

FALL 2023

# MOREOVER

Thomas More University







## NEWEST ACADEMIC BUILDING TAKES SHAPE

With an expected completion date of spring 2024, the time is close when this state-of-the-art addition to campus will begin to bustle with new initiatives and the scholars that bring them to life. For a video of building construction through year one, visit [tmuky.us/construction](https://tmuky.us/construction).

Photo provided by Turner Consttuction





THOMAS MORE  
UNIVERSITY

Make It **More.**



The transformation seen throughout campus stemming from goals set forth in the Strategic Plan – Lighting the Way is a theme you will see throughout this edition of the *Moreover*. With updates and additions to the physical campus along with new offerings in academics, athletics, and wellness, Thomas More is blazing the trail into its second century with innovation and agility. Our mission stays central, informing all decisions, as we continue to guide students in examining the ultimate meaning of life, their place in the world, and their responsibility to others. We are taking our place as the region's premier Catholic University basing decisions on how we can best serve the community and set our students up for successful careers and lives beyond their time at Thomas More University.

Student success, and academic excellence and innovation, remain priorities as we work to ensure our students have every opportunity to flourish. Grants have been obtained by our outstanding faculty and staff to present Thomas More students with cutting-edge equipment and experiences. Valuable connections have been created with community partners and alumni to give students real-world experience and networking opportunities. We are taking a leadership role in shaping K-12 education in the Commonwealth with the launch of the School of Education's suite of transformational offerings called the Education VILLA.

This edition of the *Moreover* also highlights how our distinguished alumni, as well as current faculty, staff, and students, are living the mission of the University to serve the community. The Biology Field Station is providing crucial water research on the Ohio River; Dr. James Camp celebrates 25 years of the Border Studies program that he oversees, taking students to the U.S./Mexico border to serve those in need; an alumnus in the United Kingdom is making a huge difference in the lives of a family of Ukrainian refugees; and alumni are creating scholarship opportunities to make the dream of a high-quality Catholic Liberal Arts education a reality for more students.

I am immensely proud of the remarkable strides we have taken together as a University community. These recent accomplishments stand as a testament to our collective dedication, perseverance, and passion for excellence. As we reflect on these achievements, we carry this momentum forward, knowing that the potential of Thomas More University is boundless when we work together. I look forward to the continued journey of growth and accomplishment that lies ahead. Here's to a future filled with even greater heights as we strive to **Make It More.**

Go Saints!

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



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# MOREOVER

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The 2022-2023 Living Honor Roll is now available online! Visit [tmuky.us/honorroll](http://tmuky.us/honorroll). Thank you!





# Education VILLA

Thomas More was founded as a teachers' college and honors that tradition with innovative academic programs. In summer 2023, the School of Education introduced the Education VILLA which includes a series of initiatives to support and strengthen the skills of teachers who graduate from the University as well as those already active in the education space.

*Just one of the updated spaces the School of Education enjoys in their new home in Cabrini Hall.*

SUBMITTED BY JUDY CRIST, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNICATIONS AND LYNIA KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR

To teach is a calling that takes strength of character and a love of learning. The tools necessary to teach in the classroom are in constant flux and require tweaking as the needs of each generation of learners morphs with the changing times. The School of Education is pleased to introduce an innovative new model with the hopes of removing barriers and addressing the current need for highly qualified teachers in the K-12 environment. This new model has been given the moniker Education VILLA.

Throughout the past year the faculty and staff of the School of Education have been working to refine ideas and timelines for the introduction of the different initiatives that are housed within the VILLA. The acronym reflects the aspiration this group has in support of the future of teaching which is: **Visualizing** educators of excellence through **Innovative** methods promoting **Leadership** and **Learning** through an **Atmosphere** of growth, critical thinking, and research. This umbrella of transformational new offerings is being rolled out in phases over the next several years.

President Chillo recognized the inspiration that went into the planning of the five tiers of the Education VILLA, "I would like to thank the faculty and staff of the School of Education for the hard work and dedication that they have put into designing transformational programming that will ensure our education

students are set up for successful careers and lives. The vibrancy of our communities in Northern Kentucky and throughout the Commonwealth require stronger schools and the most important investment that we can make is to ensure that every child has access to high-quality education and excellent teachers who care deeply about their education." The five tiers of the VILLA include a Dyslexia Institute, Honors Cohort, Professional Development for educators, additional graduate degrees, and a STEM Institute.

## Dyslexia Institute

Launching in 2023, the Thomas More Dyslexia Institute, the first institute of its kind in Kentucky, is led by Assistant Professor Kayla Steltenkamp, Ed.D., an expert in the field of literacy and dyslexia. The institute supports students and the greater community through sharing resources that are intentionally designed to promote awareness and create change by highlighting the dyslexic profile. (For an interview with Dr. Steltenkamp, see [page 5](#).) All Thomas More education graduates will be trained to identify the characteristics of dyslexia and develop targeted interventions for student success. Through the institute, education students gain real world experience as they participate in the facilitation of its programming. The focus of the institute is to help highlight the

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dyslexic profile, so parents and teachers understand the impact of dyslexia and the unique strengths of the individual. The institute also strives to be the preeminent source for the community to disseminate the latest research, share practical resources, and transform the instruction and intervention for all dyslexic children and adults. All education graduates will be trained in the identification and remediation of dyslexia.

### **Honors Cohort**

The School of Education introduces the Honors Cohort for Thomas More students who are passionate about education, research, leadership, and service to the community. The application process opens in January of 2024 with admission being highly competitive. This cohort provides an experiential educational model that is based on reciprocal learning; includes practical application of classroom studies; service activities that emerge from and inform classroom context; and structured reflection linking service experiences back to specific learning goals. The honors program provides students with a rigorous and relevant curriculum to engage with high impact practices that enrich the overall learning experience. Participating students benefit from opportunities for independent scholarship in areas of special interest to the individual.

### **Professional Development**

The School of Education recognizes the critical role that teachers play in shaping the future of Kentucky's students. Through professional development programs, the University provides P-12 educators and leaders with opportunities to enhance their pedagogical knowledge and skills. By staying abreast of the latest research and best practices in education, teachers are better equipped to design and deliver effective instruction, leading to improved student learning outcomes.

To that end, Thomas More can provide expert instruction as professors are educators who have implemented research-based professional learning in schools or districts and can help teachers in the community achieve the same. Expertise includes everything

from small, private K-8 institutions through large suburban high school settings. In addition to best practices in the classroom, the University also offers customized services for school leaders who are looking to improve assessment practices, alignment, literacy, school culture, student engagement, and/or collaboration. By working with an expert from the School of Education to determine what professional learning the school needs, a plan of action can be determined and developed whether it's a long-term project or a one-day training.

### **Advanced Graduate Programs in Education**

Currently, teachers seeking an advanced degree at Thomas More beyond a bachelor's, have the option of enrolling in the Master of Arts in teaching (MAT). The university plans to add a master's degree and education specialist in instructional leadership as well as a master's degree in education studies to its degree-seeking programs. More details on those offerings will be announced soon.

### **STEM Institute**

STEM education is in high demand. Current data in the greater Cincinnati area, as well as the Commonwealth of Kentucky, indicate an alarming rate of teacher shortage in the areas of math and science. Preparing our students with specific concentration opportunities allows them to stand out among job candidates. It also provides opportunities to support alumni in job advancement. This interdisciplinary institute plans to partner with the Field Station and biology faculty to provide hands-on opportunities not available at other institutions. The timeline for the launch of this initiative is Fall 2024.

As director of the Dyslexia Institute, Steltenkamp spoke to the collaborative nature of the initiatives within the Education VILLA, "It's an umbrella that helps to look at all the different ways that we can prepare our pre-service teachers to be the best when they go out in the field. They (the initiatives) all work very well together within the VILLA umbrella, and we see them collaborating often through the different programs."

**MOREOVER**

## **Cabrini Hall - new home of the School of Education and Psychology Department**

### **Alumnus ensures technology and furniture fit the new space**

Light conquers darkness is the Thomas More motto and took on a literal meaning as the School of Education moved from their former basement home to join the Psychology Department in Cabrini Hall at 365 Thomas More Parkway.

The School of Education also found a connection with donor and Thomas More alumnus Richard R. Lindhorst '75. The steadfast support of this generous donor has been felt by several departments of the University and has been nothing short of transformative for the School of Education. His unwavering commitment provides the funds necessary to advance goals in the field of education ensuring the implementation of innovative programs, providing critical resources, and fostering an environment of academic excellence. Through cutting-edge technology and state-of-the-art facility upgrades, Lindhorst has not only enriched the educational experience for students but also empowered faculty to push the boundaries with the development of the Education VILLA. His contributions resonate beyond the walls of Thomas More, positively impacting students as they prepare for life after graduation. Executive Director Judy Crist explains, "Rich did not see himself as a brilliant student when he attended college, but he is persistent and relentless, having great capacity when it comes to problem solving. Those attributes got him the education he desired and he uses those talents today in support of Thomas More students. We are immensely grateful for his belief in the University's mission and his generosity in sharing his treasure to improve the student experience."





# The first of its kind Education VILLA Dyslexia Institute

## SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

**Kayla Steltenkamp, Ed.D.**

**School of Education, Dyslexia Institute**

SUBMITTED BY DAVID KLENK '22, GRADUATE ASSISTANT COMMUNICATIONS

Saints Spotlight caught up with Kayla Steltenkamp, a faculty member in the School of Education and driving force behind the Dyslexia Institute, one part of the Education VILLA initiative introduced in 2023. With her expertise in special needs/education, we asked Kayla to explain how this institute is unique in the education space and a benefit to the university.

### **Can you explain the goals of the Dyslexia Institute and what makes it unique?**

**KS:** Our goal is to establish a center for our community and for our students where they can be trained on how to identify students with dyslexia, and they can learn the interventions that are needed to help teach students with dyslexia. We also want to help current teachers in the field who might need additional information or training on identifying or giving interventions for our students. For parents in our community as well, they are always looking for resources and so (the institute) can be a hub where they can come find additional resources that they might need to help their own students. Finally, for people that may have dyslexia that are looking for a university to attend, we have some really great support here.

### **How does the institute fit into the School of Education's VILLA programming?**

**KS:** The Dyslexia Institute really helps focus on the literacy coursework and the needs there are to identify and support students with dyslexia. It also feeds into the professional development suite being developed under the VILLA, because we will be providing training to teachers that are currently in schools. We also have the honors program as part of our VILLA initiatives, and so we hope that our students who are in the honors program can get some unique opportunities out in the field to work with students with dyslexia. There are other programs we plan to launch in the future like the STEM Institute. A lot of students that have dyslexia are super creative, so the STEM Institute would be a great way for our teachers to learn techniques about science and technology and engineering that, for a lot of dyslexics, might be a strength.

### **How will education students be involved with the Dyslexia Institute?**

**KS:** A lot of our literacy coursework was realigned. The e's legislation happening, and the reading wars are always happening, and we have looked at our coursework in the elementary level to help redesign the best practices of teaching language and literacy. Students will be involved in understanding the structure of language and literacy so that they will be able to teach any student, but especially those with dyslexia. We also have additional coursework where they can practice assessing students (for dyslexia). We have students from the community come in and our students write the assessments and articulate the results to the parents to say if they possibly have characteristics of dyslexia. Our students are very much involved in learning the skills they need to identify and support students with dyslexia. Hopefully they can also be involved with providing some of the trainings and resources to the parents. When they go out into their practicums and they are working with their mentor teachers, they can share the information that they are learning. We really see it as branching out from here. Our students at Thomas More will be very heavily involved in the learning and the sharing of what we do.

### **How will the outside community benefit from the institute?**

**KS:** In several ways. One way is that we will have different events for professional learning opportunities where community members can learn more of what they want - maybe about their students or about their own children. We are going to have some opportunities for assessments, so if they suspect their child has dyslexia, we have times where our students need practice assessing and we can partner those opportunities so they can bring in their concerns and we can have those discussions. Also we will provide resources, so if they have a student that was just identified as dyslexic and they are not sure of the next



*Dr. Kayla Steltenkamp in the classroom.*

steps, we will have information and have opportunities for a consultation so that they can come in and talk to me or our students and get ideas about the next steps or things that they can consider to do to help their child. In terms of teachers or other professionals in the area, they can also get resources about dyslexia from the institute. We will prepare students but will also be a resource for the community at large.

### **How will the Dyslexia Institute intertwine with the Institute for Learning Differences?**

**KS:** Dyslexia is a passion of mine, so that was an easy one to include in the Education VILLA but I had to think about if we had a Dyslexia Institute, what are the different ways that it would be perceived in our community? One of the ways I thought about was if a person is looking to attend a college and they have dyslexia, they might think, "Oh they have a Dyslexia Institute, so I will go there." If you have dyslexia and you want to get a business degree or you want to get an accounting degree we have the Dyslexia Institute, but that is not necessarily a direct support for college students with dyslexia to be successful in their courses. The University already has the Institute for Learning Differences in place. It is well established, it has been here for years, it is a well-oiled machine. That, to me, was a great opportunity that we could also have that as a pillar or collaborative opportunity. If a student that is getting ready to graduate from high school and has dyslexia, does not know the next steps, we have this well-established program in place. They could come and enroll in the Institute for Learning Differences and get support to help them in whatever major that they are looking at.

To listen to or read the entire interview, visit [tmuky.us/steltenkamp](https://tmuky.us/steltenkamp).

MOREOVER

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## Headlines in campus news

### POLITICAL SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

Jake Perkins and Stas Beresford, political science majors, presented at the 2023 Kentucky Political Science Association Conference held at Western Kentucky University. Perkins' research, "Political Pragmatism and the Search for the Utopian Community," examines how two planned communities fail to achieve the utopian ideal. Stas Beresford's research, "House Bill 33, Going Backwards?" is a policy analysis of legislation in Kentucky affecting school construction and academic programming. To read the entire story, visit [tmuky.us/23kpsac](https://tmuky.us/23kpsac).

### WORDS 2023, STUDENT LITERARY JOURNAL NOW AVAILABLE

Edited and managed by Thomas More undergraduate students, the Words publication highlights student writing and artwork. Awards earned in 2023 include: the Sandra L. Cuni Award - "my ontological nemesis" by Risa Guarasci; Words Vision Award - "Boring, Salt Sunsets" by Morgan Esterline; High School Writing Awards - "Icarus' Fall" by Megan Mckeown, "My Dream" by Angalea Wuest, and "The account of an Anonymous Sailor" by Atlas Lewis; Visual Art Award - "New Yorker Pigeons" by Darian Landers; Cover Selection - "Awakening" by Ambar Price. For a copy of Words, please call 859.344.3344 or email [moreover@thomasmore.edu](mailto:moreover@thomasmore.edu).

### INAUGURAL SAINTS PITCH CHALLENGE

The r. Anthony '65 and Geraldine '66 Zembrodt Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Thomas More strives to make the University the destination for students who thrive in an innovative environment. Incorporating an innovative and entrepreneurial mindset into curriculum and campus culture gives creative thinkers an outlet for their grand ideas. On May 3, 2023, the inaugural Saints (Shark) Pitch Challenge was held thanks to the efforts of the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and event sponsor Roebling Capital. Five students went head-to-head in the competition as they presented their entrepreneurial ideas before a panel of expert judges. To read the release and watch a video commemorating this event, visit [tmuky.us/23sschallenge](https://tmuky.us/23sschallenge).

### SECOND ANNUAL SAINTS SUSTAINABILITY CELEBRATION DAY

With Rumpke Waste & Recycling as title sponsor in year two, Thomas More continues its commitment to being a more conscientious community member. As a precursor to 2023 Earth Day festivities, the University hosted the spring celebration on April 21. A variety of presentations and events educated and entertained students, community partners, and the general public. To read more about the celebration, visit [tmuky.us/23sustain](https://tmuky.us/23sustain).

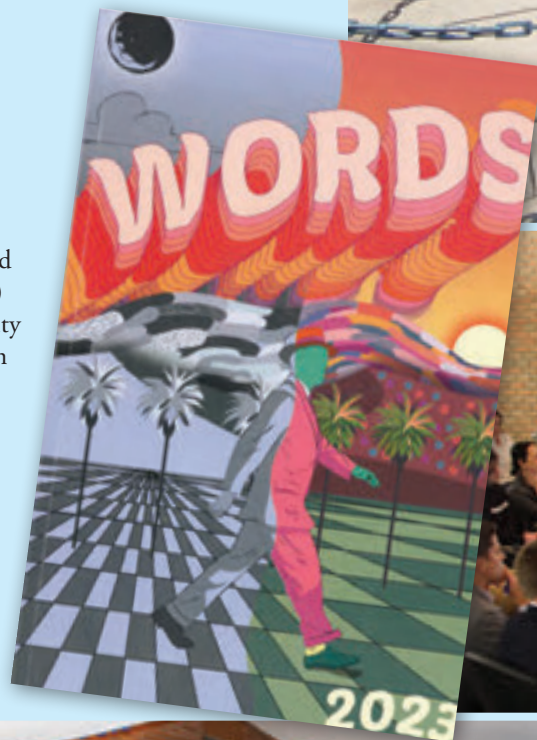
### BIOLOGY PACE

The department of Biological Sciences is creating connections between students, alumni, and the community with the Biology Professional, Alumni, and Career Experiences (BIO PACE) initiative. The initiative includes events throughout the year that give students the opportunity to engage with successful alumni who are active in their intended career path, helping to gain insight into the unique skills and experience necessary for success. To read more about this initiative, visit [tmuky.us/biopace](https://tmuky.us/biopace).

### MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH NOW AVAILABLE AT THOMAS MORE

The university announced the addition of the Master of Public Health as a degree-seeking program beginning fall 2023. This graduate degree prepares students with skills in a wide range of areas necessary to address complex and ever-changing public health challenges. The degree is a perfect fit for those looking to accelerate their career in the public health field. Programming explores a wide range of topics reflecting current societal challenges such as climate change, educational disparities, poverty, racial inequalities, health justice, chronic diseases, physical activity, air pollution, maternal/child health, and more. To read more about the program, visit [tmuky.us/mphdegree](https://tmuky.us/mphdegree).

BELOW: BIO PACE attendees networking.







TOP: Jake Perkins and Stas Beresford presented research at WKU.  
CENTER: Inaugural Saints Pitch Challenge.  
BOTTOM: Presentation at the second Saints Sustainability Celebration Day.



## SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

Henry Driscoll '23

SUBMITTED BY DAVID KLENK '22,  
GRADUATE ASSISTANT COMMUNICATIONS

Saints Spotlight caught up with Henry Driscoll, a Thomas More student who spent several weeks in summer 2023 on a Mission Trip with CRU to Croatia. This was Henry's second trip to Croatia, the first being in December 2022. What follows is Henry's observations about his new adventure, his faith journey as a member of CRU, and his newfound commitment to being proactive in his faith.

### Explain what CRU is and what has been the best part of your time studying the Word with CRU on campus?

**HD:** CRU is a parachurch organization that's inter-denominational. They have a really big focus at the national level on international missions to different countries. In Cincinnati, our main partner is Croatia. They do a Bible study here on campus, over in the science wing on Wednesday at lunchtime. It's just really awesome, it's a great environment for students at Thomas More.

### Where is Zagreb and did that journey prepare you for this trip to Croatia?

**HD:** Zagreb is the capital of Croatia and is the largest city in the nation. There've got 80,000 plus students in campuses in the city, the main one being the University of Zagreb. There's tons of students that I got to talk to, it was really awesome. That prepared me for a longer trip, that I took between May and June for three weeks. That was an experience because the last trip (in December 2022), where I was talking to students, that was an everyday kind of thing. It was for three weeks this time, it was a long time.

### What was the culture like? Did you experience any culture shock?

**HD:** Everybody is really, really nice. You can approach strangers and talk to them or ask them for directions, ask them for food recommendations, which to me is really important. I love food. The vibe there, as far as students, there's not a whole lot of student life. That's a really big difference between there and here. Even at the largest university there's not as many clubs on campus.

As far as faith and culture, the faith there is definitely different than in America. America is majority Protestant. There (Croatia), they regionally identify as Catholic. They're literally right across the Adriatic from Rome. A lot of them are like "Oh, I'm Catholic," but then you talk to them and it's like, "Oh, you're not exactly as Christian as you might seem." It's a very cultural basis for their religion. There's one faith group for a campus of 80,000 people. Here at Thomas More, we've got three, four different Christian groups working to help students in their faith.

Talking to students (in Croatia) this time around, there are a lot more people who are like, "Oh, my friend told me about this group called Focus." And I was like, "Oh, you know the group I'm working with." So I think it's really starting to change over there.

### What were some takeaways from your time in Croatia?

**HD:** The biggest takeaway: I need to be more proactive with my faith. Secondly, I think it is to focus more on projecting outward and reaching out to more students about faith. There's a lot of people that are just hungry. They want to get involved in church, and they want to explore the possibility of Christian life but they don't know where exactly to start or where to find and make those connections. That's a place where I can really help people, but I haven't necessarily been using those talents. That was a wake up call for me.

To listen to or read the entire interview, visit [tmuky.us/driscoll](https://tmuky.us/driscoll).

MOREOVER



*Summer interns spend time electrofishing to determine species health in the Ohio River watershed.*

# Biology Field Station: vital to river research

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

A focus on sustainability and recent regional water quality issues and toxic chemical concerns have served to shine a spotlight on the crucial work carried out at the Thomas More University Biology Field Station. Faculty and students at the Field Station perform ongoing monitoring and research of the Ohio River and its tributaries which helps to protect the ecosystem and ensure the safety of those using the river's resources. This work not only advances scientific knowledge, but also helps to improve the quality of life in the region. The Field Station's efforts have been recognized through the awarding of grant dollars, invitations to academic presentations, expansion of staff members, and inclusion in non-profit endeavors.

## Award-Winning Research

The Field Station was named as an award recipient for Duke Energy's new 2023 Climate Resiliency grant program which funds scientific research in the areas of climate change. The Field Station's grant project focuses on the assessment and monitoring of water quality in the Ohio River and on the conservation of threatened and endangered aquatic species that have been and will continue to be impacted by climate change. "The project also supports workforce development as my research assistants are the undergraduate interns that lived at the Station throughout the summer," explains Christopher Lorentz, Ph.D., director of the Biology Field Station. The 2023 intern cohort included four students from Thomas More and seven from other universities, including four from Universidad del Sagrado Corazón, Thomas More's sister school in Puerto Rico.

## Regional Support and Advocacy

Canadian wildfires in early summer 2023 created air quality issues for many Americans, with pollution causing the Air Quality Index to reach an "unhealthy" range in Greater Cincinnati. The poor air quality in turn raised concerns about water quality in the region. The Kentucky Enquirer interviewed several local experts about the fire's

impact on the Ohio River and the return of harmful algal blooms. Lorentz served as one of the local experts, sharing insight gained from recent water quality research at the Biology Field Station. "Air quality has less of a direct impact on water quality. Emissions are the problem," Lorentz was quoted on the front page of the Enquirer.

Lorentz also shared research during a lecture at Shawnee State University about the water quality of the Ohio River. The Jane M. G. Foster Distinguished Lecture Series hosted by Shawnee State brings world renowned authors, leaders, and experts in a variety of academic fields to their Portsmouth, Ohio campus each year. Lorentz's lecture came on the heels of the East Palestine train derailment, which caused concern about drinking water quality and public health for many residents along the Ohio River.

Lorentz's research and the Biology Field Station were also highlighted in a special Ohio River edition of Cincy Magazine published in May 2023. The magazine featured an article by Lorentz entitled, "One of America's Great Rivers." The article conveys the important role the Ohio River plays in the region through its vibrant and resilient ecosystem, and its improved water quality conditions. "At the Center for Ohio River Research & Education at



Thomas More University, we've been conducting research on the biodiversity and ecology of the Ohio River watershed for over 50 years," Lorentz states in the article. "Levels of bacteria and other potential threats are consistently well below the upper limits for safe contact recreation." Lorentz does add that there is still work to be done to protect the river and its surrounding communities. "The Ohio River is a bellwether for our nation's commitment to conservation, environmental protection, and environmental justice." Some non-profit organizations are working to "celebrate the value of the river, recognize its challenges and create solutions." One of those organizations is the Ohio River Basin Alliance (ORBA).

Utilizing his research on the Ohio River, Lorentz serves as vice chair of ORBA, a non-profit organization working to create an ecosystem restoration for the basin. On April 18, 2023, American Rivers 2023 Endangered Rivers Report named the Ohio River as the second most endangered river in the United States. "The Ohio River unifies 30 million people across 15 states, from New York to Mississippi," states the report. "The upper river is threatened by industrialization and pollution, recently exemplified by the East Palestine train derailment. This ongoing chemical disaster underscores the vulnerability of the Ohio River and the need for increased safeguards and durable funding for additional and continuous monitoring." ORBA, on the heels of this news, is urging Congress to designate the river as a federally protected water system and commit to fund both the Ohio River Restoration Plan and Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission's technical upgrades.

The work of ORBA continues to meld with that of the Biology Field Station as the Station welcomed newly appointed general of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (GL/OR) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Aug. 17, 2023. Brigadier General Mark C. Quander was appointed as commander of the GL/OR Division in June of 2023. As part of his transition, he was asked to get to know key stakeholders, particularly those whose work revolves around the region's water issues. Quander and his staff visited the Field Station to learn more about the research taking place and about ORBA.

### Welcome New Staff

Molly Williams was welcomed as the first-ever, full-time Field Station manager in summer 2023. Williams oversees laboratory research and STEM outreach programs. "The Biology Field Station provides crucial research on the Ohio River, giving our students valuable, applied opportunities, protecting the ecosystem, and ensuring public safety for our region," says President Chillo. "We are happy to support the important work being done at the Station and thrilled to welcome Molly to the Thomas More community. Her impressive background and familiarity with the facility will be a great asset to operations at the Field Station."

In 2021, Williams was a summer intern on the River Crew at the Station, conducting fish assessments and comparing near by floodplain lakes to those further upland. Lorentz states, "As one of our undergraduate interns, Molly approached every task with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. Throughout my experiences with her, she was always conscientious, reliable, and dedicated to our research. Given her past work at the Station, her outstanding academic career at Hillsdale (College), and her experience with STEM outreach, Molly is the ideal person to fill our new position. We are pleased to welcome her back to the Station and to the University community. We are looking forward to enhancing the research and outreach programs under Molly's leadership, and we are grateful for President Chillo's investment and support of the Station."

MOREOVER



For more information about the Field Station and its work, visit [thomasmore.edu/biologyfieldstation](https://thomasmore.edu/biologyfieldstation). To read Professor Lorentz's article "One of America's Great Rivers," visit [tmuky.us/mwtraveler](https://tmuky.us/mwtraveler) and flip to page 6



### Tech Girls Visit the Field Station

On July 24-25, 2023, the Biology Field Station hosted a group of young women from Eurasia who came to the United States to learn more about careers in STEM and the educational paths needed to pursue those careers. The group was through an international summer exchange program, TechGirls, designed to empower and inspire young women from around the world to pursue careers in science and technology. Molly Williams, Biology Field Station manager, coordinated activities for the group during their two-day visit that included tours of the Station, research sampling, intern shadowing, and career advising.

The TechGirls group found this opportunity at Thomas More through the University's history of collaboration with the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky World Affairs Council, facilitated by Debby Shipp, director of co-op education and corporate engagement. Shipp previously worked with Lorentz to host several other international visitors affiliated with the World Affairs Council, including Armenian STEM educators and internationally recognized experts in the green economy.





## SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

### Abby (Hightchew) Hatmaker '23

SUBMITTED BY DAVID KLENK '22, GRADUATE ASSISTANT COMMUNICATIONS

Saints Spotlight spoke with Student Government Association President Abby (Hightchew) Hatmaker prior to graduation. Abby studied law as a student and spoke about her journey from student to student president, and the challenges and success she experienced along the way.

#### How did you find Thomas More and know it was the right place for you?

**AH:** I knew that I wanted to go somewhere in the local area, I live in Walton, Kentucky. After I toured Thomas More, I felt like it was going to be the best for me along with the scholarships that were offered. There are a lot of other reasons now that I've chosen Thomas More, but initially, that was my first jump into it.

#### How was your journey from student to president of the Student Government Association?

**AH:** It's been great. I've absolutely loved my time in SGA. I started off as the vice president of programming, doing things like planning community outreach programs and overseeing banquets. Originally Charles Delp (former director of student affairs) was my mentor; I really loved him and loved being able to work with him. He was the one that said "you should run for president," and I said, "Interesting thought – NO!" After a little bit of convincing on his part, I decided it would be something that I should do. It's been great, I have absolutely loved it. I love the impact that we're able to make on students and also the faculty that are here, and outside organizations like charities that we've networked with.

#### What was your favorite SGA event or initiative?

**AH:** It's a close tie between Winter Wonderland and a Pie Your Professor event for breast cancer awareness. We donated all of the proceeds to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. I think that was one of my favorite events so far, but Winter Wonderland is also really awesome because you get to have a bunch of kids from the community come out, and they do a bunch of different crafts with the clubs that are on campus. It is a good opportunity for Thomas More to showcase the students that we have here and be able to work with the community. Those are my top two.

#### What accomplishment are you most proud of as president?

**AH:** One of the things that I look back on most is the survey that we launched. It was the largest survey response that we've had so far at Thomas More. We had about 280 responses all together. Getting students' feedback ... and being able to be an advocate for the students and having their voice in data form is great. Being able to present that to the proper committees and people is awesome. I would say just student advocacy and being able to promote that and voice their opinions.

#### Who or what do you draw inspiration from?

**AH:** My inspiration comes from each quality that I have and each motivating factor that I have gotten from different people. My perseverance comes from my grandmother. The example that she set for me was fantastic, she was such a role model in my life and so important to me. My courageousness and the fact that I'm such an overachiever is due to my father. I think the fact that I'm a very argumentative person – anytime I go into a conversation and somebody says something that I disagree with, I'm very open about, "Wait, why would you say that?" I get into a debate automatically and that's because of my Mom. That served me very well in the long run - not being able to just accept something that somebody says that I disagree with. Those are the three people that have inspired me to be who I am.

#### What are your plans and goals for after graduation?

**AH:** I will probably take a gap year and save for law school. In 2024 I plan to go to law school. I specifically like medical malpractice law; working on the plaintiff side is something that I've enjoyed researching. There are so many different fields of law that I'm interested in, and so many different areas that I hope to someday dabble in. Going to law school is a great step for me to figure out what's best. I've done numerous legal internships and every single one, I found something that I like. After I graduate, I'd love to work for a firm in the corporate realm. Maybe one day I will be a judge. I love that side of things, too. Interning for a judge has opened me up to that.

To listen to or read the entire interview, visit [tmuky.us/hightchew](https://tmuky.us/hightchew).

MOREOVER







## Headlines in campus news

### NEW INITIATIVE WELCOMES FORMER BENGAL LOUIS BREEDEN TO CAMPUS

Former Cincinnati Bengal cornerback Louis Breedon visited campus immediately before the start of the new academic year and spoke with football players of color about his college experience and what led to his 11-year career with the Bengals. The talk was part of a pilot program the University launched this year entitled Own Your Year. To read the press release, visit [tmuky.us/breedon](https://tmuky.us/breedon).

### IRL FALL INTERFAITH EVENT

As Moreover headed to press, the 2023 fall interfaith event hosted by the Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III '67 Institute for Religious Liberty was preparing to take place. The title for the fall talk was "In Defense of Strictly Scrutinizing Religious Rights." The event



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

was moderated by Robert Stern, assistant professor in history & legal studies at the University and featured Stephanie Barclay, director of Notre Dame Law School's Religious Liberty Initiative, as the keynote speaker. Guest commentators included Holly Hinckley Lisan, from the International Center for Law & Religion Studies at Brigham Young University Law School and Gary L. Greenberg, retired principal from the Cincinnati law office of Jackson Lewis P.C. For more information about the IRL or access to a recording of this event, visit [thomasmore.edu/religiousliberty](https://thomasmore.edu/religiousliberty).

### FIRST INVESTITURE OF SQUIRES FOR THE NORTH CENTRAL LIEUTENANCY OF THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM

The investiture of Squires for the North Central Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem was conducted at Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel in September 2023. This was the first investiture in the United States and all inductees were either alumnae or students at Thomas More. Congratulations to Madison A. Light '19, Heather Konerman '21, Esteban Munguía, Jeffrey C. Noe, Juan Pablo Villagrana Francisco, and Houston S. Watson. For more information about the Fellowship of Squires and a video of the investiture, visit [tmuky.us/23squires](https://tmuky.us/23squires).

### MANUEL IRIS, POET LAUREATE EMERITUS OF CINCINNATI, NAMED AS WRITER IN RESIDENCE

The English and Creative Writing Department was pleased to welcome Manuel Iris, poet laureate emeritus of the city of Cincinnati as writer-in-residence of the University for the 2023-24 academic year. Iris plans to visit campus each semester offering students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to get to know the world-renowned poet in an informal setting. "We are especially excited about Iris visiting because of his passion for working with students as well as his bilingual poetry, which explores language and culture in fascinating and important ways," says Sarah Gerkenmeyer, assistant professor. For more information, visit [tmuky.us/iris](https://tmuky.us/iris).

### WSJ/COLLEGE PULSE DESIGNATES THOMAS MORE A 2024 BEST COLLEGE

Thomas More is listed by the Wall Street Journal (WSJ)/College Pulse as a 2024 Best Colleges in the rankings shared in September 2023. Thomas More holds position 207 among 400 private and public colleges and universities from across the U.S. on the overall list, ranking best among local tri-state schools and placing third among the seven institutions on the list from Kentucky. For the University press release, visit [tmuky.us/24ranking](https://tmuky.us/24ranking). To review the entire list and the methodology used, visit [tmuky.us/24wsjpulse](https://tmuky.us/24wsjpulse) (paid subscription required).

*TOP: Louis Breedon addresses football players as part of the Own Your Year initiative.*

*CENTER: Squire induction ceremony for six Thomas More alumni and students in Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel.*

*BOTTOM: Writer-in-residence Manuel Iris visits campus for Pizza with a Poet.*

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

AMERICA'S BEST  
COLLEGES 2024

IN COOPERATION WITH COLLEGE PULSE AND Statista





## Border studies experience approaches a quarter century of service

SUBMITTED BY LYNNA KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR | CONTRIBUTIONS FROM JAMES CAMP, Ph.D.

Twenty-five years ago, faculty member Stephen Holler taught Liberation Theology classes where he guided students in exploring the issue of labor exploitation in the maquiladora industry (assembly plants) in Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. This class was the inspiration for what became the current day border studies program. Students taking this class in 1999 wanted to experience more and initiated a field experience to the border. They approached Paul Tenkotte, Ph.D., the director of international studies at the time, and he helped them organize the trip to El Paso, Texas/Juarez, Chihuahua. James Camp, Ph.D., was asked to go along on this first trip as a secondary chaperone, and the rest is history as over 200 individual students have participated in this transformative international service-learning opportunity. Close to 40 of these students have participated in the trip on multiple occasions.

The initial trip to the border served as simply an exploratory mission. “I was there for less than twenty-four hours and came to the conclusion that we needed to create a course and make this a more permanent experience for students here at the college,” says Camp. The first for-credit course was offered in spring of 2001. The course is three-credit hours and focuses on the application of Catholic social teaching to the issues of immigration, labor rights, primacy of family, stewardship of the environment, with the field experience providing in-person context. “The goals of the course are to foster greater awareness of self, the other (the immigrant), critical thinking

(concerning the structural nature of social injustice), and a cultural/materialistic humility,” explains Camp. He also says he kept the Thomas More mission in mind when creating course content. “I am a fan of the mission of the University. I want Thomas More graduates to find meaning in their lives. If nothing else the gift of the migrant is perspective.”

### A Generational Perspective

The longevity of the border studies program reached another milestone in 2023, as it marked the first time two generations have participated in the program. Christopher “Tex” Bailey ’02 participated in the program in 2001, while his son Andrew Bailey ’24 participated in 2023. Moreover caught up with the father and son to learn more about their experience.

The Bailey’s both found the border studies program to be an eye-opening experience. “Being afforded the opportunity to go into Juarez, you notice that it is a completely different world,” recalls Andrew Bailey. “Dr. Camp’s class really inspired me, because it not only pushed me academically, but it also allowed me to see a different perspective than we are used to, especially here in Northern Kentucky.” Tex Bailey adds, “It’s culture shock when you cross the border. You just have to see it to really believe it.”

Witnessing the poverty of the area is something that neither

*ABOVE: James Camp (front) with students overlooking the border area they are serving.*

*BOTTOM RIGHT: Border study program students take a break as they reflect on their experience*



Bailey will forget. Andrew recalls arriving at the border and seeing children through the porous border wall. “These little kids who were not in school, it was a weekday, they basically told us that their parents could not afford to send them to school.... We often do not think about the level of things that we are given and that we take for granted. Obviously, these kids were not afforded those luxuries, like education.” Andrew added that Border Patrol quickly discouraged the students from engaging with the children on the other side of the fence, calling them “dangerous.”

Students participating in the border studies program live and serve at Annunciation House, a refuge for those in migration. Guests range from people who have come to the U.S. seeking work, those who have fled violence and extortion in their home country, to undocumented families living in El Paso facing financial hardship. “They accepted everybody as a family and they accepted us,” Tex remembers. “You would work and then they would feed us, and everybody had a job; everybody has something to do, just like one big family. Afterwards they sang.” Years later, Andrew would have a similar experience at Annunciation House. “They take in migrants refugees, immigrants, basically if you show up at the door and you need help, they will take you in no questions asked,” says Andrew. “You have to earn your keep in the sense that you have to help. We helped out, helped cook and what not.”

Further instilling Thomas More’s mission of service, the experience is one that both Bailey’s say will stay with them forever. Tex commented that it had an impact on his career path; he now serves the region working with juveniles facing arrest. “A lot of juveniles today, especially here, take for granted everything they have,” Tex says. He is able to share his experience at the border to try and give them some perspective. “They definitely would not know how to handle something like these kids (on the border), who do not even know if they are going to get a meal when they go home at night. (Being on the U.S./Mexico border) opens your eyes to see the difference between people that take for granted what they have and people that do not.”

### An Experience Built on Empathy

As the program nears the 25th anniversary, Camp reflects on what makes it so successful, “I believe that students want to explore the world, understand its ‘goods’ and ‘not-so-goods’ and build memories, knowledge, and bonds with a smattering of challenges and fun. This program does that, and how many university students can say they lived and learned in a homeless shelter?”

MOREOVER



### Connecting with Annunciation House

From 2000 until 2006 Annunciation House served as a small part of Thomas More border studies programming (usually a one-to-two-hour visit) as the majority of the trip was in collaboration with the Center for Inter-American and Border Studies at the University of Texas at El Paso. As a year-long sabbatical approached in 2007-2008, Dr. Camp decided that living with and serving the poor in migration would be an effective use of this formative year. He said ‘yes’ to this call to serve and live with those in migration at Annunciation House.

The year was indeed pivotal both professionally and personally. From 2009 on, the programming and immersion experience students have, has been a part of Annunciation House’s Border Awareness Experience (BAE). That same year, Dr. Camp was invited to join the Board of Directors of Annunciation House. He was elected vice-president in 2014 and president in 2018 (an office he continues to hold). He also serves on the Board’s Visioning Committee and the Education, Advocacy and Communication Committee.

In addition to board service and the annual spring break programming for Thomas More students, Dr. Camp commits additional time in service including a week during fall board meetings, two weeks of service during spring meetings and many other times of need such as family reunification in the summer of 2018 (visit [tmuky.us/reunite](https://tmuky.us/reunite) to read this entry from Dr. Camp) and the surge at the end of Title 42 in December of 2022. Often, he is blessed to have students accompany him in these efforts. For a reflection by two students who accompanied Dr. Camp on a winter break trip in 2018, visit [tmuky.us/18border](https://tmuky.us/18border).

As details for the 25th year of border studies are finalized, look for more great stories about the impact this program has on how students and alumni approach their careers and the lives they pursue post-graduation.





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

### Robert W. Plaster College of Business



**Jeni Al Bahrani '05**, professor of practice and director of the Dr. Anthony '65 & Geraldine '66 Zembrodt Center for Entrepreneurship and

*Al Bahrani* Innovation, was named as a board member of the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation (KSTC). Al Bahrani joins four fellow newcomers to the board; volunteers comprised of leaders from business, education, innovation, and economic development communities. Visit [tmuky.us/albahrani](https://tmuky.us/albahrani) for the press release.



**Carrie Jaeger, Ph.D.**,

associate professor, business administration and economics, was named a regional recipient of the 2023 Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) Teaching Excellence Award. The ACBSP recognizes individuals each year who exemplify teaching excellence in the classroom. For the official press release, visit [tmuky.us/jaeger](https://tmuky.us/jaeger).



**Malcolm Robinson, Ph.D.**,

professor, business administration and economics, served as an expert on the best loans for people who suffer from bad credit in a moneygeek article published in March. To read the article, visit [tmuky.us/robinson10](https://tmuky.us/robinson10).

Moneygeek.com also featured Professor Robinson in two summer 2023 reports entitled Best 0% APR Credit Cards ([tmuky.us/mr11](https://tmuky.us/mr11)) and Best Debt Consolidation Loans ([tmuky.us/mr12](https://tmuky.us/mr12)). Robinson participated in a WalletHub piece about How to Lower Your Car Insurance Premiums. To find out if his advice works for you, visit [tmuky.us/mr13](https://tmuky.us/mr13).



**Bruce Rosenthal, Ph.D.**, dean, was elected to the board of the Japan America Society of Greater Cincinnati (JASGC). The JASGC celebrates 35

*Rosenthal* years of collaboration with other organizations producing high-quality

business, cultural, social, and educational programs. Visit [tmuky.us/jasgc](https://tmuky.us/jasgc) for more information.

**John D. (Jack) Rudnick, Ed.D.**, professor,



*Rudnick*

**Carrie Jaeger, Ph.D.**, associate professor, and **Nicole Modafari**, adjunct professor, business administration and economics, along with **Jyoti Saraswat,**



*Saraswat*

**Ph.D.**, associate professor, mathematics and physics and Brandi Kenly, biologics program manager for OneBlood, had a book chapter published in the "Handbook of Research on Quality and Competitiveness in the Healthcare Services Sector." The chapter is: Evaluation Cases Frame Healthcare Quality Improvement.

### College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences



*Garriga*

**Maria C. (Cari) Garriga, Ph.D.**,

professor, foreign languages, wrote The Dean as Supporter-in-Chief: Spreading Joy in Academic Communities, included as a chapter in

"The Resource Handbook for Academic Deans, Fourth Edition," solicited by the American Conference of Academic Deans and edited by Andrew Adams. Johns Hopkins University Press (2023).



*Oldfield*

**Steve Oldfield**, assistant

professor, creative media, had several articles related to the University published on Spectrum News 1. A spring article covered environmental

attorney Robert Bilott's visit to campus in March 2023. Bilott is a Cincinnati lawyer whose battle with Dupont over deadly contamination in West Virginia inspired the movie "Dark Waters." To read/watch the article visit [tmuky.us/oldfield1](https://tmuky.us/oldfield1). Oldfield also completed an article featuring work by alumnus artist Michael Thompson '22 which appeared during the summer in the Freedom Center. Visit [tmuky.us/oldfield2](https://tmuky.us/oldfield2) to read and watch this August article. Another article by

Oldfield old the story of communications majors Autumn Frank and Ansley Rooks who assisted in raising funds for a couple exploring adoption. To read that article visit [tmuky.us/oldfield3](https://tmuky.us/oldfield3).

**Christy Petroze, Ed.D.**, associate professor



*Petroze*

and chair of the School of Education, and Katie Boruske, principal at St. Therese School in the Diocese of Covington, presented an action research project at the National Catholic Education Association in Dallas, Texas in April 2023. Sharing their research on "The Professional Impacts of a Professional Learning Community Model in Small Schools" provided a wonderful opportunity to highlight the collaborative partnership between the University and the Diocese of Covington schools.



**John T. Spence, Ph.D., AICP**, professor, philosophy, political science & interdisciplinary study, **Maria Mitchell**, professor and department chair, accountancy, and **Amy Thistlethwaite, Ph.D.**, professor, sociology & criminal justice, took part in the Hunger Walk and 5K Run, an event held each year on the banks of downtown Cincinnati, Ohio. This year, the walk was held on Memorial Day, May 29, 2023. Since its inception in 2004, supporters of the Hunger Walk and 5K Run have raised more than \$2 million, the equivalent of six million meals, for Freestore Foodbank community partners like The Healing Center.



## St. Elizabeth College of Natural and Health Sciences



*Hinkel*

**Austin Hinkel, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, physics, was awarded a Kentucky NASA EPSCoR grant for \$21,300 in funding to develop a new, introductory-level, data-driven astronomy course and kick-start a research program at Thomas More. The proposed course will leverage the vast amount of data and inspiration available in astronomy to prepare first- and second-year students for high impact undergraduate research. The grant also supports sophomore physics and mathematics double major Josephine Roach with a research stipend and conference travel funds.



*Lorentz*

**Christopher Lorentz, Ph.D.**, professor, biological sciences and director of the Biology Field Station, wrote the lead article about the Ohio River featured in spring 2023 in the Midwest Traveler, a subsidiary of Cincy magazine. Visit [tmuky.us/mwtraveler](https://tmuky.us/mwtraveler) to read the article online. Flip to page 6.



*Ryle*

**Wes Ryle, Ph.D.**, professor, physics, was awarded two research experience for undergraduate grants to support student research at the Thomas More University Observatory. The grants provide research stipends to support senior physics and mathematics double major Ash Coleman's continuing work on binary stars and senior physics major Lindsay Dawson's work with cataclysmic variables. The grants also provide travel funds for the students to attend the January 2024 American Astronomical Society meeting in New Orleans, La. This marks the third year of funded support for these students, totaling over \$40,000. Wes Ryle was recently named president-elect for the Kentucky Area Astronomical Society

## Administration/Staff

**Barbara Amato**, academic coach for the Institute of Academic Excellence, scored essays for American Mensa. This was her ninth year as a national judge for the Mensa



*Amato*

Foundation's U.S. Scholarship Program. Amato also had a letter to the editor published in the March 2023 issue of Mensa Bulletin. Editor's Note: Mensa is a worldwide organization in which the qualification or membership is scoring within the upper 2% of the general population on an approved intelligence test.



*Bilz*

**Kelly Bilz**, reference and instructional librarian, as a member of the American Library Association (ALA) Emerging Leaders Program, presented the poster "Library Communities Vote!" at the 2023 annual ALA national conference. Bilz and her team built an app that produces posters that libraries can display with auto-generated local-specific information for voters.



*Chillo*

**Joseph L. Chillo, LP.D.**, president, joined the BE NKY Growth Partnership's Board of Directors (previously Northern Kentucky Tri-ED) in summer 2023. BE NKY is governed by a 23-member board of directors comprised of business and community leaders, who are unpaid volunteers. To read more about the role of BE NKY Growth Partnership in the community, visit [tmuky.us/benky](https://tmuky.us/benky).



*Cole*

**Andrew Cole**, director of Campus Ministry, was reappointed in spring 2023 by Governor Andy Beshear's Office of Boards and Commissions to Serve Kentucky. This service commission seeks to engage Kentuckians in volunteerism and service to positively impact local communities.



*Connor*

**Terry Connor '92**, director of athletics, now serves the University in a vice president role. In addition to serving on the President's Cabinet, Connor oversees more than 30 highly competitive sports teams and the Saints band program. Connor was also honored at the Northern Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame in August 2023 with the Dr. James Claypool Pioneer Award. To read the press release, visit [tmuky.us/connor](https://tmuky.us/connor).



*Ernst*

**John Ernst, Ph.D.**, director of the Benedictine Library and Center for Teaching, Learning, & Scholarship, was presented with the Thomas More Mary Schwab Employee Service Award for 2023. This honor is awarded to an outstanding employee via a nomination process and honors long-time assistant to the registrar, Mary Schwab, who was always cheerful, helpful, patient, and welcoming.



*Hans*

**Jeff Hans '19**, women's basketball coach, was interviewed in May 2023 by Marc Hardin of LINK NKY regarding Hans' highly successful career coaching the Saints. Coach talked about his time in basketball and highlights his 12 years with Thomas More. Visit [tmuky.us/hans23](https://tmuky.us/hans23) to read the Q&A.



*Messingschlager*

**Mark Messingschlager '11/'15, FAAC®** along with Tara Verrico (Geneva College), and Jessica Flogaites, FAAC® (University of Pittsburgh), as members of National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), were hosted for in-person meetings on Capitol Hill as part of April's Advocacy Pipeline. NASFAA members spoke to congressional staffers about financial aid topics affecting college eligible students. Visit [tmuky.us/messingschlager3](https://tmuky.us/messingschlager3) to read the full article.



*Reynolds*

**Kevin Reynolds, Ed.D.**, vice president for Institutional Advancement (IA), took on a larger role as senior vice president for Mission and University Advancement. In addition to the alumni, fundraising, and communications functions within IA, Reynolds now oversees the Center for Faith, Mission & Catholic Education, Campus Ministry, and the Wm. T (Bill) Robinson III '67 Institute for Religious Liberty. Reynolds also received the Exceptional Service Award for 2022-2023 by ForCollegeForLife, an organization he has been associated with for nine years. ForCollegeForLife provides a diverse group of speakers on a wide range of topics which have relevance for colleges, universities, and organizations focused on students and professionals.





# Why I Give with Bruce Hoffmeister '83

Bruce is the chief information officer at Crafter Barrel. During his time at Thomas More, he received a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics and an associate degree in biology. Bruce then went on to Vanderbilt University Owen Graduate School of Management and earned a Master of Business Administration in finance

SUBMITTED BY AUSTIN FEDERMANN, DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER | PHOTO PROVIDED

“Going to college marked a pivotal transition into the real world. My time at Thomas More provided me with not just an education, but also a solid foundation of values and skills that shaped my future,” states Bruce. When asked about his motivation to give back, Bruce explains, “My commitment to giving back is rooted in the belief that providing current students with the same foundation I had will help them navigate the challenges of life beyond campus. College is where we prepare for the real world, and I want to ensure that the next generation has the tools they need to succeed.”

What stands out about Bruce’s perspective is his conviction that higher education is a privilege in itself. He recognizes that not everyone has equal access to the transformative power of a college

education. He passionately states, “It’s a better world when more people have access to higher education, and it’s our responsibility to make it more accessible. By giving someone else access and making it easier for them, we contribute to a brighter future for all.”

Furthermore, Bruce’s decision to give back is also deeply rooted in a sense of gratitude towards the University. He views his contributions as a way to express that gratitude and invest in the continued success of Thomas More University, an institution that played a profound role in shaping his personal and professional journey. In essence, Bruce’s motivation to give back reflects a genuine commitment to paying forward the opportunities and advantages he received during his time at Thomas More.

MOREOVER

## Upcoming Ways to Give:

# GIVING TUESDAY

Join us on Nov. 28, 2023 by making a gift and sharing the word on social media about the positive impact Thomas More makes on our community. To make your gift, use the link [thomasmore.edu/donate](https://thomasmore.edu/donate). Thanks to our generosity and social media influence, this Giving Tuesday will be our best ever!

## As 2023 comes to a close, use your IRA to benefit Thomas More University!

If you are over the age of 73, you may have a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA. By making a gift using the RMD from your IRA, you make an impact on Thomas More while improving your tax situation for 2023. If you’d like to learn more, contact us at 859.344.3344.







*Mark and Casey Guilfoyle '81 attending the Bishop Hughes Award Dinner with Professor Emeritus Ray Hebert.*

# Diocese of Covington students benefit as Guilfoyles pay it forward

SUBMITTED BY LYNNA KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR

A new scholarship opportunity is available to students from select schools within the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky who choose to attend Thomas More University. The Guilfoyle Family Scholarship Fund provides students enrolled at the University with financial assistance in the form of tuition, books, or other direct education expenses. This fund is made possible through a generous gift from Catherine (Casey), who graduated from Thomas More in 1981, and husband Mark Guilfoyle. The Guilfoyles have both led successful careers in the legal sector and are active in philanthropy in the region.

The scholarship fund is needs based and gives preference to students who graduate from Covington Latin School, Holy Cross District High School, and St. Henry District High School. Second preference is given to students who graduated from diocesan elementary schools including St. Anthony, St. Augustine, Holy Cross, Holy Family, Holy Trinity, and Prince of Peace. "We established this scholarship to help deserving students receive the Catholic liberal arts education that we benefited from," explains Casey. "Thomas More University is a treasure for our local community, and we are very proud to support its mission."

Many of the schools given preference to are part of the Diocese of Covington Alliance for Catholic Urban Education (ACUE) program. ACUE works to ensure

that children attending school in the inner-city areas of the diocese and who have socio-economic challenges, have access to a quality, Catholic education. The Guilfoyle Family Scholarship provides an additional resource as they matriculate into higher education. "For many years we have strongly supported ACUE," adds Casey. "Many ACUE students come from impoverished or underprivileged backgrounds, so it was important for our family to help some graduates from these six elementary schools attend Thomas More."

Thomas More is the University of the Diocese of Covington; one of only 11 diocesan colleges or universities in the United States. "Founded in 1921 as northern Kentucky's first college, we continue to be the regional leader of a quality Catholic liberal arts education, providing students with an experience that develops character, a sense of purpose, and an understanding of responsibility to others," says President Chillo. "Through opportunities like the Guilfoyle Family Scholarship Fund, we ensure all students have access to an affordable, values-based, and personalized education that will serve them for a lifetime."

MOREOVER

MOREOVER [Fall 2023]

17

## Eucharistic Adoration

The practice of Eucharistic Adoration has been a part of the Catholic faith since the very beginning and in its most basic terms is the worship of the Eucharist outside of the Mass. The Eucharistic Host is displayed in a monstrance on the altar so that all can see and pray in the presence of Christ. This practice takes place each Monday from 1-4 p.m. in Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel and, without fail, Casey Guilfoyle can be found taking part in this homage to the Savior. Her demonstration of faith is one more example she sets for students.

Visit [thomasmore.edu/donate](https://thomasmore.edu/donate) to make a gift online. If giving online is not your preference, there is always the option of sending your gift in the envelope at the center of this Moreover. For additional information, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 859.344.3344 or [advancement@thomasmore.edu](mailto:advancement@thomasmore.edu).

## Did you attend a class in the Science Lecture Hall?

Here is your chance to win\* a pair of the very seats you sat in during those classes! Did you start a new job? Get married? Finish grad school? Change your email address? Move recently?

**Tell us!** Update your information in our database by Jan. 5, 2024, for a chance to win a pair of seats.

Visit [tmuky.us/alumniform](https://tmuky.us/alumniform) or scan the code:



\*Additional restrictions apply.





# CLASS OF 2023

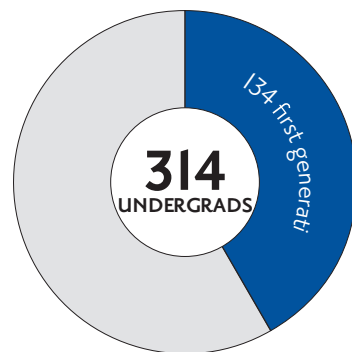
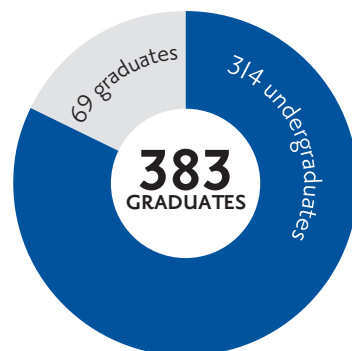
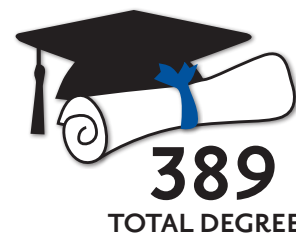
SUBMITTED BY LYN KELLE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR

All three of the University's colleges participated in one outdoor ceremony for Commencement 2023, held at Thomas More Stadium in Florence, Kentucky. Three hundred and eighty-three individual graduates received 389 degrees which were conferred upon 314 undergraduate and 69 graduate students. "I would like to thank our faculty for guiding and helping you to explore and to engage in your education here at Thomas More," President Chillo said in his remarks. "They ensure that our mission is timely and relevant because we know the value of every alumnus in fulfilling their ability to examine the ultimate meaning of life, their place in the world, and their responsibility to others."

Presidential Award winner Maria Rice, a James Graham Brown Scholar, delivered the commencement address, saying, "We never could have predicted how much would change between our convocation ceremony in our first year and our commencement. We can leave Thomas More with more than just the knowledge that we gained in our classes; we can leave with a well-rounded set of skills from our liberal arts experiences, lifelong friends, an ever-growing community of alumni, and confidence that the graduating class of 2023 will move forward to make a world of difference in the future." Two honorary doctorates were awarded. Internationally renowned litigator, advocate, and author, Robert A. Bilott, who received a Doctor of Laws (honorary), delivered the commencement keynote, sharing, "As graduates, I hope all of you will be open and receptive to the opportunities that will be coming your way to use this unique educational experience and your individual talents to not only succeed in your chosen field, but to help those in our community that need your assistance and skills, and to help change and improve the world around you."

MOREOVER

To listen to President Chillo's complete remarks visit [tmuky.us/chillo23](https://tmuky.us/chillo23).  
To listen to Maria Rice's complete address visit [tmuky.us/rice23](https://tmuky.us/rice23).  
To listen to the keynote address by Robert Bilott, visit [tmuky.us/bilott23](https://tmuky.us/bilott23).  
For photos and additional information about Commencement, visit [thomasmore.edu/commencement](https://thomasmore.edu/commencement).



5 Veterans or Active Military among graduates



5 countries 12 states



## AWARD WINNERS

### THE FIRST GENERATION STUDENT AWARD

This student exemplifies the university's mission, demonstrates leadership in curriculum, promotes a life of faith, and is the first person in their family to attend college.



#### SPENCER TRIMPE '23

Bachelor of Science in biology  
(minor in environmental science)

### THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

Awarded to the top undergraduate senior, who exemplifies the mission of the University and recognizes the importance of service to others.



#### MARIA RICE '23

Bachelor of Science in chemistry  
(minor in mathematics)

### THE DEAN'S GRADUATE AWARD

Honors a graduate student who exemplifies the mission of the University and the importance of service to others.



#### AMANDA BAKER '23

Master of Arts in teaching

### LIFELONG LEARNING AWARD

This student epitomizes what it is to be a member of the accelerated program.



#### DEB GAFNER '23

Associate of Arts in business administration

## HONORARY DEGREES

### HONORARY DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



#### ROBERT W. PLASTER (POSTHUMOUSLY)

A former member of the U.S. Treasury Department who founded the Empire Gas Corporation, Plaster established a Foundation which provides transformational gifts to colleges and universities to expand educational opportunities, pride in America, and the belief in the American free enterprise system.

### HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS



#### ROBERT A. BILOTT, J.D.

Bilott is an internationally renowned litigator, advocate, and author, and a partner at Taft Law in Cincinnati, Ohio. As a guest lecturer at Thomas More in 2022 and 2023, Bilott spoke about his life's work surrounding litigation versus DuPont in West Virginia.



## FACULTY AWARDS

### OUTSTANDING FULL TIME FACULTY

SHIV SHARMA, Ph.D. | ST. ELIZABETH COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

GREGORY MAZZA | ROBERT W. PLASTER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

ALISSA AYRES | COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

### OUTSTANDING PART TIME FACULTY

PAMELA CAUDILL | COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



# In recognition of & excellence & commitment



**SERVICE**  
Patricia Borne '81



**CITIZENSHIP**  
Shannon Culp '99'22



**CITIZENSHIP**  
Andrew Kulina '87



**PROFESSIONAL  
ACHIEVEMENT**  
Linda Robinson '87



**PROFESSIONAL  
ACHIEVEMENT**  
Robert Stevens '78



**EMERGING  
LEADER**  
Caroline Trennepohl '21



**LASTING  
INFLUENCE**  
Tom Gilday '75

SUBMITTED BY LYNA KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR & COURTNEY KLEIER '17, DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT | PHOTOS PROVIDED

The Thomas More Alumni Association recognized seven graduates of the University as recipients of the 2023 Alumni Awards. These alumni are honored for their professional achievements and continuing commitment to living the mission of the University. “We were thrilled by a particularly large number of nominations this year,” says Courtney Kleier '17, director of Alumni Engagement. “The Alumni Awards Committee had a lot of difficult decisions to make. It has been an inspiring experience to read about not only the great things that our alumni are doing, but to see how their lives have positively impacted those around them.” Awards were presented in five specific categories which align with the mission of the University: professional achievement, citizenship, service, lasting influence (faculty/staff) and emerging leader. “I am so glad that we have the opportunity to acknowledge the impact of individual Thomas More alumni who

are living out our mission of contemplating their responsibility to others, the meaning of life, and their place in the world,” adds Kleier.

#### Thomas More Service

**Patricia Borne '81** receives this award for the time, energy, and expertise that she has contributed to Thomas More University over the years. She worked in the Benedictine Library for many years and was involved in starting the adult learning program, teaching several classes. Additionally, Patricia was dedicated to working with students to help them improve their grades and find jobs, serving for a time as assistant director of Career Development. Passionate about student success, Borne was instrumental in starting the Harold Borne Scholarship at the University. Borne has been coaching professionals for over 25 years in corporate and non-profit environments, using intervention and developmental models.



## Citizenship

**Shannon Culp '99/'22, CDPSE, CBCP, CINSa, CHS-III, BCMP**, receives this award in recognition of her commitment to public safety within the cyber security space. Culp volunteers her talents, as a co-founder of the American Red Cross' Business Emergency Planning Association, a member of the Cincinnati Citizens Police Association and of the Information Systems Security Association. She has been a member of the FBI Cincinnati Citizens Alumni Association Board since 2005, recently served as its vice president, and helps fundraise for survivors of human trafficking. Culp also mentors the next generation of cyber security professionals through GetWITit and as an adjunct professor at Thomas More.

**Andrew (Andy) Kulina '87** receives this award for the commitment he and his family made to host a Ukrainian family who sought refuge after the Russian invasion in 2022. Using an apartment above their garage, the Kulinas gave the family of three a safe space to rebuild their lives and the resources needed to thrive. Andy and his wife reside in the U.K. and have welcomed two children together. Their oldest daughter, Olivia, has Phelan-McDermid Syndrome, an underdiagnosed chromosome deletion condition that causes many difficulties. The Kulinas are active in creating awareness about the syndrome and promoting further research. For an interview with Andy about his life since Thomas More, go to [page 24](#).

## Professional Achievement

**Linda F. Robinson '87, MSN, RN, CPXP**, receives this award as a seasoned national speaker and accomplished author with an impressive nursing career spanning over 35 years. Her expertise lies in various domains, including patient- and family-centered care, patient engagement technology, emergency medicine, critical care, forensic nursing, and healthcare legislation. Just a few of the well-deserved accolades she has received include Magnet Nurse of the Year for Structural Empowerment by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, the prestigious Healthcare Hero Award from the Greater Cincinnati Business Courier Journal, and being celebrated for Outstanding Contribution to Emergency Nursing by the Greater Cincinnati Emergency Nurses Association. Robinson serves as the vice president of Clinical Excellence at MDM Healthcare, where her passion lies in advocating for nurses, patients and their families.

**Robert (Bob) Stevens '78**, current executive chair of the board and co-founder of Bottom Line Systems, Inc., is also honored with this award. Stevens has not only served his community as an outstanding attorney, having been listed consistently from 1991-

2010 among the "Best Lawyers in America in Healthcare Law," but was also recognized among "Kentucky's Super Lawyers" (top 5%). In addition, he has taught as an adjunct faculty member in healthcare law at Xavier University in the Masters in Healthcare Administration Program. He has served and currently serves on several board of directors in Northern Kentucky, including St. Elizabeth Healthcare and Notre Dame Academy.

## Emerging Leader

**Caroline Betty Trennepohl '21** receives this award as she holds the position of campaign manager at the E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio as well as serves as the chair of community service for the Scripps Women's Network. Trennepohl also holds the position of chair of talent acquisition for the Women in Tech Program, further showcasing her commitment to promoting gender diversity in the tech industry. Trennepohl is dedicated to community development. She established a non-profit organization for career discovery called Girls C.A.N. Mentoring and is also actively engaged in various community roles, including participation on the Thomas More Young Alumni Council and as a board member of Cincinnati Youth Collaborative (CYC). She contributes her time and efforts to the Saturday Hoops program.

## Lasting Influence

**Thomas Gilday '75** is an excellent choice for this award, having joined Thomas More in 1979 as a faculty member. 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. Tom, his siblings, and children, Erin and Tom Jr., are all Thomas More alumni. He initiated the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program in 1981 and received institutional recognition including Instructor of the Year 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 served as department chair, was instrumental in beginning the Jamaica Service Learning program, and shepherded the co-op/internship program. In recognition of meritorious service, Gilday was named Faculty Emeritus in December 2021.

As Moreover went to press, Homecoming Weekend was getting ready to kickoff with several featured events including the Alumni Association Awards on Oct. 20. Look for photos and coverage of all the events at [more.thomasmore.edu](https://more.thomasmore.edu).



# Join the fun!

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

## DECEMBER

### ADG UNIVERSAL NIGHT

Friday | Dec. 1, 2023

## FEBRUARY

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

Sunday | Feb. 11, 2024

Additional details TBA

For sponsorship opportunities or to attend,  
email [alumni@thomasmore.edu](mailto:alumni@thomasmore.edu)

### ST. THOMAS MORE'S BIRTHDAY

Feb. 7, 2024

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

Wednesday | Feb. 21, 2024

Additional details TBA

For more information visit [thomasmore.edu/religiousliberty](https://thomasmore.edu/religiousliberty)

## MARCH

### WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Friday | March 15, 2024

Additional details TBA

For sponsorship opportunities or to attend,  
email [alumni@thomasmore.edu](mailto:alumni@thomasmore.edu)

## APRIL

### BISHOP WILLIAM A. HUGHES AWARD DINNER

Wednesday | April 17, 2024

Additional details TBA

For sponsorship opportunities or to attend,  
email [alumni@thomasmore.edu](mailto:alumni@thomasmore.edu)

## MAY

### SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC

Monday | May 6, 2024

Summit Hills Country Club

Additional details TBA

For sponsorship opportunities or to attend,  
email [alumni@thomasmore.edu](mailto:alumni@thomasmore.edu)

Don't miss all the action!

For more events, visit [tmuky.us/alumnienvents](https://tmuky.us/alumnienvents)

## 2023 RELIGIOUS JUBILEES

### 70 Years

Sister Mary Carol Hellmann '63, OSB

Sister Mary Patricia Kenney '66, SND

Sister Ruth Nadicksbernd '62, CDP

### 65 Years

Sister Mary Evelyn Reinke '62, SND

### 60 Years

Sister Georgiana Abplanalp '72, CDP

Sister Mary Judith Averbeck '65, SND

Sister Mary Luann Bender '71, SND

Sister Mary Tereze Deye '68, SND

Sister Paula Gohs '66, CDP

Sister Mary Shannon Kriege '71, SND

Sister Sharon Portwood '70, OSB

### 40 Years

Sister Maria Therese Schappert '85, SND



### Follow Thomas More Alumni on social media:



ThomasMoreAlum



Thomas More  
University Alumni



ThomasMoreAlumni

### 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](mailto:alumni@thomasmore.edu) or visit [tmuky.us/alumninote](https://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](https://thomasmore.edu/alumni) or drop a note in the business reply envelope located in the center of this Moreover.



## We'd love to share your engagement, wedding, and anniversary news!

Send your good news (and a digital photo) by visiting [tmuky.us/alumninote](https://tmuky.us/alumninote) or email using subject line "news" to [alumni@thomasmore.edu](mailto:alumni@thomasmore.edu).

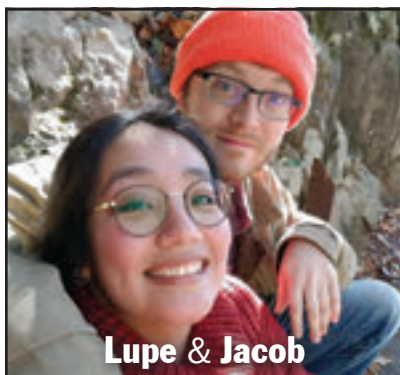
## ENGAGEMENTS

**Jacob Condon '16** and **Lupe Fernandez '16**, both art graduates, share the news of their engagement.

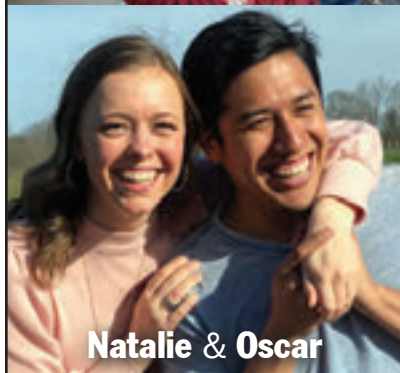
**Natalie Kleier '20** and **Oscar Ramirez '20** announced their engagement in June 2023 and plan to be married in 2024.

## ANNIVERSARY

**Rosanne (Macke) '74** and **James (Sam) Dorger '72** were married on March 1, 1975, and celebrated their 48th anniversary. Congratulations!



**Lupe & Jacob**



**Natalie & Oscar**

## Are You & Your Spouse SAINTS SWEETHEARTS

If you met your spouse (or future spouse) while attending Thomas More (or Villa Madonna), send your anniversary date by email ([alumni@thomasmore.edu](mailto:alumni@thomasmore.edu)) or phone (859.344.3545), so we can congratulate you both for years to come!



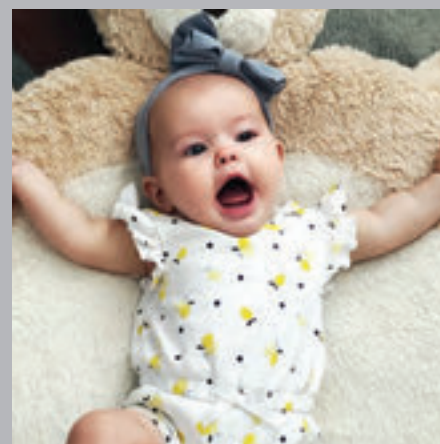
## NEW ARRIVALS

Are you a proud parent of a little Saint? Please share a favorite digital photo of your little blessing(s). Email [alumni@thomasmore.edu](mailto:alumni@thomasmore.edu) with names (include mom and/or dad), and class year!

**Kelsie (Rust) Bauer '13** and husband Gary welcomed little Vincent on Feb. 12, 2023.



**Holly (Bronner) Stiver '15**, Saints head women's volleyball coach, and husband Gabe welcomed baby Augie on Feb. 22 at 9:49 p.m., weighing in at 8 lbs. 6 oz. and 21 inches long.



**Courtney (Neltner) '17** and husband **Paul Kleier III '16** welcomed their second child, baby Margaret (Maggie), on March 15, 2023.



**Tori (Liles) '17** holds big sister Marina (born June 2021) while husband Christopher Leonardi holds little brother Coogan who was born in February 2023.



# Carrying out the Thomas More mission overseas

SUBMITTED BY LYNNA KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR  
PHOTOS PROVIDED

Development directors at Thomas More often have the pleasure of connecting with alumni and hearing stories about how they are living out the University's mission post-graduation. These alumni speak of the experiences they have as they examine the meaning of life, find their place in the world, and explore their responsibility to others. Sometimes these visits take advancement officers beyond U.S. borders. That was the case when Kyle Isaac, associate director of development, while on a trip to London, arranged to meet with alumnus Andy Kulina '87.

Andy was part of the team that launched the famous Kroger Plus Card. That success led to an opportunity to move to the United Kingdom in 1998 where he was a pioneer in the launch of loyalty programs across Europe. "It was such an honor to meet with Andy in London," says Kyle. "He has such a passion for Thomas More University and when I reached out to him about getting together while I was in town there was no hesitation." The two connected at one of Andy's favorite London spots to talk about memories he had from his time at Thomas More and where life has taken him since. "What a special day it was," recalls Kyle. "Andy and his family are truly living out the mission of Thomas More University."

## Homes for Ukraine

It was through this meeting that Andy mentioned he and his family had opened their home to a Ukrainian family seeking refuge from the conflict with Russia. The family had an empty studio apartment above their garage and saw an excellent opportunity to help those in need when they heard about the U.K. initiative, Homes for Ukraine. Homes for Ukraine is a British government program started in 2022, which allows households to provide accommodation for Ukrainian refugees fleeing the Russian invasion. "The U.K. made it super simple to get paired with a family," Andy recalls. A connection from their daughter's school led to the Kulinas being paired with a Ukrainian family whose relatives had already relocated to a neighboring village. "We thought, 'Okay, this must be fate. Let's do it.'"

The Ukrainian family of three came from Sumy, the first village that was invaded when the war started. The father suffered from injuries that prevented him from fighting and the young daughter had been plagued with nightmares since the invasion. Thanks to the Kulinas, they were able to make a fresh start in the U.K. The families have since spent time getting to know each other, with the Kulinas ensuring their Ukrainian friends feel at home. "It's great, we had a barbecue with them this past weekend," recalls Andy. The father was able to get a job at a local supermarket, while the mother is learning English. The families also have daughters the same age who attend school together. "It worked out really well," Andy says. The Kulina family have told the Ukrainian family they are welcome to stay with them for as long as is necessary.



## Raising Awareness: Phelan-McDermid Syndrome

The Kulinas' first child, 12-year-old daughter Olivia, was diagnosed with a condition called Phelan-McDermid Syndrome, a very underdiagnosed chromosome deletion. The syndrome causes severe learning difficulties, absence of speech, and slow development with milestones such as walking. "Olivia is a very, very loving child and sometimes has difficulty processing things," Andy explains. Olivia is fully mobile but requires constant one-to-one attention. "We don't have time to get involved in the normal stuff you get involved in as parents," he explains, adding that Olivia's condition is also expensive, requiring extra care and resources. This adds a layer of difficulty to the Kulinas' ability to contribute to philanthropic endeavors. "We don't have a ton of money to make big donations to things. We also don't have a ton of time to offer outside of our family day-to-day needs." Instead of letting life's obstacles get in the way, the Kulinas remain committed to making a difference in the lives of others. Their above-garage studio apartment was once home to au pairs who helped Olivia. When





## The Famous or Infamous Batting Average

Although Andy was recruited to play tennis for Thomas More, he also had the opportunity to play baseball for one season. During that year, the team lost several players, prompting then head coach Jim Connor to recruit players from other athletic teams. Kulina jumped at the chance; after all, becoming a pro baseball player was his dream. That year also happened to be future major league baseball standout David Justice's final year to play for Thomas More. "I'm not that good at baseball, but I got two hits in five at bats, so my final season batting average was .400. Dave Justice's was .380," Kulina recalls with a laugh. "At the end of the season, they printed off the stat sheet, and I was chasing him around after the draft to get him to sign it to prove that I had a higher batting average than Dave Justice!" Andy says he and Justice aren't in frequent contact, but they do know of each other. "I saw him at the Rockies, when he was with the Braves, and one of my friends shouted, 'Hey, this guy says he had a higher batting average than you,' and Justice shouted back from the dugout, 'He only batted five times!' Justice told me, 'You're going to tell that story the rest of your life,' and I have."

For an article on David Justice's return to Thomas More in spring 2023 as a baseball legend, go to **page 30**.

*TOP: The Kulinas share Orthodox Christmas (Jan. 7, 2023) with Ukrainian guests (from left) Roman, Iryna, and Anna. The family enjoyed 12 courses (one for each apostle) and left a little bit of each for friends and family who were loved and lost.*

*LEFT: The Kulina family: Andy, Sophia, Olivia, and Jenny enjoy Olivia's favorite activity, walking in the woods.*

*RIGHT: Olivia Grace and dad Andy share a moment during a rare snow day in Cambridge, England.*



the apartment became empty, they knew it was a resource they could use to help others, ultimately providing shelter to Ukrainian refugees through Homes for Ukraine.

The Kulinas also do what they can to raise awareness of Phelan-McDermid Syndrome. "Short of finding a billionaire to fund research, the best thing we can do to help Olivia and others is to raise awareness of Phelan-McDermid. If more people are aware of Phelan-McDermid and how it relates to other conditions such as Autism and Parkinson's Disease, that will help to fuel research." Andy has utilized his background in customer loyalty marketing to spread the word about Phelan-McDermid. "For example, we did a big event with King's College Chapel at the University of Cambridge," he explains. "We lit it up green as a part of a special day for Phelan-McDermid Syndrome, 'Shine Green,' on October 22." During Shine Green, monuments around the world are illuminated. "They had the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Empire State Building; so we added King's College Chapel to that list because it is the iconic building of Cambridge University," recalls Kulina.

Even better, The Kin's College illumination caught the eye of a BBC reporter, and the story was covered by BBC news across radio, TV and the internet. "50 million views later, we know we did our job of raising awareness," says Andy.

### The Thomas More Experience

Andy was awarded an athletic scholarship to play tennis and was also awarded aid as a James Graham Brown Scholar. He earned a bachelor's degree in computer science, and two associate degrees in business administration and math. He continued his education through the MBA program at Xavier University. Andy credits the high-quality Catholic liberal arts education that he received with opening his mind to the world's possibilities. "My biggest experience was coming to Thomas More first, moving away from home," he recalls. "Realizing that the way my family did things wasn't necessarily the right way or the wrong way, there was just a different way to do things." He adds that the dynamic of a liberal arts institution, providing ample opportunities to explore different areas of study, "makes you a more well-rounded person."

The most important lesson Andy has learned in life? "Don't fall back on 'I can't do it' ... I think the important message is, a lot of people say, 'I don't have time to do that. I don't have time to do this.' There is time for you to do something; what is that something? You might have to dig a little deeper."

Links to five audio segments from Andy's interview can be found by visiting [tmuky.us/kulina](https://tmuky.us/kulina).

MOREOVER

# 1950s



**Wilbert Ziegler '53, JD,** Thomas More board member and honorary chair of the University's Second Century Campaign, was honored for his nonprofit work

and service to the community by two local agencies. The Life Learning Center honored Ziegler at the High Stakes Gala in September 2023 and Horizon Nonprofit Awards named Ziegler as MVP Board Member of the Year. To read the release, visit [tmuky.us/ziegler3](https://tmuky.us/ziegler3).

# 1960s

**Ken Schmidt '68** retired after founding and serving as president of BAWAC, Inc., a non-profit organization that develops and maximizes the vocational potential and quality of life of adult persons with disabilities and other barriers to employment. He and two of his 50-year BAWAC residents celebrated by throwing out the first pitch at a Florence Y'all's game at Thomas More Stadium in Florence. For more, visit [tmuky.us/bawac](https://tmuky.us/bawac).



# 1970s

**George Schewe '73** traversed the El Camino de Santiago in spring 2023 with his son Jeremy.



# 1980s



**Patrick Ginney '82** retired in July from his career as a podiatrist with St. Elizabeth Physicians.

**Tom Lewis '83** celebrates his 40th year in the publishing industry in 2023. After brief stints at the Cincinnati Enquirer, Eudora Welty Newsletter, and The International Journal of Comparative Literature, Tom worked as an editor at South-Western (now Cengage) Publishing Company for several years before establishing himself as a freelance writer and editor. Tom has written or edited hundreds of titles in educational publishing. He most recently authored a series of literature study guides for middle school students. Tom has also written the definitive history of the Union Signal, the flagship publication of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, which was published in Women's Periodicals in the United States: Social and Political Issues.

**Garren Colvin '86,** president and CEO of St. Elizabeth Healthcare, was named to Cincy Magazine's 2023 Power 100 list of the most influential people in the Tristate. To see the complete list, visit [tmuky.us/cincy100](https://tmuky.us/cincy100).



**Dan Albrinck '88** was named as the new head coach of the Newport Central Catholic Thoroughbreds girls basketball team. He's a 1984 NewCath alumnus and graduated from Thomas More after playing basketball for two years. To read the full article from LINK NKY, visit [tmuky.us/ccchalbrinck](https://tmuky.us/ccchalbrinck).

# 1990s



**Jayne Murphy '91** is building community, offering comfort, and sharing her faith through a new cookbook titled "Holy Chow: The Hospitality Edition." Murphy co-

penned the cookbook with Giovanna Trimpe, former head chef at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains. Read the story or watch a wonderful video about how the cookbook came to fruition courtesy of the Catholic Telegraph, by visiting [tmuky.us/holychow](https://tmuky.us/holychow).

**Terry Connor '92,** vice president and director of athletics at Thomas More, was honored at the NKY Sports Hall of Fame Reunion with the Dr. James Claypool Pioneer Award. To read the release, visit [tmuky.us/vpconnor](https://tmuky.us/vpconnor).



**Adam Davey '97,** president, VonLehman CPA & Advisory Firm, was named as a Rising Star in Business in Cincy Magazine's 2023 Power 100 issue of the most influential people in the Tristate. To see the complete list, visit [tmuky.us/cincy100](https://tmuky.us/cincy100).



**Angela (Casebolt) Collins '98, APRN,** is celebrating her 22nd year as an advanced registered nurse practitioner with Seven Hills Anesthesia.



**Chris Collins, Ph.D., '98,** was hired by Mount St. Joseph University to teach part-time in the English Department. This is his 19th year of teaching.



## Shop to Benefit Thomas More University

Use your shopper account at Kroger to make a gift to the University. Their program allows you to designate rewards earned on your account be directed to a charity of your choice.



Register at [tmuky.us/kroger](https://tmuky.us/kroger)



# 2000s



**Moira Wehr '00**, president and CEO of United Way of Greater Cincinnati, was named to Cincy Magazine's 2023 Power 100 list of the most influential people in the Tristate. To see the complete list, visit [tmuky.us/cincy100](https://tmuky.us/cincy100).

**Steven D. Jaeger '02, Esq.**, joined the law firm Hemmerliss, McMurtry in Fort Mitchell where he serves client needs for estate planning, elder law, and probate.



**Marlon Styles '02**, the first Black superintendent of the Middletown, Ohio school district, was the focus of an article about confronting culture wars in an article by the Christian Science Monitor. To read the article, visit [tmuky.us/styles2](https://tmuky.us/styles2).



**Gee Horton '06** was named to the Cincinnati Business Courier's Forty under 40 class of 2023. Gee is a visual artist and founder of Gee Horton Studios.



**Lisette Martinez '06**, who received her MBA from Thomas More University, was featured in the June Al Día News issue for her work in the healthcare field in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). She leads one of the largest health systems in the Philadelphia region. Read more about Martinez and her impressive career by visiting [tmuky.us/aldianews](https://tmuky.us/aldianews).



**Joshua Wice '07**, Kenton County Community Development manager, was honored by Northern Kentucky Young Professionals with the



## Alumni artists summer series

The Eva G. Farris Gallery welcomed three alumni artists for a diverse summer art series. Artists Bill Eagen '72, Ruthe Wyman '76, and Jennifer Baldwin '76 returned to exhibit their unique works from May through August. The exhibits highlight the talent that comes through the creative media department, while also exemplifying the career possibilities for young artists and the vibrancy of the art scene in the region.

Eagen's exhibit, Landscapes and Cityscapes, demonstrated the oil-on-canvas painter's appreciation for the relationship between forms and colors presented in natural versus manmade scenes. Eagen says he has always found landscapes "both soothing and challenging." His art is ultimately about the feelings it inspires in viewers. "I often get the response that my paintings create or recreate an experience," he reflects. "That is very satisfying to me since they are based on an experience and there was a process in creating them." His studio is located at the Pendleton Art Center, where he participates in the Center's Final Friday events. For an interview, please visit [tmuky.us/eagenart](https://tmuky.us/eagenart).



"Autumn" by Bill Eagen.

Layers... seen and unseen Paintings by Wyman featured paintings that use multiple layers in the artmaking process, including various textures and transparencies. Wyman's first career was teaching high school. Her work as a professional artist has seen a great deal of success, being exhibited at numerous art galleries, government buildings, cultural centers, universities, art fairs, and businesses throughout the Tristate. "I am most proud of the accomplishment of being told that I have a style of painting that is unique and recognizable as mine," says Wyman. For an interview with the artist, please visit [tmuky.us/wymanart](https://tmuky.us/wymanart).

Baldwin's Ameliorative Practice rounded out the exhibits. The artist explores the restorative process that she experiences while producing pieces of art. "It's a type of healing process or celebratory process," says Baldwin, describing the personal nature of her art. "In searching for the 'right' way to describe what might seem like a variety of subject matters or processes, I focused on why I make what I make." An arts educator and youth arts activist, Baldwin works in a variety of mediums and owns her own business, where she creates quality professional picture framing and art experiences for both the public and corporations. For an interview with the artist, please visit [tmuky.us/baldwinart](https://tmuky.us/baldwinart).

2023 Legend Award. The award is given to a community leader in the region "that has continued to inspire leadership and career success among young professionals" over their career.

**Aaron Broomall '09** was named by Horizon Nonprofit Awards as Nonprofit Executive of the Year (Small Organization) for his work as executive director of Faith Community Pharmacy.



**Doris Daugherty '09** is now a grandmother of 10!

# 2010s

**Adam Kuehne '10**, co-founder of Zeal40, was named as a Rising Star in Business in Cincy Magazine's 2023 Power 100 issue of the most influential people in the Tristate. To see the complete list, visit [tmuky.us/cincy100](https://tmuky.us/cincy100).



## SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

**Holly Jenkins '22**

**Candidate for Master of Arts in Ethical Leadership**

SUBMITTED BY DAVID KLENK '22, GRADUATE ASSISTANT COMMUNICATIONS

PHOTO PROVIDED

Holly Jenkins returned to school to earn a bachelor's degree in business administration and a second in ethical leadership as a student in the accelerated program. As she continues her education in pursuit of a master's degree in ethical leadership, she was honored as the 2023 Thomas More recipient of the Nancy Jane Boothe Scholarship at the Outstanding Women of Northern Kentucky celebration hosted by the NKY Chamber. Holly talks about her experience at the University and her love of learning.

**Please share a short history behind your career path.**

**HJ:** I'll be 71 years old next month (July 2023), so I won't go all the way back, but I have done so many different things. I've been really blessed to not just be on one career path; I have been a business owner, a secretary, a stay-at-home mom. The industries that I've worked in are just as varied. I tend to, I would say, get bored easily or once I've learned something I want to learn something new, and I go into a new career.

For about the last 15 years, I've been an executive corporate coach and I do individual coaching as well. That has been a passion more so than a career. I'm blessed that it is lucrative enough that I started my company, Restart Your Life – I named it that because there's so many times in our lives that we do have to restart. Like when people go off to college – they restart; in a marriage – they restart; birth of children, children go off to college, there's death of a spouse or death of a parent – we're always restarting our lives in some way. I wanted to be able to help guide people through that.

**As the CEO at Restart Your Life, can you share some of your accomplishments?**

**HJ:** The biggest accomplishment for me was, I've always read, but in order to help people with different areas of their life, I had to really become educated in so many different genres and then really internalize and be able to support someone else going through something that maybe I haven't gone through myself. How do I do that? I had to learn those things. That was a lot of the journey, you never stop being able to learn.

A big accomplishment was when I read Don Miguel Ruiz's book "The Four Agreements," and incorporating them into my life. It's one thing to read something, it's something else even to understand it, but to actually put it in practice in your life on a daily basis: this is who you are, this is what you stand for. I've been able to do that, and that was a huge accomplishment for me. The fourth agreement is 'always do your best' and what that looks like. You got to be on 10 all the time with whatever you do and that is my greatest accomplishment, whether it's being a parent on 10, whether it's being a student on 10, whether it's being a friend on 10. Who I am all the time, I don't waver. Being your best doesn't allow for that.

**What has been some of your favorite parts of the ethical leadership program so far?**

**HJ:** All of it, absolutely all of it. I love the research, I love the videos, sometimes when I read posts or see things, I'm like "did they read the same thing that I read?" Or "did they have the same question that I have?" I ask the professor, "Did I get something wrong here?" But I watch the videos, I read the books. I have developed a curriculum that I'm going to present somewhere, to see if I can teach. The name of it is "Do You Want a Degree or Do You Want an Education?" because they don't go hand in hand. I know college graduates who do not have an education and it's not the school. The degree may get you the interview for the job, but your education, ... You have got to bring out something within yourself to get and keep a job and create a career. It's not about just getting a piece of paper, it's a lifelong education.

People ask, "what are you studying?" They don't say "what are you learning?" They say "what are you studying?" I'm studying math, I'm studying psychology, I'm studying this, but what are you learning? It's different and that's the class that I want to teach. It's getting them ready to get an education.

To hear or read the entire interview, visit [tmuky.us/jenkins](https://tmuky.us/jenkins).

[MOREOVER](#)

CLASS NOTES continued from page 27



**Sierra O'Bryan '13** was

nominated and received a Next Generation Leader Award (NGLA) in the field of technology. These awards are hosted by the Northern Kentucky Young

Professionals to honor professionals under 40 years of age for significant professional accomplishments, demonstrated leadership, and community impact.

**Jason Payne '15**, senior vice president and managing director for the NKY Cincinnati market, Republic Bank, was named as a Rising Star in Business in Cincy Magazine's 2023 Power 100 issue of the most influential people in the Tristate. To see the complete list, visit [tmuky.us/cincy100](https://tmuky.us/cincy100).



**Sydney Moss '16**, former

Thomas More women's basketball player and assistant coach, is the head women's basketball coach at Wilmington College. To read more, visit

[tmuky.us/wcquakers](https://tmuky.us/wcquakers).

**Cody Stephens '16** was matched to the radiology residency at the University of Cincinnati! "I feel very blessed to be returning home to the Cincinnati area for my residency training and am excited to give back to this incredible community. After all, the opportunities I had here as a Thomas More student during my undergraduate years are what gave me my start in my career as a physician!"



**Paige Noday '17** was a

finalist in the field of education for a Next Generation Leader Award. These awards are hosted by the Northern Kentucky Young Professionals

to honor persons under 40 years of age for significant professional accomplishments, demonstrated leadership, and community impact.





**Sarah Brown '18** graduated from Thomas More with degrees in English and history before going on to receive her Master of Arts in professional writing and editing from the University of Cincinnati in 2020. She recently graduated summa cum laude with a Juris Doctorate at the Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University. Brown has taken a position with the law firm Ohnen & Patton, LLP.

**Suli Kaye '18** is the new head soccer coach at Highlands High School. Kaye appeared in 81 games during his

career at Thomas More. In his senior year, he was named to the All-Conference second team. Visit [tmuky.us/kayed](https://tmuky.us/kayed) for more information.



**Dr. Eli Nienaber '18** recently graduated in the inaugural class of the northern Kentucky campus of the University of Kentucky's College of Medicine. He will perform his neurology residency at Harbor UCLA Medical Center.

**Dr. Maria Rechten '18** completed medical school at the Wright State Boonshoft School of Medicine and now plans to complete dual residency in internal

medicine and psychiatry at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

**Justin Austin '19** was named to the Cincinnati Business Courier's Forty Under 40 class of 2023. Justin is senior partner and strategic advisor at USI Insurance.

**Chris Odongo '19** started a new position as a DAT Senior Associate at PwC.

## 2020s



**Michael Thompson '21**, a rising star in Ohio's art community, was featured in ArtsWave's summer 2023 celebration of Black and Brown artists at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Thompson exhibited "Murmurations," a 16x9' painting as part of the Truth and Healing Artist Showcase. To watch a story by Professor Steve Oldfield about the exhibit, visit [tmuky.us/oldfield2](https://tmuky.us/oldfield2).



## In Memoriam

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

- Sister Joan Boberg '65**, July 29, 2023
- Sister M. Andrea Collopy '50**, April 3, 2023
- Elaine (Berson) Connolly '61**, March 15, 2023
- C. Robert Crouch '82**, Nov. 18, 2022
- Margaret Dillon '68**, July 18, 2023
- James Flanagan '67**, April 2, 2023
- Bethany (Frost) Fritz '83**, Jan. 12, 2023
- John W. Hackett '72**, Oct. 19, 2022
- Sister Mariana Kirk '66**, Jan. 8, 2023
- Daniel Shea '62**, July 23, 2023
- Joan (Feldkamp) Stewart '52**, Feb. 19, 2023

# Monsignor Murphy Legacy Society

## CREATE YOUR LEGACY AT THOMAS MORE

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

Have you considered making a legacy plan with Thomas More? There are many options to explore which give you the freedom to craft your legacy, and it may be easier than you imagine. Contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at **859.344.3344** to explore opportunities for planned giving or to notify the University of your intent. Additional information can be found at [tmuky.us/plannedgiving](https://tmuky.us/plannedgiving).

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





TOP: Justice speaking to the Saints baseball team pre-game.  
 CENTER: Baseball legends take center stage at Chalk Talk.  
 BOTTOM: Justice spins a baseball yarn as good friend, Bobby Young '87, laughs.

## Baseball legends return to Thomas More Stadium

SUBMITTED BY TOM BRADY, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT FOR ATHLETICS

On April 15, 2023, the All Saints Club hosted an exclusive Chalk Talk speaker series event called Thomas More Baseball Past to Present featuring four of the University's baseball legends. The event served as a good connecting point to the present as the Chalk Talk was held at Thomas More Stadium in Florence, the new home for Thomas More University baseball.

The Chalk Talk panelists included George "Cubby" Lyon '51, Jeff Hetzer, Bobby Young '87, and former professional baseball great David Justice. Lyon claims the distinction of being a member of the first Thomas More baseball team as well as hitting the first home run in the program's history. Hetzer, who served as the baseball coach for nearly 20 seasons and is the current associate director of athletics for the Saints, is the winningest coach in program history. The final two panelists were teammates and have remained best friends over the years. Young and Justice played together at Thomas More in the late '80s with Justice playing three years at Thomas More before being drafted by the Atlanta Braves in the 4th round of the Major League draft. During his professional career, Justice was a three-time All-Star and appeared in seven World Series, winning twice.

The Chalk Talk received great exposure through the University's media partnership with 700 WLW. Justice appeared on air on Sports Talk with Lance McAllister (700 WLW) and Mo Egger on ESPN 1530 and provided some great stories of his time at Thomas More as well as in the Major Leagues. One interesting footnote includes Justice speaking about how he was recruited to play basketball by the late Jim Connor. His interest in playing baseball was mainly to avoid the running involved with pre-basketball season conditioning. Justice did not play baseball in high school as the sport was not offered. It is a true testament to his athletic ability that after playing three years collegiately, he was able to transition to the highest levels of competition in the Major Leagues.

In addition to appearing at the All Saints Club Chalk Talk, Justice spoke with the baseball team before the Saints took the field for a double-header versus the University of the Cumberlands (KY). Justice and Young performed the honor of throwing out the first pitch, posed for pictures with seniors (it was their day), and after the contest started, met and interacted with fans during the Saints games. MOREOVER

## 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 All Saints Club, visit [thomasmore.edu/athletics](https://thomasmore.edu/athletics) or contact Tom Brady at 859-344-3642 | [bradyt@thomasmore.edu](mailto:bradyt@thomasmore.edu)







## Saints teams make an IMPACT

SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL PAGANO, CO-SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR | PHOTO PROVIDED

The Saints men's soccer program announced a new team member at the beginning of the season, signing 10-year-old Cohen Bramlee through Team IMPACT.

Cohen, who is battling a rare immune system disease, officially signed with the team on August 31, at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. In attendance at Cohen's signing day were Saints head coach Scott Phipps, along with players Mattheus Buechner, Ali Nakhid, Ryan Albrinck, and Finn Battenstein. Cohen will be a member of the men's soccer team over the next two years, focusing on building relationships with his teammates and supporting each other on and off the field.

Cohen is 10 years old and from Lebanon, Ohio where he loves spending time with his family, which includes his parents Carrie and Todd, and his siblings TC, Kayla, Addyson, and AnaReese. He also loves soccer, Legos, and Star Wars. Cohen cares deeply for those around him, especially the other children in the hospital. He began a fundraising campaign, called The Best Day Ever, where he raises funds for children to get to experience the small joys of getting

something from the gift shop. He also holds an annual blood drive on the anniversary of his bone marrow transplant, Sept. 11.

Team IMPACT, a national non-profit organization, has developed a unique multiyear program that matches children facing serious illness and disability with college athletic teams across the country. Based on a clinical model, Team IMPACT guides a symbiotic relationship between teams and children focused on socialization, empowerment, and resilience. Everyone involved has the personalized game plan they need to win – effectively building confidence and independence for the child and reinforcing for Thomas More students the University's mission of examining the ultimate meaning of life, their place in the world, and their responsibility to others.

The University has worked with Team IMPACT for the past 15 years, matching children with Saints teams across sports programs. In addition to the men's soccer team, men's volleyball, dance, and men's lacrosse are the most recent teams to welcome an extra special team member through Team IMPACT.

MOREOVER

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

THOMASMORE.EDU/ATHLETICS

Follow the Saints on social media #LetsGoSaints



# Academic accomplishments put Saints in the spotlight

## NAIA Scholar Athlete/Scholar Team Awards

The Saints are proud of the following athletes who were named by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) as Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athletes. These students accomplished this feat through excellence in the classroom and commitment throughout the sports season:

**Three Men's Volleyball Players Named NAIA Scholar-Athletes** | [tmuky.us/23naiaschmv](http://tmuky.us/23naiaschmv)

**Women's Lacrosse Ties Program Record with Five NAIA Scholar-Athletes** | [tmuky.us/23naiaschw1](http://tmuky.us/23naiaschw1)

**Program Record Three from Men's Tennis Named NAIA Scholar-Athletes** | [tmuky.us/23naiaschmt](http://tmuky.us/23naiaschmt)

**Women's Tennis Ties Program Record with Eight NAIA Scholar-Athletes** | [tmuky.us/23naiaschw2](http://tmuky.us/23naiaschw2)

**Two Men's Golfers Named NAIA Scholar-Athletes** | [tmuky.us/23naiaschmg](http://tmuky.us/23naiaschmg)

**Women's Golf Ties Program Record with Three NAIA Scholar-Athletes** | [tmuky.us/23naiaschw3](http://tmuky.us/23naiaschw3)

**Six from Softball Honored as NAIA Scholar-Athletes** | [tmuky.us/23naiaschsoftball](http://tmuky.us/23naiaschsoftball)

**Five from Women's Track & Field Honored as NAIA Scholar-Athletes** | [tmuky.us/naiaschwtf](http://tmuky.us/naiaschwtf)

**Four from Men's Track & Field Honored as NAIA Scholar-Athletes** | [tmuky.us/naiaschmtw](http://tmuky.us/naiaschmtw)

**Eleven from Baseball Honored as NAIA Scholar-Athletes** | [tmuky.us/naiaschbaseball](http://tmuky.us/naiaschbaseball)

## Academic All Mid-South Conference Student Athletes

As the Mid-South Conference (MSC) announced Academic All Mid-South Conference honorees, many Saints student-athletes are included in the ranks. The nomination requirements are maintaining a minimum grade point average of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale and to be in your third term or fourth quarter. These headlines for the Saints say it all! Visit the links for more details.

**Two Men's Golfers on Academic All MSC Team** | [tmuky.us/amscgolf](http://tmuky.us/amscgolf)

**Six Softball Players Named Academic All MSC** | [tmuky.us/amscsoftball](http://tmuky.us/amscsoftball)

**Baseball Garners 13 Academic All MSC Selections** | [tmuky.us/amscbaseball](http://tmuky.us/amscbaseball)

**Four Golfers Named Academic All MSC** | [tmuky.us/amscwgolf](http://tmuky.us/amscwgolf)

**Women's Track & Field Lands Nine Academic All MSC Honorees** | [tmuky.us/amscwtrackfield](http://tmuky.us/amscwtrackfield)

**Seven from Men's Track & Field Make Academic All MSC Team** | [tmuky.us/amscmtrackfiel](http://tmuky.us/amscmtrackfiel)

## CSC Academic All-District Teams

The College Sports Communicators (CSC, formerly CoSIDA) each season honors Academic All-District Teams by recognizing the nation's top student-athletes for their combined performance on the field and in the classroom. Athletes from NCAA Division I, II, and III as well as the NAIA are recognized for this honor. The following headlines highlight Saints student-athletes who earned spots on these teams.

**Sabga and Martinez Garcia Honored as CSC Academic All-District** | [tmuky.us/cscwtennis](http://tmuky.us/cscwtennis)

**Men's Tennis has Two Athletes Named CSC Academic All-District** | [tmuky.us/cscmtennis](http://tmuky.us/cscmtennis)

**Gels, Kemper, and McAdoo Earn CSC Academic All-District Honors** | [tmuky.us/cscsoftball](http://tmuky.us/cscsoftball)

**Baseball has Five CSC Academic All-District Honorees** | [tmuky.us/cscbaseball](http://tmuky.us/cscbaseball)

**Men's Track & Field has Four CSC Academic All-District Honorees** | [tmuky.us/cscmtrackfiel](http://tmuky.us/cscmtrackfiel)

**Women's Track & Field has Four CSC Academic All-District Honorees** | [tmuky.us/cscwtrackfield](http://tmuky.us/cscwtrackfield)

## And Still More Good News

**Ben Albers Named to 2023 American Red Cross Collegiate Leadership Program** | [tmuky.us/albers](http://tmuky.us/albers)

**Athletics Department Achieves 3.17 GPA During Spring Semester** | [tmuky.us/springgpa](http://tmuky.us/springgpa)

**Baynum Represents Men's Golf as GCAA All-American Scholar** | [tmuky.us/baynum](http://tmuky.us/baynum)

**Men's Golf Recognized as GCAA All-Academic Team** | [tmuky.uw/gcaamgolf](http://tmuky.uw/gcaamgolf)

**Rugby Lands Four NCR Scholastic All-Americans** | [tmuky.us/rugbyncr](http://tmuky.us/rugbyncr)

**Hamilton and Hummel Named WGCA All-American Scholars** | [tmuky.us/23wgca](http://tmuky.us/23wgca)

**Baseball Earns Second Straight ABCA Team Academic Excellence Award** | [tmuky.us/23abca](http://tmuky.us/23abca)

**Softball Lands Five Easton/NFCA Scholar Athletes** | [tmuky.us/23eastonnfca](http://tmuky.us/23eastonnfca)





# Athletic performances result in Saints headlines

## Mid-South Conference Awards

The MSC honors student-athletes who are outstanding in their sport as conference coaches vote on yearly awards, as well as all-conference teams. The coaches are not allowed to vote for their own players. Many Saints were among this number; see the following headlines and visit the links for those that made the list.

**Softball Earns Most All-Conference Honorees Since 2019** | [tmuky.us/allmscsoftball](https://tmuky.us/allmscsoftball)

**Baseball Represented Well in MSC All-Conference Honors** | [tmuky.us/allmscbaseball](https://tmuky.us/allmscbaseball)

## NCAA DII News

Fall sports are underway and the Saints began Division II play with the new season. These headlines mark firsts for teams.

**Men's Soccer Claims School's First NCAA Division II Victory in Season Opener Over Salem** | [tmuky.us/23ncaadii](https://tmuky.us/23ncaadii)

**Football Wins First Division II Game in Blowout Fashion over UVA Wise** | [tmuky.us/23football](https://tmuky.us/23football)

**Women's Volleyball Wins First Division II Match Over Central State** | [tmuky.us/23wvball](https://tmuky.us/23wvball)

**Iden Earns Saints First Ever GMAC Athlete of the Week Honor** | [tmuky.us/23gmaciden](https://tmuky.us/23gmaciden)

## And Still More Good News

**Branson Named to NFCA NAIA All-Region Team** | [tmuky.us/branson](https://tmuky.us/branson)

**Five Saints Named to the 2023 All-Commonwealth Football Team** | [tmuky.us/23acfootball](https://tmuky.us/23acfootball)

**Thomas More Bowling to Host 2025 GMAC/Conference Carolinas Championships** | [tmuky.us/25gmacbawling](https://tmuky.us/25gmacbawling)

**Men's Volleyball Will Host 2024 IVA Conference Tournament** | [tmuky.us/24ivaconfhost](https://tmuky.us/24ivaconfhost)

## UPDATE: YEAR TWO NCAA DII

SUBMITTED BY LYNA KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR

The announcement came in July 2023 that the Saints were approved to move forward with year two of provisional membership to NCAA Division II in the Great Midwest Athletic Conference. This move transitions the Saints from the Mid-South Conference in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, where they competed for the past four academic years. The Saints competed in their first official DII contest at Republic Bank Field with men's soccer in August 2023.

During their time in the NAIA, the Saints earned several major accomplishments and notable records including a National Championship, two team National Runner-Ups, two individual National Runner-Ups, and one National Team Semi-finalist. For a full list of records and major accomplishments in the NAIA for each program, visit [tmuky.us/naiamsc](https://tmuky.us/naiamsc).

"We are thrilled to receive the official word that Thomas More is moving forward to year two of provisional membership

in the NCAA Division II," says Terry Connor '92, vice president and director of athletics. "Our team has really come together and worked diligently to prepare for the move. We are excited for the opportunities this presents to our student-athletes, and we cannot wait to see what they accomplish."

In preparation for applying to return to the NCAA, the University approached and was unanimously approved in summer 2021 for provisional membership in the Great Midwest Conference. With the successful bid in 2022 to rejoin the NCAA as a Division II institution, the University looks forward to competing in the Great Midwest and being eligible for conference championships in the 2023-24 academic year. Following the mandatory transition period, the University is then eligible for NCAA Championships during the 2025-26 year.

"The transition to the NCAA is significant as we continue to enhance our regional position as the premier Catholic liberal arts university," President Chillo said about the move. "The experience that we create for our student-athletes is intentional and designed for success in the classroom and on the field of competition. As we invest in our athletics program by adding new sports, full-time coaches, and renovations and expansions in facilities, this opportunity to elevate the position of Thomas More Athletics with the reputation and brand of the NCAA is a significant and transformational endeavor."

MOREOVER





## Softball Facility Renovations Underway

SUBMITTED BY LYNNA KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR

July 6, 2023, marked the ceremonial kickoff of changes to come for the softball field and surrounding complex at Thomas More. In December 2022, the University announced plans for extensive renovations to the current field and new construction, creating a state-of-the-art complex for its softball team. "This upgrade confirms our commitment to elevating the reputation and brand of Thomas More Athletics as we continue our transition to NCAA DII and to creating a student experience that is designed for success in the classroom and on the field" said President Chillo. Thomas More community members and special guests in attendance listened as President Chillo, Vice President and Director of Athletics Terry Connor, and alumna Kim Kehoe Goodwin '92 spoke of the impact Saints athletics has on students. As part of the Strategic Plan - Lighting the Way, this project signifies the university's continued growth into the second century. [MOREOVER](#)

*TOP: Thomas More community members move dirt as several groups, including softball team alumnae, took part in the groundbreaking.*

*BOTTOM: President Chillo addresses those in attendance.*



# The CONNOR LEGACY: VMC to TMC to current day

SUBMITTED BY BY DAVID KLENK '22, GRADUATE ASSISTANT  
COMMUNICATIONS AND CARLOS DORKPO '24, STUDENT ATHLETE

The Connor family is a part of the fabric of Thomas More University, starting as far back as the 1950s and reaching to present day. Terry Connor '92, serves as vice president and director of athletics, following in the footsteps of his father, Jim Connor '50. Terry has been a member of the Saints community for the past 25 years and before that he played at the University as a student-athlete. To celebrate Terry's 25 years, student-athletes David Klenk and Carlos Dorkpo interviewed him about the Connor legacy and the growth of athletics during his time at Thomas More.

**Carlos Dorkpo:** When you look at this towel (Connor Crazy's), what do you think when you see it?

**Terry Connor:** The Connor crazy's – interesting. I think that was back from when I was coaching basketball and this was something the students did. We tried to create a student section. We were not very good, so we did not have too big of a crowd (laughs).

**CD:** Tell me about your family's legacy at Thomas More.

**TC:** You know, it has been a while. My father went here when it was Villa Madonna and he came back from World War II. Then he came in 1978 as the basketball and baseball coach, and athletic director. My mother graduated the same year I did in '92. During the Great Depression, she had to drop out of high school. She got her GED and when my father was working here, she went back and got her Bachelor of elected studies. So, that was kind of cool. I have an older brother, Jim, who graduated from here. He's a research doctor for Alzheimer's at Penn State Medical Center. Another brother graduated, Ed, he's a psychologist here in town. Then I have a sister who is a teacher who graduated from here. I had another brother who went here for a little while, but then went overseas and played basketball. Then myself, and I met my wife here. She played tennis. I met her and both my children graduated from here. So, I have been here a minute.



**CD:** The entire Connor family really grew up here at Thomas More.

**TC:** Absolutely and I remember when I was little, I was working the bingos. We used to have bingo on Friday night which actually helped fund the Connor Convocation Center that's named after my father. I try and tell people it is named after me, but nobody is buying it. It is named after my father, so coming to work every day in a building named after your father is pretty cool.

**CD:** Tell me about how your outlook on college athletics has evolved since your time attending Thomas More.

**TC:** It has been a great learning process. When I was here playing, we were NAIA; we were NAIA for years. Right at the end of my career, we were transitioning to Division III. I took over when we were Division III and seeing the difference in those two divisions, and then transitioning back to NAIA and now moving to Division II. College athletics has just taken on a whole new life with how much popularity it has, and the amount of money that is invested in it. Especially on this higher level, it is just incredible. Even in high school, the athletics and summer programs, you think, "wow." The money that is invested is really astonishing, and that is coming from somebody who made his living from athletics.

**CD:** Of course, of course. Would you say, from your time participating and your time coaching, and now serving as director of athletics, what would you say the difference is personally?

**TC:** Personally, the biggest difference is the popularity. I think it has dramatically changed over the years; how big it has grown and how some people take it (athletics). Some people take it almost as life and death - whether your team is winning. You (Carlos) see it, and it is different in that aspect. I always believed you go out, you work hard at whatever you are going to do, go out and compete, and compete with everything you have got, and everything else takes care of itself. If you do that, the wins/losses, that kind of stuff, it comes and goes. Nobody remembers that. You remember the friends you made, the things you get to do during that time. Going to the games on the bus and the talking - that kind of stuff. I think the wins and losses have taken too much of a front seat in society; it is too important.

**CD:** What are your thoughts on the role of athletics in college?

**TC:** I think you use it to work to get that degree. There is motivation to make sure that you are doing well in the classroom. A lot of people grew up loving that sport, playing that sport, so you are going to work hard to make sure you are eligible to play that sport and then the degree comes with it. Sometimes we have that backwards, we say this sport is more important than the degree and that is not the case. I think using sport to that end result of getting that degree, is the most important thing we can look at. That is the way, hopefully, our student-athletes look at it and they enjoy the journey of what they are doing to get that degree because that is what is going to define their life. You get that degree, you go on and you are successful in your life, you can support your family, and those types of things. We need to focus on that, and our student-athletes need to focus on that journey.

**CONNOR** CONTINUED ON PAGE 36



*The conversation between Terry and Carlos became quite animated as they discussed the Connor legacy at Thomas More.*

**CONNOR** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

**CD:** Tell me about what a day in the life of the director of athletics looks like at Thomas More.

**TC:** I don't have any idea (laughs). It is fun, it is challenging. When you are at a school with not massive resources like some other places, it is a challenge every day. There is such a variety.

**CD:** Tell me about some of the challenges that you face.

**TC:** One of the challenges: we have 31 programs. We have one gym; we have one turf field. Jeff Etzer, the associate AD, does a lot of the scheduling for us and that is just a challenge alone. Getting teams where they can practice and the times that they can practice - that kind of stuff. Those are some of the big challenges. The variety of things you get to deal with; you get great people to work with. That is the awesome thing about Thomas More, you get to work with everybody on campus. We have over 700 (students) in athletics. We are involved in everything with that many people. We get to work with everybody and that variety of getting to work with everybody - with student affairs and operations and all different types of things - that part to me is fun. You get to see what everybody else does and be a part of that. I think the variety and the challenges are what is fun. I do not know what you would do if you did not have challenges. To me, it is fun to go and see what you can do.

**CD:** How has it been seeing Thomas More grow over the years, both in athletics and the academic side of things?

**TC:** It has been interesting. When I was here (as a student), Murphy Hall was not here. When I was going to school there was just Howard, Ackerman, and Marian. Watching everything on campus grow and get bigger, and the amount of student-athletes and everything. It has just been neat to watch Thomas More move into what it is today. The popularity it has; we have been blessed to be very good athletically. We have always been great academically. That is the other neat part, watching the student-athletes go out and guys I coached, meeting up with them and they are highly successful in their field. They are living all over the world. I stay in contact with several of them. That part is really neat. I think as I get older, I appreciate that part a lot more. Watching them be successful and have a family and that kind of stuff. That part, to me, is even better as I am getting older - although I am not old, even though I have been here 25 years or whatever (both laugh).

**CD:** What are you looking forward to the most when it comes to joining Division II with NCAA?

**TC:** What makes the group you join, what makes it, is the conference. We were blessed in Division III, we were in a great conference in the Presidents Athletic Conference. We had a great run and I enjoyed the people, enjoyed the ADs, commissioners, and everybody. The Mid-South with the NAIA, same thing. There were a lot of great people in the Mid-South Conference that we got to deal with on a regular basis. Now moving to Division II

in the Great Midwest, I think it is the same thing. I have been in meetings for two years with them, and just a lot of really good people. The most important thing when you are working with people is: Are they good people? Are they people you can work with? That is what makes our job, your career. That is what makes

it enjoyable when you run across people like that. Tom Daeger in the conference office at the Great Midwest is always supporting you. They are there for you when you need guidance and we need a lot of guidance, because we have not done this before. This move, there is a lot of learning going on. I think it is going to be fun. It is going to be interesting to see where our teams end up. Everybody keeps asking me, "Well, how are they going to do?" I answer, "Well, I do not know, I did not scout those teams." We

will see when we get there, we will just play and see how things go.

**CD:** What is the most valuable lesson you have learned over your 25 years working in college athletics?

**TC:** The most valuable lesson, I would say, is to step back and take a deep breath. There are a lot of times that we get hung up on a lot of things and get really agitated. I was always one that we are going to go forward; if there is a roadblock, we are going to knock it out of the way and just keep right on moving.

**CD:** Yes, you were talking about the wins and losses earlier.

**TC:** Exactly. I learned to step back, let's see, and usually if there is a problem, it is always somewhere in the middle. That is one of the biggest lessons I have learned. Somebody is having this problem and they are saying this; it is usually somewhere in the middle. Taking that deep breath, stepping back, giving yourself time to gather information, that kind of stuff. That and watching people enjoy the journey of what they do. I learned that from my kids, my daughter played several different sports growing up, my son played basketball and baseball growing up, my daughter played here and my son played here; watching them enjoy their journey of what they did - as a parent, when you take that AD hat off, and watch them as a parent. Seeing the friends they made and the interaction they got to have.

Watching the student-athletes, I am focusing on that a lot more now than I used to. Watching the journey. The playing time and all that kind of stuff, at the end of the day, it is really not that important. Go out and compete, work hard at what you do and compete, and do the best you can. Then after that, go focus on our craft, get your degree and what you are going to do in life, and enjoy that part of it. I think those are probably the two biggest things that I have looked at over the years and been able to step back a little bit.

**CD:** Thank you for your commitment to Thomas More athletics and taking the time to answer all of our questions.

**TC:** I appreciate it, Carlos. Thanks for having me

To listen to Terry's interview, visit [tmuky.us/connor25](http://tmuky.us/connor25). **MOREOVER**





# Minute Spiritual Break...

Provided by Thomas More  
University Campus Ministry

SUBMITTED BY JEFF NOE, BISHOP ROGER J. FOYS SCHOLAR

## FINDING YOUR SPIRITUALITY

There are many ways to explore your spiritual life, as well as growing in faith. Not everyone experiences God in the same way, and some may feel as though they don't have the time to explore their faith, or to pray, or to look into more than what they already have on their plate. Some people may find that time to sit and pray is very difficult, or that time to look into the truth may be time better suited to studying or working, but in reality, the busier we are, the greater the importance of our spiritual life.

Not all journeys in faith are intellectual ones, and not all are formal, and not all are made into the essence of how one spends their day, but these are all valid ways to find your spirituality and grow in your relationship with God. Each of our days can be very busy, and trying to set time apart to pray may cause problems, but it might be a nice way to decompress by going and reading a book, or perhaps even the Bible. This might be an intellectual journey for you! But some may really not have the time, and they have a lot of work to do for classes and at home; so devote these times even then to God. Many Saints have said that all things can become prayer, any action whatsoever, can become prayer, so long as it is offered up to God. So do not separate your spiritual and work lives, and use your time to delve deeply into your faith.

Do not despair in the busy world you live in, as you may always find time to pray, for a while or for a little, for whatever you may need to keep growing.

Jeff Noe is one of six students/alumni inducted as a Squire to the North Central Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, for more information on this honor, go to **page 11**.



*Jeff (center) and fellow Squires pray during their induction ceremony.*

## Know a Prospective Student?

*Tell us about a prospective student:*

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

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

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

When do they plan to attend college? ☐ Spring 2024 ☐ Fall 2024 ☐ Fall 2025 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

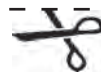
Are they a transfer student? ☐ Yes ☐ No Previous College or University \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://tmuky.us/newstudent). Thank you!





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## AS A BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL, DO YOU NEED TO BUILD A PIPELINE OF FUTURE LEADERS?

Thomas More professional  
development sessions can help



*Emerging Leaders Class 2023 cohort from the Boone County Fiscal Court.*

Thomas More strives to provide a high-quality, excellent educational experience to its students which includes access to faculty who are proficient in a wide variety of fields. The university does not believe these efforts should end with furnishing resources only for degree-seeking individuals. To serve the greater community, the University's Robert W. Plaster College of Business has introduced an avenue for companies and organizations in the region to provide employees with access to continuing education sessions led by expert faculty members who have real-world business experience.

The Emerging Leaders Class is just one program that has been created to fill this need and focuses on improving the skills necessary for employees to be prepared for leadership roles. Providing professional development opportunities creates an environment that attracts, engages, and retains future leaders. If you or your organization are interested in the Emerging Leaders Class or would like to develop your own professional series, please contact Debby Shipp, director of co-op education & corporate engagement at [shippd@thomasmore.edu](mailto:shippd@thomasmore.edu).

To read more about local companies that have benefited from Thomas More continuing education opportunities, visit [tmuky.us/leaders](http://tmuky.us/leaders).