of preparing them for teacher certification. Present day Sept. 12 began with Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption in Covington, the original "chapel" for important occasions when the University was located in downtown Covington. Bishop Roger J. Foys, D.D., who also served as Thomas More's chancellor for 19 years, was the celebrant. Concelebrants included Thomas More faculty members Monsignor Gerald E. Twaddell, D.Phil., and Reverend Ray Enzweiler, Ph.D., BeL. It was a beautiful ceremony, with members of the Thomas More community making up a large contingent. All those present to celebrate the Mass gave thanks for the many blessings God has bestowed on the University and to pray for His continued grace in the future. Immediately

CENTENNIAL CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Our Rich History at Thomas More University

with Raymond Hebert, Ph.D., Paul Tenkotte '82, Ph.D., David Schroeder '90, and Thomas More Archivist Tom Ward

In conjunction with the 100-year anniversary of the University, Professor Ray Hebert and friends are producing a series of articles which appear as part of the Our Rich History columns curated by Paul Tenkotte '82, Ph.D., in the Northern Kentucky Tribune. As of the publication of this Moreover, the series is well on its way with the collection covering the history of the University from the point where Sr. M. Irmina Saelinger, OSB, Ph.D., left off in "Retrospect and Vista, The First 50 Years." The series is a work in progress and should run through the spring. Below is a listing of articles that are published, and the tentative schedule to come, with a promise of more to follow. To read published columns, visit [tmuky.us/ourrichhistory](http://tmuky.us/ourrichhistory). When complete, these articles will be published as a standalone book entitled "Retrospect and Vista II: Thomas More College/University, 1971-2021." Thank you, to these gentlemen, for continuing the saga!

Part 1	<b>Historical Context - Opening Article</b> (Ray Hebert) June 14
Part 2	<b>Our Rich History: A College is Born</b> (David Schroeder) June 21
Part 3	<b>Early 1970s: from Msgr. John Murphy to Dr. Richard DeGraff</b> (Ray Hebert) June 28
Part 4	<b>Monsignor John Murphy's Parting Gift to Thomas More College and President Richard DeGraff</b> (Ray Hebert) June 5
Part 5	<b>President Richard A. DeGraff and the early 1970s at Thomas More College: Ups and Downs</b> (Ray Hebert) July 12
Part 6	<b>Thomas More College's Integrative Councils in the 1970s</b> (Tom Ward) July 19
Part 7	<b>The Humanities Program's Distinguished Speaker Series 1973-1976</b> (Tom Ward) July 26
Part 8	<b>Committee One and Long-Range Planning Including the Ill-Fated Venture Program: 1970-1973</b> (Ray Hebert) Aug. 9
Part 9	<b>Why Did Thomas More College's Progressive Curriculum Not Work in the 1970s?</b> (Ray Hebert) Aug. 16
Part 10	<b>The Early History of the Hillenmeyer Family Lecture Series at Thomas More College</b> (David Schroeder) Aug. 30
Part 11	<b>St. Thomas More's 500th Birthday Celebration at Thomas More College: 1977-1978</b> (Ray Hebert) Sept. 6
Part 12	<b>One of Thomas More's 'Legends': Fr. Anthony Deye</b> (Ray Hebert) Sept. 13
Part 13	<b>Cooperative Education at Thomas More College: The Early Years</b> (Ray Hebert) Sept. 20
Part 14	<b>Robert Giroux of Burlington, Vermont Comes to Thomas More College as its 8th President</b> (Ray Hebert) Sept. 27
Part 15	<b>The Thomas Coffey Presidency: Highlights</b> (David Schroeder) Oct. 4
Part 16	<b>Land Development at TMC</b> (Tom Ward) Oct. 11*
Part 17	<b>The Thomas More Foundation</b> (Tom Ward) Oct. 18*
Part 18	<b>St. Pius X Seminary and Thomas More College: Background</b> (Tom Ward) Oct. 25*
Part 19	<b>St. Pius X Seminary and Thomas More College</b> (Tom Ward) Nov. 8*
Part 20	<b>The Charles Bensman Presidency: The Early Years</b> (Ray Hebert) Nov. 15*
Part 21	<b>The Charles Bensman Presidency: The Later Years</b> (Ray Hebert) Nov. 22*
Part 22	<b>Another of Thomas More's Legends: Coach 'Gentleman Jim Connor'</b> (Ray Hebert) Nov. 29*
Part 23	<b>The Growth in Athletics at Thomas More College and the Beginning of the Football Program</b> (Ray Hebert) Dec. 6*
Part 24	<b>The Fr. William Cleves Presidency – Part I</b> (David Schroeder) Dec. 13*
Part 25	<b>The Fr. William Cleves Presidency – Part II</b> (David Schroeder) Dec. 20*

\*proposed publication date



**Right:** Key participants in the academic convocation celebrated Sept. 13 included Faculty General Assembly Chair Shannon Galbraith-Kent '98, Ph.D., Student Government Association President Jacob Perkins '23, City of Crestview Hills Mayor Paul Meier, Chaplain Monsignor Gerald Twaddell, D.Phil., Prioress for the Order of Saint Benedict Sister Aileen Bankemper '72, OSB, Board of Trustees Chair Judith A. Marlowe '69, Ph.D., Chancellor Most Reverend Roger J. Foy, D.D., President Joseph L. Chillo, L.P.D., and Provost Molly E. Smith, Ph.D.

**Far right:** A gorgeous September morning greets those attending the convocation on the lawn facing Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel.

**Below:** A procession of faculty in full regalia marked the start of convocation.

**Bottom Right:** President Chillo announces the kickoff of the Second Century Campaign, a \$30M comprehensive capital campaign to support the newly introduced strategic plan. For more information about the campaign, go to **page 14**.



#### CENTENNIAL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

following was a founders' day reception hosted by and located at the Covington Latin School next door, another connection as, in addition to returning military members, graduates of the Latin School made up a large part of the first male students that attended Villa Madonna.

An assembling of the entire University community took place outdoors on Monday, Sept. 13, 2021, on the lawn facing Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel. The 2021 Academic Convocation marked the start of the new school year and gave a glimpse at plans for the future of Thomas More. Over 80 faculty members as well as the Board of Trustees and

CENTENNIAL CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

**Centennial Celebration - Sept. 11-14, 2021**  
To view photo galleries, videos and additional coverage of the centennial events please visit [thomasmore100.com](https://thomasmore100.com).

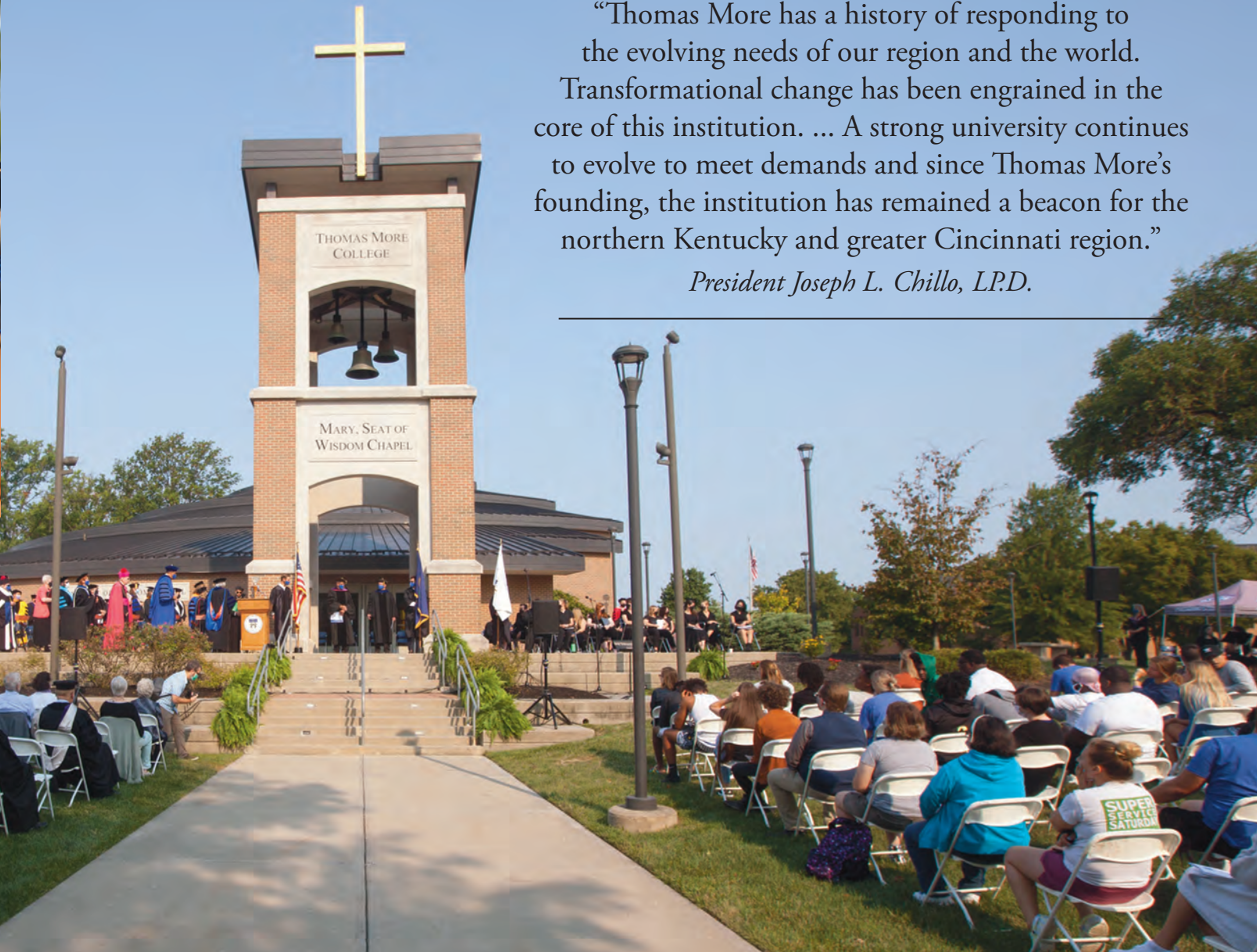


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“Thomas More has a history of responding to the evolving needs of our region and the world. Transformational change has been engrained in the core of this institution. ... A strong university continues to evolve to meet demands and since Thomas More’s founding, the institution has remained a beacon for the northern Kentucky and greater Cincinnati region.”

*President Joseph L. Chillo, L.P.D.*

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**CENTENNIAL** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

administration, in full regalia, processed to start the event. This special convocation celebrated the rich tradition of Thomas More's history and mission inspired by the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and marked a new beginning for today's students as they assess their opportunities to grow in knowledge, abilities, and friendships while they become the critical thinkers, persons of integrity, and servant leaders the world needs.

Later in the afternoon on that same day, President Joseph L. Chillo, LP.D., hosted a press event to announce a landmark fundraising initiative entitled the Second Century Campaign – It's time for More. This comprehensive capital campaign will provide philanthropic support for the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan – Lighting the Way. Both programs are designed to secure Thomas More University as the premier regional Catholic university. Students, alumni, longtime supporters and other interested members of the community were in attendance to hear President Chillo outline the vision and goals which will enhance the student experience and place focus on educational outcomes resulting from a curriculum steeped in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. Following was a community celebration, which included games, food trucks, an introduction of Saintenni-ale (for

**CENTENNIAL** CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

*Above: Preparing for a community-wide day of service, Saints stop to pick up T-shirts and waterbottles after the academic convocation.*

“For dreams and hopes to flourish, there has to be a willingness to dialogue, to listen, to compromise, and to change.”

*Prioress for the Order of Saint Benedict  
Sister Aileen Bankemper '72, OSB*



Joseph L. Chillo, LP.D. @ThomasMorePres · Sep 14

Kicking off #SaintsServe with our wonderful volunteers in the CCC.



Thomas More University @ThomasMoreKY · Sep 14

.@ThomasMoreBase1 volunteering at @M25M\_org  
#SaintsServe #ThomasMore100



The Rotary Club of Covington, KY @CovKYRotary · Sep 15

Great day along the Ohio River, picking up trash, building fellowship. Great partnership with @orsanco @ThomasMoreKY students, @covingtonkygov and Covington #Rotary. #SaintsServe #ServiceAboveSelf #riversweep



Thomas More University @ThomasMoreKY · Sep 14

@TMU\_Softball team volunteering at A Child's Hope International.  
#SaintsServe



Jeff Hans @coachjeffhans · Sep 14

Great morning with @ORSANCOchannel to help clean up along the river!  
#SaintsServe #ThomasMore100





Thomas More Field Station @tmubio · Sep 14  
 @ThomasMoreKY held the Inaugural Saints Serve Day where the TMU community volunteered at projects throughout the region. At this location, we had a great group who conducted a River sweep & invasive species removal. Proud to be a Thomas More Saint. #SaintsServe



Thomas More University @ThomasMoreKY · Sep 14  
 Using our painting skills to good use as we volunteer at the Be Concerned Pantry. #SaintsServe



Women's Soccer @TMU\_WSOoccer · Sep 14  
 from #SaintsServe day at the Karen Wellington Foundation!



Thomas More University @ThomasMoreKY · Sep 14  
 Volunteers making sandwiches at St. Francis—St. Joseph Catholic W...  
 #SaintsServe



D. Crist @ThisIsJudyCrist · Sep 14  
 Working with several students, profs Spence and Busse, and Mark Go...  
 colon Grant Scholar House, as part of @thomasmoreky #saintss...  
 masMore100 #MakeltMore.



# Social Media blew up in a positive way on Sept. 14, 2021, during #SaintsServe

## 44 Organizations Helped

## 1,235+ Saints Participated

## 2,800+ Service Hours Worked

Thomas More ICG @ThomasMoreICG · 21h  
 The ICG and Career Ambassadors had the best day with the inaugural Saints Serve event yesterday. #saintsserve #ThomasMore100 #MakeltMore



Thomas More University @ThomasMoreKY · Sep 14  
 Beautifying the grounds and helping the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walb...  
 Monastery. #SaintsServe



Thomas More Saints Volleyball @ThomasMore\_VVB · Sep 14  
 Volunteering on campus for the #SaintsServe day. Our team prepared 1400 pb&jelly sandwiches to help the community.  
 #TMUVB #LetsGoSaints



Thomas More University @ThomasMoreKY · Sep 14  
 Cleaning the John Volz Trail in Devou Park. #SaintsServe



Justin Ray @JustinMRay · Sep 14  
 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌 #SaintsServe

THOMAS MORE SAINTS BASKETBALL @TMUMensBB...  
 Sweating today to help out our community member at Redwo...  
 #SaintsServe day. #LetsGoSaints #ThomasMore100



Thomas More University @ThomasMoreKY · Sep 14  
 Enjoying the sunshine while working in the garden at the Childre...  
 NKY. #SaintsServe



MOREOVER [Fall 2021]



those of age), and the annual Pig Roast.

Tuesday, Sept. 14, the final day of kickoff events, was reserved for the inaugural Saints Serve – a day of service in the community. Throughout the 100 years that Villa Madonna College/Thomas More College, now University, has been in existence, service to the community has been an integral part of the mission. Students have always been encouraged to give of their time and talents for the good of all as they are challenged to examine the ultimate meaning of life, their place in the world, and their responsibility to others. On this day, normal campus activities were cancelled but it became a “day on, rather than day off” as the entire University community was involved with projects located both on and off campus. More than 1,200 Saints partnered with agencies and non-profits in the local region to provide much needed support. Just a few of the agencies and groups helped include: Be Concerned, Brighton Center,

“I would do it again!”

“It made me realize  
I’m so blessed.”

“This is why we are at  
Thomas More.”

*Saints Serve  
student participants*

the Children’s Home, A Child’s Hope, Empower Youth, Freestore Foodbank, Habitat for Humanity, Holy Spirit Pantry, Hosea House, Master Provisions, Matthew 25 Ministries, Parish Kitchen, Project Linus, Redwood, Welcome House, and YWCA. Over 44 organizations benefited from more than 2,800 service hours worked. Thank you to Aramark who served as title sponsor for Saints Serve 2021. Look for more to come as plans are in place for this extremely successful and mission-oriented activity to become a yearly event.

Four days of celebration is just a start, but what a great beginning it has been! The question does arise, is 100 years really such a long time? It seems for Thomas More, 100 years has gone by in the blink of an eye. The vision and hard work of the religious who began this small teachers college in the early 1920s in a single classroom at Villa Madonna Academy has certainly been fruitful for the Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati area. It is the solid foundation that now has a university built upon it, a university that is focused on student success and innovation – the same goals that were present from the beginning. Looking forward to the next century, we are thankful and we recognize that Thomas More must continue to be the destination for students who want a life of ‘more.’ **MOREOVER**

# Art@ThomasMore

## Continuing the historical connection of the permanent art collection

SUBMITTED BY JUDY CRIST, DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE SERVICES  
PHOTOS PROVIDED

**M**aking inroads into the permanent collection at Thomas More has been a rewarding project and since the spring Moreover, four additional episodes have been produced. Of these four episodes, two are collections of work by the same artist and one is the great outdoors. I hope you enjoy this continuation of the coverage of Thomas More’s permanent art collection.

### 1. The Darrell Brothers Collection

Darrell Brothers was a beloved member of the faculty at Thomas More for more than 25 years. His collection features artwork created in the ’70s that were gifted to the University upon his death in 1993. One of the pieces in the collection features Brothers along with his former students, now colleagues, Dan Mader ’71 and Bernie Schmidt ’58. Both Mader and Schmidt became chairmen of art departments at other local institutions. This interview features the reflections of both Dan Mader ’71 and Monsignor William Cleves. To listen to this episode, visit [tmuky.us/brothers](http://tmuky.us/brothers).

You can listen to the interviews by scanning the QR codes with your smartphone.

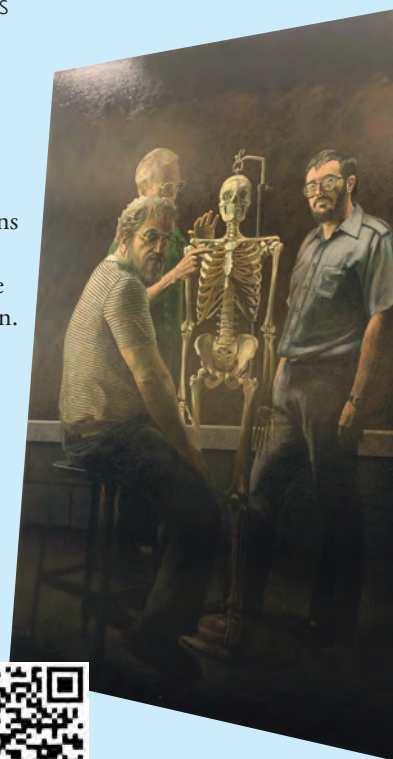


Darrell Brothers  
Collection

### 2. “...Unto Caesar... Unto God...”

In 2003, Bernie Schmidt ’58 crafted a bronze sculpture as a study of St. Thomas More entitled “...Unto Caesar...Unto God...” This study of More is a stylized capturing of the moment when our patron saint realizes he must forfeit his life in order to stay true to his beliefs. In this Art@ThomasMore episode, Monsignor Cleves discusses the research he assisted Bernie with in preparation for the piece. You will also hear from Annette Brink ’77 whose parents graciously financed the sculpture. This episode can be heard by visiting [tmuky.us/schmidt2](http://tmuky.us/schmidt2).

“...Unto Caesar...  
Unto God...”





### 3. William S. Bryant Arboretum

Some of the Lord's most beautiful handiwork comes in the form of nature's beauty. The William S. Bryant Arboretum, in addition to being a living classroom and laboratory on campus, is a prime example of living art. Professors Shannon Galbraith-Kent and JT Spence give insight into the history and direction of the arboretum since its introduction in 2008. To hear this episode of Art@ThomasMore, visit [tmuky.us/wsbarboretum](https://tmuky.us/wsbarboretum).

You can listen to the interviews by scanning the QR codes with your smartphone.



William S. Bryant Arboretum



### 4. Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel Stained Glass Windows

The Chapel at the center of Thomas More's campus was dedicated in December 2012 and contains beautiful artwork crafted specifically to give witness to the mission of the University. Sr. Emmanuel Pieper, OSB, is a master artist when it comes to designing and creating stained glass windows and it is her vision that inspires those who visit the Chapel for Mass, meditation, or a campus event. To listen to Sr. Emmanuel's interview about the windows in Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel, visit [tmuky.us/pieper1](https://tmuky.us/pieper1).



Sr. Emmanuel Pieper's windows in the Chapel

### History at the Crestview Hills campus

#### Darrell Brothers Collection

Professor Darrell Brothers (1931-1993) served as a faculty member, and at times chair, of the art department from 1966-1993.

Brothers was a prolific artist throughout his lifetime.

#### "...Unto Caesar...Unto God..."

This piece was commissioned from Bernie Schmidt after his retirement from academia and while E. Joseph Lee II, Ph.D., was president of Thomas More.

#### The William S. Bryant Arboretum

Professor Bill Bryant, whom the arboretum is named for, taught at the University from 1971-2008, leaving a legacy of scientific research, undergraduate education, and community service.

#### Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel

The request of former President Sr. Margaret Stallmeyer '68, CDP, to the Order of Saint Benedict for assistance resulted in Sr. Emmanuel designing the stained glass that graces the Chapel today.

### 5. "Rhodora"

We close this coverage of Art@ThomasMore with an announcement of the newest acquisition which arrived in October 2021. "Rhodora" is a gorgeous bronze sculpture by alumna Barbara (Breen) Beatrice '88. Barbara went to her heavenly reward in spring of 2021 and her family was kind enough to donate this casting to Thomas More (the original sculpture was carved in cherry wood). Thank you for this generous gift! The permanent home where this sculpture can be viewed will be shared at a later date. If you would like to read a review of Barbara's work in Gallery and Studio, visit [tmuky.us/beatrice](https://tmuky.us/beatrice).



MOREOVER

### FUTURE EPISODES

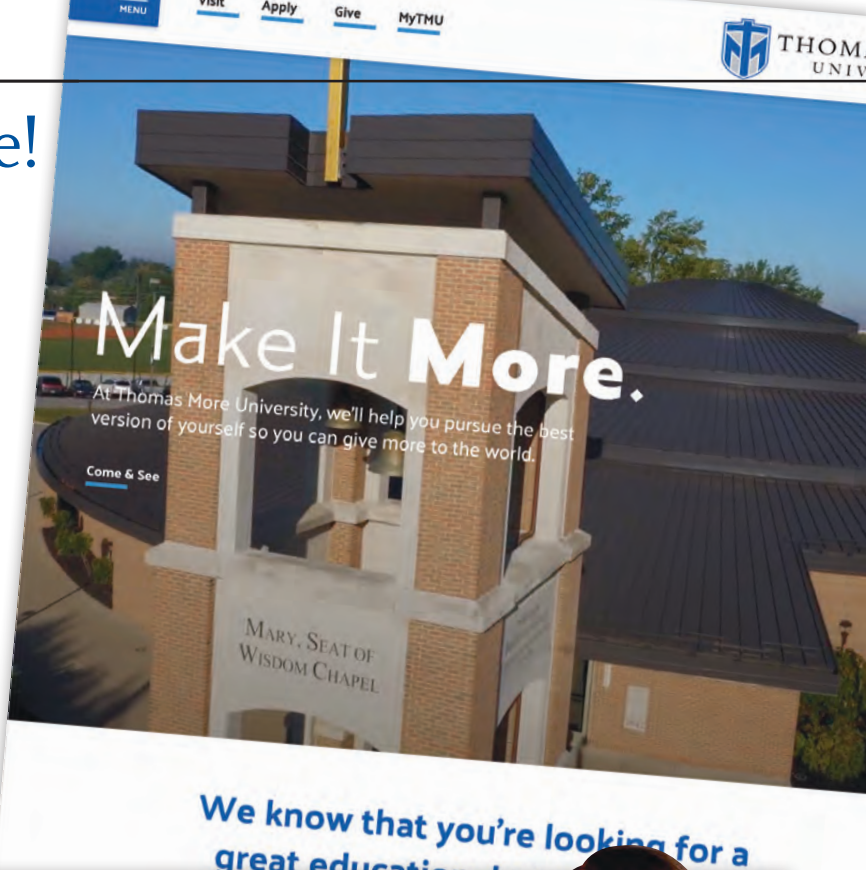
As more episodes of Art@ThomasMore are completed, they will be posted to [more.thomasmore.edu](https://more.thomasmore.edu) and shared with the Thomas More community via social media and the alumni magazine. If you have a story to share about artwork on campus, please contact Judy Crist at [859.344.3443](tel:859.344.3443) or email [cristj@thomasmore.edu](mailto:cristj@thomasmore.edu).



# Updated Web Presence!

## New and improved thomasmore.edu

Updating a website is no simple task, especially a website as complex as a university's. After a competitive bidding process among a number of vendors, a local partner was awarded the task and work began in earnest with U.S. Digital Partners (USDP). It was at that point that Thomas More discovered the excellent good fortune that Courtney Smalley, an alumna and valued member of the Thomas More community, was employed by USDP. She took over as project manager and we could not be more pleased with the result. The updated thomasmore.edu website was introduced in mid-September. Please take some time to visit it and become familiar with the new look and send any feedback you may have - there is always room for improvement. A big thank you to Courtney for her help in keeping the process as smooth as possible!



## SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

### Courtney Smalley '14

#### Alumna | Project Manager U.S. Digital Partners

SUBMITTED BY JUDY CRIST, DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE SERVICES

Saints Spotlight spoke with Courtney Smalley, who was instrumental in helping with the overhaul of the Thomas More University website.

#### Can you describe your experience at Thomas More?

**CS:** I was a traditional four year student at Thomas More, and I double majored in creative writing and Spanish, so I'm very much a language person, which helps in my current role building websites. I was the managing editor of the Words literary journal for a couple of years, which I really enjoyed. The thing that really stands out to me when I think about my time at Thomas More is just how I felt like such an important member of the community. The professors and the staff really treated me like an equal, like they wanted to hear my perspective, and they were open and eager to learn things from me, which stood out to me from my first visit to campus. That's one of the things that sets Thomas More apart. I loved my time there.

#### Tell us about your work at USDP and what you find rewarding.

**CS:** I am an account manager, which means that I get to be a client liaison, and also project manage our internal teams to get work done. It's a really fun position because I get to work with so many different types of clients and understand some of the key elements of their businesses or organizations. I get an inside look into different industries that I never in a lifetime of career transitions would be able to do even if I job-hopped like every year. So that's really fun. I've gotten to work on websites for a lot of government and nonprofit organizations, from a small office of NASA to our local board of elections. I also just really love getting to work with our team here, because I've been super lucky and have found

another place, like Thomas More, where we all really value the unique things that each one of us brings to the table, and are really focused on helping each other grow and building each other up.

#### Where do you see yourself in five, 10, or 15 years?

**CS:** I don't have a concrete vision for that necessarily, I just know that I want to keep following what I'm excited about or what I'm curious about and where God seems to be inviting me in my life. That's how I've moved through life to this point and it's just been beautiful, it's been perfect. Not that my life has been perfect but the journey, I don't think I would change anything at all. I'm really focusing right now on learning how to listen to God's voice inside of my heart because he's the one who has our hearts. If I can just keep following that and stay really connected to myself and to God and to my community. Really just continuing to find ways to use my very unique perspective and skills to help the people around me, which I think is what ultimately fulfills any human being, when you - your unique authentic self - are valuable to the people around you.

#### Do you have any advice for current students?

**CS:** Yes, my advice is very simple. I think it's just to keep being your true self, the most honest version of yourself because the world needs you. The world does not need anyone else's version of you. So that's my advice.

To listen to the complete interview, visit [tmuky.us/smalley](http://tmuky.us/smalley).





# CAMPUS NEWS

## 1. ROSARY RALLY YEAR SIX

Thomas More's annual Rosary Rally took place at Griffin Plaza and on Republic Bank Field on Sunday, Aug. 22. Led by Monsignor Gerald Twaddell and Director of Campus Ministry Andrew Cole, students prayed the rosary after the evening Mass as a blessing for a safe and productive 2021-22 academic year and sports season. The venue allowed for social distancing between teams and contingents of students.

## 2. INTO THE URBAN FABRIC

Welcoming the opportunity to get back into the community, professor JT Spence's Urban Studies class visited three sites in the Cincinnati metro area to explore the city from a distance and up-close. They first examined the urban landscape from the vantage points of Devou Park in Covington and Mt. Adams in Cincinnati. The class then explored Fountain Square in downtown Cincinnati. Questions were posed regarding the natural and built environments and a reflection paper was written to connect their experiences in the urban setting with assigned readings. Participating are (from left) India McCullough, Aletha Wiggins, Houston Watson, Jake Perkins, Cole Rankin, Logan Fedders, Sophia Hermosilla, and Cierra Ackerson. Next they will explore the "ideal city" of Greenhills, Ohio.

## 3. NASA GRANTS FUND STUDENT RESEARCH

Professor of physics Wes Ryle, Ph.D., applied for and received grants from the NASA Kentucky Space Grant Program to fund two Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) projects. The grants will provide a stipend for Ashlyn Coleman (junior physics/math double major) and Lindsay Dawson (sophomore math major/physics minor) to conduct research at the observatory over the academic year and present their work at a research conference in the spring. Ashlyn's project includes observations of eclipsing binary star systems to determine stellar masses, temperature, and size. Lindsay is collecting data on pulsating variable stars for use in an interactive undergraduate laboratory program.

## 4. THE RETURN OF CAMP SUMMIT

Student Life and the Institute for Career Development and Graduate School Planning welcomed back Camp Summit after a 2020 hiatus due to COVID-19. Eight student mentors welcomed 52 incoming first-year students to a three-day retreat that helps develop a deeper understanding of Thomas More, resources available, and the culture between students, staff, and faculty. One participant describes their favorite part of the experience: "The connections I made with people in my group and other groups. I can honestly say I met my best friend and someone I really connected with during this camp and we hang out every day now."

For additional campus news, please visit [tmuky.us/2021campusnews](https://tmuky.us/2021campusnews).





# For 100 years

we have created a university for  
the student who wants to:

**Be** More.

**Do** More.

**Seek** More.

**Win** More.

**Achieve** More.

**Create** More.

**And Now?**



## It's time for More.

### A MESSAGE FROM WILL ZIEGLER '53

HONORARY CHAIR, SECOND CENTURY CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE

**T**his fall, Thomas More celebrated our centennial. This milestone is a testament to the students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends who have made this community vibrant and successful.

Looking back on my time at Villa Madonna College and my experiences with Thomas More College and now Thomas More University, I am delighted we have stayed true to our roots as a values-based institution. We will continue to lead as the region's premier Catholic university for the next century by focusing on the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan: Lighting the Way.

Looking forward to our next hundred years, we have officially launched the Second Century Campaign seeking to raise \$30 million for student success, academic innovation, and responsible stewardship.

Please join me in shaping the next hundred years of Thomas More excellence by giving to the Second Century Campaign, because It's time for More.

*Will Ziegler*

Wilbert Ziegler '53, J.D.



student success  
academic innovation  
responsible stewardship





**goal:**  
**Student Success**

Measurements of success:  
Achieve Top 50 in  
U.S. News and World Report

Renovate Student Spaces

- Blend the Success Center with the Benedictine Library to create a learning commons
- Renovate the Saints Center back into a true student center

Enhance Athletic Facilities

- Move and upgrade baseball and softball facilities
- Install a new track and turf field at Republic Bank Field

**STUDENT  
SUCCESS (\$6M)**

Renovate Student Spaces    \$3M  
Enhance Athletic Facilities    \$3M



**goal:**  
**Academic Innovation**

Measurements of success:  
Attract 2,500 degree-seeking students

Build the new Academic Center to house key programs and initiatives including:

- The College of Business
- Center for Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III '67 Institute for Religious Liberty
- The Center for Faith, Mission & Catholic Education

**ACADEMIC  
INNOVATION (\$14M)**

New Academic Center    \$14M



**goal:**  
**Responsible Stewardship**

Measurements of success:  
Endowment greater than \$40 million

Raise more money for scholarships

Raise \$1 million annually for The Fund for Thomas More University

**RESPONSIBLE  
STEWARDSHIP (\$10M)**

Endowment    \$3.5M  
The Fund    \$5M  
Campaign Financing    \$1.5M

THIS BOLD VISION REQUIRES **\$30 MILLION**  
TO MAKE THESE GOALS INTO REALITIES.  
PLEASE JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THE  
SECOND CENTURY CAMPAIGN BY VISITING

**thomasmore100.com**

OR CALLING **859-344-3344**





# It's Time for More.

The mission-driven, Catholic, values-based education at Thomas More serves students for a lifetime. It is seen in our graduates who have become leaders and shaped Northern Kentucky for the last century. It is our responsibility to ensure that continues. Our Second Century Campaign opportunities to give back, combined with the objectives of the strategic plan, do just that.

## Upcoming Ways to Give:

### GIVING TUESDAY

Join fellow alumni and friends by making a donation on the worldwide day of giving on Nov. 30, 2021.

#### Use your IRA at year's end to help Thomas More

Improve your 2021 tax situation by making a gift to Thomas More by Dec. 31, 2021. Want to learn more about how IRA direct transfers can benefit donors aged 70 ½ or older? Talk to your IRA administrator about making a direct transfer donation.



Participate in Scholarship Week: May 2-9, 2022

#### Endowment Luncheon

May 4 (Wednesday): Student scholarship recipients join their benefactors to thank them for their generosity and commitment to Thomas More.

#### Day of Giving

May 5 (Thursday): Show your support by giving back on this special day to celebrate Thomas More University.

#### Scholarship Golf Classic

May 9 (Monday): Enjoy a day on the golf course and help fund valuable scholarships for Thomas More students.

To give online, visit [thomasmore.edu/give](https://thomasmore.edu/give).

If giving online is not your preference, there is always the option of sending your gift in the envelope at the center of this Moreover.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 859.344.3344 or [advancement@thomasmore.edu](mailto:advancement@thomasmore.edu).

## MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE ADVANCEMENT STAFF



Thomas Brady  
Associate Director of Development for Athletics



Angie Hawk  
Associate Director of Development



Flynn Ashley  
Leadership Giving Coordinator



C.K. Ash Insurance  
Chas H. Bilz Insurance Agency, Inc.  
DeanHouston+  
The Don Joseph Toyota Family  
Gold Financial Services  
J. Kurt Pohlgeers Insurance Agency, Inc. †  
Jeff Wyler Florence, Inc.  
Joe Lay & Sons Plumbing, LLC  
Kelly Brothers Lumber Co., LLC  
Koester Chiropractic Center  
Kubota Tractor of the Tristate  
Lee Hartke Auto Body, Inc.  
Listerman's Groundskeeping  
Mila International, Inc.

Morris Lawn and Landscape, Inc.  
Parker Concrete, Inc. †  
Prosperity Promotions North  
Quality Casing Co., Inc.  
Remke Markets/Biggs, Inc. †  
Ronald B. Jones Funeral Home †  
Super Bowl - Erlanger †  
T.L.C. Construction Services  
TDA Associates, Inc.  
The Cincinnati Catholic Cemetery Society  
Thomas More University  
Toyota USA Foundation  
Villa Madonna Academy  
Walt's Center Lanes

Thomas More University has made every effort to verify the accuracy of these lists. We apologize for any inadvertent omissions or errors. Please bring them to our attention and help us keep our records up-to-date by contacting Institutional Advancement at 859-344-3344 or [advancement@thomasmore.edu](mailto:advancement@thomasmore.edu). For past lists of donors, please visit [tmuky.us/honorroll](http://tmuky.us/honorroll).

The generosity of Thomas More's donors allowed the 2020-2021 fiscal year to be a successful one for The Fund for Thomas More. These gifts demonstrate support from alumni, trustees, friends, faculty and staff as well as the business community. Resources generated by The Fund for Thomas More allow us to continue to provide a values-based education as we grow and expand on the traditions that have made Thomas More a top-tier regional university. Thank you to all our donors for their continued and generous financial support. We are extremely honored and appreciative that we are entrusted to be stewards of your donations and will continue to maximize their impact on students in support of the mission of the University.



Make It **More.**



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

## College of Business



*Flynn* **R. Steven Flynn, Ph.D., CPA**, professor, accountancy, was recently appointed to the editorial board of Open Journal of Accounting, an international journal devoted to disseminating state-of-the-art research results in all areas of accounting.



*Rudnick* **Jack Rudnick Jr., Ed.D.**, professor, business administration, contributed two articles to Catholic newspapers in relation to elder abuse and neglect awareness: "Abuse of the elderly: Another pandemic" (June 2021) in the Florida Catholic and "World Celebration for Grandparents and the Elderly: Papal Focus on Our Vital Human Assets" (July 2021) in The Messenger (Diocese of Covington). A reprint of the article is available at [tmuky.us/elder](http://tmuky.us/elder). Effective May 2021 Rudnick retired as a full-time professor to fill the role of adjunct and as consultant to the dean on matters of department-chair related duties.



*Jaeger* **Jack Rudnick Jr., Ed.D.**, professor, business administration, **Carrie Jaeger, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, business administration & economics, and **Nicole Modafari '06/'08, Ph.D.**, authored the following submissions for academic and peer-reviewed publications:



*Modafari* "Community strategic crisis planning: Benefits of a university-community collaborative" (August 2021) in the Academic Leader and "Healthcare process improvement initiative catalyzes unintended positive consequences: An evaluation case-study" (September 2021) in the Journal of Multidisciplinary Research.

## College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences



*Dwyer* **Caitlin Dwyer**, instructor, theology, presented her paper, "Contraception: A Continuing Threat to the Health and Dignity of Women" at the University of Notre Dame's Center for Ethics Fall Conference in November 2021. Dwyer also published a three-part series on arguments against contraception in the July, August, and September editions of The Messenger (Diocese of Covington).



*Hansel* **Pauletta Hansel**, artist-in-residence, had her book "Coal Town Photograph" converted into a theatrical production and performed at the September 2021 Miami University Regionals by talented Raison d'Etre and Falcon Takes Flight artists. The performance blended music and poetry for a powerful



*Stanforth* experience of Appalachian home place. **Sherry Cook Stanforth, Ph.D.**, professor of English, wrote two of the original songs for this traveling production: "Wash Away My Home" and "I've Got Worry On My Mind."



*Hebert* **Raymond Hebert, Ph.D.**, professor and dean of the college emeritus, history & legal studies, along with alum **Dave Schroeder '90** and Thomas More archivist **Tom Ward**, is writing a series of articles that appears as part of the Our Rich History series at the NKY Tribune. When the series is complete, it will be published as "Retrospect and Vista II: Thomas More College/University 1971-2021." A listing of available and upcoming episodes can be viewed on [page 5](#).



*Schroeder*

## College of Natural and Health Sciences



*Bansal* **Meenakshi Bansal, Ph.D.**, associate professor, chemistry, co-wrote and published several articles in 2021 including: "Stabilization and solidification of brine water containing selenium, chromium, copper, and mercury utilizing microwave enabled sol-gel process" Environ. Sci.: Water Res. Technol., 2021, 7, 904-912 with Alex Kearns, Theodore Kalbfleisch, Aaron Keller '21, Kirk Ellison, Rajat Chauhan, Mahyar Ghorbanian and Gautam Gupta, and "Bio-CaRGOS: Capture and Release Gels for Optimized Storage of hemoglobin" RSC Adv., 2021, 11, 13034-13039 with Jack Boylan, Rajat Chauhan, Kavya Koneru, Ted Kalbfleisch, Chinmay S. Potnis, Kendall Hartline '21, Robert S. Keynton, and Gautam Gupta.

**Harold J. Smith, Ph.D.**, associate professor, mathematics, published a paper titled "Quotients of perfect numerical semigroups" in the Rocky Mountain Journal of Mathematics, Vol. 51 (3), 2021.

## Digital, Graduate, & Professional Programs



*Crawford* **Angela C. Crawford, Ph.D.**, vice president, co-wrote the article "Frontline Employee Passion: A Multistudy Conceptualization and Scale Development" with Casey E. Newmeyer, Jin Ho Jung, and Todd J. Arnold. The article was published in the 2021 Journal of Service Research. Crawford was also interviewed by CX Buzz to give her view on what affects the customer experience. Listen to this interview by visiting [tmuky.us/crawford](http://tmuky.us/crawford).

academic innovation



## SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

**Bruce Rosenthal, Ph.D.**

**Dean of the College of Business**

SUBMITTED BY JUDY CRIST, DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE SERVICES

PHOTO PROVIDED

Saints Spotlight spoke with the new dean of the College of Business about his goals and vision as he began his first academic year at Thomas More. Rosenthal has more than 25 years of higher education experience which includes more than 17 years in academic leadership. Before making the jump into higher education, he was a business person and spent several years overseas, both in Europe and Asia, where he found a passion for Japanese culture and became fluent in both written and spoken Japanese. He relies on his extensive business background to help determine his direction as a leader in higher education, but he also has a creative side, having spent time during his undergrad in illustration and advertising.

### What has influenced your views of business?

**BR:** All of the experiences that I had as a business person, both as an entrepreneur and working for major corporations, have shaped how I feel about business. Having all this experience, I am able to sympathize with younger people starting off in business: what they need to know, what they probably don't need to know, the kinds of things that are going to be important to them, the kinds of things they're going to be called upon to do. I certainly want to be able to put these very reality based and strongly experience-oriented courses and experiences and opportunities into the College of Business so that Thomas More College of Business graduates are extremely well prepared to take their place in the business world and make positive impacts not only in their own careers, but in their communities and with the organizations in which they work.

### What business topics do you find most fascinating and enjoy discussing?

**BR:** A lot of the business discussions recently have been about how the world is going to change because of COVID-19, how the world is becoming more globalized, what skills are needed and what skills will probably be most important in the next 10-to-20 years, as well as what kinds of education we should be providing students being that most estimates are that many of our students will be working in fields that don't exist yet. Not subjects that don't exist, fields that don't exist yet and so a lot of the discussion circles around, 'well then how are we effectively educating our students, if they have to go into fields that don't exist, we don't know what they (the fields) are.' I'm involved in putting together an advisory council for the College of Business, and those are the kinds of questions that I want to ask local and regional business leaders. What do you think we ought to be teaching? What's going to be helpful to you? What is it that a student could put on a CV that you would look at and say, "Well, that's interesting. Tell me more about that." Those are the kinds of courses and the kinds of experiences that we will provide for our students so that when you, Mr. Employer/Ms. Employer, see this student, you're going to look at them and say, "Well that's the kind of person that I want in this organization!"

### Do you have concrete goals?

**BR:** There are a couple of things that I think are going to be of major importance to business people. One of them is sustainability. Companies who do sustainability well, and work within sustainability paradigms and examples, are going to be most successful. The companies that are using outdated technology or

clinging to processes that were perfectly fine 50, 60, 70 years ago, those are the ones that are going to fall by the wayside. The saying goes, "The Stone Age didn't end because people ran out of stone. The Stone Age ended because better technology came along," and there are better technologies that are more green, socially responsible, environmentally responsible, innovative, save time, energy, capital and these are the kinds of directions that most businesses, certainly the major businesses, are going to be heading towards. If you look at the websites of two of the major employers in this area, Kroger and Procter & Gamble, sustainability is all over them. They are very concerned with sustainable practices and if we are not teaching our students what that means, then we're doing them a disservice. Interestingly enough, very few universities in the United States are focusing on sustainability in business, but I want that as a major thrust of what we're doing. Other directions are things such as experientially based courses and concepts - for example negotiation persuasion. That was something that as a business person I had to do literally every day. Another aspect that I think we need to concentrate on is something that every major company lists as an essential skill, almost no university teaches it, and that's creativity. I teach a course on creativity and innovative thinking and I certainly do want to introduce that on the undergraduate level at Thomas More but I also want to make it part of how we are educating our students from the deep roots part up so that local companies and regional companies will look at what we're doing at Thomas More College of Business and say, "Okay, those guys get it."

### What is your advice for Thomas More students?

**BR:** Find what you're really interested in, and pursue that; it could be anime, it could be cooking, it could be the restaurant business, it could be tourism, it could be travel, it could be marketing. Business is a fascinating thing to get into because it literally affects every other human activity. The example that I give to artists, because I am an artist, Vincent van Gogh died basically alone in an attic. Picasso died a fabulously wealthy man in a castle that he owned to the south of France, and it wasn't because Picasso was that much better of an artist than Vincent van Gogh. The man knew how to market himself. To the extent that you can, my advice ... is to pick something that's fun for you; it makes a tremendous difference in how you approach life and how you approach your work.

**MOREOVER**

Listen to the complete interview by visiting [tmuky.us/rosenthal](https://tmuky.us/rosenthal).



academic innovation



# Open Educational Resources benefit or boon?

SUBMITTED BY MARIA C. GARRIGA, PH.D., PROFESSOR OF SPANISH



Garriga

The academic leadership team and faculty at Thomas More University investigated the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) during the spring semester of 2020. Adopting OER advances equity and accessibility for students, facilitates curricular adaptations through the customization of course materials, and promotes sustainability efforts at educational institutions. When faculty members adopt OERs, students see a direct reduction in course material costs. Of course, the adoption of OER resources involves many stakeholders: faculty, academic support offices, academic leaders, librarians, and instructional designers.

Ideally, OERs are first adopted for lower-division core curriculum courses that impact a large number of students. In recent national dean group discussions, physics, anatomy and physiology, mathematics, English, history, and political science have proven early adopters. At Thomas More University, however, the department of psychology has taken the lead on the

development of OERs.

In summer 2021, the psychology faculty piloted the use of an OER text for two general psychology courses. The department has focused on choices that are free to students, of high quality, accessible, that provide teaching resources (PowerPoints and test banks), are customizable, and easily integrated with Canvas (Thomas More's learning management system).

The choices were narrowed to Openstax and Noba. Both are free and highly rated on accessibility and Canvas integration. Each of them provides options for students to print a physical copy of the text for a low cost and also provide a pdf version of the text for free. Textbook chapters could be directly linked in Canvas without requiring students to log into an external site.

One downside to both Noba and Openstax was that their testing banks each needed tweaking and expansion. Ultimately, the psychology faculty chose Noba because it was slightly more customizable,

## OER - what is it?

OER or Open Educational Resources are digital contents used for teaching/learning purposes. They are released under open intellectual property licenses to enable their free use or repurposing. These resources may include full courses of academic programs or specific learning materials such as textbooks, lessons, lectures, assessments, and tests.

and the text was written by high-profile psychologists and created specifically for the discipline.

Looking forward, psychology aims to create a Canvas resource for those faculty members using the OER text that allows for instructions on how to customize textbooks and test banks. The plan is to add to existing test banks and build video resources and online activities all instructors can access and use. Ultimately, while OER texts can be harder to set up, they provide high-quality textbooks at no cost to Thomas More University students. Assessing the impact of OER adoption will be key to expanding use of OERs in other courses. We hope that more departments will explore OER resources in future.

MOREOVER

## ACADEMIC UPDATES

Thomas More moved to University status in fall 2018 and reorganized based on that designation to include three colleges and one institute (for the original Moreover coverage, visit [tmuky.us/3colleges](https://tmuky.us/3colleges)). As anyone in any industry is aware, change is inevitable and to accommodate the shifting needs of Thomas More, business, and local communities, minor tweaks were introduced in summer 2021 to better serve the mission and obligations of the University. These changes include:

### College of Business

- New home of the Institute for Ethical Leadership and International Studies
- Degrees offered: 8 bachelors | 5 minors | 2 masters

### College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

*formerly College of Arts and Sciences*

- Houses the School of Education
- Degrees offered: 18 bachelors | 16 minors | 1 masters

### College of Natural and Health Sciences

*formerly College of Education and Health Sciences*

- Houses the School of Nursing
- Degrees offered: 11 bachelors | 7 minors | 1 masters



## Honoring Outstanding Alumni We are looking for nominations for the next awards celebrated in spring 2022

The Alumni Awards were established to honor outstanding alumni and community leaders whose talents and expertise have made a significant impact on Thomas More University and the Northern Kentucky/ Greater Cincinnati community. Awards include: citizenship, service, professional achievement, and lasting influence (faculty/staff). For more information, visit [tmuky.us/alumniawards](https://tmuky.us/alumniawards). For a complete list of previous award winners, visit [tmuky.us/pastawards](https://tmuky.us/pastawards).



## SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

**Austin Corsmeier '16**

**Alumnus | Faculty**

SUBMITTED BY JUDY CRIST, DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE SERVICES

Austin Corsmeier is a nursing alum and now a faculty member in the Nursing Program. He is also the recipient of the Outstanding Traditional Undergraduate Faculty award for 2021—a great honor for such a young professor. We caught up with Austin to hear what he has to say about his Thomas More experience.

**What was it like for you as a nursing student?**

**AC:** It was empowering to be a student of Thomas More. I tend to think of myself as someone who was a little more introverted by nature but Thomas More allowed me to find my voice. I learned to harness the ability to think in a way in which you simply don't accept all arguments and conclusions you are exposed to, but rather you have an attitude involving questioning such arguments and conclusions. I was exposed to Thomas More's commitment to integrity, concern for justice, and service to others, all which our patron Saint Thomas More is so justly renowned for. As a student, I was challenged to experiment boldly, to learn to hear myself, to find what feels true, to find clarity, to remove the noise, and to ultimately use my voice. It was very empowering.

**Is there anything in particular that you feel contributed to your success as a student and even now, as a faculty member?**

**AC:** I have always been extremely fortunate to have strong mentors and a strong support system. My immediate family has always pushed me to be the best version of myself possible but this pushing was never forced or demanding. It was always done with the highest amount of love and support that you could imagine. Once you have that type of underpinning, that type of foundation, it becomes easy to push yourself and to achieve. I can extend that same sentiment to the (Thomas More) professors and to a wide variety of people in my life.

**Which professors were your favorites?**

**AC:** Now you're putting me on the spot because they're all (my) colleagues! First and foremost, I have to give the utmost praise to the entire nursing faculty. I feel like I have been able to take elements from each of them both from an academic perspective and from a clinical perspective, and apply it into my own practice. For example, Dr. (Rebeca) Tacy - she truly pushed me in a way to think critically about each and every patient scenario, and to begin to connect the dots between academic knowledge and actual clinical practice. Dr. (Lisa) Torok was my advisor and instrumental to my success. I still view her as one of my greatest mentors. Moving away from the nursing department, Dr. Cate Sherron. She instilled my love for ethics, morality, and philosophy; all of which are things that I now try to tie into my own courses. Her teaching style was very collaborative and inquisitive, and it was philosophically challenging, which I admired. And lastly, I have to give credit to Dr. (Maria C.) Garriga and Dr. (Julie) Luebbbers. I actually obtained a Spanish minor (from Thomas More) as well. Each of them had a classroom environment that was very organic and natural and immersive, and they both always challenged me to push beyond my comfort zone.

**Tell us about the students you have now and why it's important to support them.**

**AC:** Our nursing students are goal-oriented and optimistic. There is no doubt that college, and nursing school in particular, can be challenging. I see my students look for solutions and they keep moving forward. I've seen them connect with their professors and their classmates, I've seen them make the most out of that educational experience. Last but not least, they're definitely passionate. They realize that at the end of the day, their passion is what will drive them to be successful. Their love for the nursing field and desire to care holistically for patients clearly puts them in a position to pursue a very rewarding career after graduation. Why is it important for others to support nursing students? I think we have to remember that most nursing students join the profession to help others. Although, some experiences they have can be highly stressful, whether it's patient situations or maybe being looked down upon by other healthcare workers. We need to always strive to provide a supportive environment because I really do think that's a prerequisite for learning.

Listen to the complete interview by visiting [tmuky.us/corsmeier](https://tmuky.us/corsmeier).



WELCOME TO THE NEWEST ALUMNI

# CLASS OF 2021



**385**  
TOTAL DEGREES



**98**  
students graduated  
with honors



**109**  
played sports at some point  
in their college career



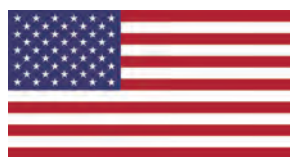
MOREOVER



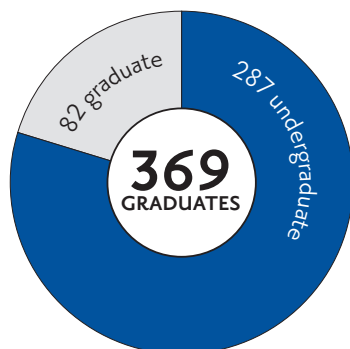
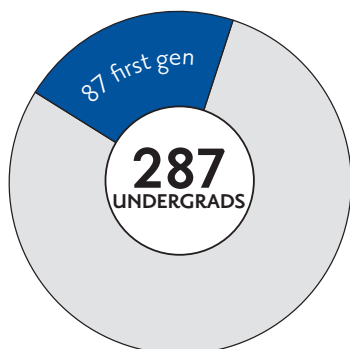
Thomas More University honored its newest alumni during an in-person, day-long commencement ceremony. Commencement was unlike traditional ceremonies in past years due to modifications necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 260 undergraduate and graduate students participated in the ceremony and walked alongside their families in the Connor Convocation Center to receive their diplomas.

"I hope you realize the remarkable achievement of becoming a graduate," President Chillo said in a letter given to each graduate. "Commencement marks the opportunity for us to celebrate your notable achievement and it signifies that you have met all of the requirements for graduation. As you walk across the stage today, walk slowly, taking it all in and realizing that this graduation is a defining moment for both you and your family."

To read the full press release, listen to the award winners' speeches, and view a photo gallery of commencement 2021, visit [tmuky.us/commence2021](https://tmuky.us/commence2021). MOREOVER



**11** Veterans or Active Military among graduates



Numbers reported as of Sept. 15, 2021.



President Chillo, Board of Trustees Chair Judith Marlowe '69, Ph.D., and graduate Jesse Short '21 stop for a photo.

student success

## 2021 AWARDS

### STUDENTS



#### PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARD

##### ABBY LINK

Exemplifies the importance of service to others, promotes a life of faith, and demonstrates commitment to campus ministry.



#### OUTSTANDING SENIOR

##### WHITNEY JOHNSON

Recognized as having the most positive impact during her years, demonstrating scholarship, academics, leadership, service, and integrity.



#### DIGITAL, GRADUATE, AND PROFESSIONAL UNDERGRADUATE AWARD

##### NAOMI DIEDRICHS

Recognizes scholarship as well as demonstrated leadership, service, and community involvement.



#### DIGITAL, GRADUATE, AND PROFESSIONAL GRADUATE AWARD

##### REBECCA GAEDDERT

Recognizes scholarship as well as demonstrated leadership, professionalism, and service to others.

### FACULTY

#### COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

##### OUTSTANDING PART-TIME

##### NICOLE CAPELLA-VOET '14

#### OUTSTANDING TRADITIONAL UNDERGRADUATE

##### LUIS SIERRA, PH.D.

#### INSTITUTE FOR ETHICAL LEADERSHIP & INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

##### OUTSTANDING FACULTY

##### AMANDA SIEGRIST, J.D.

#### COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

##### OUTSTANDING GRADUATE

##### ANNE BUSSE, DBA

#### OUTSTANDING TRADITIONAL UNDERGRADUATE

##### CHARLES J. ZIMMER JR. '11, MBA, PH.D.

#### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HEALTH SCIENCES

##### OUTSTANDING GRADUATE

##### BRITTANY MENTION, ED.D.

#### OUTSTANDING TRADITIONAL UNDERGRADUATE

##### AUSTIN CORSMEIER '16



# Join the Fun!

Alumni events are a great way to reconnect, network, and socialize. Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

## FEBRUARY

### JUSTICE DONALD C. WINTERSHEIMER '53 LAWYERS LUNCH

Sunday | February 6, 2022 | 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Thomas More University

## MARCH

### WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Friday | March 4, 2022 | 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Thomas More University

### CENTENNIAL GALA

Saturday | March 26, 2022  
Northern Kentucky Convention Center  
More details to come. Visit [thomasmore100.com](http://thomasmore100.com)

### YOUNG ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR

Thursday | March 31, 2022  
Dickmann's Sports Café

## APRIL

### WM. T. (BILL) ROBINSON III '67 INSTITUTE FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY EVENT

Thursday | April 7, 2022 | 7 p.m.  
Steigerwald Hall | Saints Center

### ALUMNI & FRIENDS WINE TASTING

Wednesday | April 20, 2022  
Five Seasons Family Sports Club

### ALUMNI AND FAMILY WEEKEND

April 22-24, 2022

### ALUMNI AWARDS

Saturday | April 23, 2022  
Steigerwald Hall | Saints Center

## MAY

### SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC

Monday | May 9, 2022  
Summit Hills Country Club

### COMMENCEMENT

Saturday | May 14, 2022  
Thomas More University

For questions, concerns, or additional information please call Director of Alumni & Parent Engagement Bailey Bundy at **859.344.3545** or email [alumni@thomasmore.edu](mailto:alumni@thomasmore.edu)

## Are You & Your Spouse



## SWEETHEARTS

If you met your spouse while attending Thomas More (or Villa Madonna), send your anniversary date by email ([alumni@thomasmore.edu](mailto:alumni@thomasmore.edu)) or phone (859.344.3545), so we can congratulate you both for years to come! ♥♥♥ **Ryan '17** and **Rebecca (Thaman) '18 Smiley** are Saints Sweethearts. Thomas More professor James Camp was their officiant and fellow alums celebrated with them when they wed on May 15, 2021!



## Ready to be a class ambassador?

The Thomas More University class ambassador program was developed to recruit alumni volunteers who are passionate about their alma mater and want to see it grow! Class ambassadors are needed for ALL class years. We are seeking individuals who are interested in engaging with their fellow alumni through events and outreach, helping to foster the Saints community, and encourage University support long after graduation. Interested?

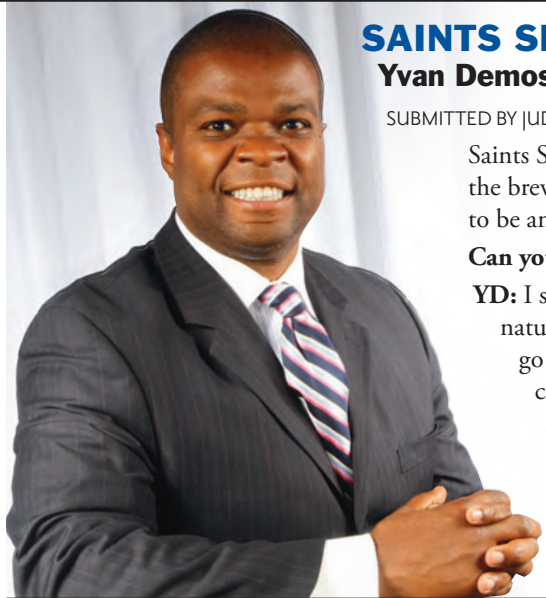
Fill out the interest form at [tmuky.us/ambassador2](http://tmuky.us/ambassador2), or email Director of Alumni & Parent Engagement Bailey Bundy at [bundyb@thomasmore.edu](mailto:bundyb@thomasmore.edu).



## SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

**Yvan Demosthenes '04 - Alumnus | Faculty | Entrepreneur | Investor**

SUBMITTED BY JUDY CRIST, DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE SERVICES | PHOTO PROVIDED



Saints Spotlight interviewed Yvan Demosthenes, one of the investors of Dead Low Brewing, the brewery that crafted Saintenni-ale for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Yvan also happens to be an alumnus, adjunct professor, and member of the Alumni Board.

### Can you give us a short history behind your career path?

**YD:** I started school in 1987 at the University of Cincinnati and my undergrad was biology/natural sciences. I thought that I was going to follow in my father and uncle's footsteps and go into medical school but other things began to interest me. I had a friend who owned a chain of furniture stores, Rowe Showplace, with stores throughout Cincinnati. During my time helping him out, working with him on the floor, I became very interested in the behavior of the customers that would walk into the showroom. From that point on, my sales-interested curiosity just took over. In my heart I feel like I'm a salesperson so that's where my entrée into the business world started. I must say too, my father is a psychiatrist, so when I started realizing how sales is really connecting with the customers and their buying cues, etc., it just fascinated me. I went on to General Electric, where I was part of their team in their intelli-center that was part

of their selling IT hardware and software. Our team consisted of a lot of people who were longtime salespeople in the industry, and while I was there I impressed a few people. I had a supervisor who tapped me on the shoulder one day and shared with me how and why he was impressed by me. He strongly suggested that I obtain my MBA. That was the only thing holding me back because I had more of a science background and not the business acumen behind my sales. As I was researching MBA programs, I came upon Thomas More's TAP program (now the Digital, Graduate, & Professional program) and it was really a very convenient program for me on a couple of different levels; number one, it was down the street from our office. Also at the time, TAP had a cohort model and that really appealed to me; having a class that you carry through the whole program resonated with me. So that really helped me with my career path, opening doors for a lot of things and my sales skills and opportunities within companies continued to grow. I will tell you that, after attaining my MBA, getting some wins within the organizations that I served and worked for, my entrepreneurial spirit kept on bubbling to the surface. As my career started to progress and achieve success, attaining different accolades, the entrepreneurial call just kept on knocking on the door for me.

### As an entrepreneur, what current projects and interests are you working on?

**YD:** My company Hamilton Demo is a certified veteran-owned company. We specialize in recruiting, executive search and placement, as well as project work around the recruiting talent acquisition/human capital space. We serve Fortune 500 companies, as well as small- and medium-sized companies. Actually, that's where our growth is right now. We're going on four years as an organization. My business partner and I have been really lucky in positioning ourselves here in the tristate but we've also made connections throughout the country. I'm also glad to say that we help nonprofits as well, especially when they're looking for executive directors, executive leadership type roles.

### What was the biggest challenge you found with going back to school?

**YD:** Just making sure that I was able to fit my work and life with the commitment to attain the MBA. Also, as I mentioned, having the cohort model really helped me, my instincts were correct, because it was such a supportive group. All the apprehension and concerns I had, after a couple months, disappeared.

### Do you have any advice for current students or anyone who's considering going back to school?

**YD:** If you're thinking about going back to school, 100% do it. Talk to your family, let them know what you're thinking, and also don't take it for granted that all schools and programs are alike. They aren't, try to find the best match for you. Looking back, I'm so grateful that I went through TAP because that was the exact program I needed at the exact time.

[MOREOVER](#)

Listen to the complete interview by visiting [tmuky.us/demosthenes](https://tmuky.us/demosthenes).

As an investor with Dead Low Brewing, Yvan Demosthenes was the man behind the brewing of Saintenni-ale in honor of Thomas More's Centennial. In celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the founding of the University, Dead Low Brewing created this Belgian single ale which offers full-bodied Belgian yeast flavor in an incredibly sessionable package. Cheers to 100 years!

Saintenni-ale will be served at most alumni events throughout 2021-22. For more information on ordering some for your personal use directly from Dead Low Brewing, visit [deadlowbrewing.com](https://deadlowbrewing.com).



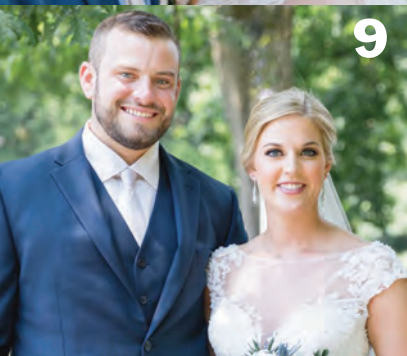
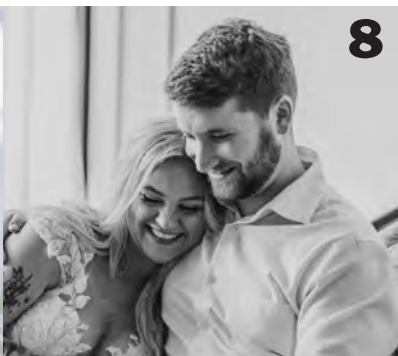
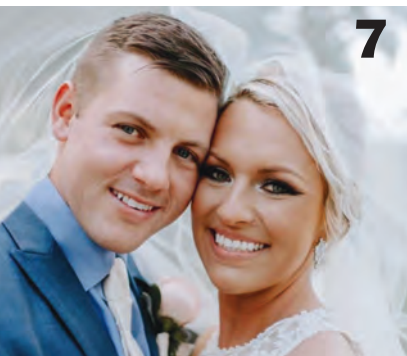
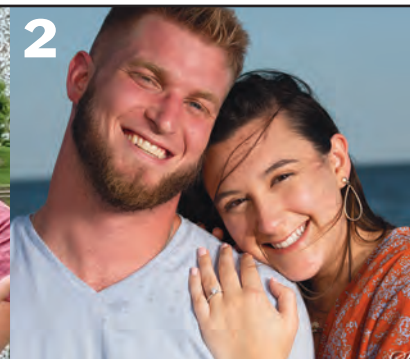


## We'd love to share your engagement/wedding news!

Send your good news (and a digital picture) via email with subject line "news" to [alumni@thomasmore.edu](mailto:alumni@thomasmore.edu) or visit [tmuky.us/alumninote](http://tmuky.us/alumninote) online.

## ENGAGEMENTS

1. **Avery Henderson '18** & Jude Merten announced on July 11, 2021
2. **Adam Guard '19** & **Teresa Urban '20** announced on June 6, 2021
3. **Hannah Sprague '19** & **Thomas Williams '20** announced on March 20, 2021
4. **Taylor Anne Walz '19/'21** & Kobe Tallon announced on May 29, 2021
5. **Madison Krumpelman '20** & **Brandon Beebe '21** announced on March 18, 2021
6. **Jacob Zai '20** & **Emily Schultz '20** announced on February 21, 2021



## MARRIAGES

7. **Hannah (Curtis) '15** and Robert Klotz married on June 5, 2021
8. **Michael Orr '15** and Brittany Vocke married on May 6, 2021, in Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs, Colorado
9. **Jacob '16** and **Jamie (Lohr) '19 Henderson** married on June 12, 2021
10. **Kaylee (Bush) '17** and **Trevor '17 Meyer** married on June 4, 2021 at Lake Lyndsay in Hamilton, Ohio
11. **Ryan '17** and **Rebecca (Thaman) '18 Smiley** married on May 15, 2021, at MadTree Brewing with Dr. James Camp as their officiant
12. **Kaylee (Achor) '19** and Benjamin Rackley married on August 14, 2021



# 1970s



**Tom Kohlhepp '75** was awarded the 2020 Covington Latin School Scientiam Award. For nearly 40 years Kohlhepp has taught, performed, and educated thousands of students from the Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati area.



**Ron Dawn '78** retired as principal at Newport Central Catholic and resigned as boys' head basketball coach in June 2021. Dawn is one of the most successful head coaches in Northern Kentucky high school basketball and spent 22 of his 26 seasons at NewCath. "I am grateful to all the young men and ladies I have had the honor of coaching over the years and to all those who coached alongside me," said Dawn. To read more, visit [tmuky.us/dawn](https://tmuky.us/dawn).

# 1980s



**Bruce Hoffmeister '83** joined Cracker Barrel as CIO in early 2021. Congratulations, Bruce!



**Paul G. Bens '84** was promoted to vice president, legal services, rights management and research at MGM Studios. Bens received his bachelor's degree in theater arts from Thomas More

**Garren Colvin '86**, president and CEO of St. Elizabeth Healthcare, was named as the new chairman of the 2021/22 board of directors for the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. To read more about this announcement, visit [tmuky.us/chamber](https://tmuky.us/chamber).

# 1990s



**Theresa Guard '91** was named principal of Immaculate Heart of Mary School. Guard formerly served as the assistant principal, dean of students, and math teacher at Covington Catholic High School. To read more about the announcement, visit [tmuky.us/guard](https://tmuky.us/guard).



**Susanna Wong '91** and the entire Wong family, the Oriental Wok, served as Grand Marshal for the City of Fort Mitchell 2021 Independence Day parade. In 2018, Mike Wong received an honorary doctor of business degree from Thomas More. "Oriental Wok and the Wong Family have been a staple of Fort Mitchell for nearly 45 years, and we're excited to have them as our parade's grand marshal," said Fort Mitchell Mayor Jude Hehman. To read more, visit [tmuky.us/wong](https://tmuky.us/wong).



**Gary Holland '93** and his team at One Holland Corp. revealed the grand

opening of First Watch in Georgetown, Kentucky. The One Holland team also presented a check for over \$2,500 to the AMEN House.



**Brian Knaley '93** was appointed as chief financial officer and treasurer of the Company by Surna Inc. Knaley is a seasoned financial executive with more than 25 years of leadership experience. To read more about the appointment, visit [tmuky.us/knaley](https://tmuky.us/knaley).

**Heather Jansen '96**, mayor of Villa Hills, was interviewed as part of a series by the NKY Tribune featuring Northern Kentucky city mayors.



The article highlights her service since being elected in 2019, focusing on plans, accomplishments, and challenges. To read the article, visit [tmuky.us/jansen](https://tmuky.us/jansen).



**Joanna Pols '96, Ph.D.**, led the drug development team at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc., to FDA approval of the drug Libtayo® which is used for the treatment of several common skin cancers. Previously, Pols led the approval process for DUTREBIS (fixed-dose combination for the treatment of HIV). Pols joined Regeneron Pharmaceuticals in 2016 and led DUPIXENT approval for the treatment of moderate-to-severe asthma in 2018. Congratulations to Joanna on an impressive career thus far! To read the release on the Libtayo approval, visit [tmuky.us/libtayo](https://tmuky.us/libtayo).

**Brian Robinson '97** was named superintendent of Fort Thomas Independent Schools. Robinson has spent most of his professional career in the district as a teacher and administrator. Congratulations Brian! To read more about Robinson's appointment, visit [tmuky.us/superintendent](https://tmuky.us/superintendent).





**Douglas Williams '97** was named by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as the special agent in charge of the New Orleans field office. Williams most recently served as a section chief in the Office of Congressional Affairs at FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C.

## 2000s

**Jessica Gels '00** from Rise Academy was selected by the Kentucky Department of Education as one of 24 outstanding Kentucky educator recipients of the 2022 Valvoline™ Teacher Achievement Awards. Congratulations to Gels and the other educators! For more information, visit [tmuky.us/gels](https://tmuky.us/gels).



**Christy Nageleisen '00** was promoted to the position of vice president of environment, social and governance (ESG) and chief compliance officer with Cintas Corporation.

To read more about this promotion, visit [tmuky.us/nageleisen](https://tmuky.us/nageleisen).



**Chase Runyan '04** recently opened the Winyah Bay Brewing Company in Georgetown, S.C. On a recent visit, **Josh Vogel '10** brought a case of Dead Low Brewing's Saintenni-ALE (the official beer of Thomas More's centennial) along for the two alums to try.

**Gee Horton '06** unveiled an original piece of art in partnership with the official opening of the Court Street Plaza in Cincinnati, Ohio, in June 2021. The



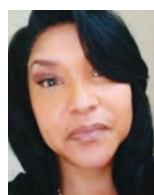
celebration marked another milestone in the redevelopment of the northern part of Cincinnati's Central Business District. The streetscape redo is part of a broader plan to revitalize the area. For more coverage on Horton's art in the community, visit [tmuky.us/hortoncbd](https://tmuky.us/hortoncbd).



**Johnna Reeder Kleymeyer '07** was appointed to the board of Northern Kentucky Tri-County Economic Development Corp. (Tri-ED) in June 2021. Kleymeyer

was the former chief executive of REDI Cincinnati and brings extensive economic development expertise to the position. To read more about the appointment and Tri-ED's work, visit [tmuky.us/kleymeyer2](https://tmuky.us/kleymeyer2).

**Erica Neff '08** was named as a finalist by the Northern Kentucky Young Professionals (NKYP) in the 2021 Next Generation Leader Awards (NGLA) in the category of medical and health care services. She is the director of value-based performance with St. Elizabeth Physicians. The NGLAs salute and applaud young professionals ages 40 and under for significant professional accomplishments, demonstrated leadership, and community impact.



**Lisa Brown '09** was appointed to senior vice president of supply chain – wine & spirits division for Constellation Brands, Inc. Brown oversees supply planning and

optimization, procurement, warehousing and distribution, transportation and customer delivery for a best-in-class global supply chain. To read more, visit [tmuky.us/lisabrown](https://tmuky.us/lisabrown).

### Steffen Hanser '09

joined Central Bank as assistant vice president, credit analyst officer. Hanser brings over 11 years of financial services experience to his new role. To read more, visit [tmuky.us/hanser](https://tmuky.us/hanser).



**Scott Pyles '09** joined Fonterra Co-operative in March 2021 as chief technology officer. Fonterra is a global dairy nutrition company and exporter in New Zealand. Pyles is responsible for transforming, leading, and maintaining Fonterra's end-to-end global IT operations. He is an international technology leader with experience managing teams across the U.S., Europe, and Australasia. To read more, visit [tmuky.us/pyles](https://tmuky.us/pyles).

### Ian Smith '09

was named chief operating officer of Mercy Health Physicians – Kentucky, part of Bon Secours Mercy Health, one of the 20 largest health systems in the United States and the fifth largest Catholic health system in the country.



## 2010s



Congratulations to **Kayla Ritter Rickels '11**, on her acceptance into the Northern Kentucky University Doctor of Education (Ed.D) in educational leadership fall 2021 cohort.

### Charles J. Zimmer Jr. '11, Ph.D.,

was named Outstanding Traditional Undergraduate Faculty in the College of Business for 2020-2021 at Thomas More. Zimmer has worked full-time at the University since 2015, teaching computer information systems and has more than 15 years of experience in the information technology industry.





**Winter Okoth '12** was interviewed by #equaleverywhere for inspiring young girls in the STEM community. "My hope is to be a role model as a lady scientist to young girls in my community, to our generation, and to future generations." Visit [tmuky.us/okoth](https://tmuky.us/okoth) to read more about Okoth.

**Jay Volker '12** was named head football coach of Talawanda High School in Oxford, Ohio, in April 2021. "Coach Volker brings a wealth of football knowledge and experience to our football program," the school district said in a statement. For more information on the appointment, visit [tmuky.us/volker](https://tmuky.us/volker).



**Christopher John (C.J.) Fryer '13/'15** was named as a finalist by the Northern Kentucky Young Professionals (NKYP) in the 2021 Next Generation Leader Awards (NGLA) in the category of education. He is a mathematics teacher at Beechwood Independent Schools. The NGLAs salute and applaud young professionals ages 40 and under for significant professional accomplishments, demonstrated leadership, and community impact.



**Nicole Capella-Voet '14** was named Outstanding Part-time Faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences for 2020-21 at Thomas More.

She has been an adjunct professor in the philosophy department since 2016. She earned her master's degree from The University of North Texas where she studied environmental philosophy and environmental science. Capella-Voet works at the Cincinnati Observatory as a full-time educator where she combines her love for science with a passion for informal education.

**Jason Payne '15**, senior vice president and managing director of Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati for Republic Bank, was named as treasurer on the executive board of the 2021/22 board of directors for the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. To read more, visit [tmuky.us/chamber](https://tmuky.us/chamber).



**Fehmi Berkay '16** graduated from the University of Louisville School of Medicine on May 8, 2021. Berkay joined Wright State University Orthopedic Surgery for his residency.



**Austin Corsmeier '16** was named Outstanding Traditional Undergraduate Faculty in the College of Education & Health Sciences for 2020-21 at Thomas More. After

graduating from Thomas More with a bachelor's degree in nursing in 2016, he went on to complete his Master of Science in nursing at Fitchburg State University in 2019 and is currently seeking his doctorate at the University of Memphis. Read a Saints Spotlight featuring Corsmeier on [page 22](#).



**Jacob Henderson '16** graduated from the University of Pikeville - Kentucky College of Osteopathic

Medicine (KYCOM) on May 1, 2021. Henderson was awarded the Board of Trustees' Award for highest GPA during the first two years of medical school and started his internal medicine residency at The Christ Hospital in July 2021.

**Courtney Kleier '17** was named as a finalist by the Northern Kentucky Young Professionals (NKYP) in the 2021 Next Generation Leader Awards (NGLA) in the category of public relations, media, and marketing. She is the Public Affairs Coordinator for the NKY Chamber of Commerce. The NGLAs salute and applaud young professionals ages 40 and under for significant professional accomplishments, demonstrated leadership, and community impact.



Congratulations to **Jesus Avila '18** who graduated from the Cincinnati Regional Chamber's Cincy Next Class 7. The program focuses on leadership, professional development, building connections, and learning about all of Cincinnati.



**Sam Simpkins '19** graduated from the Indiana State Police Academy as a certified Indiana State Trooper. While at Thomas More, Sam played football and was a resident assistant.



# 2020s

## Ben Noonan '20

was accepted into the prestigious University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, for graduate studies in the international relations and east Asia program. This is a 12 month program that began in late September. Congratulations to Ben. To listen to a Saints Spotlight with Ben regarding his student experience at Thomas More, visit [tmuky.us/noonan](http://tmuky.us/noonan).



**Hjavier Pitts '20** is being represented by Black Diamond PR & Sport Management Firm in hopes of playing professional football in either the United States or Canada. Visit [tmuky.us/pitts](http://tmuky.us/pitts) for more information about this representation.

## Kaela Saner '20,

former women's basketball standout, published her first book entitled "I Trust You, Lord: Letters to God on Psalm 31." Congratulations, Kaela! To read a selection from the book or order on amazon.com, visit [tmuky.us/saner](http://tmuky.us/saner).



**Andy Christianson '21** joined the Cincinnati Reds as the personality inside the Mr. Redlegs mascot. Christianson served as mascot Tommy Mo during his undergraduate time at Thomas More. For the story behind Mr. Redlegs, visit [tmuky.us/christianson](http://tmuky.us/christianson).

## Braden Connor '21

joined the men's basketball coaching staff at the College of Charleston. Congratulations, Braden!



## Adam Mathews '21

was named boys' soccer coach at Villa Madonna Academy. Mathews was a starter at Thomas More, earning all-conference honors, and was a team captain. "We are confident that Coach Mathews will continue to stress VMA's Benedictine philosophy and values to the team and run a first class program," said athletic director Jim Demler. To read more, visit [tmuky.us/mathews](http://tmuky.us/mathews).

**Michael Thompson '21** spent his summer working as a junior teaching artist for Artworks, Cincinnati. The



Walnut Hills Green Wall Mural was a collaboration between ArtWorks and Urban Blooms to create a mural with live flora in the heart of Walnut Hills. Thompson helped lead nine youth apprentices on the project, which is ArtWorks' first public "living wall" art mural. For more information on 2021 Artworks projects, visit [tmuky.us/artworks](http://tmuky.us/artworks).

## NEW ARRIVALS



**Olivia (Huber) '16** and **Austin '17/18 Bryant** welcomed their son Bauer into the world on April 30, 2021.



**Caroline (Middendorf) '19** and **Riley '17 Kinsella** welcomed daughter Scotti Josephine on March 4, 2021.



**Paul '16** and **Courtney (Neltner) '17 Kleier** welcomed their daughter Bethany on June 12, 2021. Are you a proud parent of a little Saint? Please share a favorite digital photo of your little blessing(s). Email [alumni@thomasmore.edu](mailto:alumni@thomasmore.edu) with names (include mom and/or dad), and class year!



## CLASS NOTES! Send Yours Today

Have you gotten married? Job change? Promotion? Starting a family? We want to hear what you have been doing! Send your note using the envelope at the center of this issue of Moreover or send via email with subject line **class note** to **alumni@thomasmore.edu** or visit **tmuky.us/alumninote** online.

## STAY CONNECTED Update Your Records

Has your contact information changed? Update your contact records by completing the alumni update form online at **thomasmore.edu/alumni** or drop a note in the business reply envelope located in the center of this Moreover.

## Follow Thomas More Alumni on social media:



ThomasMoreAlum



ThomasMoreAlumni



Thomas More University Alumni



## In Memoriam

"This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in Him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day." - John 6:40

**Sister M. Bertha Berling '51**, Aug. 30, 2021

**James Deters '57**, May 13, 2021

**Dennis Deye '65**, May 17, 2021

**Deanna Durbin '02**, April 23, 2021

**Paul Fielding Jr. '67**, April 17, 2021

**Donald Gilb '71**, Jan. 13, 2021

**David Holzderber '72**, May 2, 2021

**Eunice (Cunningham) Kittle '91**, May 31, 2021

**June (Kohorst) Kroger '47**, Jan. 3, 2021

**Mary Kroger '89**, Jan. 9, 2021

**Alice (Bone) Lamping '82**, June 28, 2021

**Richard Meier '55**, Aug. 5, 2021

**Margaret (Maloney) Middendorf '52**, June 15, 2021

**Mark Millson '72**, March 2, 2021

**Joseph Niemeyer '71**, May 2, 2021

**Michael Rolf '63**, April 21, 2021

**Richard Schack '67**, Feb. 11, 2021

**C. Loretta Scholl '87**, April 28, 2021

**William Schwarber '76**, Feb. 24, 2021

**Sister Juanelle Thiel '65**, June 23, 2021

**Tammy (Gehres) Townsend '14**, April 26, 2021

**Thomas Wagner '66**, June 22, 2021

**Roberta (Boyle) Wieschorster '58**, Feb. 9, 2021

# Monsignor Murphy Legacy Society

## CREATE YOUR LEGACY AT THOMAS MORE

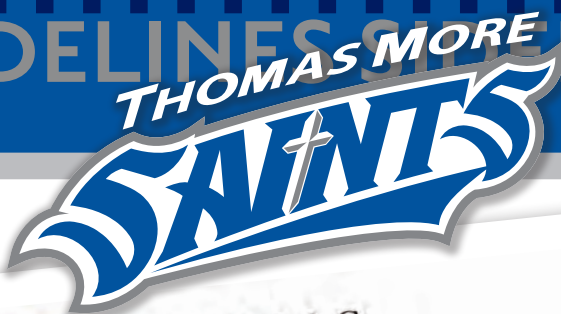
**C**an **YOU** leave a lasting contribution to the mission of Thomas More University? Charitable planning empowers you to create opportunities for generations to come. **THANK YOU** to all of the existing members. Through the Monsignor Murphy Legacy Society you can join a fellowship of devoted friends 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**.

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







Office of the President

Subject: Provisional Membership to Join NCAA Division II G-MAC

Dear Thomas More community,

I am pleased to share some exciting news with you as we begin our centennial year. After a successful visit in June, Thomas More University has been unanimously approved for provisional membership in the Great Midwest Athletic Conference (G-MAC) as we are officially preparing our application for membership to the NCAA Division II.

As a key strategic initiative in the new strategic plan (*Lighting the Way*), we have spent the better part of the past year assessing this opportunity as we want to ensure that our student-athletes have the very best experience while we enhance the regional position of the University. The decision to join the G-MAC and apply for NCAA DII membership will greatly assist our efforts as we look to bolster our academic and athletic reputation in the region.

Over the next six months, the University will prepare a comprehensive feasibility study to further assess this opportunity. Once completed, the University will prepare its application for membership to the NCAA Division II by no later than February 1, 2022. If approved to enter the NCAA Division II membership process, the University will become a provisional member of the G-MAC for the 2022-23 academic year but will continue to compete in the NAIA for that period of time. We will conclude our NAIA membership at the end of the 2022-23 academic year and will complete two remaining years as provisional members of the G-MAC and the NCAA. Starting in the 2023-24 academic year, the University will compete in the G-MAC and will be eligible for conference championships and tournaments. Upon successful completion of the NCAA Division II membership process, the University would be able to compete in NCAA tournaments starting in the 2025-26 academic year.

There are many details that still require our attention as we continue to do our due diligence. This is an exciting opportunity for the University and our students. As always, I appreciate your support of our student-athletes, our athletic program, and the University.

Go Saints!

Best,  
President Chillo

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

[THOMASMORE.EDU/ATHLETICS](https://thomasmore.edu/athletics)

Follow the Saints on social media #LetsGoSaints







Caruso



Toelke

## Standout Saints

### BASEBALL

**Jacob Caruso** (Rootstown, Ohio/Rootstown)  
Academic All-District, 2nd Team All-Conference

### BOWLING

#### MEN'S

**Jake Toelke** (Cincinnati, Ohio/La Salle)  
Placed Top-16 in USBC ISC\* Nationals

### FOOTBALL

**Drew Bartolovich** (Fairfield, Ohio/Fairfield)  
Academic All-District  
Blanton Collier Award Winner

**Mason Kramer** (Alexandria, Ky./Campbell County)  
Academic All-District  
Blanton Collier Award Winner

### GOLF

#### MEN'S

**Kyle Alexander** (Taylorsville, Ky./Spencer County)  
All-MSA\* 1st team and Ping All-Region

**Landon Finn** (Florence, Ky./Boone County)  
GCAA\* All-American Scholar

#### WOMEN'S

**Alison Gosney** (Florence, Ky./Conner)  
GCAA\* All-American Scholar

**Natalie Hamilton** (West Chester, Ohio/Lakota East)  
GCAA\* All-American Scholar

**Rachel Hummel** (Cincinnati, Ohio/Mercy McAuley)  
GCAA\* All-American Scholar



Bartolovich



Kramer



Alexander



Finn



Gosney



Hamilton



Hummel



Gaban



Dail



Martin Paz



Wainscott



Mohs

### SOFTBALL

**Andrea Gahan** (Cincinnati, Ohio/Oak Hills)  
2nd Team All-Conference  
Conference Gold Glove winner

### TENNIS

#### MEN'S

**Gavin Dail** (North Hollywood, Calif./Van Nuys)  
Honorable Mention All-Conference

**Fernando Martin Paz** (Brunete, Madrid/Alcala)  
2nd Team All-Conference

### TRACK & FIELD

#### MEN'S

**Chris Wainscott** (Indianapolis, Ind./Perry Meridian)  
11th at NAIA Nationals in the shot put

### VOLLEYBALL

#### WOMEN'S

**Emily Mohs** (Cincinnati, Ohio/Seton)  
Academic All-District  
AVCA\* Southeast All-Region

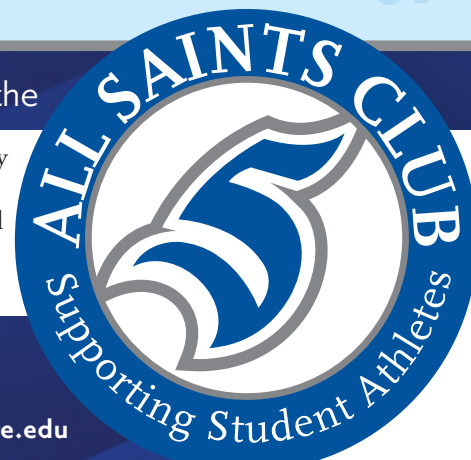
\*AVCA - American Volleyball Coaches Association  
GCAA - Golf Coaches Association of America  
MSC - Mid South Conference  
USBC ISC - United States Bowling Conference  
Intercollegiate Singles Championships



## SUPPORT YOUR SAINTS! Become a member of the

The mission of the All Saints Club is to provide the financial and supporting resources necessary to all Thomas More University athletic programs. With your support, students like those listed above, can compete at the highest levels in their sport and graduate. We can enhance the overall experience for all 700+ student-athletes by building a culture that promotes commitment to excellence in the classroom, on the playing fields, and in the community.

For more information about the giving levels and benefits of the All Saints Club, visit [thomasmore.edu/athletics](http://thomasmore.edu/athletics) or contact Tom Brady at **859-344-3642** | [bradyt@thomasmore.edu](mailto:bradyt@thomasmore.edu)





# Lacrosse expands

Addition of men's team, men's and women's coaching hires announced

President Chillo and Athletic Director Terry Connor announced in summer 2021 the addition of men's lacrosse to the athletic offerings at Thomas More. Sean McGinnis was tapped to become the first men's full-time lacrosse coach and Pat Thatcher will take on the role of full-time women's lacrosse coach.

McGinnis earned his Bachelor of Science in sports medicine and communication from Ashland University and his Master of Education in sports management and exercise science from Cleveland State University. He comes to Thomas More after an eight-year stint at Archbishop Moeller High School where he led the men's lacrosse team to the Division 1 state championship in 2017 and helped grow the program from 55 to 80 players. During his tenure the team achieved a program GPA of 3.5 and saw over 25 student-athletes reach the collegiate level.

"I would like to thank President Chillo and Athletic Director Terry Connor for this great opportunity to become the first men's lacrosse coach at Thomas More," says McGinnis. "Starting this program at an athletic-rich university with an outstanding tradition of academics gives tri-state area high school students an opportunity to stay close to home to continue their academic and athletic pursuits." McGinnis explains that his "goal is to attract the best local talent in the tristate area and help grow the game of lacrosse in the



McGinnis



Thatcher

Northern Kentucky region. We want to establish a culture of winning, serving, and leadership."

Women's coach Thatcher earned his bachelor's degree in recreation and fitness from Northern Kentucky University and his master's degree of

special education from Mount St. Joseph University. Since 2012 he has served as the director of Fellowship of Christian Athletes Lacrosse where he grew and established the club lacrosse ministry in Southwest Ohio. Thatcher also worked as the athletic performance coach for Anderson High School from 2004-2020.

"The opportunity to become the first full-time women's lacrosse coach at Thomas More is exciting and humbling at the same time," says Thatcher. "I am looking forward to strengthening and developing the women's lacrosse program and helping put Thomas More lacrosse on the map. I want to build a strong leadership culture that will consist of a close-knit team that develops into a family, building on what is already a strong community."

Women's lacrosse resumes intercollegiate play in the spring of 2022. The men's program will compete as a club sport and transition to intercollegiate play in the spring 2023 season.

[MOREOVER](#)



Cameron Baird (above) was named wrestling's Champion of Character athlete

## Saints wrestling reaches new heights

Team earns NWCA Scholar All-American Honors; individuals earn accolades

The wrestling program at Thomas More University finished 8th in the nation at the NAIA National Championships with four national qualifiers competing. Ryan Moore, Wilder Wichman, and Daulton Mayer earned All-American Honors for their finishes in the tournament. Adding to their success, Thomas More wrestling was able to carry a 3.291 GPA to receive the Team Scholar Award for the 2020-21 campaign.

First-year wrestlers Shay Horton and Daulton Mayer earned individual Scholar All-American honors as announced by the National Wrestling Coaches Association in May 2021. It was Mayer's 2nd All-American Award of the year after he earned honors for finishing 7th in the National Championships. Mayer was also named Freshman Wrestler of the Year for the Mid-South Conference. Horton grabs his first All-American Honors with the Scholar award. [MOREOVER](#)

### SAINTS BASEBALL BUCKS THE ODDS

The NAIA pre-season poll was not very kind to the Saints baseball team. As a matter of fact they were placed dead last. That didn't stop our team from proving that you never bet against the underdog! Battling from game to game, these Saints extended their season all the way to the semifinals of the Mid-South Conference Tournament. Not to be overlooked, Derek Atwood, Brett Benzinger, Jacob Caruso, Cooper Daniels, Tyler Flick, Ty Grimes, Jackson Hall, Austin Hoeh, Mitch Mierke, Hunter Nantz, Aiden Reverman, Brady Reynolds, and Conner Ryle were all named Academic All-Conference. Congratulations!



# Rugby Standout



Torres

Alejandro Torres made rugby history this summer as the sophomore from Argentina was drafted in the second round of the Major League Rugby draft by the Dallas Jackals. Torres etches his name as one of the few Thomas

More athletes drafted by a professional sports organization and the first for the rugby program.

Since arriving in Crestview Hills in the fall of 2020, Torres and the Saints remained undefeated in the 2020-21 campaign, outscoring opponents by a margin of 31-6. Torres played for the Cincinnati Wolfhounds in summer 2021 with their general manager raving, "Alejandro Torres cut up the field. 'Ale' also launched sky-high restart kicks that impressed everyone. But his unflinching defense is what impressed as he took down much larger opponents."

Thomas More head coach John Fox also had praise for Torres: "We are proud of Alejandro for upholding the rugby program's motto: Legacy... Make a Difference!" **MOREOVER**



Thomas More's athletic training staff: Front row (left to right): Corbin Hughes, Theresa Behan, Danielle Piening; Back row: Ethan Fleming, Paul Echelberry, Brandon Moore

## MID-SOUTH RECOGNIZES ATHLETIC TRAINING STAFFS

The Mid-South Conference awarded the annual Athletic Training Staff of the Year Award to all 12 Mid-South Conference athletic training staffs for 2020-21. During this year's campaign Thomas More's athletic training staff was tasked with handling treatment, COVID screenings, and game day duties for all sporting programs which, as a result of the pandemic, included an incredible increase in workload. The NAIA administrative council voted to honor every Mid-South training staff as without their efforts the season would not have been possible. We thank the Saints athletic training staff for all their hard work and give them the recognition that they deserve for a challenge well met!

# Track & Field News

President Chillo and Athletic Director Terry Connor announced Ron Russo will take on the role of head men's and women's track & field coach. Russo earned his Bachelor of Science in secondary education from Indiana University and holds two master's degrees from Miami University in educational leadership and sport organizations. Russo also earned a counseling license from Xavier University. Russo has been involved in Saints athletics for the last three years serving as assistant track & field coach and head men's and women's cross-country coach. He brings over 30 years of coaching experience at the high school and collegiate level during which time he has produced four Division I state titles at Colerain, 22 All-State athletes, and helped produce the first ever women's cross country team member (Annabel Clayton) to reach nationals at Thomas More.



Russo

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to lead a group of committed student-athletes to meet their full potential and get the most out of their athletic experience while at Thomas More," says Russo. "The mission of the program is to allow student athletes to grow academically, spiritually, and athletically so that they are able to meet the demands of the world of work upon graduation. Being a committed collegiate athlete allows the individual to learn how to balance academics, athletics, and their social lives in a very meaningful way." **MOREOVER**



Annabel Clayton (right) and team mates prepare to compete in track & field.

## CELEBRATING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Congratulations to the 309 student-athletes in 2021 who carried a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher for the academic year. In the spring semester 332 student-athletes made the honor roll with a 3.0 or higher GPA and 183 made the dean's list with a 3.5 GPA or higher. All together the teams carry a 3.13 cumulative GPA. Women's cross country led the way with the highest overall team GPA of 3.72 and for men's sports, the cross country team led the way with a 3.34 GPA for the spring semester.



# The Board of Trustees, President Chillo, and the Thomas More community welcome Bishop John C. Iffert as the new Chancellor of the University.



The Diocese of Covington celebrated the ordination and installation of Most Reverend John C. Iffert as the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Covington on Sept. 30, 2021, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. Those in attendance included bishops, clergy, religious, and lay faithful with Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, of Louisville, as the principal consecrator. Bishop Roger Foys, 10th Bishop of Covington and Bishop Michael McGovern of Belleville served as co-consecrators. Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio (the pope's representative) to the United States, was present to witness the ordination and installation.

Bishop Iffert is a native of DuQuoin, Illinois, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 7, 1997. He served as a parish priest and was on several diocesan posts and councils for the Diocese of Belleville, including vicar forane of first the east and then the north central vicariate; co-vicar for priests; the college of consultors, the Presbyteral council, the priest personnel board, the diocesan finance council, the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal board, and the board of directors of Camp Ondessonk. Iffert was serving as the vicar general and moderator of the curia of the Diocese of Belleville when he was appointed bishop of Covington on July 13, 2021. At his ordination, he prayed that, "Together we will implore God's mercy on this local Church and pray that I may be sealed and transformed — consecrated — to become a shepherd after the heart and pattern of Jesus the Good Shepherd and his devoted Apostles."

Welcome Bishop Iffert!

## Thank you Bishop Roger J. Foys, D.D., for your unwavering leadership.

The Thomas More Community expresses gratitude to Bishop Roger J. Foys, D.D., for his commitment and service as chancellor of the University for the last 19 years, and for his support of students to engage the power of the liberal arts within the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. His tireless dedication to Catholic education in the Diocese of Covington will be remembered, as will his annual encouragement to the graduates of Thomas More University to Make It More.







# Minute Spiritual Break...

Provided by Thomas More  
University Campus Ministry

SHARED FROM "REFLECTIONS FROM THE SCHOOL FOR THE LORD'S SERVICE"  
WRITTEN BY SR. KIMBERLY PORTER, OSB. ORIGINAL POSTING JULY 14, 2021

## A SEAT OF SOLACE

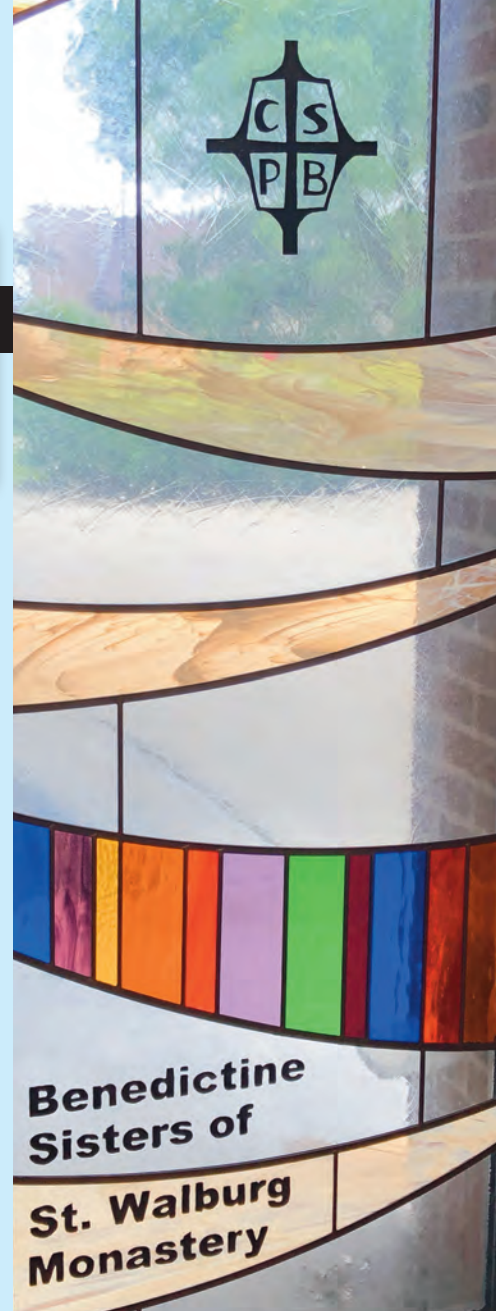
Recently the old rocking chair in my room with a wayward spring was replaced by a new rocker. As I looked at different styles I thought about the wooden rocker at my parents' house, the glider in the community room, even the rocking chairs while waiting to get into Cracker Barrel. I thought about replacing the old rocker with a different type of chair but came back again and again to the wooden legs and rhythm of rocking back and forth.

Rocking chairs have long been a refuge in my life through different homes and circumstances. The soothing rhythm slows my breathing and grounds me. Rocking chairs remind me of conversations in the living rooms of friends or talking on porches into the twilight hours. Rockers provided seats of healing following surgery or recovery from illness.

Since I've been working from home due to the pandemic I often pray in the morning from my rocker, a hot cup of coffee close at hand. It is where I bring to God my gratitude, my searching, and all which plays and sometimes weighs heavy upon my heart. My prayer recently is messy and often bears petitions and questions which are not quickly resolved. Even in the mess, I rock and I'm soothed, my trust reinforced that God is there listening and at work in ways I cannot yet imagine.

We each need a space to go where we can find solace and grounding. That space often comes to represent something much bigger and broader than the physical space in which we dwell. It is where we meet God, ourselves and come to attempt to make sense of the wild, wonderful and often perplexing world in which we live. It is also a space where we connect with others through laughter, stories, and musings that weave into the conversation of friends. I am grateful for the many rocking chairs through the years which have provided solace and connection to others. I encourage you take a moment to visit or appreciate the seats of solace you find in your life which bring you grounding and connection. Blessings!

Thank you to the Benedictine Sisters for giving Moreover permission to share their prayerful blogposts.



## Know a Prospective Student?

*Tell us about a prospective student:*

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

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

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

When do they plan to attend college? ☐ Spring 2022 ☐ Fall 2022 ☐ Spring 2023 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_ Student H.S. Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Are they a transfer student? ☐ Yes ☐ No Previous College or University \_\_\_\_\_

Interests/Desired Major \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by (name) \_\_\_\_\_ Thomas More grad year or affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please return in the business reply envelope included in the center of this issue or submit online at [tmuky.us/newstudent](https://tmuky.us/newstudent). Thank you!





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A Global Giving Movement

Make a difference on November 30, 2021.

**THOMASMORE.EDU/GIVING**

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