

SPRING 2022

MOREOVER

Thomas More University



CHAMPIONS



PUT ON YOUR GAMEFACE!

NEW SPACES

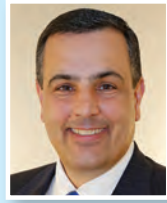
Excitement is in the air as the ceremonial groundbreaking for a new academic building, which adds 34,000 square feet of space, took place in April on the heels of a major partnership announced in March between the University and the Florence Y'all's Baseball Club.





THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

Make It **More.**



Spring has ushered in monumental progress at Thomas More University as we move forward in accomplishing goals set forth in the Strategic Plan: Lighting the Way, and its driving force, the Second Century Campaign: It's Time for More, the most robust capital campaign in University history. The Second Century campaign hit major milestones, raising almost \$21 million for a new academic center, endowed scholarships, renovations to facilities, and other strategic priorities, placing the initiative close to 18 months ahead of schedule for its fundraising objective of \$30 million.

Throughout this magazine, you will notice a theme of expansion, as the University broadens its reach to ensure our future as the region's premier Catholic university. We have acquired new property, a new building is in the design phase, and offices are being strategically relocated to best serve our students, giving them the spaces they need to thrive. Enhancements have been made to our athletic programs as we move forward with an application to NCAA Division II, take home championship titles, and begin a promising partnership that extends the University's brand while giving our student athletes access to state-of-the-art facilities. Development is also underway in academics as faculty searches are conducted and a core curriculum redesign is being developed to create the future of student learning at Thomas More with hopes to see a compact, cross-disciplinary, mission and diversity fused core in place by the start of the 2024-25 academic year.

With Spring semester, we saw traditional enrollment continue to perform well, with 1,110 full-time traditional students and overall enrollment exceeding 1,850 students. Fall to spring persistence improved, as well as retention for the traditional cohort. On-campus residence has increased by 31 students compared to Spring of 2021, with the persistence rate for housing also improving.

I am also pleased to share that our athletic teams have had outstanding success during this year. The women's basketball team brought home the NAIA National Championship in March, after both men's and women's teams earned a berth in the Fab Four. Men's rugby brought home the NCRA Division II National Championship in December, the dance team earned a top ten ranking in the NAIA Competitive Dance National Championship in March, and representatives from wrestling and men's indoor track & field also competed at NAIA Nationals.

Our commitment to student success and our University remains at the center of all we do. Investment in our students, as always, remains our top priority. Most importantly, we prioritize retention and persistence to graduation, ensuring that all benefit from the transformative, mission-driven experience we provide at Thomas More. As we continue our work to support students by preparing them as educated citizens who can examine the ultimate meaning of life, their place in the world, and their responsibility to others, we thank all of you, alumni and friends, for the support you give to our mission.

Go Saints!

President Joseph L. Chillo, LP.D.



THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chancellor - Most Reverend John C. Iffert
Chairperson - Judith A. Marlowe '69, Ph.D.
Chair-elect - Jeffrey C. Mando '80, J.D.
President - Joseph L. Chillo, LP.D.
Gary Blank, MBA, BSN, RN
Michael Dempsey
Thomas J. Depenbrock '78
Shannon Galbraith-Kent '98, Ph.D.
Catherine "Casey" Guilfoyle '81, J.D.
Dale Henson
Sr. Leslie Keener, CDP
Laura A. Koehl '80, Ed.D.
Thomas Lueke
Jacob Perkins '23
Joan M. Robinson '69
Dr. Donald Saelinger '68
Andrew "A.J." Schaeffer '96, J.D.
Daniel E. Tobergte, J.D., CEC
Monsignor Gerald Twaddell, D.Phil.
Wilbert L. Ziegler '53, J.D.

SENIOR OFFICERS

Joseph L. Chillo, LP.D.
President
Molly E. Smith, Ph.D.
Provost
Angela C. Crawford, Ph.D.
Vice President for Digital, Graduate
& Professional Programs
Kelly M. French '02
Vice President for Strategy and Impact
Chief of Staff
Mark Goshorn '20
Vice President for Finance and CFO
Kevin P. Reynolds, Ed.D.
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Terry D. Connor '92
Athletic Director

Editor: Judy Crist

Designer: Judy Crist

Contributing Writers: Flynn Ashley, Bailey Bundy, Judy Crist, Lyna Kelley, Macara Vonderahe

Guest Writers: Sr. Patricia Kenney, Michael Widdis

Photography: Bruce Crippen, Judy Crist, Derek Drago, Ben Petracco, Macara Vonderahe

Moreover is published by the Office for Institutional Advancement for alumni and friends of Thomas More University in print two times per year and is available online at more.thomasmore.edu. Moreover is created to connect alumni and friends of Thomas More University to the events, programs, and activities taking place within the University community. The opinions expressed in Moreover are not necessarily those of Thomas More University. Moreover makes every attempt to reflect the views of the entire campus community in a balanced and objective manner. Any comments or responses to articles, as well as story ideas, are welcome.

SEND COMMENTS, STORY IDEAS, OR LETTERS TO:

Moreover - Thomas More University

333 Thomas More Parkway

Crestview Hills, KY 41017-3495

Phone: 859.344.3309

Email: moreover@thomasmore.edu

MOREOVER

SPRING 2022



FEATURES

3 Moving Forward

As the University moves into its second century, there has been impressive support for the new Strategic Plan - Lighting the Way and the capital campaign It's Time for More. Enjoy this coverage of some key gifts to date.

19 Kudos to Outstanding Alumni

Announcing the winners of the biennial Alumni Association Awards, which gives a nod to those who have made significant contributions in their communities and professional fields.

30 NAIA National Champions!

The women's basketball team brought home the Championship and the men's team reached the Fab Four as both teams posted outstanding seasons.

35 Saints' Special Relationship with Special Olympics

In an example of fulfilling the University's mission, Saints athletic teams have a relationship that spans more than a decade with Special Olympics Kentucky.

SECTIONS

8 Campus/Student News

11 Giving Back

14 Faculty/Staff Notes

18 Alumni News

24 Class Notes

30 Saints Sidelines



ON THE COVER

The women's basketball team brings home more hardware - this time the 2022 NAIA Championship trophy. Go Saints!





The Second Century - Moving Forward

Thomas More University has seen astounding progress as the Second Century Campaign: It's Time for More hit the \$20 million mark in December 2021 toward its goal of raising \$30 million to support student success, academic innovation, and responsible stewardship.

SUBMITTED BY LYNNA KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR

Alumni and community members stepped up in a big way to support this comprehensive capital campaign which funds the initiatives set forth in the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan - Lighting the Way. Success of the campaign ensures the University will reach its goal to expand its footprint and continue to impact the region as the premier Catholic university. "The support we are seeing for our Second Century Campaign is nothing short of extraordinary," says President Joe Chillo. "Alumni and friends want to pay it forward and see future students benefit from a high-quality, Catholic liberal arts education. They know with certainty that current and future graduates of Thomas More will emerge as civic leaders and responsible stewards, well-equipped to affect positive change in the community. Surpassing the halfway mark of a five-year capital campaign goal, just a few months after its launch, testifies to the faith that our

Top: One priority for the Strategic Plan is to convert the Saints Center back into a true student center. Right: Improving student spaces promotes success both inside and outside of the classroom.



SECOND CENTURY CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



*Left: Announcement of the naming of Republic Bank Field with representatives of the Bank in attendance at a Saints football game.
Below: Rendering of the new academic building which had a ceremonial groundbreaking on April 23, 2022.*



*Left: President Chillo presents a Saints Salute for VonLehman CPA and Advisory Firm to President Adam Davey '92.
Below Left: A National Championship for the Saints.
Below: Ellen '70 and Will Ziegler '53 established the first endowed chair at the University.*



community has in the ability of Thomas More to provide students with an innovative and transformative educational experience.”

The public phase of the campaign was launched in fall of 2021, as a part of the Centennial Celebration of the University, and set benchmarks that position the effort as the most ambitious fundraising campaign in the University's history. This campaign supports goals with a focus on accelerating campus investments, solidifying new financial partnerships, and initiating innovative academic opportunities.

VALUED COMMUNITY PARTNERS

On Oct. 16, 2021, during the Saints Homecoming football game, it was announced that the turf athletic field adjacent to Griffin Plaza would be named Republic Bank Field, in recognition of an investment from Republic Bank & Trust Company and the Republic Bank Foundation in support of the Second Century Campaign. “We are grateful for our partnership with Republic Bank and for the generosity of the Republic Bank Foundation. Their generous investment in our students is emblematic of the bank’s strong commitment to leadership, service, and education in the Greater Cincinnati region,” says President Chillo. Republic Bank Field is home to several of the University’s 29 intercollegiate athletic programs including football, men’s and women’s soccer, men’s and women’s lacrosse, men’s and women’s track & field, and rugby.

Republic Bank has been the official bank of Thomas More University since 2016. The bank also sponsors the University’s Institute for Career Development and Graduate School Planning, a signature program within the Thomas More Success Center. “As we have launched the most ambitious fundraising campaign in University history, it is an incredible feeling to know that we have such strong philanthropic support from one of our most trusted partners in Republic Bank,” says Vice President for Institutional Advancement Kevin Reynolds, Ed.D.

Thomas More University also recognized VonLehman CPA and Advisory Firm, one of the largest private CPA and advisory firms in the region, by extending a Saints Salute in January 2022 to honor their incredible work in the community and years of association with the University. The Saints Salute is a community outreach award honoring partner organizations making a difference through continued support of the University and the region. “VonLehman is indebted to the local community that has supported us for over 75 years,” says VonLehman President Adam Davey ’97, CPA. “We are fortunate to have tremendous partners, like Thomas More University, who are true stewards of the community and who make Northern Kentucky such a special place to live and grow.”

GIFTS RESULT IN NAMING POSTS AND CREATING NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to the more than 100 endowed scholarships at Thomas More, a gift to the University established The Wilbert L. and Ellen Hackman Ziegler Chair of the Philosophy Department, the first endowed chair in University history.

The donation was made by the Zieglers in appreciation for the transformative educational experience they received during their years as students and ensures that future students have the same life-changing opportunities. Ellen Hackman Ziegler ’70 majored in English and went on to serve the community as a clinical psychologist. Wilbert Ziegler ’53, J.D., was a first-generation college student when he started at VMC at just 15 years old, majoring in philosophy and history/political science. He went on to become a prominent lawyer in the region and is a founding member of Ziegler & Schneider, P.S.C. Giving back to the philosophy department is a way to celebrate the faculty that made a lasting impact in both their lives. While the Zieglers recognize that “there are many challenges for Catholic education,” Will praised the University for how it “has maintained its mission as it has grown and matured.”

The endowed chair brings innovation through supporting excellence in the philosophy department, securing the highest quality faculty. “The Wilbert L. and Ellen Hackman Ziegler Chair helps us to realize our Strategic Plan by ensuring that our students continue to engage in philosophy as a foundation for their liberal arts education and that every student has the opportunity to

explore the ultimate meaning of life and their responsibility toward others,” says President Chillo. “This is just one example of how contributions to the Second Century Campaign are already making a major impact for our students.”

The endowed chair was made possible through a leadership contribution by the Zieglers during the silent phase of the Second Century capital campaign. Through previous endowments, the Ziegler family created three scholarship funds to support Thomas More students: the Wilbert L. and Ellen Hackman Ziegler Scholarship Fund is a newly created opportunity for pre-law students; the Wilbert L. and Anna M. Ziegler Scholarship Fund (in memory of both

Will’s parents) has helped make a Thomas More education affordable for over 100 students in the decades since its creation; and the Wilbert & Helen Ziegler Scholarship Fund, created with Will’s late wife, is a partnership with the College of Law at the University of Cincinnati and encourages Thomas More graduates to continue the study of law at the next level.

Judith A. Marlowe ’69, Ph.D., chairperson of the Board of Trustees, established two endowed scholarships to support Thomas More students: The Judith Marlowe Leadership & Service Award, and Evelyn’s Opportunity Scholarship, in honor of her mother. She is an accomplished audiologist and president of Newborn Hearing Programs & Communications. Her research in audiology focuses on screening all newborns as a model for social change in hearing health care. Among her many notable accomplishments is creating the first newborn hearing screening program in the world, to routinely test every baby for potential hearing issues.

Sr. M. Irmina Saelinger, OSB, Ph.D., was the long-time registrar for Villa Madonna and Thomas More College (1928-1967). She was instrumental in the continued education of students, many

“The support we are seeing for the Second Century Campaign is nothing short of extraordinary. Alumni and friends want to pay it forward and see future students benefit from a high-quality, Catholic liberal arts education.”

President Joe Chillo

“This partnership with Thomas More delivers a significant tool to empower our students to take the life-changing step of higher education. We are thrilled that Thomas More ... has invested wholeheartedly in the success of our young innovators.”

Keith Schneider, Square1 President

SECOND CENTURY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

of whom deemed her their “guardian angel.” She also wrote “Retrospect and Vista, The First Fifty Years of Thomas More College formerly Villa Madonna College,” which chronicles the University’s first 50 years of history. Sr. Irmina’s family has been very generous to the University, establishing the William H. and Marcella C. Saelinger Presidential Scholarship which has benefited 65 students to date. A recent gift from the family of Sr. Irmina, will result in the renaming of the registrar’s office in her honor. An honor truly deserved by this extraordinary lady.

ENCOURAGING INNOVATION

Another leadership gift aspires to establish the Dr. Anthony ’65 & Geraldine ’66 Zembrodt Center for Leadership, Entrepreneurship, & Innovation. When finalized, the Center will provide incubator space for students, faculty, and staff to explore and test ideas before advancing them as initiatives. Staff and faculty at the Center will assist students as they advance these new business ideas from concept to implementation. Teaming up with local nonprofit Square1 for the Center’s first partnership, Thomas More plans to provide scholarships to trailblazing entrepreneurial students in the region, including a first-place, full-tuition scholarship, a second-place \$25,000 scholarship, and a third-place \$22,000 scholarship.

“These scholarships and our partnership with Square1 will help young, and now proven, student entrepreneurs matriculate into Thomas More University, getting them involved with the Center for Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation,” says President Chillo. “The University is quickly becoming the innovation destination for young entrepreneurs looking for resources to develop their ideas in an academic environment.”

“This partnership with Thomas More delivers a significant tool to empower our students to take the life-changing step of higher education,” says Keith Schneider, Square1 President. “We are thrilled that Thomas More not only believes in our cause but has invested wholeheartedly in the success of our young innovators.”

EXPANDING THE GEOGRAPHICAL FOOTPRINT

The University is expanding its geographical footprint just as ground is broken for the new academic center. This 34,000-square foot building will house advanced technology and improved classroom environments, a 375-seat auditorium, a technology and prototype lab, the Dr. Anthony ’65 & Geraldine ’66 Zembrodt Center for Leadership, Entrepreneurship & Innovation, the Center for Faith, Mission, and Catholic Education, and the College of Business. Construction is scheduled to start this summer.

The University also acquired 207 and 209 Thomas More Parkway, the former DBL Law buildings, across the street from the main campus. The buildings have been renamed Covington Hall (207) and Centennial Hall (209). Various offices are in the process of relocating to these buildings. The movement of departments out of the Saints Center will allow that building to revert back to

a student center, its original purpose, with enhanced spaces for activities. A task force is in place to research how best to renovate the space to benefit student groups. Renovations are expected to begin as early as summer 2022.

ATHLETIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thomas More athletics moved forward in February 2022 with an official application to join NCAA Division II. It has been a year of victories for the athletics program as 330 student-athletes were named to the Athletic Directors Honor Roll for their GPA achievements in fall 2021; the women’s and men’s basketball teams were ranked nationally in the top 5 in the NAIA Top-25 Coaches Poll simultaneously for the first time in Saints’ history, with the women closing out their season as the NAIA National Champions; the men’s rugby team brought home the NRCA Division II National Championship title in December 2021; wrestling sent five team members to Nationals; indoor track & field also sent a representative to Nationals; and the dance team, established in 2016, secured a top-ten finish in the NAIA Competitive Dance National Championship.

Plans for the Second Century Campaign include funding for enhanced athletic facilities for many of the Saints’ 29 sports teams. A unique opportunity presented itself in late 2021, which prompted an announcement in early March that the University and the Florence Y’alls Baseball Club would enter a partnership resulting in renaming the home of the Florence Y’alls to “Thomas More Stadium.” As part of the agreement, the stadium also becomes home to the Thomas More Saints baseball team starting in spring 2023. “We are pleased to welcome Thomas More into our sports family,” says Y’alls President David DelBello. “... The agreement partners the Y’alls with a first-class institution and represents a great opportunity for the Saints’ student-athletes to play at our top-notch facility.” Athletic Director Terry Connor adds, “When the opportunity to partner with the Florence Y’alls presented itself, we could not pass it up. To give the baseball team the chance to play in a professional stadium is a great opportunity for our student-athletes and coaches.”

In addition to being home to the baseball team, internships for students will be open within the Florence Y’alls Baseball Club, plus alumni events will be hosted at the facility as early as this summer. This five-year partnership promises to be extremely beneficial for both parties involved. “The student-athlete experience is a big part of Thomas More University,” says President Chillo. “The experience that we create for our student-athletes is intentional and designed for success in the classroom and on the field of competition.”

The abundance of significant gifts and opportunities demonstrates just how blessed Thomas More is with an outstanding network of alumni, friends, and partners that want to see the University succeed. We are thankful that so many are willing to invest in making the higher educational experience for Thomas More students an opportunity to Make It More.

MOREOVER



Left: President Chillo, Florence Mayor Diane Whalen, Yalls Baseball Club President David DelBello, and others announce the naming of Thomas More Stadium.
Below: Interior rendering of the new academic building.



Left/Lower Left: The student experience is at the center of the Strategic Plan and Second Century Campaign.
Below: Moving various departments to Centennial and Covington Halls facilitates vacating space on the main campus for academic and co-curricular student initiatives.





Winners of the interview contest (from left) Zoie Barth, Victoria Raque, and Autumn Frank with contest sponsor Rich Lindhorst '75.

1. THE ART OF THE INTERVIEW

The Republic Bank Foundation Institute for Career Development and Graduate School Planning held the annual Mock Interview Competition in October 2021. This event provided students with an opportunity to gain valuable experience and skills for professional interviewing. The competition is sponsored by alum Rich Lindhorst '75, who awards financial compensation for the top three participants in this juried competition. Sixty-three students applied to participate with 26 students accepted. Twenty-three competed in round one and based on those interviews nine students were selected to compete in round two. Those selected included: Noah Pflum, Victoria Raque, Katelyn Weldon, Troy Messerschmitt, Abby Hightchew, Kennedy Yurt, Autumn Frank, Zoie Barth, and Michael Logan. The top three students took home the cash prizes:

- 1st Place – Victoria Raque: Senior Accountancy Major
 - 2nd Place – Autumn Frank: Junior Communication Major
 - 3rd Place – Zoie Barth: Junior Biology Major
- Congratulations to all the students who participated!

2. INTO THE URBAN FABRIC II: THE CITY AS SPECTACLE

Students in the Urban Studies class with Professor J.T. Spence, Ph.D., AICP, explored the city as an urban cultural spectacle with a “Flaneur’s” walk along the Ohio River. Following a reading of Deborah Stevenson’s “City as Spectacle,” students interacted with the dynamic environment of the urban riverfront, which over the past 75 years has been transformed and enlivened by the impact of multiple cultural and commercial developments, and has become a regional magnet for tourism, the arts, and entertainment. In addition to seeing the spectacular changes that have taken place on both sides of the river and how the three cities of Cincinnati, Covington, and Newport have rediscovered their connection with the Ohio River, students were also able to consider questions of what constitutes public and private space and how that speaks to issues of equity in society.



Students from Dr. Spence's Urban Studies class field trip explore the Ohio riverfront and interact with “the city as spectacle.”

3. 30TH ANNUAL CADEN BLINCOE “INSIDE” OUTLOUD FESTIVAL

There was a new twist on this inspiring literary festival this year as the Outloud Festival was held virtually on Feb. 20. Thomas More writers shared their original literature and offered “inside” reflections about the transformative power of reading and writing in the region. Talented student writers who participated in this historical literary occasion included Margaret Dredger, Sammie Kleier, Alyssa Dowdell, Annabel Clayton, Risa Guarasci, and Anissa Bradley. Thank you to Thomas More’s own Creative Writing Vision Director Sherry Cook Stanforth, Ph.D., for continuing this tradition of storytelling that was founded by the late Caden Blincoe, a devoted Boone County, Kentucky Enquirer reporter and literacy advocate. To read the press release, visit tmuky.us/22outloudrelease. To watch the 2022 Festival, visit tmuky.us/22outloud.



4. EMERGING ARTIST 2022 PLUS TWO THOMAS MORE ARTISTS RECEIVE OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

Art and criminal justice major Kennedy Yurt had artwork juried into the prestigious 2022 Summerfair Emerging Artist Exhibition held at the Clifton Cultural Arts Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Kennedy's work was exhibited alongside other local college and university student artwork. In a separate contest, Kennedy and Elizabeth Butler were chosen by the Three Arts Scholarship Fund, Inc. to receive awards. The organization grants scholarships to female undergraduate juniors/seniors and master's degree candidates majoring in the performing and visual arts at accredited colleges and universities within a 75-mile radius of Cincinnati, Ohio. Elizabeth is a 2021 Summerfair Emerging Artist, having pieces juried into the exhibition in spring 2021.

5. PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH

Professor Caitlin Powell, Ph.D., reports that four psychology students (two current, two recent graduates) were accepted to large psychology research conferences in 2022. John Butler '21 co-presented with Powell at the annual meeting for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in February. Their research was about burnout and moral distress among physicians during COVID-19.

In addition, three students presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association: Hannah Abshire '21 and Kevin Pollard '22 (sponsored by Powell) presented their research on internet cancel culture, and Garrett Vallandingham '22 (sponsored by Whitney Pugh, Ph.D.) presented research on the impact of sleep deprivation on zebrafish. Additional students were taken to the annual Mid-American Undergraduate Research Conference in Earlham College in April. Congratulations to these outstanding student researchers.

6. THOMAS MORE REPRESENTS AT THE OHIO VALLEY MODEL ARAB LEAGUE

Professor J.T. Spence, Ph.D., AICP, reports that four students representing the political science, international studies, law, and history programs attended the Ohio Valley Model Arab League held at Shawnee State University in February. This is the ninth time in the past 12 years that Thomas More sent students to participate in this event, which is similar to a United Nations for students. The students who participated include (from left): Houston Watson - political science/history major and president of the Political Science Club, Eva Niyokwizera - law major, Sophia Hermosilla - international studies major, and Jake Perkins - political science major and president of the Student Government Association.

Three political science students, graduating seniors Logan Fedders and Tiffany Snider, and sophomore Houston Watson, also had presentation proposals accepted for the 2022 Kentucky Political Science Association Annual Conference held in March at the University of Kentucky.

Visit tmuky.us/2022campusnews for additional news.



Students who participated in the Ohio Valley Model Arab League (from left): Houston Watson, Eva Niyokwizera, Sophia Hermosilla, and Jake Perkins.

WORDS RECOGNITION

Congratulations to the following talented students, whose art and writing was juried by professionals and awarded the following recognition at the Words Celebration in April 2022:

Sandra L. Cuni Award

"The Weatherman" by Alyssa Dowdell (prose)

Appalachia Award in Poetry

"Things You Cannot Unsee" by Alyssa Dowdell

Appalachia Award in Prose

"A Girl's First Execution" by Hannah Langdon

RUCA Award

"There's No Need for Notes" by Logan Rauhen (prose)

"Floating Rocks" by Skylee Roland (poem)

Honorable Mentions

"Check Marks" by Erin Preston (prose)

"How I Learned That Country Songs Are All About Saying Goodbye" by Alyssa Dowdell (poem)

The Art Department Choice Award

"Lady Macbeth" by Elizabeth Butler (digital art)

Cover Art Selection

"I'm not crying" by Kennedy Yurt (acrylic and oil paint)

Cover Design

Juliette Duke

To receive a copy of the 2022 Words literary magazine, please call **859-344-3344** or email moreover@thomasmore.edu.



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

ADVANCING THE AMERICAN CONCEPT OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III '67 Institute for Religious Liberty (IRL) encourages thought and dialogue surrounding the constitutional privilege and right to freely worship and practice religion. During the 2021-22 academic year the IRL hosted an interfaith event in October, entitled "A Frontline Perspective from a Lifelong Jewish Activist." Keynote speaker David Harris is the CEO of the American Jewish Committee and has garnered international attention throughout his career, being dubbed by the late Israeli President Shimon Peres as the "foreign minister of the Jewish people." Harris spoke of his history as a Jewish activist, which began



David Harris speaks with guest commentators Shakila Ahmad and James Buchanan during the fall interfaith event.

early in his adult life. This personal journey was influenced by the plight of both his parents who survived the Holocaust while living in Europe during World War II. Joining Harris were guest commentators Shakila Ahmad from the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati and James P. Buchanan, Ph.D., former director of the Brueggeman Center for Dialogue at Xavier University. To watch the interfaith event from fall 2021, visit tmuky.us/22irlharris.

In 2022, the IRL hosted a lecture in February, entitled "The Problem with Religious Liberty," featuring Patrick J. Deneen, Ph.D., the David A. Potenziani Memorial Chair of Constitutional Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Deneen touched on the complex issues that religious liberty creates in the political arena. Joining Deneen were guest commentators Jeanne Schindler, Ph.D., a Research Fellow of the John Paul II Institute at the Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and our own J.T. Spence, Ph.D., AICP, professor of political science. To view a recording of the lecture and Q&A session, visit tmuky.us/22irldeneen.

As Moreover heads to press, a third IRL event is scheduled for April 7. For more information on this event and the IRL visit: thomasmore.edu/religiousliberty.



Patrick Deneen prepares for the spring lecture with commentators J.T. Spence and Jeanne Schindler.

Saints Salute Great Community Partners

SUBMITTED BY LYNA KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR

The Thomas More community is incredibly thankful for the commitment of community partners who aid in student success. To honor the commitment of these partners, the Saints Salute was established in 2017. Since that time, the University has honored St. Elizabeth Healthcare, Cincinnati Reds, Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Alpha Delta Gamma fraternity, Republic Bank, Duke Energy, Gravity Diagnostics, and VonLehman CPA and Advisory firm.

In the current academic year, Thomas More honored three partners, the first being Gravity Diagnostics. Gravity was established in 2016 and found it was in need of a pipeline that could supply high-quality talent for many areas of its business and as a result was tapped as the first work-ready incubator site for Thomas More – housing students onsite as they enhance the skills necessary to be successful in their work environment. The very first incubator student, Allison Wimmers '18, is currently chief of staff at Gravity and was one of the representatives to accept the Saints Salute. The partnership is alive and well today as Gravity continues to recruit students to fill their workforce needs, which have exploded due to the impact of the pandemic on the healthcare industry.

The second partner honored was Duke Energy. The salute was presented during halftime of the Oct. 30 Saints football game to Amy Spiller, State President of Duke Energy Ohio and Kentucky. Other representatives for Duke Energy in attendance included: Rhonda Whitaker Hurtt, Vice President of Community Relations and Economic Development for Ohio and Kentucky, Cara Brooks, Community Relations Manager for Kentucky, and Kim Vogelgesang, MK Stakeholder Engagement Manager. "For over 50 years, Duke Energy has partnered with us to advance our understanding of the natural world, train students in the STEM fields, and improve the quality of life in our region through education, environmental protection, and ecological research," says Director of the Biology Field Station and Thomas More professor Chris Lorentz, Ph.D.



Allison Wimmers '18 and additional Gravity Diagnostic representatives accept the Saints Salute from President Joe Chillo during the Oct. 30 home football game.

The third and most recent Saints Salute was presented to VonLehman CPA and Advisory Firm in honor of their incredible work in the community and years of association with the University. "We wanted to take the opportunity to honor VonLehman for their contributions and dedication to bettering the community," says President Joe Chillo. "Their continued work as the University's auditing agent and their support for our students through internship opportunities and jobs, in addition to their philanthropic support sponsoring different vital initiatives, makes them an invaluable member of the Thomas More community." VonLehman representatives in attendance to accept the award included several Thomas More alums: President Adam Davey '97, CPA, Shareholder Dave Macke '81, MBA, SHFP, FHFMA (also vice president of the Thomas More Alumni Board), CVA Manager Sarah Kubala '05, CPA, and Taylor Jolly '20.

MOREOVER

Left: President Joe Chillo (far right) presents the Saints Salute to Duke representatives Cara Brooks, Rhonda Whitaker, and Amy Spiller. Below: VonLehman President Adam Davey '97 accepts the Saints Salute from President Joe Chillo. Additional Thomas More alums who represented VonLehman include (from left) Sarah Kubala '05, Taylor Jolly '20, and Dave Macke '81 pictured next to Tom Brady, associate director of development for athletics.



responsible stewardship

MOREOVER [Spring 2022]

11

Be a Part of

Thomas More's fiscal year comes to a close on May 31 and we need your support as we enter the second century!



There are many exciting things happening at Thomas More and we are blown away by the support of our alumni and friends. As the fiscal year comes to a close, we invite you to support what you believe makes Thomas More University special as we strive to **Make It More**.

Support your **MORE**:

More University Athletics

"Thomas More's Rugby program has allowed me to continue my studies while playing the sport I love, while also improving my English and leadership skills on and off the field."

- Matias Caramuti '23



Caramuti

More Student Support

"Scholarships helped me to get on my path to success. Thomas More has offered so many amazing things. They provided me with the individual support I needed. I can't wait to see how the University grows." - Jennifer Schalk '24



Schalk

More Scholarships

"My scholarships have pushed me to work hard and stay organized to continue cheerleading and to achieve my academic goals." - Alivia Friend '24

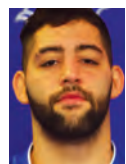


Friend

More Academic Success

"Thomas More scholarships allow me to succeed as a student and a rugby player. These made it possible to pursue my dream to graduate in sports entertainment and marketing."

- Tomas Casares '24



Casares

May 2-9, 2022



Become a Member of the Newest Giving Society: the Centennial Society

At the beginning of the Second Century Campaign, a new giving society was created to honor the 100-year anniversary celebrated by the University during academic year 2021-22. This new society is aptly named the Centennial Society and is made up of outstanding individuals who have pledged at least \$1,921 per year for the duration of the five-year campaign. All donors in this society receive special recognition in the brand new academic center. Visit tmuky.us/centennialsociety for more information and to commit to being a member of this limited-time giving society.

Events during Scholarship Week:

Endowment Luncheon | May 4 (Wednesday)

Student scholarship recipients join their benefactors to thank them for their generosity and commitment.

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 students. For more information and to sign up, visit tmuky.us/golfclassic.

To give online, visit 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.

Why I Give *with Michael Widdis '73*



Widdis's yearbook photo from his first year at Thomas More.



A childhood photo of Michael with his mother Frances.

Michael Widdis plans to honor his mother, Frances Widdis, and great aunt, May Bruggeman, using a bequest gift to set up a scholarship fund in their names.

“I have established a scholarship fund via a bequest gift at Thomas More University to honor the selfless, nurturing love and care I received from two special women of faith who played a special role in my life, despite the challenges they faced in their own lives.

“I would not have been able to attend college without their support and encouragement and the financial support provided by Thomas More. Thomas More arranged a financial package which included a job in the library which started in the summer before I began freshman classes. I continued to work in the library until I graduated.

“Thomas More became my second home, as I spent many hours working, studying, and eating quite a few meals in the cafeteria with my friends who lived in the dorms. The faculty, staff, and students felt so much like family members to me. The faculty and staff always greeted me with a warm hello, using my first name! My educational work at Thomas More provided a great foundation for my graduate studies. It prepared me to obtain a master's degree in international economics and diplomacy and later to become a licensed CPA in the state of Ohio. Further, it also prepared me to be selected for a position with the United States Treasury Department, where I spent 35 years in a career I really enjoyed.

“Although I graduated from Thomas More many years ago, the school has always occupied a special place in my heart. The education I received, the wonderful faculty and staff, and friendly students have made a significant impact on my life and memories. It offers a tremendous opportunity for students looking for a world-class education in a family-oriented and safe environment! Go Saints!”

MOREOVER



Great Aunt May holding baby Michael.

Monsignor Murphy Legacy Society

CREATE YOUR LEGACY AT THOMAS MORE

Can **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.

responsible stewardship

Three Faculty Recognized with Emeriti Distinction

SUBMITTED BY LYNNA KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR

Thomas J. Gilday '75, Patricia Raverty, and Barbara Zahler, Ph.D., were recognized in December 2021 with faculty emeriti distinction. Emeritus is an honorary title given to professors who wish to stay active in scholarship following retirement. In recognition of meritorious service, individuals who have held full-time faculty positions at the University for a set period of time may be granted emeritus status at the time of their retirement. Recommendations are made by the Faculty Relations Committee to the president and Board of Trustees.

Joining Thomas More in 1979, Gilday taught in the accountancy department and retired after 40 years of service. Gilday's Thomas More roots run deep, as his father, Vincent, taught at the University for 23 years, and he, his siblings, and children, Erin and Tom, are all Thomas More alumni.

During his tenure, Tom was passionate about preparing students with practical life skills, creating a course about financial literacy for first-year students. Gilday received institutional recognition including the Instructor of the Year Award in 1997 and the Outstanding Undergraduate Faculty Member of the College of Business Award in 2020. He was also awarded the Outstanding Student Advocacy Award in 2020 from Student Life due to his tireless dedication to experiential learning.



Gilday

Beyond professor status, Gilday also served as department chair, sat on numerous University committees, was instrumental in beginning the Jamaica Service Learning program, and shepherded the co-op/internship program. "Tom's commitment to fundraising, particularly to help make study abroad, service-learning a financial reality for low-income students, is unparalleled," says sociology and criminal justice department chairperson James Camp, Ph.D., noting that Gilday's efforts exemplified the mission of Thomas More, being "deeply and passionately committed to others."

Earning emerita status in her first year of retirement, Raverty had taught at Thomas More University since 1986. During her tenure, she launched the communication-theatre program, managing both speech and



Raverty

communication students and directing the theatre faculty. She also served as a division chair, acted as a visiting team member for many Southern Association Visiting Teams, and sat on many committees including a Student Advising Practices Committee and the Core Committee, which has had a lasting impact on the way core curriculum is evaluated. "Most important to many of us has been her steady hand and wise guidance during the last 30 years," says Thomas More University creative media department chair Rebecca Bilbo, Ph.D. "She always very much lived her belief in the Thomas More

mission."

The Thomas More Education Department nominated Zahler for emerita status, where she taught from 1998 until her



Zahler

retirement in 2020. "Dr. Zahler brought exceptional knowledge and experience to our teacher candidates and our department in the area of elementary education," says education department Chairperson Debra Allen, Ed.D. "She exemplified the compassion and professionalism required of all elementary teachers as she drew from her classroom experience, as well as her higher education background, to train our future teachers." Zahler also established relationships with the K-12 teaching community, being consistently present in the classrooms of Northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati, fostering strong relationships between Thomas More and neighboring educational communities. She represented Thomas More in the community through many external organizations including serving as president of the Kentucky Association of Teacher Educators, coordinator of Pi Delta Kappa of Northern Kentucky, member of the SACS/AdvancEd state accreditation teams, and coordinator of the Ohio Kentucky Indiana Children's Literature Conference, which brought a highly regarded annual summit to Thomas More University involving famous children's literature authors and illustrators.

[MOREOVER](#)

First Theologian-in-residence Named

SUBMITTED BY LYNNA KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR



Ketteler

In December 2021, Thomas More announced the appointment of Monsignor Ronald Ketteler, S.T.L., as theologian-in-residence. This appointment, sponsored by the Diocese of Covington, marks a natural progression of Monsignor Ketteler's role as a member of the Thomas More community. Ketteler joined the University as a faculty member in 1982 and was involved in The Monsignor H. F. Hillenmeyer Distinguished Lecture Series. During his tenure, he held positions including chair of the Department of Theology and director of Ecumenism for the Diocese of Covington. His knowledge of University history and expertise in teaching courses for pastoral ministry add impact to the Thomas More academic curriculum.

"Monsignor Ketteler has dedicated his life and work to the advancement of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition," says President Joe Chillo. "With the appointment of theologian-in-residence, we seek to honor his service to our community, and to preserve his knowledge and expertise that enable us to uphold the high-quality Catholic education offered at Thomas More University."

Ketteler received his bachelor's degree at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary and University in Mundelein, Ill., where he went on to earn several other distinctions prior to finishing his studies at Xavier University. He is a prolific writer and continues his scholarly publications, as well as contributions to the Thomas More University library. He serves as Episcopal Liaison at the Messenger and has his writing featured in the paper on a regular basis. As theologian-in-residence, Ketteler plays an important role in preserving the rich history of the University, including the way Thomas More lives its mission to challenge students of all faiths to examine the meaning of life, their place in the world, and their responsibility to others.

[MOREOVER](#)

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

College of Business



Robinson

Malcolm Robinson, Ph.D., professor in business administration and economics, was featured as the expert in a posting on 0% APR credit cards on WalletHub.com. To see Robinson's thoughts on these cards, visit tmuky.us/robinson1 and scroll to the bottom of the article. Robinson was also featured on moneygeek.com in early 2022 with advice on how to find the right 0% interest credit card and the best low-interest credit cards. To read his recommendations visit tmuky.us/robinson2 and/or tmuky.us/robinson3.

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

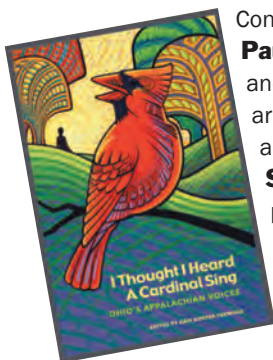


Elizabeth "Betty" Bone, associate professor of graphic design in the department of creative media, presented original work in a solo show at the Eva G. Farris Art Gallery in February 2022. The show was titled Symmetry and included a closing reception with the artist on Feb. 23.



Garriga

Maria C. Garriga, Ph.D., professor in foreign languages, was chosen to participate in Shark Tank: Improving Student Success, a session in the "Understanding the Students of 2022 and Beyond" section of The Chronicle Festival: The Ideas Shaping Higher Education hosted by The Chronicle of Higher Education, which took place in November 2021.



Congratulations to **Pauletta Hansel** and **Richard Hague**, artists-in-residence, and **Sherry Cook Stanforth, Ph.D.**, professor of English and director of Creative Writing Vision, who have poems in the

newly introduced poetry collection "I Thought I Heard a Cardinal Sing: Ohio's Appalachian Voices," edited by Ohio Poet Laureate Kari Gunter-Seymour. The book launch was held on March 16 at the Mercantile Library in Cincinnati, Ohio. This one-of-a-kind collection focuses specifically on the unique cultural experiences of poets located in, or connected to, Ohio (Central) Appalachia. Hansel was also named as the Cincinnati Public Library's 2022 writer-in-residence. For the latest in events featuring Hansel, visit tmuky.us/cpl_hansel.



Sierra



Shipp

Luis Sierra, Ph.D., assistant professor and chair of history and legal studies, and **Debby**

Shipp, Digital, Graduate, and Professional programs, spoke this spring at the Rotary Club of Covington, Kentucky about what is happening at Thomas More University in the international realm.

College of Natural and Health Sciences



Justin Farr, Ed.D., assistant professor, health sciences, and **John Ernst, Ph.D.**, adjunct professor, psychology department, and interim director of the Benedictine Library, presented their paper "Using Goal-Setting in the First Year Experience Course to Promote Student Success Through

Advising" at the National Association for Academic Advising in fall 2021. The presentation focused on the current trend in higher education of using professional advisors to improve student term-to-term persistence and assisting in on-time graduation.



Lorentz

Christopher Lorentz, Ph.D., professor, biological sciences, and a group of colleagues published a paper entitled "A Resource for Understanding and Evaluating Outcomes of Undergraduate Field Experiences" in the Journal Ecology and Evolution. To read the article, visit tmuky.us/lorentz2.

Harold J. Smith, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematics, published a research paper titled "On Isolated Gaps in Numerical Semigroups" in the Turkish Journal of Mathematics. Vol 46 (2022), pp 123-129.

Staff



Bilz

Congratulations to **Kelly Bilz**, staff member in the Benedictine Library, who developed the digital federal government repository webpage for the University. The page has been selected by the Federal Digital Support System as an "outstanding example" for other universities working to develop their own digital repository webpage and will be featured by the Federal Digital Support System.



Bowman

Kiera Bowman '22, project coordinator for the Republic Bank Foundation Institute for Career Development and Graduate School Planning, graduated in March from Thomas More University with a Master in Business Administration. Kiera started with Thomas More in August of 2019 after graduating and working for Centre College. Her bachelor's degree is in international studies. Kiera loves to witness our students' career journeys and help them in the process.

Taking Action to Encourage Diversity in STEM

SUBMITTED BY LYNA KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR

Thomas More University joined over 20 local organizations as a member of the Dr. James E. Randolph Medical, Healthcare, and Scientific Leadership Program. The goal of the program is to inspire Black students in Northern Kentucky to become professionals in medical, healthcare, and scientific settings through academic enrichment, leadership development, civic engagement, and mentoring.

The University joins a myriad of organizations, government partners, and other educational institutions in supporting students through the Randolph Initiative.

Honoring a Covington, Kentucky Trailblazer in the Medical Field

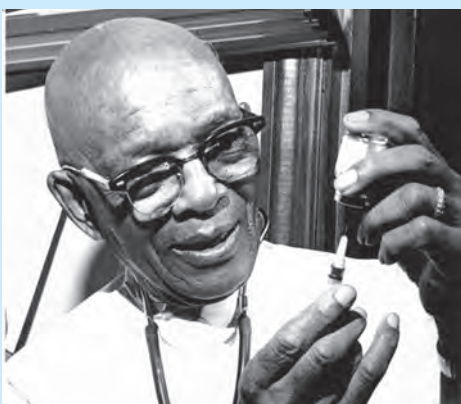


Photo courtesy of the Kenton County Library, Faces and Places Resource.

James E. Randolph, M.D. (1888-1981), for whom the initiative is named, had strong ties to the region. He moved to Covington in 1922 and opened a medical office on Greenup Street where he practiced for 59 years. He was the first Black physician on the staff of St. Elizabeth Hospital. Among notable honors, in 1974, the Eastside Neighborhood Park was renamed Randolph Park and in 1976, Dr. Randolph was awarded the La Salette Academy's Gold Medal for service to the community. In 1997, he was posthumously inducted into the Northern Kentucky Leadership Hall of Fame.

The program started with a digital launch that consisted of partners creating videos showcasing Black professionals explaining their educational and career paths. The videos are presented in local high schools with the intention of encouraging minority students to pursue a degree in the STEM fields. The role the University hopes to fill is to have interested students visit campus to experience hands-on activities in the classroom, giving them exposure to possible STEM fields to pursue as well as a taste of what to expect in college.

"Thomas More has an incredible opportunity to join hands with school districts, St. Elizabeth Healthcare, local industry partners, and Northern Kentucky University as well as Gateway Community and Technical College, in preparing the next generation of leaders in health and STEM fields, thanks to the Randolph Initiative," says Provost Molly Smith, Ph.D. "John Stanton, director of external relations at Kenton County, brought us together in an inspiring collaboration that activates a shared vision for the well-being of our communities in Northern Kentucky. Dr. Bill Wetzel (chemistry) and Dr. Jyoti Saraswat (mathematics), both passionate advocates for careers in STEM and health fields, lead this effort for Thomas More. We plan to host students on our campus this summer and to sustain this initiative through a variety of activities in coming years."

The first group of interviews have been completed and we are proud to say they include our very own Thomas More alum, Dillon Powell '20, showcased as he enters his second year as a UK medical student. To view his and other interviews, visit tmuky.us/randolph.

MOREOVER



*Dr. Bill Wetzel and
Dr. Jyoti Saraswat will
lead the effort for Thomas More.*



Newly Endowed Chair of Philosophy Delivers

The newly endowed Wilbert L. and Ellen Hackman Ziegler Chair of Philosophy brings innovation to the University through support of excellence in the philosophy department, ensuring the highest quality faculty. A faculty member earns the honor of being the department chair through their demonstrated skill as an educator and scholar, using their knowledge to mentor fellow and future faculty within the department while promoting Thomas More University's core values of student success and academic innovation.

The current endowed chair in philosophy is Reverend Monsignor Gerald E. Twaddell,

President Chillo = NewsMaker

SUBMITTED BY LYNA KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR

Thomas More University President Joseph L. Chillo, LP.D., was honored by the Northern Kentucky Tribune and Cincinnati Magazine in fall 2021 for being a highly effective leader in Northern Kentucky and the Tri-State. Both media outlets celebrated Chillo for his contributions to the community as a leader in values-based, Catholic education in the region, having ushered in numerous major accomplishments since arriving at Thomas More in 2019.

The Tribune named Chillo as one of five 2021 NewsMakers. The designation of NewsMaker is given to high-achieving community servants in recognition of the significant roles they play in the Northern Kentucky community. These five leaders are each diverse in their regional impact.

Board of Trustees Chair Judith A. Marlowe '69, Ph.D., describes Chillo's "relentless commitment to mission-driven leadership" when faced with the pandemic soon after arriving at the University. "Rather than 'hanging on' during his first two years, he has been laser-focused on 'moving on' with intentional, strategic planning and execution that has achieved ambitious goals and strengthened the impact of Thomas More as a result," says Marlowe. Thomas More celebrated its centennial in academic year 2021-2022, where Marlowe also acknowledged Chillo's impact on the future of the University, "Increased enrollment and retention are a testimony to his dedication to student success. His vision is firmly fixed on making the second century even brighter by launching the most ambitious capital campaign in our history. That's good news for the region!"

A story featuring Chillo was presented on the Tribune's website in November. "It is an honor to be recognized by the Northern Kentucky Tribune as a NewsMaker and community servant to the region," says Chillo. "My goal is to lead in service to the mission of Thomas More University and to the community. As we move into our second century, we want to see the advances of the University making a positive impact in the community. As our students venture out into the world after graduation, we want to ensure that all benefit from our continued focus on the innovative, Catholic liberal arts educational experience we provide at Thomas More." To read the Tribune news story, visit tmuky.us/21newsmaker.

For the second year in a row, Cincinnati Magazine named President Chillo one of the region's 300 most powerful business leaders. Cincinnati 300's third annual edition highlights leadership that guides public, private, and nonprofit organizations to not only persevere but excel in light of changing priorities as they sought to confront the uncertainties brought on by a global pandemic. This year's special publication recognized Chillo's accomplishments in elevating the Thomas More athletic program with acceptance to provisional membership in the Great Midwest Athletic Conference as the University prepared to submit an application to join NCAA Division II (in 2022), as well as increased student enrollment.

"I am truly honored to be recognized as a business leader in the region," says Chillo. "At Thomas More, we recently celebrated our centennial and have created an exciting and ambitious vision for the future. With the Second Century Campaign, we plan to continue to expand the University and elevate our institution as the region's premier Catholic Liberal Arts University through the development of new academic programs, academic and athletic facilities, and the continued focus on a mission-driven educational experience for our students."

President Chillo was in good company as fellow honorees for Cincinnati 300 included Thomas More alumni Garren Colvin '86, president and CEO of St. Elizabeth Healthcare, D. Lynn Meyers '77, producing artistic director at the Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati, Moira Weir '00, President and CEO of United Way of Cincinnati, and Sarah Tomes '99, CEO of LPK. MOREOVER



Inaugural Lecture

D.Phil., KCHS. Msgr. Twaddell is one of the longest serving professors at Thomas More and has held many roles as a member of the community. One of his duties as the newly endowed chair is to be part of a yearly academic lecture. Msgr. Twaddell delivered this lecture in February 2022 on the topic of "Pondering Patriotism." If you missed the lecture, there is still the opportunity to watch it on Thomas More's YouTube channel by visiting tmuky.us/ziegler2. MOREOVER

Msgr. Twaddell makes his point during a classroom lecture.





SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

Paul Tenkotte '82, Ph.D. Director of the Center for Public History at Northern Kentucky University (NKU)

SUBMITTED BY JUDY CRIST, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS | PHOTO PROVIDED

Dr. Paul Tenkotte is a Thomas More alum and former faculty member who currently works at NKU. Saints Spotlight interviewed Dr. Tenkotte because, as a side gig, he is the curator of the Our Rich History column for the Northern Kentucky Tribune and has assisted with sharing segments of "Retrospect and Vista II: Thomas More University 1971-2021" as they have become available during the centennial year. To read the series, visit tmuky.us/ourrichhistory.

Can you provide a short history behind your career path?

PK: An important turning point for me as a student was the opportunity to have internships. One of the places that I interned was at the Behringer Crawford Museum. I was trying to decide between law school or graduate school, I had received a Taft Fellowship to the University of Cincinnati and it occurred to me that if I liked working at the museum, I would probably like teaching. If I went to graduate school and didn't like it, I could get my masters and then go in a different direction. I liked graduate school and I decided to stay for the doctorate. Another turning point was Dr. Ray Hebert offered me the opportunity to teach in summer 1985. I was really very fortunate and it was fortuitous for Ray Hebert as well, as he was named the dean of Thomas More in summer of 1987. That was when there was only one dean, so the History Department desperately needed someone to teach for fall - literally it was weeks away. I had been through a faculty search and I started that fall. I ended up teaching what was a new course

called "World Civilization," I did a good job and Sr. Mary Phillip (Trauth, department chair), and Ray were pleased. I was awarded Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 1989-90. Ray and the president were interested in starting an international studies program. It was new and innovative, an exciting thing, and they turned to me and said, "Can you do this?" And I said, "I guess I can." I served for 10 years as the director of international studies, and formed, with the support of Ray as dean, our sister schools abroad. We also developed summer study abroad programs, a bachelor's and associate degree in international studies, and ESL (English as a Second Language) program that was a great deal of fun. I left in 2009 after 23 years to work at NKU.

I worked for Thomas More because I admired Ray and Sr. Phillip so much, they were my mentors. They were honest and genuine and transparent. When you've met people like Sr. Philip, or Nancy Bruns, Father Dye, Sr. Colleen, Bob Berger, your life has been enriched, and even though they've passed on, you feel like you have this torch that you have to use to light other people's candles.

Tell us about your involvement in the centennial project.

PT: I am very passionate about assisting Ray Hebert, Dave Schroeder, and Tom Ward on the centennial history of the University. I approached Ray and Dave and said, "Would you be interested in me publishing the vignettes (in the NKY Tribune), on a weekly basis? The benefits of that would be people become interested in the project before it is actually published as a book and they'll get in contact with you and say, 'We have photographs, we have a story'" and that's exactly what has happened. People are loving it and engaging in terms of other articles or memories they have. I think the really cool thing is, this is a wonderful opportunity for Ray and Dave and Tom and I to work together on a project.

To listen to the entire interview, visit tmuky.us/tenkotte.

MOREOVER

Remembering Jim Weyer (10/22/36 – 1/7/22)



On Feb. 17, 2022, the Thomas More Athletic Department dedicated the men's & women's basketball games to the memory of former basketball player and coach Jim Weyer, who passed away on Jan. 7. Weyer played basketball at Villa Madonna College from 1954-1958, receiving the Most Valuable Player Award during both his sophomore and junior years. He was hired as the assistant baseball coach upon graduation and a short two years later, took over as head coach of both the basketball and baseball teams (at the young age of 24!). He added athletic director to his repertoire and after a lengthy 21-year career, retired from Thomas More in the spring of 1978.

Weyer was inducted in the Thomas More Athletic Hall of Fame in 1987. In appreciation for all he accomplished at Villa Madonna/Thomas More, the Athletic Department invited former friends, alumni, and players to attend the Feb. 17 home basketball stand and share their wonderful memories. It was evident that Coach Weyer had positively impacted many people as this game was one of the most highly attended games all season, providing the teams and fans with tremendous energy that made you proud to be a Saint.

Weyer was represented at the game by his wife of 62 years, JoAnn, and their seven children – Jim, Jane, Joan, Janet, John, Jennifer and Joe, as well as their spouses. Weyer also has 17 grandchildren and three great grandchildren – many of whom were present at the game. Weyer was a true Saint and will be missed by all.

MOREOVER

Weyer (far right) was coach of the 1965 baseball team, the first team in the University's history to clinch a conference championship, earning them Team of Distinction at the the 2018 Athletic Hall of Fame Awards.





And the honorees are...

The Thomas More Alumni Awards honor outstanding alumni and community leaders whose talents and expertise have made a significant impact in their community. Awards include: citizenship, service, professional achievement, emerging leader, and lasting influence. This year's award celebration took place during Alumni & Family Weekend, from April 20-24, just as *Moreover* went to press. Look for additional coverage on social media and at more.thomasmore.edu.



SERVICE AWARD **Lori Eifert '15**

Lori is the McKinney Vento Homeless Coordinator for Covington Independent Public Schools. Lori's nominator had this to say about her commitment to service: "Lori goes above and beyond for our families. Even during times of great challenge in her personal life, she always finds a way to help a child or family in need. She finds a way to help when no way is apparent. Despite whatever she may be going through, she wears a smile on her face for our students, families, and the school team. It is not unusual for her to get a text or phone call late at night or on a Saturday to develop a plan for a family in crisis. Day or night, by text, phone, or email, Lori is available to our students and families. As we type this, she is out serving a family not even on her project home caseload because they need food and there is no one else available. She never says no to any family or team member who needs help. We don't feel she knows the meaning of the word 'no' when it comes to challenges a student may face. She is a relentless advocate for our students and families, which is what makes Lori so valuable to this district. When Lori sees a resource for our students, she goes above and beyond, agreeing to give of her time and effort even to the extent of coordinating a project that is outside of her job description."



EMERGING LEADER **Mary Beth Odom '19**

Mary Beth is the staff accountant at Gilligan Company and head softball coach at Beechwood High School. Mary Beth's nominator had this to say: "Mary Beth was a teammate and now friend. I am nominating her because she has grown to become a great accountant and coach. She has shown me how to be a hard worker, loyal, and a driven person. She worked so hard while she was at Thomas More and to get to where she is now. I am so proud! She worked her way up since she graduated and is now a staff accountant at Gilligan Company and working to get her CPA. She also is the head softball coach at Beechwood High School."



PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT **Joe Shriver '94**

Joe is the deputy judge executive and county administrator for Kenton County, Kentucky. Shriver's nominator included these highlights from his outstanding career: Served (at will) under four judge executives from 1999-2022; served as the chief operating officer for the third largest county in the state, overseeing all operational aspects of the county since 2010; responsible for budgets ranging from \$74M total to \$99M total; assisted in the construction of a new \$40M detention center; consolidated Animal Control Service county-wide; oversaw the implementation of funding mechanisms that fully funded dispatch services; served as Kenton County's liaison and primary contact for the construction of the new \$30M government campus in Covington; served as Kenton County's liaison and primary contact for the tri-county area's (Boone, Campbell and Kenton) conversion from analog to a new digital public safety radio system, giving unprecedented connectivity to first responders across the entire region; assisted the county jailer in establishing a world-class substance abuse program in the detention center; coordinated the purchase of the Pleasure Isle property and partnered with Transitions Inc. to substantially increase inpatient beds in the community for drug treatment; coordinated and served as lead on the broadband expansion project with Cincinnati Bell, bringing fiber to all areas of Kenton County; overseeing the conversion of occupational license tax and business taxes from paper to online filing through a new tax portal; Northern Kentucky City/County Management Association's Manager of the Year in 2021 and 2017."

ALUMNI AWARDS
CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

CITIZENSHIP

In 2022, there are two recipients of this award:



Amy Darpel '94

Amy is the director of advancement at Covington Latin School (CLS). Her nominator described her as “fostering an environment of constant community among the students, faculty, and alumni of the school. The CLS family has become much closer as a result of her efforts. She is one of the greatest people that I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. Her positive energy and tireless work ethic make her a model for all current and previous Thomas More students. Through her hard work, I have learned to be steadfast in my beliefs, constant in my service to others, and do everything with fervor.”



Christopher Sapp '95

Not only is Chris an alum, he is also the assistant bursar at Thomas More University. Chris's nominator had this to say: “Chris joined the local Chapter of the ADG National Fraternity at Thomas More in 1990. He held numerous offices culminating in Chapter President in 1994/1995. In those years Chris led numerous activities and projects linked to the five core principles of ADG: Service, Scholastic, Spiritual, School Spirit and Social. These are the Five ‘S’s.’ ADG Brothers embrace, practice and foster these areas to develop our members into well-rounded citizens. In 1994 the Chapter earned the national awards for outstanding campus service and membership growth – a recognition of both Chris and the entire chapter’s efforts. Chris continued his fraternal service with his ascendancy to the role of national president in 2010. During his time as president he focused on improving the candidate and officer development programs to ensure they continued to foster the Five ‘S’s.’ ADG also expanded our Chapter base by 20%. Chris continues to provide guidance to the Fraternity National Leadership to this day and on a local level serves as the Faculty Advisor to the Thomas More Chapter.

“The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime by instilling the values of duties to God, country, physical fitness and helping other people at all times. In this organization of 1.2 million Scouts, Chris achieved the level of Eagle Scout himself and in 2008 renewed his passion to serve by becoming a Scout Leader of 20 to 30 young men that he continues to serve today. Chris has led numerous activities such as Summer Camps, Campbell County Cash for Trash Day, numerous Flag Placement and Retirement Ceremonies, Washington, D.C., tours as well as numerous physical fitness challenges. He attained the role of Commissioner of the Northern Kentucky District (over 1,000 Scouts) and was awarded the District Award of Merit in 2017. Chris’ passion for service to community through our youth makes him an exceptional candidate for this award.”



LASTING INFLUENCE

Sr. Irmina Saelinger, OSB, Ph.D.



Sr. Irmina Saelinger is the well deserving recipient of this year's Lasting Influence award. Her nominator had this to say about Sr. Irmina's role in the Villa Madonna/Thomas More administration: “Serving as registrar from 1928-1967, Sr. Irmina was the glue that held together the student experience, navigating expertly between student needs and academic requirements. Quite a few alums referred to her as their ‘guardian angel’ as she took a personal interest in their undergrad

journey. John Hagan '67 in particular comes to mind as he stated he would not have graduated but for her intercessions with the administration.

“Sr. Irmina wore many hats and knew how to perform the duties necessary to run the college. She was also well educated, having earned a doctorate, like so many of the religious faculty at VMC. Fr. John Murphy mused in his memoirs that, in his opinion, she should have been named president in 1951 instead of him. In addition to her valuable administrative role, Sr. Irmina also chronicled the early history of the college. Her book ‘Retrospect and Vista, the First Fifty Years of Thomas More College, formerly Villa Madonna College’ is the go-to resource for any information desired about the early college days.”

AFTER 70 YEARS



Sr. Patricia Kenney

Thank you to Sister Patricia Kenney '66, SND, (Sr. Mary Michele from 1951 until 1966) for submitting this memoir of her time at Villa Madonna/Thomas More. It truly is a testament to her perseverance in working to earn her bachelor's degree!

- Judy Crist, Executive Director of Communications

I entered the Sisters of Notre Dame Feb. 2, 1951, and began at VMC, half of a semester. (I took) apologetes from Fr. Ryan, assistant at the Cathedral. He was out of class more than in due to funerals at the Cathedral. We read the book, presented our assignments – talks the immature Latin school boys made up as they spoke in front of the class. I had a philosophy professor present the math. We got as far as 3rd grade, which I knew already.

As I continued for 14 years, Saturdays and summers, my last course to complete was PE, a state requirement. It was a correspondence course designing swimming pools and coaching teams by mail. As I paraded down Madison Avenue, my brother-in-law videoed me in cap and gown – a real victory of perseverance.

Our classrooms had been scattered around Covington. PE at La Salette, the library, a corner store (that) had been a saloon. I remember the day a man came in expecting it to be a saloon. Never a dull moment. Vines grew in and out the windows, a nature lover's paradise.

It had started out a teachers college to form teachers by the three communities: Benedictines, CDPs, and Notre Dame sisters. But this year boys were accepted, men from the service. A great atmosphere, well balanced discussions with the male and female perspectives – very enriching. I got help from Sr. M. Albert in history, Sr. M. Casimira in chemistry, Sr. M. Julitta in biology. It was great. Having stretched out over 14 years, I kept up with the growing trends, took the practical subjects on Saturdays and took them in my classes as I went along. I took the more difficult classes in summers when I had more time to study. A well versified background. (I have) fond memories of Sr. Margaret Agnes in literature, Fr. Garvey in morality, Sr. Irmina in reading. (I went to) OLC (Our Lady of Cincinnati) for some courses when I taught in Ohio.

MOREOVER



SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

David Laake '05
Site Director, Be Concerned -
The People's Pantry

SUBMITTED BY JUDY CRIST, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS | PHOTO PROVIDED

Saints Spotlight caught up with David Laake, who serves as the site director at Be Concerned - The People's Pantry in Erlanger, Ky., formerly United Ministries. David spoke about his journey since graduating in 2005 to working in the nonprofit industry.

Did Thomas More impact your decision to work for a non-profit?

DL: Absolutely. I think that the relationships I had within the sociology and criminal justice department with professors, as well as the service learning trips I went on, helped me shape and solidify my desire to give back. I realized quickly from being exposed to all kinds of different walks of life that my norm was not even close to what other people experience. It took me a while to relate the sociological theories to what was going on in the world, and I feel that doing nonprofit work helps me make sense of it all. The best teacher is to go out and do the work and see those theories in front of your face in terms of the disparity, inequality, and things of that nature.

Tell us about the international service learning trips.

DL: I went to Mexico twice - the border studies program - and I went on the Jamaica trip twice. They're life-changing trips. The first one I went on was the border studies program with Dr. Camp. I'd never seen anything like it, the border is such an interesting place. El Paso - very, very nice city, very clean. And then we would go stand on the border and it was just utterly incredible to see there were whole neighborhoods made up of pallets and tarps, and the

police were walking around with assault rifles. It was heartbreaking because you quickly realize that not every country is equal in terms of things that we take for granted.

How did you get to where you are now in your career?

My career has been in two different arenas: sales and nonprofits. I dabbled in sales because nonprofit does not give you the largest paycheck in the world, but it does provide you with peace of mind. It is important to me to be able to lay my head on the pillow at night and know that what I've done in the world is good and helps people. The big turning point for me (to leave sales) was when my father became ill. I always viewed my father as somebody who had things figured out; he always seemed content with who he was and what he was about.

When he passed, I was a freight broker and I knew I was unhappy. I took eight-to-nine months off work to regain purpose and direction. I relocated to St. Petersburg, Fla., where I landed a fantastic opportunity to supervise the homeless program. This exposed me to a whole different side of the nonprofit industry. It was mental health assistance, as well as working with folks experiencing homelessness: single people, families, people with severe disabilities. I worked with law enforcement and was able to see some of these new tactics they are trying, using social work in lieu of law enforcement to work with communities and keep people out of the system. I had primarily moved to Florida for the beach and the atmosphere. The pandemic changed that, it shut down everything. An old colleague from Northern Kentucky called me who was the executive director of Be Concerned and asked me if I had any interest in being one of the directors. I thought about the impact I could make back up in Northern Kentucky and I decided to go for it.

To listen to the complete interview, visit tmuky.us/laake.

MOREOVER

Join the Fun!

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

MAY

SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC

Monday | May 9, 2022

Summit Hills Country Club

For additional information, visit tmuky.us/golfclassic or call **859.344.3344**

JULY

ALL SAINTS CLUB ATHLETIC GOLF OUTING

sponsored by  **St. Elizabeth**
HEALTHCARE

Friday | July 29, 2022 | 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

AJ Jolly Golf Course

For sponsorship opportunities or to reserve a spot contact Tom Brady at bradyt@thomasmore.edu or **859-344-3642**

OCTOBER

BISHOP WILLIAM A. HUGHES AWARDS DINNER

Thursday | Oct. 6, 2022

Additional details TBA

HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Oct. 14-15, 2022 | Save the dates

Thomas More University

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Call for Nominations! Do you know someone who deserves to be in the Thomas More Athletic Hall of Fame? Submit your nomination by visiting tmuky.us/22ahof or call **859-344-3344**.

2022 CITY OF CRESTVIEW HILLS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES COMES TO THOMAS MORE



Thomas More is excited to host the City of Crestview Hills Summer Concert Series. The three touring bands featured are

Epic Eagles w/ RUCCA Band (June 17)

E5C4P3 w/ Dog House (July 15)

Southern Accents w/ Buzz Bin (August 5)

Mark these dates on your calendar, we can't wait to see you on campus! The City thanks signature sponsor, Republic Bank.



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY



WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

presenting sponsor



March 2022

Inviting the Power of Women Back to Campus

SUBMITTED BY LYNA KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR

Thomas More University kicked off Women's History Month with the inaugural Women's Conference presented by DBL Law. On Friday, March 4, 2022, women were invited to campus to inspire, encourage, and explore their passions at the conference. Guest speakers led empowering sessions, including Cincinnati news anchor, reporter, and social media host Kathrine Nero, who provided the opening address.

Nero's keynote proved impactful and set the tone for the event. Attendee Heather Abbott, assistant director of the Dr. Anthony R. and Geraldine Zembrodt Institute for Academic Excellence at Thomas More, noted, "Kathrine was wonderful and kicked off the day perfectly with lots of energy and positivity. The rest of the day flowed well and kept up that positive energy. It was a really cool inaugural event!" Additional sessions were led by: Becca Gardner, founder and CEO of ALT Distilling, Angela Rivers-Harper, Ph.D., program director of Dress for Success, Thomas More's own Latorria Myles, assistant dean of students, Heather Ackels '07, executive director of INTERalliance of Greater Cincinnati, and Jenni Crowley '03, Ph.D., senior manager at Deloitte.

The first ever Alice S. Sparks Women's Leadership Scholarship, to benefit a student at Thomas More, was awarded at the event. Sophomore Sophia Victoria Hermosilla Torres, an international student from Panama City, Panama, majoring in international studies, took home the honor. The Panama City native recognized her mother as an important female role model in her life, saying "she is the living example that having a successful life does not come with name recognition, but with love, happiness, and the work you do for those you care about." Hermosilla Torres sees the importance of helping her community, working with the nonprofit ParlAmericas in Panama, and she aspires to one day be an ambassador or work for a non-governmental organization (NGO).

The afternoon session of the conference featured "Boss Lady: A Panel of High-Power Leaders," hosted by Laura Koehl '80, Ed.D., executive director of Sisters of Notre Dame USA National Sponsorship and Network Office. The panel featured powerful women in business, including Moira Weir '00, president and CEO of United Way of Greater Cincinnati, Rachael Sampson '20, senior vice president at KeyBank and national director of Key4Women, Priya Dhingra Kloczek, president and CEO of Consultant on the Go, and Amy Spiller, president of Duke Energy in Ohio and Kentucky. Panelists introduced themselves and their careers and explored how they realized they were a "leader." "Identify your aspirations; go after your aspirations," Spiller encouraged the crowd. "Leaders aren't only at the top of the org chart."

Attendees gained valuable insights from these prominent women in the community, while learning how to celebrate their accomplishments and set goals for their future. "I walked away motivated with new ways to find inner peace and new ways to help me reach the goals I have in both my personal and professional life," said Debby Shipp, director of partnership development at Thomas More. "The room was set up beautifully, the food was good, and the networking outstanding." The date for the 2023 Thomas More Women's Conference will be announced shortly. We hope to see you there.

MOREOVER

Top Left: Kathrine Nero gives the keynote address at the Women's Conference.

CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION AS A LIFELONG LEARNER - EARN A MICROCREDENTIAL OR BADGE

All attendees of the Thomas More Women's Conference earned a "badge" as part of their Conference experience. This benefit was made possible through a new educational opportunity offered by the Thomas More Digital, Graduate, and Professional (DGP) programs. Seeking to accommodate those not interested in a degree-seeking program, but who are interested in adding or updating valuable skills to further their careers, DGP introduced badges and microcredentials in November 2021. These professional credentials were created with working individuals in mind, with offerings in a self-paced, online format. Current courses include cybersecurity, logistics and operations, management and leadership, digital marketing, human resources, career acceleration, and more.

To explore the more than 50 options available, visit bemore.thomasmore.edu. An **alumni discount of \$25** can be used an unlimited number of times until May 31, 2022. To take advantage of the discount, enter the code **alumni25** at checkout.



Heather Ackels '07
Executive Director
INTERalliance of
Greater Cincinnati



Jenni Crowley, Ph.D. '03
Senior Manager
Deloitte



Priya Dhingra Kloczek
President and CEO
Consultant on the Go



Becca Gardner
Founder and CEO
ALT Distilling



Laura A. Koehl '80, Ed.D.
Executive Director
SND USA



Kathrine Nero
Social Media Host/Reporter
Enquirer Media



Angela Rivers-Harper, Ph.D.
Programs Director
Dress for Success



Rachael Sampson '20
National Director
Key4Women | KeyBank



Amy Spiller
President
Duke Energy



Moira Weir '00
President and CEO
United Way
of Greater Cincinnati

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

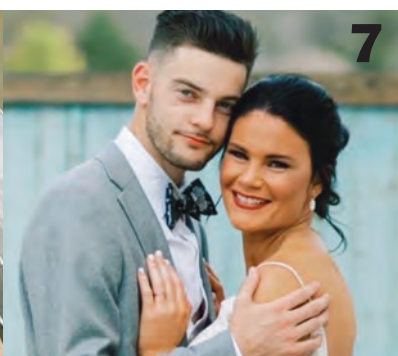
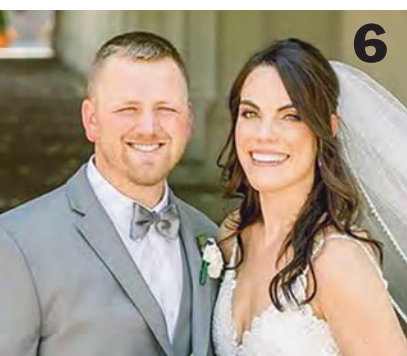
Send your good news (and a digital picture) via email with subject line "news" to alumni@thomasmore.edu or visit tmuky.us/alumninote online.

ENGAGEMENTS

1. **Brandi Hunter '17** and **Jordan Smith '18** announced on Oct. 23, 2021
2. **Sofia Vietas '19** and Devin Heffernan announced on Aug. 6, 2021, and plan to be wed in June of 2022
3. **Leeanne Mager '20** and Elijah Elliott announced Sept. 30, 2021
4. **Brandon Bohn '20** and **Rebecca Gaeddert '21** announced on Oct. 23, 2021
5. **Briana McNutt '21** and Cody Whisman announced on July 18, 2021



Follow Thomas More Alumni on social media:



MARRIAGES

6. **Rachael (Woodworth) '16** and Bobby Busche married on June 12, 2021
7. **Allyson (Clements) '17** and **Zach Hans '18** married on Oct. 2, 2021
8. **Shanna (Doumont) '17** and Eric Holtzhauser married in the Thomas More University Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel on Oct. 2, 2021
9. **Samantha (Goodwin) '18** and Nick Harp married in January 2021 and were able to celebrate their marriage in October 2021
10. **Morgan (Vogel) '18** and Craig Manning married on Oct. 15, 2021, at Riverside Gardens in Dayton, Kentucky
11. **Emily (Barnes) '19** and **Brandon Cullen '20** married on Oct. 2, 2021

NEW ARRIVALS



Congratulations to **Leah Cann Schindler '10** and her husband Cody who welcomed their baby boy, Nile Raymond Schindler on May 21, 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 with names (include mom and/or dad), and class year!



Laura '13 and **John '11 Bovard** welcomed a baby boy, Cobe Robert, into the world to join his four siblings.

RELIGIOUS JUBILEES

Congratulations to the following religious community members who are Thomas More graduates. They celebrated milestones in 2021. Thank you for your commitment and service as you minister to the needs of our community.

Jubilee of Joy – 75 years

Sr. Mary Francis Dirr '49, SND

Jubilee of Grace – 70 years

Sr. Ruth Riehle '75, SND

Sr. Ann Wehry '52, SND

Iron Jubilee – 65 years

Sr. Mary Ruth Agnes Delaney '64, SND

Sr. Claire Engbersen '67, SND*

Sr. M. Ann Kathman '66, SND

Sr. Carol Klaine '70, SND

Sr. Mary M. Strittholt '63, SND

Diamond Jubilee – 60 years

Sr. M. Karyn Baglan '71, SND

Sr. Lynette Shelton '68, SND

Sr. M. Michyl Habermehl '68, SND

Sr. Mary Reinette Kroeger '68, SND

Sr. Jean Menke '65, CDP

Sr. Barbara Patrick '65, CDP

Sr. M. Janet Stamm '66, SND

Sr. Margaret Verhoff '73, CDP

Sr. Colleen Winston '59, OSB

Golden Jubilee – 50 years

Sr. Jean Hoffman '81, SND

Sr. Marla Monahan '75, SND

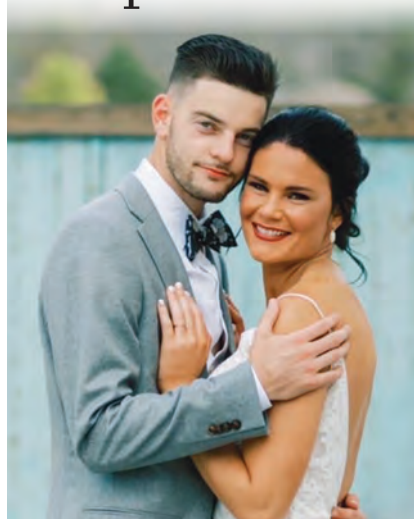
Sr. Ann Pflum '68, SND

*Sr. Claire took part in a Classic VMC interview with Sr. Evelyn Reinke '62 in 2016. To read and/or watch the interview, visit tmuky.us/srclaire.

Are You & Your Spouse



If you met your spouse while attending Thomas More (or Villa Madonna), send your anniversary date by email (alumni@thomasmore.edu) or phone (859.344.3545), so we can congratulate you both for years to come! ♥♥♥ **Zach Hans '18** and **Allyson (Clements) Hans '17** are Saints Sweethearts. They celebrated their wedding day on Oct. 2, 2021!



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.



1950s



Wilbert '53, J.D., and Ellen (Hackman) '70 Ziegler endowed The Wilbert L. and Ellen Hackman Ziegler Chair of the Philosophy Department, marking the first endowed chair in University history. To read the press release, visit tmuky.us/ziegler. As part of the endowment, the chairperson (Msgr. Gerald Twaddell, D.Phil.) provides a lecture each year. To watch the lecture for 2022, visit tmuky.us/ziegler2.

1960s

Mary M. Hamilton '62, director of SandyHook SeaLife Foundation, wrote in to say, "We recognize changing world conditions and the threat of food shortages for millions. This 1962 Villa Madonna College graduate continues the University's legacy of giving through the new book, 'The Swordfish Hunters,' a wake-up call for marine conservation."



Ted '63 and Marlene '65 Robinson were the 2021 recipients of The Devou Cup, presented by the Greater Cincinnati

Foundation to honor the generosity of individuals who make a profound difference – now and into the future –

in the quality of Northern Kentucky's community life. Congratulations to the Robinsons!

1970s

Dale Recinella '74

has dedicated his life to ministering to death row inmates in Raiford's Florida State Prison. Recinella was awarded the Guardian of Life Award by The Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Life. Listen to an interview Recinella had with the Catholic Mobilizing Network by visiting tmuky.us/recinella.



Congratulations to **D. Lynn Meyers '77**, producing artistic director at Ensemble Theatre, for being recognized in Cincinnati Magazine's 300 Most Powerful Business Leaders list. Read more at tmuky.us/cincinnati300.



1980s



Congratulations to **Leo Calderon '80** on being recognized as one of the Northern Kentucky Tribune's 2021 NewsMakers! To read more about Calderon and the other NewsMakers, visit tmuky.us/22newsmaker.



for the Northern Kentucky Center. Congratulations, Mark!

Mark Freudenberg '81 was

recognized for 10 years of service at the Kentucky Career Center. Mark serves as a workforce development facilitator

Paul Tenkotte '82, Ph.D., Professor Ray Hebert, Ph.D., **Dave Schroeder '90**, and Archivist Tom Ward produced a series of stories outlining Thomas More's history from 1951 to 2021 that appeared in the Northern Kentucky Tribune's Our Rich History series. Visit tmuky.us/ourrichhistory to read the series. Paul was also featured as a Saints Spotlight. Read a portion of the interview on **page 18** or listen by visiting tmuky.us/tenkotte.



Dr. Christopher F. Bolling '83 was honored as a Cincinnati Magazine 2022 Top Doctor for his work in pediatrics. Bolling practices at Pediatric Associates PSC in Crestview Hills, Kentucky.

Congratulations to **Garren Colvin '86**, president and CEO of St. Elizabeth Healthcare, who was recognized in Cincinnati Magazine's 300 Most Powerful Business Leaders list. Visit tmuky.us/cincinnati300 to read more.



Dr. Scott A. Neltner '86 was honored as a Cincinnati Magazine 2022 Top Doctor for his work in dermatology. Neltner works with UC Health in Crestview Hills, Kentucky.

Russell Graf '88 was honored as a Cincinnati Magazine 2022 Top Doctor for his work in anesthesiology. Graf works with Seven Hills Anesthesia in Cincinnati, Ohio.

1990s

Gary Holland '93 and his restaurant group, One Holland, have acquired Barleycorn's restaurants, and will open 10 Roy Rogers locations in the region over the next six years. For more information, visit tmuky.us/gholland.





Shane Elkin '94 was hired as head varsity football coach at Goshen High School. Elkin brings a wealth of experience and football knowledge to the Goshen Warrior Football Program. To read the release, visit tmuky.us/elkin.

Joanna Pols '96 was named executive director of Regulatory Affairs at Regeneron.



Congratulations to **Chris Collins '98, Ph.D.**, who joined the teaching staff at Newport Central Catholic High School as a theology teacher.



Dr. Vickie Chan Phirman '99 was honored as a Cincinnati Magazine 2022 Top Doctor for her work in family medicine. Phirman works in primary care at St. Elizabeth Physicians in Highland Heights, Kentucky.



Congratulations to **Sarah Tomes '99**, CEO at LPK, on being recognized and named to Cincinnati Magazine's 300 Most Powerful Business Leaders list. Read more at tmuky.us/cincinnati300.

2000s



Kimberly Halbauer '00, Fifth Third Bank's Kentucky regional president, has become the newest member of the Thomas More University Board of Trustees after being elected in December 2021.

Halbauer is set to serve on the Finance, Business, & Capital Planning Committee of the Board and begins her work as a trustee effective June 1, 2022. Visit tmuky.us/khalbauer to read the press release.

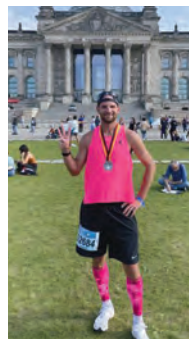
Congratulations to **Moire Weir '00**, president and CEO of United Way of Cincinnati, for being recognized in Cincinnati Magazine's 300 Most Powerful Business Leaders list. Visit tmuky.us/cincinnati300 to read more.



Yvan Demosthenes '04 and the Dead Low Brewing family were interviewed on how the brewery came about, and the successes they are having along the way. Visit tmuky.us/deadlow to listen to the interview.



Alumni Board President Joe Durrett '05/'08 fulfilled his dream of running in Boston at the 2021 Boston Marathon. To view the story on WKRC, visit tmuky.us/durrett. Durrett also ran the Berlin Marathon on Sept. 26, with a time of 3:00:40.



David Laake '05 was featured as a Saints Spotlight for his work as site director at Be Concerned - The People's Pantry in Erlanger, Kentucky. Read a portion of the interview on **page 21** or listen to the complete interview by visiting tmuky.us/laake.



Congratulations to **Laura Michelle Berkemeier '06/'17** who is the new Director of Development for the Life Learning Center.



Congratulations to **Tom Haggard '06**, director of Kentucky-Out-of-School Alliance who was named to the Cincinnati Business Courier's 2021 Forty Under 40 class.



Gee Horton '06 had his first major solo show entitled Coming of Age Chapter 1 - In Search of Self ... Identity at the Alice F. and Harris K. Weston Art Gallery in the Aronoff Center for the Arts in Cincinnati. Congratulations, Gee!



Congratulations to **Lisette Martinez '06** on being recognized as one of the Top Diversity Officers at the 18th Annual National Diversity & Leadership Conference in March 2022.



Johnna Reeder Kleymeyer '07 had the opportunity of a lifetime to carry the Olympic Torch with decorated Olympian Ben Agosto in the city of Colorado Springs on behalf of the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC. Kleymeyer serves as the president and CEO of the Colorado Springs Chamber.

CLASS NOTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27



Katie Raverty-Evans '07 shared that she has joined the National Waste & Recycling Association as the vice president of chapter management and member relations.

Visit tmuky.us/kravertyevans for more information.



Congratulations to **Katie Trauth Taylor '08, Ph.D.**, whose business, Untold Content, has grown to be included in the Business Courier's Book of Lists as the 44th largest woman-owned company in Cincinnati. What an exciting feat for Taylor and her team.

2010s



St. Henry District High School art teacher and Bengals super fan **Katie VonHandorf '10'20** cheered on the Cincinnati Bengals at the Super Bowl in person in Los Angeles, thanks to a super-charged social media campaign crafted by her students. To see how her students got her to the big game, visit tmuky.us/vonhandorf.



Alumni board member, **John Bovard '11** spoke to the Thomas More Saints men's basketball team about the lessons he learned while a student-athlete, and how that's elevated him to his career.

Leisa Mulcahy '11

joined Atlas Air as their director of workforce development.



Congratulations to **Maggie Perrino '13**, theater director at the Carnegie in Covington, Kentucky for being named to the Cincinnati Business Courier's 2021 Forty Under 40 class. To read Business Courier coverage on the impact she, father **Tom Perrino '78**, and sister Genevieve have on the local theater scene, visit tmuky.us/22perrino.



Congratulations to 2021 Business Courier C-Suite Awards finalist, **John Banchy '14'17**, CEO of The Children's Home. The complete list of finalists can be found by visiting

tmuky.us/21csuite.



October 5, 2021, marked the official debut of Ocusell, a startup co-founded by **Alex Taylor '14** and Hayden Rieveschl. Ocusell simplifies the residential real estate listing process for industry professionals. To read more about Ocusell, visit tmuky.us/taylor.

Congratulations to **Jason Payne '15**, SVP, Managing Director of Northern

Kentucky/Cincinnati for Republic Bank, on being named to the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.



Congratulations to **Achmed Beighle '16'18** who received the Citizens Recognition Award from Clermont Chamber of Commerce. Beighle works with WorkingUNDIVIDED, a movement to pursue equity and justice. To read more, visit tmuky.us/beighle.

Adam Fangman '16

was named one of the Top 50 Kids Golf Coaches by U.S. Kids Golf, the premier recognition for the world's most outstanding youth golf instructors. Coaches from 30 U.S. states and five countries are a part of the current class.



Congratulations to **Sergio Pascual '16** on becoming a licensed attorney in both Ohio and Kentucky.



Congratulations to **Jesus Avila '18** who received one of two military scholarships from Ohio Cat and the Cincinnati Bengals.

Maria Rechlin '18

was matched to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington, D.C., for dual residency in internal medicine and psychiatry.



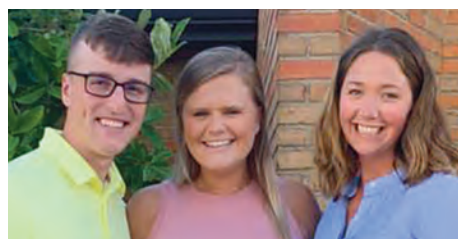
Rebecca (Thaman) Smiley '18

started her own business – Smiley Travel. Smiley is now a certified travel agent and would love to help any fellow Saints plan their next adventure. To connect with Rebecca, visit tmuky.us/smiley.



Jacob Hensley '19

joined MCF Advisors as a financial planner. Hensley is a certified public accountant based in MCF's Covington office.



Shelby Rupp '19 has been a realtor with Huff Realty since March 2021. She has had the opportunity to work with Thomas More grads like Saints Sweethearts Emily Schultz '20 and Jacob Zai '20, helping them to find their forever home.

Taylor Anne Walz '19/'21

started her own charcuterie business in late 2021. To learn more about her beautiful and festive creations, email taylorwalz@gmail.com.



2020s

Congratulations to the 2021 Business Courier C-Suite Awards finalist, **Danielle Amrine '20**, CEO of Welcome House of Northern Kentucky. For the complete list of finalists, visit tmuky.us/21csuite.



Michael Thompson '21

holds positions as Artist-in-Residence at The Cincinnati Art Museum and The Contemporary Arts Center. On March 5, he joined TEDxUCincinnati to speak on the current narratives in BIPOC creativity.



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

Sr. Rita Brennan '65, CDP, Nov. 6, 2021

Michael Bresser '77, Oct. 19, 2021

Mary Eileen Cassidy '68, July 31, 2021

Linda (Shoptaugh) Casson '69, July 9, 2021

Dorothy Castellano '47, Jan. 17, 2022

Virginia Clare '65, Sept. 21, 2021

Marie (Reeves) Coyle '59, Nov. 30, 2021

Sr. Mary M. Dempsey '40, Feb. 5, 2022

John Derks '58, Jan. 15, 2022

Harry Evans '62, Oct. 12, 2021

Brian Eviston '00, Oct. 13, 2021

Sara Fleming '64, Sept. 6, 2021

Mary Ann (Neff) Flynn '53, Aug. 24, 2021

Ramond Frey '70, Oct. 3, 2021

Sr. Marie Gangwish '42, Jan. 14, 2022

Nancy Glenn '60, Jan. 1, 2022

Steven Goetz '84, Oct. 2, 2021

George Gregory Jr. '69, Dec. 4, 2021

Joseph Hackett '67, Oct. 12, 2021

Carolyn (Stark) Hartwig '58, Oct. 23, 2021

Sr. M. Holy Spirit Hayes '64, Jan. 9, 2022

Jane Heile '62, Feb. 15, 2022

Charles Herman '93, Jan. 30, 2022

S. Jerry Hindman '60, May 31, 2021

Donald Hoffhaus '56, Dec. 2, 2021

Philip Hofmeyer '16, Nov. 16, 2021

Mary (Laughlin) Hutchins '45, Aug. 17, 2021

Sr. M. Frances Jacobs '42, Aug. 5, 2021

Sr. Kathleen Kelly '45, Nov. 16, 2021

Sr. C. Anne Kraus '57, Jan. 10, 2022

Sister Mary Bonita Schack '71, SND, Jan. 22, 2022

Kenneth Schatzle '54, Aug. 25, 2021

Lois A. Shannon '81, Feb. 21, 2022

Sister Marjorie Thiel '68, June 25, 2021

James Weyer '58, Jan. 7, 2022

Daniel Wilkens '65, Sept. 11, 2021

Your Everyday Shopping Can Benefit Thomas More University

Use your shopper account at Amazon, Kroger, and/or Remke Markets to make a gift to the University. All three organizations have programs that allow you to designate any rewards earned on your account be directed to a charity of your choice. Find the details here:



Register at tmuky.us/amazon



Register at tmuky.us/kroger



Register at tmuky.us/remke

MOREOVER [Spring 2022]



SUBMITTED BY LYNA KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR | PHOTOS PROVIDED

Amazing, Record-breaking Seasons for Saints Basketball

It's happiness and confetti after securing the NAIA National Championship.

Basketball is alive and well in Crestview Hills, Ky., with the Thomas More men's and women's basketball teams on fire all season and especially in the month of March. The women's basketball team brought home the NAIA National Championship after both teams won their way into the Fab Four as a result of hotly contested games in the quarterfinals. The Saints had the distinction of being the only program in the nation to put both their women's and men's teams into the NAIA semifinals. "The Thomas More community rallied around the men's and women's basketball teams all season and especially during an exciting NAIA tournament appearance," says President Joe Chillo. "The Saints represented our University exceptionally through their unwavering efforts and dedication. We congratulate our men's team on an excellent season and their Fab Four appearance, and the women's team on bringing home the National Championship victory."

The women's basketball team defeated Dordt on Tuesday evening, March 22, with a 77-65 win, to take home their first NAIA National Championship title, the first Mid-South Conference (MSC) team ever to accomplish the task. This was the second year

in a row that the Saints made an appearance in the championship game. Senior Taylor Clos explains, "We had business that we wanted to finish and go out on. We had all the tools and knew we were capable of doing something special at the NAIA level that Thomas More hadn't gotten to do before – it is really incredible." Graduate student-athlete Alexah Chrisman secured the Tournament MVP award with an excellent performance on both the defensive and offensive (16 points) ends of the floor, Chrisman and Clos were named to the NAIA All-Tournament Team, and Clos was named NAIA Honorable Mention All-America. Head Coach Jeff Hans had this to say about his team: "With being in the NAIA for just our third year and having two opportunities at the championship title, we wanted to be sure we could finish the job this time and be successful. We knew we were up against a really good team that had a lot of fan support and created a great atmosphere."

The women's team finished a remarkable season with an overall record of 32-4 and 19-2 in conference. The team earned the title of MSC Regular Season Champions. Head Coach Jeff Hans was

NAIA TOURNEY CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

Standout Saints

BASKETBALL

MEN'S

Ryan Batte (Cincinnati, Ohio / Oak Hills)
MSC Player of the Year
Bevo Francis Award Top 100 & Top 50 Watchlist
2021-22 NABC All-America Team

Luke Rudy (Cincinnati, Ohio / Oak Hills)
Broke school record for career 3-pointers made to now hold every 3-point record in program history
Reid Jolly (Alexandria, Ky. / Campbell County)
Surpassed 1,000 career points
Garren Bertsch (Alexandria, Ky. / Campbell County)
Surpassed 1,000 career points

WOMEN'S

Zoie Barth (Fort Thomas, Ky. / Highlands)
CoSIDA Academic All-District
Taylor Clos (Alexandria, Ky. / Campbell County)
Surpassed 1,000 career points
Courtney Hurst (Burlington, Ky. / Conner)
Surpassed 1,000 career points

CROSS COUNTRY

WOMEN'S

Annabel Clayton (Cincinnati, Ohio / Anderson)
Qualified for Nationals for the third time, finished 124th

DANCE

Morgan Ashcraft (Union, Ky. / Larry A. Ryle)
Freshman Dancer of the Year
First Team All-Conference
NAIA All-American
Paige Landers (Villa Hills, Ky. / Dixie Heights)
Dancer of the Year
First Team All-Conference
NAIA All-American

FOOTBALL

Elgin Phillips (Hamilton, Ohio / Fairfield)
AFCA NAIA All-American Honorable Mention
Mason Kramer (Alexandria, Ky. / Campbell County)
CoSIDA Academic All-America

RUGBY

Matias Caramuti (Rio Cuarto, Córdoba, Argentina)
National Collegiate Rugby All-American
Tomas Casares (Bueno Aires / St. Philip the Apostle College)
National Collegiate Rugby All-American
Hudson Montgomery (Reading, Ohio / Lakota East)
National Collegiate Rugby All-American

TRACK & FIELD

MEN'S INDOOR

Chris Wainscott (Indianapolis, Ind. / Perry Meridian)
Qualified for Nationals in shot put & weight throw, set new school records in both events

WOMEN'S INDOOR

Ashley Akins (Verona, Ky. / Walton-Verona)
3rd team All-Conference in 800-meters

VOLLEYBALL

WOMEN'S

Emily Mohs (Cincinnati, Ohio / Seton)
MSC Player of the Year
MSC 1st Team
NAIA 2nd Team All-American
CoSIDA Academic All-America Second Team
Broke all-time school record for kills
Lizzie Schoenfeld (Cincinnati, Ohio / Seton)
Surpassed 1,000 career assists

WRESTLING

Ryan Moore (Crittenden, Ky. / Walton-Verona)
Two-time runner-up at NAIA Championship
Wilder Wichman (Johnson Creek, Wis. / Johnson Creek)
Placed 3rd at Nationals

*AVCA - American Volleyball Coaches Association
AFCA - American Football Coaches Association
CoSIDA - College Sports Information Directors of America
MSC - Mid-South Conference
NABC - National Association of Basketball

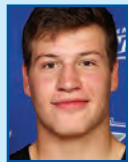
Follow the Saints on social media #LetsGoSaints



Batte



Rudy



Jolly



Bertsch



Barth



Hurst



Clos



Clayton



Ashcraft



Landers



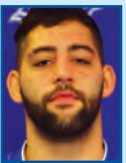
Phillips



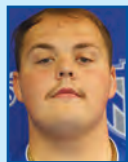
Kramer



Caramuti



Casares



Montgomery



Wainscott



Akins



Mohs



Schoenfeld



Moore



Wichman



2021 RUGBY NCRA DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

SUBMITTED BY LYNA KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR | PHOTOS PROVIDED

Congratulations to Thomas More's rugby program for bringing home the 2021 NCRA Division II National Championship.

The Saints' rugby program secured the title of NCRA Division II National Champions in December 2021, in Houston, Texas. "When we recruit players for our team, we ask them what they want their legacy to be," said men's rugby head coach John Fox. "Our legacy at Thomas More for the Saints rugby team is to make a difference, whether it's on the field, in the classroom, or in the community. We are a team of scholar-athletes. And we don't look at ourselves as a team, but as a family."

Junior Matias Caramuti of Argentina helped guide the team to victory, converting three field goals and one extra point attempt, accounting for 10 of the Saints' 21 points. First-year student Bautista Saint Bonnet of Buenos Aires also gave a standout performance, being awarded the National Championship MVP after the final. This win concluded a successful season for the Thomas More Rugby program, falling only one time in 2021 to Division I powerhouse, University of Kentucky.

Fox recognized the advantage held by their rival. Adrian College was ranked #1 in the league and had a roster of larger players, but Fox knew this was a challenge his team was ready to face. "We were the underdog," he said, "but we're a team that can adapt. And in adapting we changed our whole game plan to come out victors. To secure this win, we did all the little things that were needed to succeed, and again it comes back to making a difference. The guys never gave up. They thought it was their legacy, to win this game. They wanted to prove their legacy to do something for the University, and to make sure that we get Thomas More on the map. I think they were very successful in that."

"This win is a huge victory for our rugby program," says Thomas More Athletic Director Terry Connor. "Taking the NCRA Division II National Championship title is the perfect ending to an outstanding year for the team; a true testament to the hard



Top: After a hard-fought contest the Saints rugby team came out victorious as national champions and takes a moment to enjoy their success.

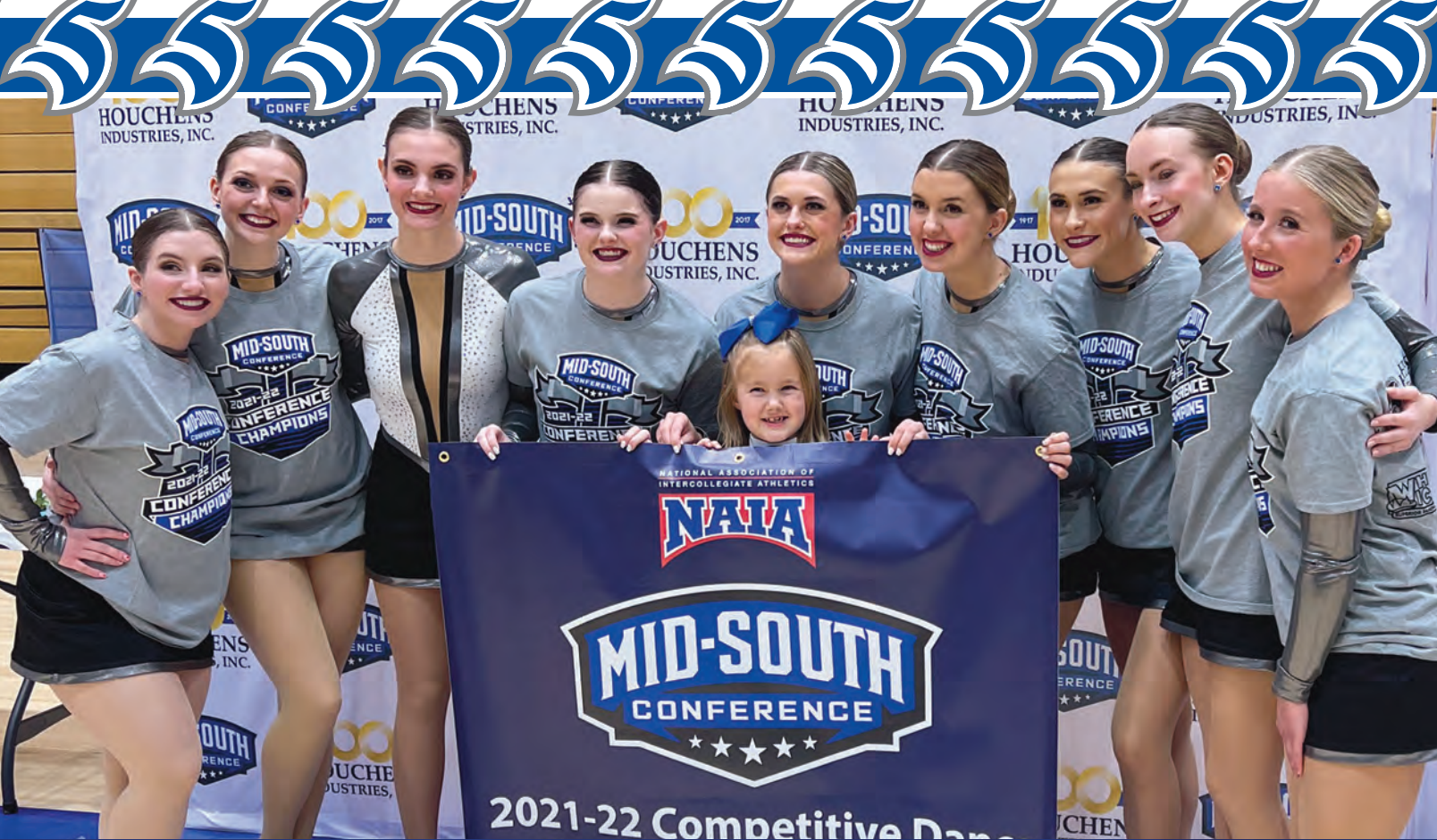
Bottom: Saints perform successfully in a line-out play with Bautista Saint Bonnet claiming the ball.



work and dedication they have put forward. The rugby team has exemplified the passion and commitment to excellence that we strive for as Thomas More University Saints."

In August of this year, Alejandro Torres made Thomas More University rugby history as the 5'11" sophomore from Argentina was recruited in the second round of the Major League Rugby draft. Torres etches his name as one of the few Thomas More athletes to be drafted by a professional sports organization and the first within the rugby program.

MOREOVER



Dancing for Marley

SUBMITTED BY LYNA KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR

Thomas More University's dance team embodies a core value of the University's mission, as they act upon "their responsibility to others" through service and making a difference in the community. They are certainly making a difference in the life of young cancer patient, Marley Johns. Johns, an 8-year-old battling a brain tumor, was introduced to the Thomas More dance team in late 2021 through Team IMPACT, a national nonprofit that connects children with serious illnesses or disabilities with college athletic teams.

"Marley has been able to attend practices (where she both watched and participated), games, and even her very first dance competition," says Marley's mother, Teresa Johns. "She got to be with the girls on the floor during the (NAIA) awards, and the smile on her face was one I hadn't seen in a long time. When we were in the car on the way home from the competition Marley said 'Mom, this is a day that I will never forget.' With all of the tough stuff this little girl has gone through in her short life, that line has resonated in my heart daily since."

In early March, Marley joined the dance team on a trip to Ann Arbor, Michigan, as they competed against other top-ranked competitive cheer and dance teams at Eastern Michigan University for the NAIA Competitive Cheer and Dance National Championships.

"When we agreed to welcome a Team IMPACT athlete to our program, I think we all assumed our team would make an impact on her in some way, but we weren't expecting the impact she would make on us in return, especially in such a short amount of time," says Kara Thompson, head coach of the Thomas More University dance team. "She has given many of our student athletes a sense of purpose, and I really think we have just scratched the surface. Marley, and her family, are so special to our team, and I know they will be members of our dance family forever. Our program is stronger because of Marley; we are the lucky ones."

The Thomas More dance team's support of Marley does not stop at University events. Members of the team have shown up to cheer Marley on in her own endeavors as well, attending basketball games and a fashion show fundraiser for pediatric cancer patients that she was walking in. "The joy Marley feels when she sees them cheering HER on is surely unmeasurable, but is written all over her face," says Johns. "You can see her confidence grow tenfold."

MOREOVER

DANCE TEAM EXCELS IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

The Dance Team had an excellent competitive year in 2021-2022 as they earned the title of Mid-South Conference (MSC) Champions. As a team they took first place at the Southeast Qualifying Regionals, earning a spot at the NAIA Competitive Dance National Championships in early March. They finished in the top ten in the competition. Congratulations on an outstanding year!

Coach of the Year honors were awarded to Kara Thompson, who has led the Dance Team since its inception in 2016. Morgan Ashcraft was named Freshman Dancer of the Year, First Team All-Conference, and NAIA All-American - a first in Thomas More school history and for the MSC. Paige Landers was named Dancer of the Year, First Team All-Conference, and NAIA All-American, another first in school history and the MSC. Eleven team members were named to the Mid-South Conference All-Academic Team and Ansley Rooks collected the Champion of Character Award.



Joyful Saints after winning the NAIA opening rounds in the Connor Convocation Center.

NAIA TOURNEY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

recognized as MSC and NAIA Coach of the Year, while the women athletes saw major accomplishments with five players named MSC All-Conference, ten players earning MSC Academic All-Conference distinction, junior Zoie Barth earning College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-District, and junior Courtney Hurst and senior Taylor Clos surpassing the 1,000 career points mark.

The men's team eliminated top-seeded Oklahoma Wesleyan by a score of 59-56 in the quarterfinals to advance to a Fab Four matchup against Talladega. After battling back from a deficit to send the game to overtime, the Saints came up short in a heartbreaking last-second loss, ending their season with a score of 78-77. The

and made the Bevo Francis Award Top 100 and Top 50 Watchlist. Luke Rudy broke the school record for 3-point shots, now owning all 3-point records, and both Reid Jolly and Garren Bertsch surpassed the 1,000-point career mark. Team leadership garnered recognition with Head Coach Justin Ray receiving MSC Coach of the Year and assistant coach Spencer Berlekamp receiving MSC Assistant Coach of the Year.

This was an amazing year for the entire athletic program, proving that it challenges students to be the best they can be, instilling the passion and drive necessary for success. Saints student-athletes are outstanding representatives of the University on and off the court. Congratulations on a great year of hoops!

MOREOVER



WRESTLING TEAM SENDS FIVE ATHLETES TO NAIA NATIONALS

Wrestling completed their 2021-22 campaign with the most athletes in school history qualifying to compete in the NAIA National Championships. Shay Horton, Ryan Moore, Wilder Wichman, Andrew Taylor, and Daulton Mayer represented the Saints in the Nationals. The wrestling program finished ninth overall with Ryan Moore finishing as the NAIA runner-up at 149 division, Wilder Wichman took third at 157 division, and Mayer placed seventh in the 197 division. These three wrestlers also earned All-American Honors. Head Coach Jason Russell was awarded MSC Coach of the Year honors.



Norwell

SAINTS FOOTBALL NAMES NORWELL THE 7TH HEAD COACH

President Joe Chillo and Director of Athletics Terry Connor announced the promotion of Chris Norwell to head coach of the football program from his associate head coach/defensive coordinator position.

Norwell has been with the Saints for 13 seasons, serving eight as the defensive coordinator. In 2014, Norwell helped lead the Saints to a national ranking of 28th in Division III in total defense. Over the course of the last five games of the 2021 season, Norwell's defense only allowed 10 points per game. "I am excited for Chris to lead Thomas More football," says Connor. "He will bring a high level of energy and excitement and lead us into our next chapter."

CELEBRATING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Congratulations to the 330 student-athletes who were named to the 2021 Fall Athletic Director Honor Roll. These students carried a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher for the semester. Thirty-six of the 330 student-athletes received a perfect 4.0 GPA to help achieve a department GPA of 3.01. Women's cross country and softball led the way with the highest overall team GPA of 3.38 for each program. Sixteen of the athletic teams have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better.



A Special Relationship with Special Olympics

SUBMITTED BY JUDY CRIST, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND LYNNA KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR | PHOTOS PROVIDED

Thomas More athletes give back through Special Olympics Kentucky

The mission of the Catholic liberal arts education offered at Thomas More University is to encourage students to examine the ultimate meaning of life, their place in the world, and their responsibility to others. Service learning opportunities are important avenues for students to grow as individuals and to connect with their community. One organization with which Thomas More athletes have a continuing relationship of service is Special Olympics Kentucky (SOKY). This relationship is more than a decade old and in its latest rendition includes spending time cheering for and bowling with Special Olympians, hosting the Regional Flag Football Tournament on campus, and participating in the Polar Plunge to raise money and awareness for SOKY.

Special Olympics is the world's largest program of sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics Kentucky began as a one-day event in Louisville in 1970 and has expanded to serve more than 10,200

athletes statewide annually in 15 sports. Head Softball Coach and Senior Woman Administrator Lindsay Eagan is the Thomas More SOKY liaison and coordinates both volunteer schedules and use of campus facilities. Saints athletes who volunteer with SOKY help fulfill the University's mission to guide students in learning their responsibility to others. "Watching our athletes interact with the Special Olympics athletes is truly special and is one of the coolest moments of every school year. The pure joy and excitement that the SO athletes have while playing, competing, and being a part of a team reminds us how much fun it is to participate in our sport each day," Eagan explains.

Flag football was added to the SOKY sports program as an exhibition sport in 2009 and as a medal-awarding sport in 2010. It has since seen a rapid rise in popularity. The 2021 tournament marked the first full flag football season for Special Olympics Kentucky in two years, due to COVID-19 precautions, and culminated with a State Run, Pass, and Catch Competition. The SOKY Flag Football Regional Tournament has been hosted on

SOKY CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

Top: The Special Olympics teams take the field as they prepare to face off in the SOKY Regional Flag Football Tournament. Bottom: Thomas More student-athletes are ready to assist at the scoring booths.





SOKY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

Thomas More's campus for several years and in 2021 took place on Sunday, Oct. 17. The size of this annual event requires participation from all Saints teams (except those traveling and competing) as volunteers to facilitate its operation. The 2021 tournament featured over 100 SO athletes competing on eight different flag football teams, three of which represented Northern Kentucky.

"My favorite part about working with the Special Olympics is the energy of the athletes," says student-athlete Caitlin Dawson. "They are all so ready to compete, and they truly seem to have love for the sport they're playing." A junior representing the softball team, Dawson is no stranger to assisting with the Special Olympics, also helping with events at her high school in Scott County, Kentucky. She finds helping with the Special Olympics a learning experience. "It's such a positive environment, and I think we can all learn from the athletes' competitive spirits. I am very excited to help again next year!"

The 2021 Special Olympics event helped international student-athlete Michael Logan build a connection to the region through his volunteerism. "It was really great to see just how much it meant to all the coaches and participants who were taking part in the event," says Logan, a soccer player from Petworth, England. "It was infectious! Lots of the sports teams at Thomas More took the time to come to the event and support the teams who were involved and had a really good time doing it. I have been helping with the event for two years now, but this was my first year as president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee."

As a follow up to a successful October Regional Tournament, Saints athletes took part for the first time in the Greater Cincinnati Polar Plunge in January 2022. The University registered a team page and requested a volunteer from each sports team to participate in taking the plunge at this frigid event. The Saints raised more than \$3,700 dollars, which was a great addition to the overall dollar amount of \$121,428 raised in support of Special Olympics. Well played, Saints and Special Olympians!

MOREOVER

Representatives from many of the different sports teams braved the cold to participate in the Greater Cincinnati Polar Bear Plunge this past January. Because the Saints surpassed their goal dollar amount, President Joe Chillo also took the plunge. He can be seen in the top photo, second from the left. Brrrrrr!

SUPPORT YOUR SAINTS! Become a member of the

The mission of the All Saints Club is to provide the financial aid and resources necessary to all Thomas More University athletic programs. With your support, students like those highlighted in these pages 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 or contact Tom Brady at **859-344-3642** | bradyt@thomasmore.edu





Minute Spiritual Break...

Provided by Thomas More
University Campus Ministry

SUBMITTED BY KATERI HENNESSEY, BISHOP ROGER J. FOYS SCHOLAR

ST. THÉRÈSE'S LITTLE WAY TO HEAVEN

Most of us can agree that when we die, we would like to go to heaven. To achieve this goal, we have to become saints, but it doesn't seem that simple. Being a saint is hard, and it's not going to happen by itself. It

requires effort on our part. Discouragement is often encountered when we look at the saints and their lives. It seems impossible for us to be a great evangelist like St. Paul, who brought the gospel to so many people, or to help the poor like Mother Teresa did.

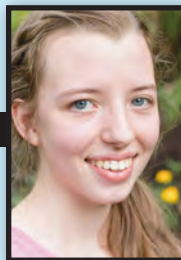
St. Thérèse of Lisieux is my favorite saint because she often felt like she was small and insignificant, like a grain of sand on the ground, but she was still able to become a saint through her "Little Way." This young, unknown cloistered Sister was a master at making small sacrifices throughout her day out of love for Jesus. In her autobiography, "The Story of a Soul," she wrote about a time when she was erroneously accused of breaking a vase. Instead of defending herself, she humbly accepted the correction for the love of Jesus. At another time, there was a Sister in her convent whom she found very annoying, especially in the chapel when she fidgeted constantly. Our saint treated this Sister with patience and kindness so much that she felt Thérèse was greatly fond of her. Thérèse let the love of God shine through her.

It is these daily sacrifices that brought Thérèse closer to Jesus and into heaven. St. Thérèse's "Little Way" is what she called an "elevator to heaven," as opposed to the staircase that other saints trod.

Whether it's setting aside just five minutes a day to pray, or offering up the minute, mundane everyday tasks for love of Jesus, we too can imitate this humble young lady in her "Little Way" to heaven.

"Love proves itself by deeds, so how am I to show my love? Great deeds are forbidden me. The only way I can prove my love is by scattering flowers and these flowers are every little sacrifice, every glance and word, and the doing of the least actions for love."

- St. Therese of Lisieux



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? ☐ Fall 2022 ☐ Spring 2023 ☐ Fall 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. Thank you!



Office of Institutional Advancement
333 Thomas More Parkway
Crestview Hills, KY 41017-3495

Address Service Requested

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cincinnati, OH
Permit No. 9984



There's a lot to be proud of as a Thomas More alum and what better way to display your Saints pride than by sporting a special Thomas More University license plate? For each plate purchased or renewed, \$10 is contributed to The Fund for Thomas More University. The Fund provides generous scholarships and defrays ongoing operating costs for the University. To apply for a Thomas More plate, visit your local County Clerk's Office or go to tmuky.us/license.