

FALL 2024

MOREOVER

Thomas More University





SEILER COMMONS - RENOVATIONS COMPLETE

As part of the strategic plan, Seiler Commons, which is the main dining hall at the University, was renovated in summer 2024 to open and expand the dining space, allowing for more food options for students to explore.



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

Make It **More.**



It is with great excitement and pride that I reflect on the tremendous strides Thomas More University is making as we shape our second century of excellence. As we embark on the fourth year of our Strategic Plan – Lighting the Way, it is a time of growth, progress, and opportunity – marked by a remarkable spirit of generosity.

Among our most significant achievements is the completion of our new Academic Center, a state-of-the-art facility designed to enhance the learning experience and serve as a cornerstone of our campus activities. It is a place where tradition meets innovation, supporting the Robert W. Plaster College of Business, the Dr. Anthony '65 and Geraldine '66 Zembrodt Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and the Center for Faith, Mission, and Catholic Education. At Thomas More, we understand the critical role of a Catholic Liberal Arts University in preparing students to engage with the complexities of our world as the leaders of tomorrow. Our vision for this Academic Center stems from this understanding, as we challenge our students to explore their ideas, solve problems, and seek purpose and become the person they were created to be.

We are also thrilled to celebrate a period of exceptional growth, with overall enrollment increasing to more than 2,350 students (an increase of more than 21%) – reflecting not only the growing reputation of Thomas More but also the draw of a university that offers a truly transformative education. Our 2024-2025 incoming class is one of the most diverse and academically distinguished in our history, and more students are participating in the Thomas More dual credit programs, giving them a head start in pursuing a higher education.

Our commitment to academic excellence is also being recognized on a national stage. We are honored to be named one of the Wall Street Journal/College Pulse Best Colleges for 2025, and proud to be ranked first in Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati in the subcategory of Best Salaries—a reflection of the value our graduates bring to the workforce and the demand for highly-adaptable, ethical leaders.

On the pages of this magazine, you will read stories that highlight not only our progress as an institution, but the global impact of our students, alumni, and faculty. From Crestview Hills, Kentucky to the southern border of the United States, to Washington, D.C., and the banks of the Ohio River, the influence of our Thomas More community stretches far and wide. Among our graduates are inventors, advocates, business leaders, scientists, scholars, and artists. Most of all, they are inspiring, and they are making our world a better place.

As we move forward together, I remain confident that the future of Thomas More University is bright. We continue to set ambitious goals, build on our momentum, and light the way for generations to come.

Go Saints!

Joseph L. Chillo, LPD.
President



THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chancellor - Most Reverend John C. Iffert
Chairperson - Judith A. Marlowe '69, Ph.D.
Vice Chair - Thomas Lueke
President - Joseph L. Chillo, LP.D.
John Banchy '14/'17
Gary Blank, MBA, BSN, RN
James Camp, Ph.D.
Yvan Demosthenes '04, Ph.D.
Michael Dempsey
Thomas J. Depenbrock '78
S. Frank Fritsch '73
Kimberly Halbauer '00
James Horn, MD, MBA, FACEP, LSSBB
Sr. Leslie Keener, C.D.P.
Laura A. Koehl '80, Ed.D.
Rachel Lehmkuhl '95, MD
M. Scott McIntyre '97, JD
Joan M. Robinson '69
Joseph Roesel '64
Donald Saelinger '67, MD
Jyoti Saraswat, Ph.D.
Andrew "A.J." Schaeffer '96, J.D.
Susan Sturgeon '68
Shelby Thompson '25
Daniel E. Tobergte, J.D., CEcD
Ted Zalla '90

SENIOR OFFICERS

Joseph L. Chillo, LP.D.
President

Jerome J. Langguth, Ph. D.
Vice President and Chief Academic Officer

Kelly M. French '02
Vice President for Strategy and Impact
Chief of Staff

Richard Rollino
Executive Vice President of Finance and CFO

Kevin P. Reynolds, Ed.D.
Senior Vice President for Mission
and University Advancement

Terry D. Connor '92
Vice President and Director of Athletics

Editor: Judy Crist

Designer: Judy Crist

Contributing Writers: Judy Crist, Kristen Gallagher,
David Klenk '22/'24

Guest Writers: Maura Baker, Jonathan Miller, Erin
Preston '24

Photography: Bruce Crippen, Judy Crist, David Klenk
'22/'24, Sam Kremer, Macara Vonderahe '22

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

SEND COMMENTS, STORY IDEAS, OR LETTERS TO:

Moreover - Thomas More University
333 Thomas More Parkway
Crestview Hills, KY 41017-3495
Phone: 859.344.3309
Email: moreover@thomasmore.edu

MOREOVER

FALL 2024

FEATURES

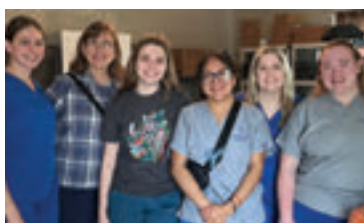
- 3 Newest Academic Center open for business**
Additional space for programs and initiatives opens up opportunities for student innovation on campus.
- 7 GSE Summer Startup comes to campus**
As part of the Governor's Scholars for Entrepreneurs Summer Startup, 80 high school students called Thomas More home for three weeks in summer 2024.
- 12 Study abroad 2024: Japan**
Erin Preston '24 speaks to her experience as a student studying in Japan during the spring semester.
- 14 Catholic social teaching on the border**
Each year, Sr. Kay Kramer, CDP, takes a group of nursing students to serve in Texas' Brownville Diocese.
- 18 Career development makes lasting impact**
The three original ambassadors for the Institute for Career Development and Graduate School Planning describe how their experiences influenced their current career paths.
- 28 Protect your rind**
A skin cancer diagnosis kick-started a passion in Brandi Corbello to pursue a solution for clean skincare.

SECTIONS

- 9 Campus/Student News**
15 Faculty/Staff Notes
17 Giving Back
18 Alumni News
24 Class Notes
31 Saints Sidelines

ON THE COVER

President Chillo cuts the ribbon on the newly completed Academic Center. The Center opened for classes for the 2024-2025 academic year with four floors of additional space to grow Thomas More programs and initiatives.



@ThomasMoreKY



Open for Business

Welcome to the new Academic Center

SUBMITTED BY KRISTEN GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION AND PR | PHOTOS PROVIDED BY TURNER CONSTRUCTION

On Sept. 10, 2024, Thomas More University cut the ribbon on its new Academic Center, home of the Robert W. Plaster College of Business. The state-of-the-art facility was a key outcome of the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan – Lighting the Way, and its supporting Second Century Campaign – It’s time for More, which has surpassed \$40 million in support as of this writing.

Standing opposite the Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel, the Academic Center welcomes all those who enter campus through Villa Madonna Drive. Its construction is a testament to Thomas More’s commitment to academic excellence and innovation and marks a significant milestone in the institution’s second century, as Thomas More positions itself as the preeminent Catholic liberal arts university of the region.

Over 150 members of the community, alumni, students, faculty and staff, gathered for a ribbon-cutting event and prayed for the success of all those who enter its doors. President Chillo reflected on the accomplishment, stating, “We are aware of the challenges that we confront in society and the importance of providing a high-quality education that is shaped by values and by mission. The work that we do... [is] to ensure that a mission-driven, Catholic liberal

arts education is alive and well. And today, you’re seeing how alive and well that is.”

Shelby Thompson ’26, Student Government Association president, added another perspective saying, “As a student, it feels especially meaningful to be a part of this moment, as this building is so much more than just a new addition to our campus. This new Academic Center is not just a collection of classrooms and study spaces; to us students, it is a symbol of our community’s commitment to fostering an environment where we can learn, grow, and dream.”

In addition to the Robert W. Plaster College of Business, the Academic Center also houses the Dr. Anthony ’65 and Geraldine ’66 Zembrodt Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, the Center for Faith, Mission, and Catholic Education, and the Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III ’67 Institute for Religious Liberty. With these distinct programs and purposes in mind, the architect for the project, Columbus-based MKC Architects, masterfully tied together the themes of innovation and transformation with the

View of the Brenda Hoskins Memorial Reflection Garden and main entrance of the Academic Center.

CENTER CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



CENTER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

faith-based mission of the University as a Catholic educational institution.

A project description from MKC Architects outlines how the various programs housed in the Academic Center influenced the materials that were used.

“One axis exhibits red brick, as a traditional building material, [and] represents the connection to the campus architecture of Thomas More University. Glass and metal standing seam are on the opposing axis, which signifies modernity and overall sense of innovation and forward thinking,” the exposition reads.

The result? A facility that encompasses a sense of tradition, being grounded in the University’s mission, history and values, and a nod to the future and the inventive nature of the fields of entrepreneurship and business. With one’s feet planted in the Dr. Thomas H. & Juanita Z. Hanna ’58 Atrium, the view upwards of the building’s four floors, illuminated by both

CENTER CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Counter-clockwise from left:

The Ziegler Auditorium features two stories with stationary seating in the upper level and removable seating below. It is able to accommodate more than 300 people.

Peering upward from the ground floor into the four-story Dr. Thomas H. & Juanita Z. Hanna ’58 Atrium.

Seating for Java City, the newest food venue on campus.

View of the second floor facing towards Java City.

State-of-the-art classrooms, offices, meeting, and study spaces can be found throughout the building.





Academic Center: Floor-by-floor breakdown

FIRST FLOOR

Wilbert L. Ziegler '53 Auditorium
Dr. Thomas H. & Juanita Z. Hanna '58 Atrium
Finance Lab

SECOND FLOOR

Ellen Hackman Ziegler '70 Mezzanine
Dr. Anthony '65 and Geraldine '66 Zembrodt Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Center for Faith, Mission, and Catholic Education
Java City Coffee
Technology and Prototyping Lab
Office spaces, conference room, and common space

THIRD FLOOR

DeanDorton Accounting Lab
Classrooms and computer labs
Offices for computer information sciences, accountancy, and ethical leadership faculty

FOURTH FLOOR

Robert W. Plaster College of Business
David N. & Ann Early Foundation Executive Classroom
Kohlhepp Family Business Administration Department faculty offices
Dean's office and conference room
Classroom spaces

EXTERIOR

Brenda Hoskins Memorial Reflection Garden
Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations



CENTER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

natural sunlight and contemporary lighting, is simply inspiring.

The groundbreaking for the 34,000 square-foot Academic Center took place on April 23, 2022, with construction, led by Turner Construction, beginning later that summer. Kelly French '02, vice president for strategy and impact, and chief of staff, led the project for Thomas More. "I'm most proud of the spaces that were created for students to gather. We were intentional with the furniture and technology that we selected in order to create collaborative spaces," French says. The University also solicited feedback from faculty and the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship to create the building's classroom and lab spaces, including a finance lab, technology and prototyping lab, and the DeanDorton Accounting Lab.

The Wilbert L. Ziegler Auditorium, which features state-of-the-art technology and can seat over 300 guests, has quickly become a primary event space for the University. In July 2024, the Governor's School for Entrepreneurs became the first organization to utilize the auditorium, with 80 high school students taking the stage to pitch their business ideas in front of a packed crowd of family, friends, and business leaders.

"I think that this building is indicative of the future at Thomas More," French says. "This is just the beginning of projects to come and we have the space to do so."

MOREOVER



Photo by Joshua Smith, Saints video coordinator

Above: Overview of the Academic Center with the Connor Convocation Center and Republic Bank Field in the background.

Left: Looking down from the fourth floor at the Dr. Thomas H. & Juanita Z. Hanna '58 Atrium.

Left bottom: View from interior, third-floor windows toward the commuter parking lots.

Governor's School for Entrepreneurs kicks off the opening of the Academic Center

SUBMITTED BY DAVID KLENK '22/'24, GRADUATE ASSISTANT COMMUNICATIONS
PHOTOS PROVIDED

This past summer, I was fortunate enough to be a part of the visual storyteller team for the Governor's School for Entrepreneurs (GSE) Summer Startup program which took place on the Thomas More campus. Two people made up this team which oversaw the entire program and were responsible for capturing the energy of the eager-eyed high school students who came in from across the Commonwealth on a journey to become the successful entrepreneurial leaders of tomorrow. The Summer Startup program gave the participants the opportunity to learn how to work together as a team to solve a problem the world faces.

This was the first time that the University was a host for a Governor's School/Scholars program, and it was also the first event to utilize the new Academic Center. The Center had a dynamic way of allowing students to immerse themselves in their work fully. The young entrepreneurs (referred to as Es while in the program) were in awe of

GSE CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

MOREOVER [Fall 2024]

7



Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Jacqueline Coleman, President Chillo, and Anne Jewell, president and CEO of GSE, welcome the Es to campus for the Summer Startup program.



Above: On the final day of the program, called Demo Day, teams of Es present their projects to judges and attendees in the Ziegler Auditorium.

GSE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

the sleek and innovative spaces that they called home for the three weeks of the program. On move-in day, so many were excited to have their first taste of the college experience as they moved into Murphy Hall and met their resident assistants (RAs). The RAs were seasoned Thomas More students and were equally excited to meet the newcomers.

Each day started in the Saints Center where the dining staff served meals after which everyone walked over to the Academic Center for a morning kickstart in the Ziegler Auditorium. These sessions entailed a variety of lectures focused on entrepreneurship and team-building exercises to help equip the groups with the necessary tools for success. Speakers included Thomas More's very own Jeni Al Bahrani '05 as she discussed the importance of networking tools such as LinkedIn and how to create comprehensive profiles that highlight the strengths of each person. The Es also heard from some of the Tri-state's finest rising and established entrepreneurs in the new Auditorium space where state-of-the-art technology allowed the speakers to clearly connect with their young audience, who benefited through Q&A forums after each session. The Auditorium also housed one of the most electric events of the

camp as the teams and new friends alike came together to sing the night away with an evening of karaoke and music.

One of the most entertaining events we storytellers covered had to be the paint war that was held on the lawn outside of Marian & Howard Hall. There was no lack of tie-dye water balloons and paint packets to be thrown in an all-out field day leaving the fresh, white GSE t-shirts worn for the event as new, colorful creations.

A highlight of my personal experience working the program, was seeing the teams go through the building phases to become a successful unit and seeing in real-time how the Es relationships with one another grew. Working as a visual storyteller means that you are a fly on the wall and do not distract from individuals and teams getting their work done. This role allowed me to detach myself, to a certain degree, to truly capture these teams on their unique journeys, reflecting the energy created as they workshopped different entrepreneurial ideas.

Being able to capture this event through storytelling from start to finish was a remarkable experience. Witnessing the growth the program generated in each and every rising entrepreneur that participated, not just as individuals but also within their teams, makes me excited for the future. I have no doubt that they will use the skills learned to make their communities and the world a better place.

MOREOVER

Thomas More Students working with the GSE

Gabby Browning '25
Sophia Hermosilla '24
Ian Herrera '25
Matt Lodge '25
David Klenk '22/'24
Lorenzo Lelli '25
David Moore '24
Mary Strasser '25
Jose Urtecho '24
Ezequiel Villarreal '25
Santiago Viso '25



Left: The Es developed teams and then decided on a problem for which they created an entrepreneurial solution.



Raisin' Hellbenders on the River

SUBMITTED BY KRISTEN GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION AND PR
PHOTOS PROVIDED

The Biology Field Station took an active approach to raising support for its conservation, education, and outreach programs along the Ohio River this summer by hosting the inaugural fundraising concert 'Raisin' Hellbenders on the River: a Concert for Conservation.' The concert was open-house style and took place on July 27 at the Field Station featuring live bluegrass music from Sweet William, Maria Carrelli, The Montvales, Tangled Roots, and Ma Crow and Company. "This concert is an exciting opportunity for the Field Station to highlight the rich aquatic biodiversity of the region while building awareness and support for our Ohio River research, education, and outreach programs," says Field Station Manager Molly Williams.

'Raisin' Hellbenders' included family-friendly activities such as free kayak rentals, guided hikes along the Field Station floodplain nature trail, food trucks, and tours of the Field Station labs, facilities, and lodge. The event's name refers to eastern hellbenders (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*), North America's largest salamander species, which are native to the Ohio River basin and indicators of water quality. Hellbenders, along with freshwater mussels, are two of the primary species on which the Biology Field Station focuses its conservation efforts.

Alongside its conservation work, the Thomas More Biology Field Station monitors the Ohio River, in order to protect this drinking water source and safeguard public health. "Through our close partnerships with state, local, and federal agencies, corporations and nonprofit organizations, we're able to play a strategic role in monitoring and protecting water quality for communities throughout Northern Kentucky and greater Cincinnati, while developing the next generation of STEM professionals," says Professor Chris Lorentz, Ph.D., director of the Biology Field Station and the Center for Ohio River Research and Education (CORRE), which is housed there. As a faculty member Lorentz specializes in aquatic biology and environmental science. "With events like 'Raisin' Hellbenders,' we hope to share the work we are doing along the Ohio River with an even wider audience. We want to let our neighbors know that we're here – right in their own backyard – working to protect our region's most valuable natural resource," Lorentz adds.

Mark your calendar now for the 2025 concert, scheduled for July 26. More details to come! If you would like to support the Field Station, please become a Friend of the Field Station by visiting tmuky.us/friends.

MOREOVER



*Top: Concert goes kayak and fish on the Ohio River as bluegrass music floats down the hillside from the stage.
Middle: Looking up from the River at the former lock and dam building which now houses state-of-the-art labs and classrooms.*

Bottom: Concert goes enjoy the music of Tangled Roots which includes Professor Emerita Dr. Sherry Cook Stanforth as a band member.



SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

Josh Ostertag '20

Director of Campus Ministry

SUBMITTED BY DAVID KLENK '22/'24,
GRADUATE ASSISTANT COMMUNICATIONS
AND KRISTEN GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR
OF COMMUNICATION AND PR
PHOTOS PROVIDED

Josh Ostertag, Thomas More class of 2020, joined the University as campus minister in May 2023. After finishing his first year on the job, Ostertag reflects on his path to discerning his vocation, growing the Bishop Roger J. Foy's Ministry & Service Scholarship program at Thomas More, and his advice to today's college students.

What drew you to study theology as a student at Thomas More?

JO: In high school, my sophomore year, I received the Sacrament of Confirmation and that really sparked in me – I didn't notice it at the time - God's grace moving in me to love the Catholic faith and the Catholic Church and to pursue it. I started getting involved in high school youth ministry, as well as different Bible studies. Ultimately, when I was searching for colleges, I didn't know what I wanted to study. I had just assumed, because of my academic track record, that I would do something like engineering or medicine,

because those are prestigious fields. But as I was visiting universities, I didn't really know what I wanted to study and I didn't feel quite at home until I went with a priest in the Diocese to

Catholic identity on campus

The Bishop Roger J. Foy's Ministry & Service Scholarship involves Catholic students in a thriving campus ministry program. High school seniors who are admitted to Thomas More and have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA may apply. To learn more, visit: thomasmore.edu/foys.

a seminary in Columbus. It was at the seminary that I really felt at home. So, I entered seminary for my first year of undergrad. There, you're studying philosophy and theology and I just fell in love with those disciplines as a personal interest. It's what I wanted to do; it's what I loved. There was no practical element really to it. It wasn't like, 'I want to study this so I can get this job,' it was just studying it for the sake of loving it. After I had discerned out of seminary and transferred to Thomas More, I wanted to continue studying those things. Ultimately, again, love of the intellectual life and love of theology led me to getting a graduate degree in theology as well.

Describe some highlights from your year in campus ministry?

JO: After I got my graduate degree, I wasn't sure exactly what I wanted to do. This job opened and it seemed like something that would be interesting to me. I wanted to do something in the field

of ministry or teaching theology, and I love working with college students. I've really enjoyed building relationships with students, meeting new students, as well as part of my job is recruitment. I get to go into high schools and tell them about Thomas More, about campus ministry, about the Bishop Foy's Scholarship. It's exciting; this incoming class of students, a lot of them I've met at their high schools, at different admissions events on campus. I'll get to see them come into Thomas More and then see them throughout the years here. It's a great privilege to build relationships with them. A highlight of the first year is seeing students get passionate and involved on campus. A lot of the programming/events are run by students. Seeing students find something they're interested in and just run with it is great. We're hoping to build on that momentum.

What are you looking forward to in your second year?

JO: Year two is continuing to build and ride that momentum that we've formed with the current students. We have a great incoming class, around 50 Bishop Foy's scholars. These are students that are looking to take their passion for the faith, for ministry – a lot of these students are doing campus ministry in their high schools and so really taking what they love, finding what they love, what they're passionate about – and bringing that here to campus, to enliven campus, build a sense of community within campus ministry, [and] to get more students involved. Year two feels much more ambitious than year one. Year one was settling in, getting used to the flow of things, but now it's coming to the point where I remember, 'Oh, last year we did this; last year this happened.' I know how the year runs and so we're going to be able to do more things to engage more students, and hopefully provide a more holistic and qualitative experience for the students.

What advice do you have for current or incoming students?

JO: Advice I give all the time is to find your niche; find what you're interested in and get involved. The only regret I have of my time in undergrad was not being involved enough. What you put into your experience as a student is going to make your experience better. That's going to be different things for different people: it could be academics; it could be a club; or student government; or work study; or something [else]. Finding what you're interested in and just going for it makes such a great experience. Another piece of advice I give is to really engage in the mission of the University, to not allow your education to simply be a step, a jumping point, to a job. That's important of course – you need a job to live, but I think education is so much more than about what it does for you, but also about what it does to you. How your education can make you a better person. Those things we talk about all the time in the mission [of Thomas More University]: the meaning of life, your place in the world, and your responsibility to others. Actually grappling

with those and engaging with those, and discovering it in all the disciplines of academics, from the natural sciences to the fine arts, to languages. Everything, to really engage 'truth.' Finding truth where it's found and seeing how that relates to the bigger picture of your life, and your life in the world. **MOREOVER**

Ostertag, far left, students, and staff participate in Agape Latte.



Headlines in campus news

EXERCISE SCIENCE ACHIEVES 100% GRAD SCHOOL PLACEMENT RATE

The Exercise Science Program is proud to report a 100% placement rate for the class of 2024 for admission into professional graduate schools. Professional programs are those that award medical licensure at the end of completion and with the passing of a certification examination (i.e. physical therapy, athletic training, occupational therapy, physician's assistant, etc.). Students deserving recognition include: Kelly Brenner (accepted to Mount St. Joseph University and Bellarmine University physical therapy programs); Brady Baldock (Mount St. Joseph University and University of Kentucky physical therapy programs), Olivia Kuetemeyer (Bellarmine University physical therapy program); and Spencer Magee (Miami University [Ohio] and University of Cincinnati athletic training programs).

BIOLOGY STUDENTS REPRESENT AT THE 2024 TRIBETA BIOLOGICAL HONORS SOCIETY REGIONAL CONVENTION

Five students from the Department of Biological Sciences attended the TriBeta NE-4 District Convention held in April at Siena Heights University in Adrian, Michigan. MaryKay Birtcil presented "Effectiveness of dexamethasone on lamin A/C protein turnover in fibroblasts," sharing her findings with a steady stream of interested people. Katelyn Weldon presented "Innovative and economical methods for analyzing colorimetric assay data" and was awarded 1st place in the Cellular, Molecular, and Microbiology Division poster session. As a result, she was invited to present her research at the TriBeta National Convention in May receiving registration, room and board, and a travel stipend. Noelle Wolfe presented "Side-by-side comparison of three control methods of three invasive plant species along the Ohio River ecosystem" and was awarded third place in the Organismal, Ecology, and Environmental Biology Division poster session. Gemma Sanders, newly elected Tri-Beta president, and Noah Francis attended the convention to plan for next year's regional convention which is to be hosted at Thomas More. Faculty member Sabine Zacate, Ph.D., served as a judge for the oral presentations and oversaw the student representatives. Congratulations and thank you for representing the University, St. Elizabeth College of Natural and Health Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences, and Rho Theta Chapter so well!

TOM TALKS WINNERS

Congratulations to Joann Morris and Carlos Dorkpo, students who won Audience Favorite Awards at the spring semester's Tom Talks. Tom Talks is part of the communication program's public speaking class. Both Joann and Carlos shared devastating stories from childhood. Joann endured years of abuse and mental health challenges. As a young boy, Carlos' mother was tragically murdered in their home while he slept. Their stories of resilience inspired the nearly 150 people in attendance.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE BIOLOGY FIELD STATION

Research, conservation, and outreach drive much of the activity at the Field Station. To stay in the know about the great work that happens at, and because of, the Field Station, sign up for their quarterly email newsletter entitled the CORRE Rapport (Center for Ohio River Research and Education). To view the August issue, visit tmuky.us/0824newsletter and find articles about the 2024 summer interns, grants awarded to the Field Station and various initiatives, presenters for the summer seminar series, outstanding alumni in the STEM spotlight, and more. To sign up for future newsletters, visit tmuky.us/subscribe.

IRL FALL 2024 EVENT

The Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III '67 Institute for Religious Liberty (IRL) presented "Who's My God - Part II," a follow up to the interfaith panel discussion held in spring 2024. Moderated by Brian Adams, Ph.D., panelists included Imam Ayman Soliman of the Muslim faith; Brady Lighthall representing the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter-day Saints; Rabbi Meredith Kahan of the Jewish faith; and Msgr. William Cleves representing the Roman Catholic faith. For a link to video of this and previous IRL events, visit thomasmore.edu/religiousliberty.



Top: Katelyn Weldon, MaryKay Birtcil, and Noelle Wolfe at the TriBeta NE-4 District Convention to present their research work.

Middle: Summer interns in front of the main lab building at the Field Station.

Bottom: Panelists for "Who's My God - Part II," the Fall IRL interfaith event.



Study abroad 2024: Japan - a trip to remember

Study abroad is one option that students can participate in to complete the experiential learning requirement that must be attained prior to graduation. For Erin Preston and Alivia Friend, a lifelong friendship has been forged by their shared international experiences in Paris (summer 2023) and now Japan. In this story, Erin shares her perspective on Japan.

SUBMITTED BY ERIN PRESTON '24, THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY STUDENT | PHOTOS PROVIDED

What do a tea set, walking stick, and vintage sweatshirt all have in common? These were all mementos that my Mom had shared with me that she collected during her time living in Tokyo 30 years ago. From learning to drive on the left side of the road, to scuba diving, to climbing Mount Fuji, I was fascinated by her myriad of adventures. Inspired by her stories, I hoped to have the opportunity to visit Japan one day. Lucky for me that opportunity presented itself sooner than I anticipated. When I heard that Dr. Bruce Rosenthal, dean of the Robert W. Plaster College of Business, was taking a group of students on a trip to Japan for spring break 2024, I was eager to sign up.

Above: Participants for Japan 2024 include faculty, staff, alumni, and students.

Thanks to a Paris study abroad trip in summer 2023, I met one of my very best friends, Alivia Friend. Since we had such an amazing time together in France, I begged her to sign up for the Japan trip as well. From the moment we landed in Haneda Airport, I knew we were embarking on a life-changing experience. Initially, I was nervous about the language barrier and culture shock, but my uneasiness quickly resolved. I felt so welcome and safe, even though I was half a world away from home. After checking into the hotel and getting a much-needed night of rest, we began our journey through Japan.

Day 1: As part of the requirement for the course credit, I wrote a daily journal entry. Writing this piece, I wanted to reflect on the trip, including memorable photos and stories from each day. The first day was one of my favorites. A group including me, four other students, and two professors hopped on JR Rail and headed to Tokyo Disneyland. Alivia and I wore matching Tokyo Disney sweatshirts that my Mom had bought when she visited in 1993. I have loved Disney since I was a kid and had already visited the parks in Orlando, Anaheim, and Paris. Getting to see Tokyo Disneyland and adding a fourth park to that list was a dream come true. From the thrilling rides, delicious food, spectacular fireworks, and everything in between, the day was nothing short of magical.

Day 2: Our second day in Tokyo was jam-packed full of excitement. During our stay in Tokyo, we had the most wonderful guide, Yuki. She first led us to Akihabara which is the Anime Center of the city. After stopping in the Tamashii Nations store, we headed to lunch at the At-home Maid Cafe. After lunch, we visited our first Shinto Shrine of the trip: Kanda Myojin. From there, we took the train to the Tokyo Skytree which is the tallest building in the city. As we climbed into the sky on the elevator, I prepared to give my presentation about the building's history. As part of the class, each

student chose two sites to research prior to the trip, then acted as the tour guide for them once we got to Japan. The views from the observation deck and glass floor were absolutely phenomenal. Back at ground level, we explored the shops then left to browse around Nakamise Shopping Street. As we ventured down the avenue, we visited the first Buddhist Temple of the trip: Sensoji Temple. That night we had a group welcome dinner and got to try Okonomiyaki, also called Japanese pancakes. Though it was certainly not my favorite meal I ate, it was a lot of fun getting to share a meal all together and to cook the food on a griddle at our tables.

Day 3: On the last full day in Tokyo, we made sure to make every second count. Starting off at the Imperial Palace, we learned more about the Japanese government and the imperial family. We hopped on the bus and drove through the misty morning into the forest to stroll around the grounds at Meiji Jingu Shrine. That afternoon we had the chance to go to Harajuku, weaving in and out of the bustling crowds of Takeshita Street. During our free time, I went to an animal cafe for the first time. It was so amusing to actually get to play with meerkats versus seeing them in their habitat at the zoo back home – I never thought I'd have to wash meerkat hair out of my sweatshirt. At this point in the day, the drizzle from the

morning had gotten closer to a downpour. We huddled together under umbrellas as we ran across Shibuya Crossing, one of the busiest intersections in the world. At the corner of Shibuya Station, we stopped to take photos with the loyal dog Hachiko statue. Wanting a taste of the Japanese nightlife, a few of us took the train to Roppongi to find the Tokyo Hard Rock Cafe. There we enjoyed lively conversations, colorful drinks, and cheeseburgers bigger than our faces.

Day 4: All aboard the bullet train. Opening my bento box on the tray table, I reminded myself I was determined to be adventurous on the trip and open to trying new things – within reason of course. I tasted most of the veggies, rice, and fish in the box, but I drew the line at eating the one with eyes looking back at me. After jumping off the train, we found our bus and headed to Sanjusangendo Temple. We slipped off our shoes and stepped into the quiet hall. Dr. Rosenthal stopped us for a moment, encouraging us to soak it all in and then he happily announced, “Welcome to Kyoto.” Here, we learned about the ancient archery contest that dates back to the late 16th century. Archers would stand at one end of the long corridor and with brute strength alone would launch an arrow over 100 meters. In another part of the corridor, we walked past 1,001 uniquely crafted Buddha statues. After snapping a few pictures of the pond and cherry blossoms outside, we headed on to see the Heian and Yasaka Shrines, the Gion District, and the most delightful hidden chocolate shop. After a long day of travel and exploration, my friends and I were dying for a big bowl of steaming hot ramen. With full bellies and tired legs, we headed back to the hotel for the night.

Day 5: I liked to refer to this day as the pinnacle of our Kyoto temple tour. That morning, we started at the Ryoanji Temple, making sure to take a minute to sit and admire the Zen rock garden. Temple two was the spectacular Golden Pavilion Kinkakuji. Adorned with a mighty phoenix and surrounded by a serene pond, this glistening temple was definitely my favorite. After a quick viewing of Daitokuji Temple, we set off for Nishiki Market. I made the most of my lunch allowance, indulging in Wagyu beef skewers, strawberry iced tea, fried chicken on a stick, and the most delicious gyoza I’d ever had. After roaming through the stalls for a few hours, we made it to the last temple of the day. It was at the Kodaiji Gesshin-in Temple that we got to delight in a presentation of a traditional tea ceremony. Drinking the matcha out of the bowls, I thought of the tea set my Mom had given me and looked forward to telling her about the day. In addition to the beautiful tea house, the temple grounds featured a flourishing bamboo forest. Later that night, our group of students visited the Nintendo store and found out that Kyoto is the location for the video game company’s headquarters.

Day 6: When we went over our itinerary at the pre-trip meetings, I remember seeing the pictures of the Fushimi Inari Shrine and thinking how cool it would be to see in person. We walked through the trail of vermilion torii gates, stopping to appreciate the characters inscribed on each one. Later that morning, we traveled

south of the city to Nara to visit a museum, a shrine, two temples, and of course, the mostly friendly bowing deer. At Kasuga Taisha, the deer walked right up to us and if you bowed to them many would return the favor. The giant Buddha statue at Todaiji Temple was remarkable and towered over us. Before heading back to Kyoto, some of us bought some wafer crackers from a street cart to feed the deer. When they caught sight of the pack in my hand, they swarmed, furiously biting at my jacket trying to get my attention. I never thought I would be able to say I’ve been attacked by deer, but now I can. At Nishiki Market that night, I had better luck with the snuggly squealing pigs at the animal cafe.

Day 7: For my second and final presentation for the class, I shared my research on Nijo Castle, highlighting the nightingale floors and ornate Karamon Gate. We visited the Golden Pavilion’s cousin Ginkakuji, the Silver Pavilion. As we walked past the rock garden and up the hill to the overlook, I noticed some flecks of something falling from above. I assumed it was dirt or leaves from the trees,

so I was shocked when I realized it was snowflakes. Seeing the snow falling on the temple grounds was mesmerizing. As I moved through the masses of visitors at Kiyomizu Temple, I paused to take it all in, appreciating the architecture painted in vibrant red and dazzling gold, the blooming cherry blossoms, and the magnificent stone dragons. My last wish before our sayonara dinner was to visit one more animal cafe so I could feed and pet the playfully rambunctious sea otters. Our dinner was sukiyaki, which similar to the welcome dinner, we got to cook at our table. We really enjoyed the flavorful mushrooms, beef, and pork as well as lots of laughter.

Day 8: After bonding at Disneyland on day one, our group of seven decided to swing by one more amusement park before the long trip home. After we finished breakfast, I was put in charge of getting the group to Universal Studios in Osaka. We rode

roller coasters, watched musical performances, wandered around Hogwarts, and ate way too many snacks. After waiting for our reservation, we ended the night in Super Nintendo World and got to experience real-life Mario Kart. It was such a fantastic last night.

The grand finale of the trip was our stunning view of Mount Fuji from the window of the bullet train on the way back to Tokyo. I imagined what it must have been like for my Mom climbing with her beat up walking stick to the top peak. What an incredible sight to see. I remember waking up that morning, dreading the train, bus, and plane rides home. As I ran through O’Hare airport in Chicago to catch the connecting flight back home to Cincinnati, I couldn’t help but smile. I thought of the souvenirs packed in my suitcase, I thought of the extraordinary memories and friends I had made along the way, I thought of the hundreds of pictures I couldn’t wait to show my family. I was excited to give each specially selected gift, especially to my Mom. I was beyond exhausted, already feeling the onset of the inevitable jet lag, but it was so worth it. The trip far exceeded any expectations I could have set, and I can’t wait to go back some day.

MOREOVER

To read Alivia Friend’s Paris article, visit tmuky.us/24studyabroad.



Erin and Alivia with Dean Rosenthal at Golden Pavilion Kinkakuji.



Divine Providence Sister Kay Kramer (second from left) with nursing students from Thomas More who volunteered at the Diocese of Brownsville's refugee respite center last March.

Sister of Divine Providence leads nursing students to experience Catholic social teaching at the border

WRITTEN BY MESSENGER STAFF WRITER MAURA BAKER | PHOTO PROVIDED

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION – ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE MAY 10, 2024, MESSENGER (DIOCESE OF COVINGTON NEWSPAPER)

Every year, a group of nursing students from Thomas More University venture to the southern border of the United States. Led by Divine Providence Sister Kay Kramer, these students visit the Brownsville Diocese in South Texas to work at the diocese's refugee respite center, as well as the Holy Family Birth Center.

Sister Kay, a nurse and midwife herself, welcomes these junior and senior students, who have completed all their maternal child health coursework, to join her in this hands-on experience. She herself found a visit to the southern border years ago to be "life-changing."

"I brought this up to the faculty at Thomas More, and they agreed it would be a good experience for our students," she said. Sister Kay said that the experience is centered and built around Catholic social teaching. "Particularly," she said, "Catholic social teaching as it relates to immigrants

through the care of immigrants and working with immigrants."

"It's an experience for the students to really be stretched and to broaden their understanding of migration through the lens of this Catholic social teaching."

The foundation of Catholic social teaching, according to Sister Kay, is the "dignity of the human person, and the Church's commitment to life flows from the dignity of the human person."

Thus, she said, "the Church's approach to immigrants flows from our belief in that dignity ... there is a belief that people have a right to seek a safer, better life."

Sister Kay also said that Catholic social teaching also teaches that countries have a right to control their borders, but that countries have a responsibility to "establish immigration policy that is compassionate."

Prior to leaving for the border, Sister Kay has students reflect on these social

teachings as an important part of the experience, as well as to "reflect on how dependent the economy in the United States is on immigrant workers."

In addition to this catechesis, students who travel to the border earn technical experience as well. At the Holy Family Center, an out of hospital birth center, students experience childbirth in a "different way," working alongside the center's nurse midwives and registered nurses. At the refugee center, they help with donations and serving food to the people sheltered there. "We play with the children," said Sister Kay. "We assist with providing prenatal care to the pregnant women who are there. The kind of professional work that we do really focuses on maternal child health as well as any of the other things that come up when you're volunteering in a shelter."

MOREOVER

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

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Robert W. Plaster College of Business



Robinson

Malcolm Robinson, Ph.D., professor, business administration & economics, gave expert advice to moneygeek.com on several topics in 2024. The first article was entitled Best First Credit Cards for No Credit in 2024, the second is entitled Economic Recessions: History, Causes and Characteristics, a third covers the Best Secured Credit Cards in 2024. Wallethub.com also featured Robinson's sound advice in their piece Credit Card Deals, which speaks to the practice several credit card companies follow of offering sign on bonuses, and in their feature on Best Car Insurance in Kentucky.

physician onboarding. Former staff member Kelly Bilz, Thomas More librarian, was acknowledged in the piece for her formatting and research expertise with publication preparation. The article appeared in CGH Practice Management: The Road Ahead.

John D. (Jack) Rudnick Jr., Ed.D., professor, was interviewed by McGraw Hill Publishing for application of artificial intelligence (AI) into an e-book online study tool, "E-Content." The interview content is to be incorporated into a new product textbook feature that embeds AI resource cues into textbooks for interactive student learning. Continuing along the recent trend of AI, Rudnick served as a peer reviewer for Sage publication's global peer reviewed journal, "Digital Health." Rudnick also had the peer-reviewed submission Inclusive Leadership for Digital Inclusion: "Iron Technology Triangle" Focus Eases Global Equity Transformation, accepted for presentation at the 26th International Leadership Association (ILA) Global Conference scheduled for fall 2024 in Chicago, Ill. Ever active in his field, Rudnick served the New England Journal of Medicine as a peer-reviewer for its Catalyst Innovations in Care Delivery section.

Quinton Jefferson '04, Ed.D., adjunct professor, theology, presented at the American Prospect Research Association's (APRA) annual conference. The conference, "Unlock the Future" took place in Seattle, Washington, Aug. 20-23. Jefferson delivered a presentation entitled "Pathfinding Leadership: An Informed Tactic to Development Stewardship." This presentation taught attendees about the concept of professional development and types of development. Attendees were asked to respond to thought-provoking questions and participate in brief left- and right-brained activities to encourage the teasing out of their understandings of the interplay between development, and their organizational practices and views. Attendees were supported in their thinking by research-based theories. They were shown how stewarding development is a principled practice whose impact correlates with achievement. Jefferson's presentation had one foot in conceptualization and one foot in practical reality. Jefferson has taught theology and business courses at Thomas More since 2012 and recently earned his doctorate in organizational leadership from Xavier University.



Rudnick



Vezina

John D. (Jack) Rudnick Jr., Ed.D., professor, and **Michelle Vezina, M.L.**, assistant professor, business administration & economics, coauthored and published the article: Performance improvement (PI) and artificial intelligence (AI) emerge to bridge the gap for exceptional gastroenterology

NOTES CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Introducing five new academic programs

SUBMITTED BY KRISTEN GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR

Thomas More's Board of Trustees approved five new degree programs, expanding the University's academic offerings, contingent on accreditation and state approvals. In response to trends in the job market, community and workforce needs, and student demand, these new programs underscore Thomas More's commitment to academic innovation and excellence.

Within the School of Education, two advanced degrees are designed to meet the needs of K-12 teachers seeking educational advancement to pursue principal licensure. They include:

- **Master of Education Leadership (MEDL)**
- **Education Specialist (Ed.S.) in Educational Leadership**

The addition of these programs is poised to address immediate state and local demand for school principals. According to a survey conducted by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), nearly four out of 10 principals expect to leave their profession within the next three years, and additional research shows that roughly half of principals are not retained beyond their third year of leading a school.

"Regionally, schools and districts recognize the need for strong leaders as demand increases," says Alissa Ayres, M.A., director of graduate programs in education at Thomas More. "With the addition of these degree programs, Thomas More continues its support of both public and private schools in Northern Kentucky with a new emphasis on strong, instructional leadership."

Thomas More's well-established partnerships with schools and school districts, both locally and across the state, are set to enhance both academic programs, providing support and expertise from practitioners in the field, mentorship opportunities, and connections with potential employers.

"Thomas More got its start as a teaching college in 1921, educating schoolteachers within the Diocese of Covington. This tradition of excellence has continued for over 100 years, and Thomas More continues to create personal, supportive experiences for students in the field of education that cannot be found elsewhere," Ayres says.

The addition of these graduate degree programs is an integral

DEGREES CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

MOREOVER [Fall 2024]

15

NOTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15



Cate Sherron, Ph.D., professor and department chair, philosophy, political science, & interdisciplinary studies, participated in several publications and presentations during the first half of 2024. In May Sherron co-authored and published "Doing Right: Ethics in EMS" with Mike Sherron online in the Journal of Emergency Medical Services. She also participated in a panel discussion with colleagues regarding "Microaggressions in Medicine" by Freeman and Stewart at the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Conference held in February in Cincinnati, Ohio. The panel discussion will soon appear online in the International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics. Sherron also presented "Current Conundrums in Public Health Ethics," a talk for graduate students in the Department of Environmental & Public Health Sciences in the College of Medicine at the University of Cincinnati in March.



John T. Spence, Ph.D., AICP, professor, philosophy, political science, and interdisciplinary studies, was interviewed by Competitions, a trade publication focusing on design competitions in architecture, landscape and planning, for work in his former role as planner for the City of Covington. To read the article, visit tmuky.us/cov.

Soran Tarkhani, Ph.D., assistant professor, philosophy, political science, & interdisciplinary studies, had his latest research published in the journal Nations and Nationalism. The article, entitled "Examining the Objectives of Ethnic Parties: A Comprehensive Analysis of the Dynamics of Ethnic Party Competition Beyond the Constraints of the Outbidding Model," delves into the dynamics of ethnic party competition in Iraqi Kurdistan.

St. Elizabeth College of Natural and Health Sciences



Kelly Barbour, MS, senior laboratory coordinator and instructor, department of biological sciences, received the 2024 Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund grant through the Kentucky Ornithological Society. The

grant will be utilized to establish outreach camps/activities focused on educating high school students about avian biology, ecology, and conservation. By participating in ornithological research and interacting with local wildlife organizations, students gain valuable information about birds and environmental stewardship. Thomas More students will be directly involved in facilitating outreach opportunities, serving as both mentors and leaders.



Austin Hinkel, Ph.D., assistant professor, department of math and physics, received a Research Experience for Undergraduates grant from the NASA Kentucky Space Grant Consortium. The grant provides support for Josephine Roach to continue her research into the structure of the Milky Way Galaxy and will fund travel to the American Astronomical Society's 245th meeting.



Chris Lorentz, Ph.D., professor, department of biological sciences, and director of the Thomas More Biology Field Station, served as moderator for a presentation to the Ohio River Basin Congressional Caucus in Washington, D.C. by the Ohio River Basin Alliance (ORBA) and its federal partners. A restoration plan, created by ORBA, calls for federal investments to safeguard public health, protect fish and wildlife, restore ecosystems, revitalize local economies, upgrade water infrastructure, and enhance the quality of life for the 30 million people living in the Ohio River watershed.

Harold J. Smith, Ph.D., associate professor, mathematics, refereed a paper by Shubh N. Singh and Ranjan K. Ram (both of Central University of South Bihar, India) titled "On isolated gaps in numerical semigroups of embedding dimension two" for the journal Discrete Mathematics.

Administration/Staff



Flynn Ashley, assistant vice president for Institutional Advancement, has been named as a member of the 2025 NKY Chamber Leadership Northern Kentucky Class, the 46th group of professionals to take part in this 10-month

program. A cross section of professionals come together to understand the strengths and challenges in the NKY Metro and Greater Cincinnati area, and gain the necessary skills to affect positive change in the region.



Terry Connor '92, vice president and director of athletics, was interviewed by The New York Times regarding the implications that a recent NCAA settlement could have on collegiate sports and revenue-sharing. To read the article, visit tmuky.us/nytimes.



Ray Hebert, Ph.D., executive director, Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III '67 Institute for Religious Liberty and Dean Emeritus, was interviewed by the Northern Kentucky Tribune about his book, "Student-Athletes & Athletic Programs at Thomas More University, Post-World War II to 2023." To read the backstory about the book, visit tmuky.us/tmsports. Hebert was also recognized by the Northern Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame as the recipient of the Dr. James Claypool Pioneer Award in partnership with the Behringer Crawford Museum (to honor and preserve sports history in Northern Kentucky) as a "Thank you for his service and dedication to sports in Northern Kentucky." The award was presented by Dr. Claypool himself in August.

Amy Malventano, archivist, Benedictine Library, as a member of the Midwest Urban Environmentalism Panel presented a talk entitled "The Women's City Club and the Rise of Urban Environmentalism" at the 10th Annual Midwestern History Conference at Grand Valley State University in May 2024.



Mark Messingschlager '11/'15, director of financial aid, appeared on WLWT to discuss the difficult situation created for students and colleges by delays in the introduction of the new FAFSA which was originally scheduled to go live in fall 2023. To see the segment, visit tmuky.us/fafsadelay.

DEGREES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

part of Education VILLA, which launched in 2023. Education VILLA is Thomas More's innovative education model that seeks to meet the region's education workforce needs through advanced degree programs, providing continuing education opportunities for teachers and administrators, establishing the first Dyslexia Institute in Kentucky, and increasing programming opportunities for incoming college students seeking to graduate in education. Visit thomasmore.edu/educationvilla for more details about initiatives within the Education VILLA.

Three programs are also planned to launch in Thomas More's Robert W. Plaster College of Business, contingent on accreditation and state approvals:

- **Bachelor of Science in management**
- **Bachelor of Arts in hospitality management**
- **Master of Science in information technology management**

As previously announced, Thomas More moves forward with plans for a new undergraduate degree program in hospitality management. With a focus on hands-on learning, this program prepares students with the dynamic skills needed to take on leadership positions in the hospitality industry upon graduation. Partnerships with Columbia Sussex and St. Elizabeth Healthcare (The Ormsby) provide the support necessary to ensure real-world experience in the hospitality industry.

A Bachelor of Science in management provides a more in-depth exploration of the management function of business. Complimenting the general business courses required for a business degree, the new program offers a more comprehensive and deeper study of management skills, techniques and best practices, and requires an experiential learning component, such as an internship. This program addresses needs identified by current students, alumni, advisory groups and local employers, and expands the bachelor's degrees offered through the College of Business. "Twenty or 30 years from now, our students will be working in fields that haven't been invented yet, in jobs that don't exist yet," says Dean Bruce Rosenthal, Ph.D. "At Thomas More, our programs focus on skills – such as critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and teamwork – that are applicable no matter your future responsibilities. The addition of these degree programs is reflective of our identity as a Catholic liberal arts university, where we prepare our students to be successful not just in their careers, but in life."

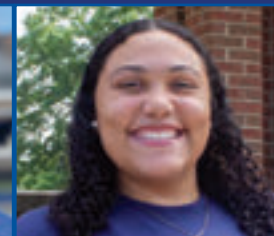
A Master of Science in information technology management (MSITM) further expands the graduate programs offered by the Robert W. Plaster College of Business. Upon accreditation and state approvals, the MSITM program will prepare students with the skills and experience needed to become leaders in the information technology field. Incorporating ethical decision-making, strategic responses to current global IT issues, and best practices relating to data and information systems, the MSITM prepares students to develop, implement, and manage organizations' IT systems and teams upon graduation. "This program is designed with a hands-on curriculum that not only sharpens managerial skills but provides advanced IT knowledge. We anticipate the MSITM to attract students from a diverse range of educational backgrounds and professional experiences, who see the advantages of our small class sizes, experienced faculty, and presentation of material within the context of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition," says Rosenthal.

For a comprehensive list of undergraduate programs offered in the College of Business, please visit tmuky.us/rwpcob. **MOREOVER**

Why donate to Thomas More?



Reabetswe



Jazmine



Shelby



Tyshaun

Students like Rea, Jazmine, Shelby, and Tyshaun rely on your support. Read their stories at tmuky.us/domore.

Mark your calendar: Make a gift on

GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday | Dec. 3, 2024

Join millions of people around the world in making a gift on Giving Tuesday. To give online, visit thomasmore.edu/donate.

Leave a Legacy with your IRA

Did you know that if you have an IRA, that the required mandatory distribution (RMD) begins the year you turn 73? You can use your RMD to make a gift and benefit Thomas More while improving your tax situation for 2024. Talk to your financial advisor and give us a call at **859-344-3344** to get started.

2023-2024 Giving Honor Roll

Thanks to the generosity of so many amazing donors, the 2023-2024 fiscal year was a success for Thomas More. The gifts received demonstrate support from alumni, trustees, friends, faculty and staff, as well as the business community. Resources generated provide a values-based education for students as we grow and expand on the traditions that have made Thomas More a top-tier regional university. Thank you to all our donors for their continued and generous financial support. We are extremely honored and appreciative that we are entrusted to be stewards of your donations and will continue to maximize their impact on students in support of the mission of the University. For the list of donors, visit tmuky.us/24GivingHonorRoll.

Career development support makes a lasting impact

SUBMITTED BY KRISTEN GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR | PHOTOS PROVIDED

The Republic Bank Foundation Institute for Career Development & Graduate School Planning (ICG) at Thomas More University empowers students through career development resources and support. The ICG offers training for a range of job-seeking skills, such as interviewing and resume writing, provides graduate school advising, and connects students to experiential learning opportunities, such as internships and co-ops, and full-time employment opportunities.

In the 2019-20 academic year, a student ambassador program launched in the ICG, expanding the institute's reach on Thomas More's campus. Moreover caught up with three alumni who served as student ambassadors as they shared more about the professional and personal impacts of the ICG.

Tyrice Walker '21 recalls that his involvement with the ICG began as an accident – or more so, an act of kindness. Shortly after transferring to Thomas More as a sophomore, Tyrice says one day he noticed a woman struggling outside of the cafeteria. “She had this huge, long folding table,” Walker says, adding, with a laugh, “It did not look like a winnable scenario.”

Walker, then a 6'4" guard for Saints men's basketball, stopped to offer his help. “The next thing I know, I'm checking people in, passing out tickets,” Walker says. He ended up staying for an entire event. The woman he had stopped to help was Samantha Palmer, then coordinator of career planning for the ICG. The connection Walker made that day, forged through kindness, would later pay off with an opportunity to join the ICG in an official capacity as one of its first career ambassadors.

The goal for the career ambassadors was simple – to tap into the talents of a standout group of students to help market and support ICG services for the Thomas More community. The ambassadors supported the ICG during campus events, helped manage Handshake (an online job board platform), created content

for the ICG's social media accounts, and conducted peer reviews for students seeking help with their resumes.

A self-described “people person,” Walker says his favorite part of the role was helping students prepare for interviews. “It's a combination of building a resume and then having the courage to speak about it,” he says. Walker says that through the ICG he received in-depth training on how to build resumes to showcase skills and experiences to employers. He didn't fully realize it at the time, but his experience coaching students as an ICG ambassador helped lay a foundation to begin his career and put him on the path to discover his professional passions. He now works as a human resources manager for P&G, supporting its Global Oral Care Design teams. “Never in a million years did I think I'd be in HR when I was in college,” Walker says. “Looking back, I don't think I fully appreciated the opportunity, at the time.”

Mason Kramer '22 gives credit to the ICG for helping him build the professional skills to land his first internship. “I knew that networking would be important to finding a job,” Kramer recalls. Between juggling responsibilities as a student-athlete for the Saints football team, and working part-time jobs as a valet and for a local landscaping company, Kramer says he became connected to the ICG through an advertisement for the career ambassadors program.

After applying for and landing the role of ambassador, Kramer says working in the ICG had one outcome he didn't expect. Not only did he learn new skills such as graphic design and interviewing, but working in the ICG also helped create order in what could be a chaotic schedule as a college athlete. “I could go to the ICG, work on homework; it helped me with my academics and gave me some structure,” Kramer says. “After a few semesters, I was honored as an Academic All-American.”

Later in his college career, a friend introduced Kramer to a prestigious internship opportunity at Medpace, a global clinical research organization (CRO) headquartered in Cincinnati. Building on his experience at the ICG and his academic success, Kramer landed an internship in the spring of 2021, and through his efforts he secured a full-time job offer with the company after graduation.

“My experiences at the ICG – knowledge about resumes, experience with mock interviews and what businesses are looking for – helped me secure this role,” Kramer says.

Ashley Roderick '20 / '22 says landing the role of ambassador at the ICG helped “kickstart” her career during her final year as a student at Thomas More. As an ambassador, Roderick helped the University launch its presence on Handshake and implemented it as a tool to connect students with employers. She enjoyed learning



Tyrice Walker



Mason Kramer



Photo from 2020 of the ICG ambassadors: Ashley Roderick, Tyrice Walker, Amanda Whiteker, and Mason Kramer with Samantha Palmer.

about the goals for Handshake, helping to onboard employers wanting to reach Thomas More students, and helping classmates learn how Handshake could be leveraged to secure a job or internship.

Roderick now works as a business process analyst for Great American Insurance Group and says she can see the connections between the work she did as a student ambassador and her current career. "This is where my time in the ICG truly comes to fruition," Roderick asserts. "I've found I like being at the beginning of a program, being able to introduce it, and fixing problems."



Ashley Roderick

She says the experience of interacting with students on campus also reinforced her confidence in her communication skills, adding, "In my career now, I'm in front of people all day – during meetings, working on compliance. Being able to communicate is important."

Roderick offers a piece of advice for current students who are at the start of their own career journeys: "Learn more about all that the University offers – like the ICG. There are so many people who want to help [students]. There is no reason why someone can't be successful at Thomas More."

ICG programming, now led by Coordinator of Career Planning Emilee Huser, continues to support career exploration and coaching, as well as job search and skills training for Thomas More students.

"It's a combination of building a resume and then having the courage to speak about it."

Tyrice Walker '21

"Emilee's plans for the upcoming academic year are full of programs and initiatives to support our students and foster a culture of excellence," says Kim Haverkos, Ph.D., assistant vice president for academic and student success. "We are excited to continue to leverage the Republic Bank Foundation Institute for Career Development & Graduate School Planning as a structure that provides comprehensive support to our Thomas More students in the development of professional skills, with a focus on high-impact practices and experiential learning."

Services the ICG provides are open to Thomas More students and alumni. For more information on services and resources, visit thomasmore.edu/icg. In-person assistance is available via appointment with Emilee Huser by emailing huser@thomasmore.edu or calling 859-344-3386. The ICG is located on the second floor of the Administration Building in the Academic Services wing. For employers who would like to engage with Thomas More's Republic Bank Foundation Institute for Career Development & Graduate School Planning, please contact Emilee Huser.

MOREOVER

**As of the 2024-25 academic year, the University has phased out its use of Handshake due to ever-changing technology and workforce needs. LinkedIn has been substituted as the primary tool for students seeking to connect with employers.*



President Chillo introduces alumni Chuck Scheper and Garren Colvin.

Evening of Innovation

Unlocking economic impact through innovation, collaboration, and leadership with alumni Chuck Scheper '74 and Garren Colvin '86

SUBMITTED BY KRISTEN GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR
PHOTO PROVIDED

Thomas More University's President's Giving Society and the Zembrodt Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation presented the fourth Evening of Innovation, sponsored by DBL Law, as a panel conversation with two alumni whose leadership is helping to shape the future of healthcare, life science research, and regional economic development.

Chuck Scheper '74, chairman of the Board for Bexion Pharmaceuticals, LLC and Garren Colvin '86, president and CEO for St. Elizabeth Healthcare, headlined the event, and touched on a range of topics, including collaborative efforts to bring the OneNKY Center to Covington, how an innovative mindset has helped mobilize initiatives to drive the Northern Kentucky region forward, and the impact a Thomas More education has had on their careers and lives.

Scheper and Colvin conversed about their involvement in bringing the OneNKY Center to Covington. The facility is poised to become a one-stop shop for businesses seeking to relocate to the Northern Kentucky region following its anticipated opening in summer 2025. The building, owned by the Northern Kentucky Port Authority, will include space for OneNKY Alliance, the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, meetNKY, BE NKY Growth Partnership, the Catalytic Fund of Northern Kentucky, Horizon Community Funds of Northern Kentucky, and the Northern Kentucky Bar Association. Thomas More's Division of External Affairs will also occupy space in the building.

The Evening of Innovation series was launched to provide a unique opportunity for the Thomas More community of alumni and friends to foster and strengthen relationships with entrepreneurs and innovators who shape the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky region. For the complete story surrounding the evening with Scheper and Colvin, please visit tmuky.us/24evening.

MOREOVER

MOREOVER [Fall 2024]

WELCOME TO THE NEWEST ALUMNI



CLASS OF 2024

SUBMITTED BY KRISTEN GALLAGHER
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR
PHOTOS BY BRUCE CRIPPEN

Thomas More University honored its newest alumni in a Commencement Ceremony held May 11, 2024, at Thomas More Stadium in Florence, Kentucky. Families from across the United States and around the globe joined faculty, staff and friends of the University as degrees were conferred to more than 320 students, including 273 bachelor's degrees and 48 graduate degrees.

"Through your education at a Catholic liberal arts university, you have been prepared to become the leaders of tomorrow," President Chillo said in his address to the graduating class. "You have examined the ultimate meaning of life, your place in the world, and your responsibility to others. I challenge each of you to put this into practice over your lifetime and challenge others to do the same."

Four years after the global pandemic of 2020 brought in-person learning and many high school graduation ceremonies to a halt, President Chillo commended the members of the Class of 2024 for their perseverance and tenacity in the face of unprecedented challenges and obstacles. "You experienced online education and learned more about social distancing than you ever would have thought," Chillo said. "But you also learned important life skills, such as determination and grit."

In a nod to the challenges experienced by these graduates, as well as the faculty and staff of the University, the Board of Trustees passed a resolution in March 2024 recognizing the Thomas More community for its persistence and responsiveness during the ever-changing environment that resulted from the ongoing public health crisis. This special acknowledgement was presented during the Exercises by Board of Trustees Chairperson Judith A. Marlowe '69, Ph.D. "In the fall of 2020, you began your journey to this degree, not knowing when normalcy might return. And today, you have succeeded," Dr. Marlowe said.

MOREOVER

To listen to the playlist of speeches and prayers from the 2024 Commencement ceremony, visit tmuky.us/24playlist. For links to photo galleries and additional items surrounding Commencement, visit thomasmore.edu/commencement.

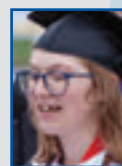
AWARD WINNERS

THE FIRST GENERATION STUDENT AWARD

JESSICA THOMAS '24

Bachelor of Arts in English and creative writing

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.

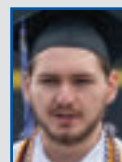


THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

DAVID MOORE '24

Bachelor of Arts in psychology (minors in business and law; certificate in ethical leadership and organizational management)

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

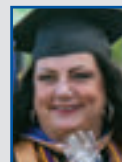


THE DEAN'S GRADUATE AWARD

MELINDA SIMPSON KELLAM '22/'24

Master of Business Administration

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



LIFELONG LEARNING AWARD

HOLLY JENKINS '20/'22/'24

Master of Arts in ethical leadership and organizational management

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



FACULTY AWARDS

OUTSTANDING FULL TIME FACULTY

WES RYLE, Ph.D.

ST. ELIZABETH COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

R. STEVEN FLYNN, Ph.D.

ROBERT W. PLASTER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

JAMES N. CAMP, Ph.D.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

OUTSTANDING PART TIME FACULTY

ELIZABETH COX

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES





The Alumni Awards honor outstanding alumni and community leaders whose talents and expertise make a significant impact as they continue to live the Thomas More mission.

For more information and a photo gallery about this year's awards, visit tmuky.us/24honorees.

For a complete list of previous award winners, visit tmuky.us/pastawards.

To nominate a deserving person for the 2025 awards, visit tmuky.us/25nominate.



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

Philip Beasley '66, March 28, 2023

David Dunlap '75, June 5, 2023

Jennifer (Meyer) Haag '85, May 29, 2024

Dr. John Hater '74, May 22, 2024

Ruth (Brue) Kemper '70, June 2, 2024

Thomas Ketteler '64, March 4, 2024

Steven Lutkenhoff '71, April 22, 2024

Milton McCracken, Jr. '58, Dec. 10, 2023

William Mann '56, Jan. 1, 2024

Philip Robbins '57, May 11, 2024

Dr. John Schweitzer '60, Sept. 28, 2023

Richard Shuey '96, June 7, 2024

Douglas Stephens '64, May 2, 2024

William Tabeling '66, Feb. 1, 2023

Richard Velton '50, Feb. 10, 2024

William Ware '53, June 28, 2024

Judith (Scherrer) Wilkens '65, April 27, 2023

Richard Wilson '68, Jan. 23, 2024

Monsignor Murphy Legacy Society

CREATE YOUR LEGACY AT THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY

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

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

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



ANNOUNCING THE 2024 ALUMNI AWARD HONOREES

Professional Achievement Award

Honors alumnus/alumna whose career has reached a level of excellence in their respective field of endeavor and is recognized as such by peers and other contacts.

MICHAEL GIESKE '80, M.D.

physician director Lung Cancer Screening,
St. Elizabeth Healthcare

SCOTT MCINTYRE '97, Esq.

partner, BakerHostetler LLP

Citizenship Award

Honors alumnus/alumna making a significant impact on the welfare of their community through service and leadership and have committed themselves to the integrity, concern for justice, and service to others for which our spiritual patron and namesake – Saint Thomas More – is so justly renowned.

KENNETH REIS '72

Emerging Leader Award

Awarded to a young alumnus/alumna who exemplifies outstanding young leadership skills.

SIERRA O'BRYAN '13

Thomas More University Service Award

Awarded to an alumnus/alumna or friend of the University who has provided continued service to the University. This award recognized extraordinary service in terms of time, energy and expertise rather than financial support.

TERRY CONNOR '92

Lasting Influence Award

Honors a faculty or staff member, past or present, who provided a positive and lasting impact on the lives of students and was a role model for life in society as well as in career choice of students.

JOHN CIMPRICH '71, Ph.D.

Legacy Award

Posthumously honors the impact that alumnus/alumna, faculty, staff, or friends of the University made on the institution during their lifetime. Remembered as beacons of inspiration in the pursuit of the meaning of life, their place in the world, and their responsibility to others while they were with us and beyond.

SR. LORETTO MARIE DRISCOLL '39, CDP, Ph.D.



Join the fun!

Events are a great way to reconnect, network, and socialize. Mark your calendar today, we can't wait to see you at Thomas More! For more events, visit tmuky.us/alumnievents.

DECEMBER

ADG UNIVERSAL NIGHT

Friday | Dec. 7, 2024

FEBRUARY

ST. THOMAS MORE'S BIRTHDAY

Feb. 7, 2025

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

Wednesday | Feb. 12, 2025

Celebration of Pope John Paul II
on the 20th anniversary of his death

For more information visit thomasmore.edu/religiousliberty

JUSTICE DONALD C. WINTERSHEIMER '53
LAWYERS LUNCH

Sunday | Feb. 16, 2025

Additional details TBA

For sponsorship opportunities or to attend,
email alumni@thomasmore.edu

MARCH

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Friday | March 21, 2025

Additional details TBA

For sponsorship opportunities or to attend,
email alumni@thomasmore.edu

APRIL

BISHOP WILLIAM A. HUGHES
AWARD DINNER

Wednesday | April 2, 2025

Additional details TBA

For sponsorship opportunities or to attend,
email alumni@thomasmore.edu



2024 RELIGIOUS JUBILEES

70 Years

Sister Rosemary McCormack '65, OSB
Sister Judith McMahon '62, CDP
Sister Francis Maag '63, CDP
Sister Viola Martin '59, CDP
Sister Martha Walther '65, OSB

65 Years

Sister M. Sharron Goller '68, SND
Sister Mary Joell Overman '63, SND

60 Years

Sister Alice Gerdeman '73, CDP
Sister Stephanie Killeen '74, CDP
Sister Margaret Stallmeyer '68, CDP
Sister M. Lourita Warken '71, SND

50 Years

Sister Patricia Tyree '79, SND



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

Send your good news (and a digital photo) by email using subject line "news" to alumni@thomasmore.edu or visit tmuky.us/alumninote.

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 with names (include mom and/or dad), and class year!



Sharon (Odhiambo) Angoya

'17 CPA, a tax manager at Amazon, recently welcomed an adorable baby girl into the world on March 20, 2024.



♥♥♥ Kristin (Klocke) '17, M.D., and Craig '16, M.D., Schutzman both biology alumni, welcomed their son, Oliver, into the world on March 21, 2024.

Katie (Bischoff) Hoffman '17 and husband Jeremy welcomed their son, Joey, on May 1, 2024.



Are You & Your Spouse



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



Benjamin & Grace



Christopher & Cyndi



Terry & Michelle



Quinton & Anna



Virginia & Michael



John & Kristen

ENGAGEMENTS

Christian Gil '19 was recently engaged. Congratulations!

Benjamin Kenning '17 became engaged in May to Grace Simon, a new Institutional Advancement staff member at the University. Congratulations to Ben and Grace!

WEDDINGS

Quinton Jefferson '04 and Anna Pranger were married on June 4, 2024.

John Notorgiacomo '14 and Kristen were married on June 2, 2024. The wedding party was a Thomas More affair including fellow alumni: **Bret Vulhop '14**, **Gavin Wichmann '14**, and **Daniel Block '14**.

Christopher Odongo '19 married Cyndi Odipo in Kisumu, Kenya on May 25, 2024.

ANNIVERSARIES

♥♥♥ **Terry '92** and **Michelle '94 Connor** celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on Aug. 6, 2024.

♥♥♥ **Virginia (Weidner) '73** and **Michael '73 Sandfoss** were married Nov. 18, 1972, and are celebrating their 52nd anniversary this year.

CLASS NOTES

1970s



Cindy Becknell '74 traveled on a pilgrimage to France, visiting Lourdes, Toulouse, Carcassonne, Rocamadour, Paray-le-Monial, Nevers, Chartres, Lisieux (pictured above), Mont St. Michel, and Paris.

D. Lynn Meyers '77, producing artistic director of the Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati, celebrated an honorary street naming on World Theatre Day. The corner of 12th & Vine St. in Over-the-Rhine has been named "Theatre Row."

Erwin Erhardt III '79, Ph.D., served as president of the Ohio Association of Economists and Political Scientists from 2022-23, and is currently president of the Nebraska Economic and Business Association. In April 2024, he was awarded the A. B. "Dolly" Cohen Award for Excellence in Teaching by the University of Cincinnati. Over his career, he has presented 145 papers at regional, national, and international conferences.

1980s



Leo Calderon '80 and his non-profit, The Esperanza Educational Success Program, were featured in an article by the NKY Tribune. To read the article, visit tmuky.us/esperanza.



Michael Gieske '80, M.D., spoke at the latest installment of DBL Law's 'Made It' series. He is the director of Lung Cancer Screening at St. Elizabeth Healthcare and noted the impact the team's work has made on the lung health in our region. Through the program, 400 cases of Stage 1 Lung Cancer were diagnosed in time for early treatment and 44,000 screenings have occurred.

Douglas Ohmer '85 retired from 29 years as a professor of business management at Northern State University. At graduation in May, he was honored to deliver the commencement address and was also awarded emeritus status.

Matthew J. Draud '87, Ph.D., was named as the 13th President of Briar Cliff University in June 2024. For more, visit tmuky.us/24DrMatthewDraud.

Rick Wurth '89 was named to the 2024 Leadership Kentucky class. Wurth is CEO of Children's Home of Northern Kentucky Behavioral Health in Covington.

1990s

Dave Schroeder '90, executive director of the Kenton County Public Library, has been elected as the president of the Southwest Ohio Network (SWON) Library Consortium Board of Directors. Schroeder has been with the Kenton County Public Library for over 30 years and since 2007 has served as the executive director.

Brian Caperton '97 graduated with a licentiate degree in Canon Law from St. Paul University and was assigned as a

NOTES CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

Volleyball '90s style in the CCC

The Thomas More men's volleyball team from the late '90s visited Thomas More to reconnect and tour campus. Pictured (not in this order) are: **Bryeon Burnam '96**, Dennis Dalton, Steve Durr, **Ken Fehrman '98**, **Tim Hampton '97**, Joey Pomeroy, **AJ Schaeffer '96**, Devan Tucker, and **Wayne Wycoff '97**.





SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

Sean Green '21

Children's Writer/Artist

SUBMITTED BY DAVID KLENK '22/'24,
GRADUATE ASSISTANT COMMUNICATIONS
Sean Green returned to campus in May 2024 with an exhibit in the Eva G. Farris Gallery sharing his illustrations which are part of his first children's book entitled "Dwayne."

Please share what led you to choose to attend Thomas More?

SG: My dad, along with his mother (my grandmother), came here. You get a discount (the Sibling/Legacy Scholarship) when there's family that has attended Thomas More. I wanted to go out into the world and discover new things.

Tell us about your experience as a student with autism?

SG: It was very hard until the second semester of my first year. It got easier, thankfully because of the Institute of Learning Differences (ILD) and Amy Osborne, the first director. She, along with everyone else at the ILD, was very helpful to me. They helped me get organized - not that I wasn't, but I was able to understand more when the tutors elaborated on study topics that were vague or I just couldn't understand. It got easier with each year.



Dance party spread from "Dwayne" where the adorable abominable snowman invites new and old friends to have a good time.

What were some of the obstacles you had to overcome and some of the tools you used to be successful?

SG: I learned a lot about why I need to take things a lot more seriously, such as my studies. The tutors in the ILD helped a lot. I could get my work done and not forget; they were able to remind me if I had forgotten - which rarely happened.

Talk a little bit about your inspiration for your book "Dwayne" and your process of writing and illustrating the book.

SG: Dwayne was my imaginary friend when I was a kid. The name Dwayne just came out of nowhere, you don't really hear a lot of people except for the Rock and Dwayne Wade but now you have Dwayne The Abominable Snowman! At first, I didn't think I was going to write about this character until Sherry Cook Stanforth (former professor for Thomas More) told me that I really needed

to get into children's literature, which I did and it just kind of happened. We had a class assignment where she said "Oh, you should do a children's story," and I did "Dwayne." I didn't get anything published until after I was out of college. The process, at first, was very hard, very stressful because I am a first-time author. It got easier later on, but I had to learn technology like how to illustrate on a computer instead of a notepad. It was just like

with college, it just got easier with the process and everything.

What was your favorite part of the story or do you have a favorite page or illustration?

SG: I will say that I like all the pages, but if I had to choose one, it would definitely be the dance party. That's a lot of people's favorite, just having a party and having a good time.

Do you plan to write additional books?

SG: Yes, I'm in the process of working on my second book. I'm almost done with it and hope to release it this summer. The title is "Camp Fuzzyfuzzo" and it is about a boy that goes to summer camp and learns how to have fun and go out in the world and travel, instead of staying home and doing nothing.

That sounds like a lot of fun to create. Do you have any advice for current students?

SG: I would say don't give up on your dreams. If you have a dream, work on it. It might be hard but you'll realize that it is a part of the journey. If you work hard you're going to get there eventually.

MOREOVER

Visit tmuky.us/seangreen, for the full story.

MOREOVER [Fall 2024]

2024 Summer Art Series

The Eva G. Farris Gallery welcomed several talented alumni artists back to campus during the summer months. **Sean Green '21** started off the run from May 13-17 with original art from his children's book "Dwayne." Sean signed copies of the book during the closing reception and found time to be interviewed for a Saints Spotlight speaking to his experiences as a student with autism and his budding career as a writer (he thanks Professor Emerita Sherry Stanforth for her support!). Next was the return of **Ruthe Wyman '76** with Searching High and Low which ran from May 23-Jun 28. **Judith Stiens '66** presented Favorite Places, Favorite Things from July 11-31. The summer was rounded out with the exhibit Greencrest by **Ian Gunn '16** which ran from Aug. 19-Sept. 26. Thank you to these amazing alumni for sharing their creativity!

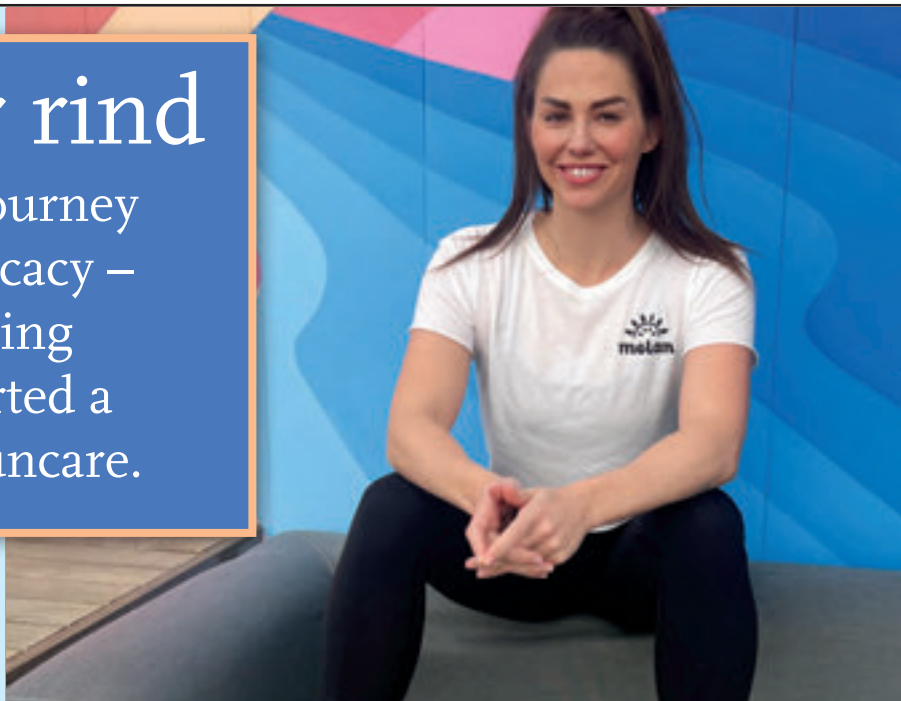


"Winter Gardening" by Ruthe Wyman, Acrylic on Canvas

Protect your rind

Brandi Corbello's journey to skin cancer advocacy – how a life-changing diagnosis kick-started a passion for clean suncare.

SUBMITTED BY KRISTEN GALLAGHER
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BRANDI CORBELLO



Top: Brandi Corbello in her Melan gear.

Above: View of the incision resulting from Brandi's skin cancer diagnosis.

Right: The finished product that protects and nourishes skin.

Brandi Corbello's career has been marked by an attuned sensitivity to the needs of others, a deep desire to feed her curiosity, and a healthy dose of determination. Her journey has taken her from the volleyball court at Thomas More University, to boardrooms in the tech industry, and now to the forefront of the sunscreen industry with her new company, Melan.

A former outside hitter for Saints Volleyball, Corbello graduated from Thomas More in 2011 and began her career in management consulting. Gaining experience in organizational transformation, strategic visioning, and customer experience, Corbello quickly advanced to leadership

roles, earning a C-Suite position at tech startup Indico Data.

It was an unexpected diagnosis in 2019 that would propel Corbello into her newest venture and passion project. Learning at the age of 30 that she had stage three melanoma, Corbello's life took a turn as she started a journey of healing and discovery.

"Once I got that diagnosis, I really started thinking about what I put in and on my body. I got super obsessed with my daily SPF, which I hadn't been previously," Corbello says. "My curiosity led me to talking to chemists and manufacturers around the U.S., just to get an understanding of how it's made, what it's made up of – with no intention of starting a sunscreen company."

Corbello says she became even more motivated after traveling to Europe and seeing high-quality suncare products on the shelves that were more accessible to consumers than back home in the U.S. "Any of the 'clean' products you see in the U.S. are not very accessible; You'll spend like \$44 for 5.5 ounces. That's a lot, right? That's not very accessible," Corbello asserts.

With extensive research and professional experience working with startups under her belt, Corbello founded Melan, a clean sunscreen company, with products launching in the summer of 2024.

Starting Melan didn't come without some speedbumps, though. Corbello says she was initially set on another name for her company, but a trademark dispute forced her to rebrand.

"I thought about it that 'm-e-l-a-n' is short for melanoma, but also could have a play or like a pun on actual fruit. Melons have a rind that protects them; melons, once you get into them, are hydrating and nourishing. All of those things are actually what the product does," Corbello says.

With a catchy tagline—"protect your rind"—and a logo symbolizing the sun with inverted melon seeds, Corbello's brand embodies both playfulness and purpose. In a nod to where it all started, Corbello has pledged 5% of the proceeds from every purchase to the Melanoma Research Foundation, the largest organization dedicated to accelerating melanoma research and community advocacy.

Beyond creating a successful business, Corbello says she is passionate about educating consumers on the importance of sun protection and dispelling common sunscreen misconceptions. She challenges the notion that a higher SPF equates to better protection, and emphasizes the need for manufacturing formulas that are both effective and safe for consumers.

Reflecting on her journey, Corbello offers advice to current Thomas More students, "Be curious about what you want to do, what motivates you, and really dig in and dig in deep. Ask questions, create a network effect, and make sure you put people around you who can help you truly understand a topic that you're really curious about."

MOREOVER

Visit tmuky.us/corbello to listen to the full Saints Spotlight.



NOTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

Tribunal Judge for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Chris Chapman '99 took on the role of chief financial officer at Klosterman Baking Company. She had previously been vice president of Finance and Administration, and Global Business Services at the local office of the German-based manufacturer Krauss-Maffei Corporation.

Shannon Culp '99/'22 was honored as a STEMfluencer by the Gaskins Foundation, as well as honored at the 2nd Annual Women in



STEM Honors Luncheon recognizing the contributions of women who contribute to the promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in the Greater Southern Ohio and Northern Kentucky Region.

2000s

Kristi Hensley '03 was named the principal at Aurora Elementary School in South Dearborn, Indiana.

Brandon Vallorani '03 opened a cigar shop in South Florida in March 2024. He has also joined The Keyes Company as a Florida Realtor.

Ben Brown '05 was promoted to principal of Holmes High School in Covington, Kentucky. Visit tmuky.us/brown, to read more.



Laura Berkemeier '06/'18 was recently appointed as associate vice president for Non-Profit Services at Ignite Philanthropy joining fellow Thomas More alumna **Rita DiBello '10**.

Theatre alumni take the stage

The Beechmont Players presented "Moonlight and Magnolias" in August 2024 featuring the work of several Thomas More alumni including **Laura Berkemeier '06/'18** as the director, **Daniel Cohen '02** as producer, and **Ronald Mason '02** as an actor. To see their interview with Cincy Lifestyle, visit tmuky.us/beechmont.



Daniel Noguera '06/'09, CEO and founder of Urbana Café, opened a new location in the Warsaw Avenue Creative Campus in East Price Hill. To read more, visit tmuky.us/urbana.

Blair Trame '09 joined international management consultancy company AMCL as a hub leader for their Northeast Asia division.

Andrew Anderson '11/'13 was honored as a finalist for the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Next Generation Leader Awards in the category of medical and health care services. These awards are hosted by Northern Kentucky Young Professionals as they salute and applaud young professionals ages 40 and under for significant professional accomplishments, demonstrated leadership, and community impact.

Winter Okoth '12, Ph.D., recently completed her doctorate in microbiology at Griffith University in Australia. She has also been elected as a board member representing trainees at the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and was selected as one of the 2024 Emerging Leaders at the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering.

Brenon Russell '14 moved from Bricker Graydon to be an associate attorney in Personal Planning at Robbins, Kelly, Patterson, and Tucker (RKPT). Russell specializes in estate planning, elder law, and trusts.

Megan Bohman-Walter '15 was inducted into the Covington Independent Public

2010s

Catherine O'Shea '10 is approaching her one-year anniversary as COO and co-founder of Narratize AI. O'Shea recently spoke on a panel at Ohio University's AI Symposium.

Christopher Rickels '10 was honored as a finalist for the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Next Generation Leader Awards in the category of education. These awards are hosted by Northern Kentucky Young Professionals as they salute and applaud young professionals ages 40 and under for significant professional accomplishments, demonstrated leadership, and community impact.

NOTES CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

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

NOTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

Schools TEAM Athletic Hall of Fame. Read more by visiting tmuky.us/teamhof.

Jennifer Bravo '15 started a position at CTI Clinical Trial and Consulting Services as a clinical research coordinator.

Karen Cress '15 started her own yoga and healing studio in Fort Mitchell called Anahata.

Michael Marcagi '15 debuted on 'Late Night with Seth Meyers' playing his hit single "Scared To Start." Watch the performance by visiting tmuky.us/marcagi.

Michael Stephens '15, M.D., FAAD, presented at the American Academy of Dermatology Association's Innovation Academy Conference in Seattle, Washington. The panel discussion was entitled "What's New in Complex Dermatology!"



Paige Noday '17 was honored as a finalist for the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Next Generation Leader Awards in the category of education. These awards are hosted by Northern Kentucky

Young Professionals as they salute and applaud young professionals ages 40 and under for significant professional accomplishments, demonstrated leadership, and community impact.

Jeff Hans '19 was inducted into the Northern Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame. Hans was hired in spring 2024 as the head coach of Northern Kentucky University's NCAA D1 women's basketball program.

2020s

Dillon Powell '20 completed medical school at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. Powell started his residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Kentucky Hospital. Powell's journey was covered in a Northern Kentucky Tribune article. To read the article, visit tmuky.us/powell.

Sydney Auteri '21 not only graduated summa cum laude from Northern Kentucky University's Salmon P. Chase College of Law in the spring; she also delivered comments on behalf of the class as valedictorian.



Jared Haught '21 coached Covington Catholic High School's tennis team to win state in 2024, achieving back-to-back state championships.

Kristin Morvik '21 won Boone County district's Break the Mold Award, which is given to teachers who go above and beyond in connecting with the school community.

Michael Thompson '21 was honored by the Urban League Young Professionals of Southwestern Ohio as part of this year's Class of Affirmed. Additionally, he was selected as one of Forbes' Cincinnati 30 Under 30 which highlights those in the region making a difference.

Matias Caramuti '23 signed to continue his professional rugby career with the Miami Sharks.

Michael Logan '23 started a new job at Fidelity Investments.

Samantha Mosby '23 was honored as a finalist for the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Next Generation Leader Awards in the category of public service and community based organizations. These awards are hosted by Northern Kentucky Young Professionals as they salute and applaud young professionals ages 40 and under for significant professional accomplishments, demonstrated leadership, and community impact.

Zach Neal '23 is a teacher at Campbell County Middle School. Recently, Neal was the focus of an article in a series called 'The Imperfect Classroom: The Happiest Place on Earth' written by Kevin Dailey (2024 Kentucky Teacher of the Year). The article recounts Neal's outstanding efforts in creating an engaging and enjoyable learning environment for his middle school students. Great job, Zach! To read the article, visit tmuky.us/neal.

Follow Thomas More Alumni on social media:



ThomasMoreAlum



ThomasMoreAlumni



Thomas More University Alumni

CLASS NOTES! Send Yours Today

Have you gotten married? Engaged? Job change? Promotion? Started a family? We want to hear what you have been doing! Send your note today by visiting tmuky.us/alumninote, emailing alumni@thomasmore.edu with subject line **class note**, or snail mail your news using the envelope at the center of this issue of Moreover.

STAY CONNECTED Update Your Records

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



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

Alumni Association



SUBMITTED BY KRISTEN GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR, AND MACARA VONDERAHE, CO-DIRECTOR SPORTS INFORMATION



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

PROVISIONAL MEMBER
YEAR THREE



DIVISION II

MAKE IT
YOURS

The Saints moved into their third year of provisional membership with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II in the Great Midwest Athletic Conference (G-MAC) in summer of 2024. The announcement put the Saints one step further in the reclassification process as full members of NCAA Division II.

In the 2023-24 school year, the Saints began competition in the G-MAC with provisional DII membership and were eligible to compete for conference championships and tournaments. During this transition year, the Saints continued to strive for athletic excellence. Individual Saints efforts saw 25 athletes named All-Conference, 38 student-athletes named to College Sports Communicators Academic All-District, and 180 named G-MAC Academic All-Conference. Bowling had Maycie Merritt named co-bowler of the year and Alison McDonald earned the G-MAC Elite 26 Award. Wrestling had an outstanding showing with Daulton Mayer capturing the G-MAC Championship in the 185lb weight class, 10 wrestlers qualifying for the NCWA Championship, Cole Thomas and Ryan Moore bringing home the titles, and six earning All-American status. Women's and men's soccer, women's and men's basketball, and women's lacrosse earned spots in the G-MAC tournament with men's basketball earning tournament runner-up. Five Saints were named G-MAC Freshmen of the Year.

Following the mandatory three-year transition period, the Saints become eligible to compete for NCAA DII championships during the 2025-26 school year. "We are thrilled to be moving forward into our third year of provisional membership, bringing us closer to our goal of becoming a full-fledged NCAA Division II institution," says

Terry Connor, vice president and director of athletics.

Prior to the 2023-24 academic year, the Saints competed in the NAIA as a member of the Mid-South Conference for four years and before that were highly competitive as an independent and as a member of the Presidents' Athletic Conference in NCAA Division III. During their decades in Division III, the Saints earned championships both at the conference and national level.

"This transition to the NCAA underscores our commitment to student success and a standard for excellence in all aspects of university life," says President Chillo. "It parallels the investments we are making in our athletics programs, including renovations and enhancements of facilities, creating more opportunities for students to excel in the classroom and on the field." In fall 2021, the University introduced the Second Century Campaign, a major comprehensive fundraising campaign in support of the goals of the five-year Strategic Plan – Lighting the Way. Since then, the University has enhanced athletic facilities for many of the Saints intercollegiate sports teams. March 29 marked the first home game at the Saints' newly renovated softball complex. January 2023 saw the acquisition of the Northern Kentucky Racquet Club (Five Seasons Family Sports Club) – permanent home for the men's and women's tennis teams. In March of 2022, Thomas More University and the Florence Y'alls announced a partnership that resulted in the renaming of the Y'alls home to Thomas More Stadium which also became the home of the Thomas More Saints baseball team. Renovations at Republic Bank Field and the surrounding track, home to the football, soccer, rugby, lacrosse, cross country, and track & field teams, were completed in 2021.

MOREOVER

Announcing the Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2024

SUBMITTED BY MACARA VONDERAHE, CO-SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR | PHOTOS PROVIDED

Nine former student-athletes were inducted as the 2024 Athletic Hall of Fame Class in September 2024. These outstanding athletes include women's track and field national qualifier Christina Cook '18, women's soccer NSCAA First Team All-American Laura Felix '17, men's basketball 1,000 point scorer Jim Fox '82, D3Baseball Second Team All-American David Kennett '13, men's soccer NSCAA All-Great Lakes Region Tim Knauer '18, women's volleyball career solo blocks leader Amanda (Matracia) Williams '06, softball four-time First Team All-PAC Mamee Salzer '16, football three-time All-PAC selection Trevor Stellman '09, and DIII Women's Basketball National Player of the Year Madison Temple '19. The University also recognized the 1983-87 men's tennis teams as the Teams of Distinction. The inductees were recognized on Sept. 25, during Homecoming week.

Christina Cook '18 – Women's Track and Field

Cook is the first women's track and field athlete to be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. Her decorated career is highlighted by a third place finish at nationals in the 400-meter dash in 2018. The four-time NCAA National Qualifier was the 2015 PAC Indoor Co-Track Athlete of the Year as a freshman.

During her sophomore year, she was named

First Team All-PAC both for indoor and outdoor track for the 200 and 400 meters, along with being named the PAC Indoor Women's Track MVP. During her junior year, she was again named PAC Indoor Track MVP, along with setting a PAC record time of 25.74 in

the 200 meter dash. In her final season, she again claimed the PAC Championships in the 200 and 400 meter dash and finished her career with eight total program records.

Laura Felix '17 – Women's Soccer

Felix is a four-time All-PAC selection, including two First Team and two Second Team. She was named the PAC Player of the Year during her senior season. Felix was named First Team NSCAA All-Great Lakes Region three times during her career. She is a two-time All-American selection by NSCAA as she earned Second Team honors as a junior and named First Team All-American as a senior. Academically, she earned NSCAA Scholar All-East Region and DIII Scholar All-American as a senior. During her career she played in 89 games and recorded 17 goals and 10 assists for 44 career points.



Jim Fox '82 – Men's Basketball

Fox appeared in over 110 games for the Saints over his four-year career and helped Thomas More reach the KIAC Semifinals twice. He recorded 1,171 career points which puts him at 21st in program history among scoring leaders. He also recorded over 500 rebounds and 200 assists in his career. During his senior season he tallied 15.9 points per game along with 224 rebounds and 70 assists on the season.



David Kennett '13 – Baseball

Kennett appeared in 174 career games for the Saints and is a four-time All-PAC selection which includes three First Team selections and one Second Team. He earned Third Team ABCA All-MidEast Region honors as a sophomore and again earned the honors during his junior season. During the sophomore season Kennett also received Second Team All-American honors by D3baseball.com. At the conclusion of his career he held the career hits record at Thomas More with 256. He also sits in the top five for games played (fourth with 174), at-bats (second with 672), runs (second with 192), walks (third with 90), SACs (third with 27), and stolen bases (fifth with 57).



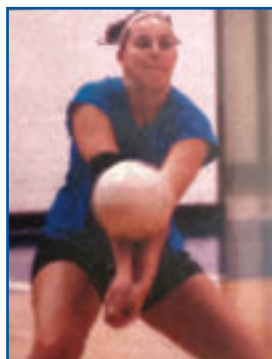
Tim Knauer '18 – Men's Soccer

Knauer played in 83 games at Thomas More and started in 81. He earned All-PAC honors three times, as he was named All-PAC Honorable Mention, Second Team, and finally First Team as a senior. He was named NSCAA All-Great Lakes Region twice in his career. Over his career Knauer recorded nine goals, nine assists, 27 points, and two game winning goals as a defender.



Amanda (Matracia) Williams '06 – Women's Volleyball

Williams is the solo career blocks record holder at Thomas More with 126. During her career she tallied 437 total blocks which is the second most in program history. She also has the second most assisted blocks with 311 and played in the second most sets in program history with 528. She tallied over 1,000 kills in her career.



Mamee Salzer '16 – Softball

Salzer is a four time First Team All-PAC selection that also received multiple NFCA All-Central Region honors.

During her junior season she was named MVP of the PAC Championship. She started 164 over her career at Thomas More. At the plate she recorded a batting average of .330 and a slugging percentage of .454. She tallied 96 RBIs, 95 runs scored, three triples, 34 doubles and ten home runs. In program history she is 8th in career hits, 7th in career doubles, 5th in career at-bats and 8th in career RBIs. In the circle she pitched a total of 556.2 innings and posted a record of 60 and 24 with 3 saves and 368 strikeouts.

She is second for career innings pitched, and sits 2nd in wins, 5th in strikeouts, and 6th in ERA with a 2.12



Trevor Stellman '09 – Football

Stellman is a three-time All-PAC selection. He earned All-PAC Honorable Mention, Second Team All-PAC and finally First Team All-PAC as a senior.

During his career the quarterback passed for 5,328 yards which is the fourth most in Thomas More program history. He also tallied 399 completions and is 24th in the career scoring list with 104 points. Stellman holds the single-season record at Thomas More for passing touchdowns with 26 in his senior season.



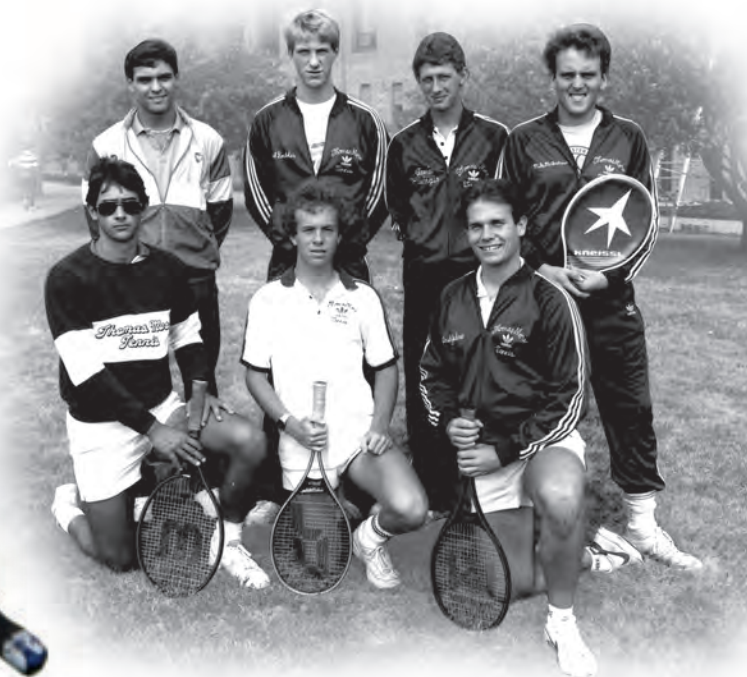
Madison Temple '19 – Women's Basketball

Temple earned all three Division III National Player of the Year honors (WBCA, D3hoops.com, D3News) during her senior season. She also was named the Jostens Trophy winner. Temple is a two-time First Team All-PAC selection, PAC Player of the Year, and earned PAC Freshman of the Year honors. During her freshman season she earned DIII News All-Freshman Team recognition. She earned D3Hoops.com Great Lakes Player of the Year, First Team All-Region, and First Team All-American honors as a junior. Finally, in her senior season she was a First Team All-American, DIII Honda Athlete of the Year Finalist, and Google Cloud Academic All-America by CoSIDA. During her career she played in 127 games at Thomas More. She recorded 2,184 career points which is the most in program history. She also sits first at Thomas More in career field goals (812), and career assists (585) and is third for career rebounds with 818.



Teams of Distinction: Men's Tennis 1983-1987

The men's tennis teams from 1983 to 1987 are recognized for an impressive run of success. During that time the men's tennis program won three conference champions in 1983, 1986, and 1987. They also qualified for three national tournament appearances in 1983, 1984, and 1986.



Academic accomplishments put Saints in the spotlight

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.

Women's Lacrosse has Four Earn CSC Academic All-district Honors | tmuky.us/24cscwlacrosse

Women's Bowling has Two Earn CSC Academic All-district Honors | tmuky.us/24cscwbowling

Graham Houser Earns CSC Academic All-district Honors | tmuky.us/24cscchouser

Daulton Mayer Earns CSC Academic All-district Honors | tmuky.us/24cscmayer

Baseball has Five Named to CSC Academic All-district Team | tmuky.us/24cscbaseball

Men's Tennis has Four Named to CSC Academic All-district Team | tmuky.us/24cscmtennis

Dakota Schroeder Earns CSC Academic All-district Honors | tmuky.us/24cscschroeder

Womens Basketball Has Three Earn CSC Academic All-district Team Honors | tmuky.us/24cscwbasketball

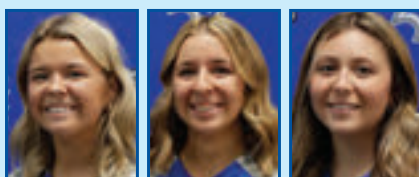
And Still More Good News

180 Saints Earn G-MAC Academic All-conference Honors | tmuky.us/2324gmacallconference

NABC Honors Court Recognizes Four Saints for Academic Excellence | tmuky.us/24nabchonors

Athletics Department Achieves 3.15 GPA During Spring Semester | tmuky.us/24springgpa

Notable achievements in the Saints record books



Carle

Pierani

Wells

LACROSSE

women's

Madi Carle broke the single season program record for caused turnovers (56)

Meg Pierani surpassed the career points record

Anna Wells broke the single season program records for points (66) and goals (41)

TRACK & FIELD

women's

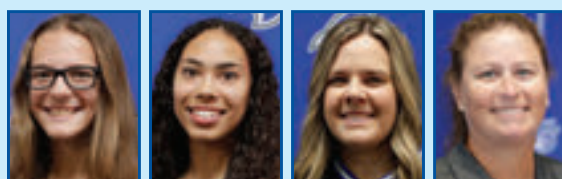
Savannah Faught broke the program record in the 5k and the 10k

Jayden Profitt broke the program record in the 100M dash and 100M hurdles

SOFTBALL

Annika Gels broke the career program record for strikeouts (528).

Softball Head Coach Lindsay Eagan earned her 400th career victory



Faught

Profitt

Gels

Eagan



2024 ALL-COMM



THOMAS MORE
PAIDIGAN, KY./MACCHACKEN COUNTY

KYLE MILLER
LOUISVILLE, KY./DU PONT MANOR

TANNER L.
MILLBOURNE, KY./

Athletic performances result in Saints headlines

G-MAC Weekly and All Conference Awards

The G-MAC honors student-athletes who are outstanding in their sport on a weekly basis, as well as all-conference teams. See the following headlines and visit the links for those that made the list.

Women's Lacrosse has Five Named to G-MAC All-conference Team | tmuky.us/24gmacwlacrosse

Dakota Finn Named G-MAC Men's Golf Athlete of the Week | tmuky.us/24gmacfinn

Lipscomb Earns 1st Team All-conference Honors | tmuky.us/24gmaclipscomb

Trevor Almanza Earns USILA DII Team of the Week Honors | tmuky.us/24usilamlacrosse

Women's Bowling has Three Earn G-MAC All-conference Honors | tmuky.us/24gmacwbowling

Men's Bowling has Four Earn G-MAC All-conference Honors | tmuky.us/24gmacmbowling

Daulton Mayer Earns G-MAC 1st Team All-conference Honors | tmuky.us/24gmacmayer

And Still More Good News

Women's Volleyball Picked 3rd in South Division of Preseason G-MAC Coaches' Poll | tmuky.us/24gmacprewvball

Adam Ellis Hired as the Head E-sports Coach | tmuky.us/24coachellis

Women's Soccer Picked 5th in G-MAC Preseason Coaches' Poll | tmuky.us/24gmacprewsoccer

Harris Boyes Hired as Head Men's Volleyball Coach | tmuky.us/24coachboyes

Men's Soccer Picked 4th in G-MAC Preseason Coaches' Poll | tmuky.us/24gmacpremsoccer

Football Picked 7th in G-MAC Preseason Coaches' Poll | tmuky.us/24gmacprefootball

Men's Volleyball Approved for Associate Membership in the GLVC | tmuky.us/24glvc

Berlekamp Promoted to Associate Head Men's Basketball Coach at Thomas More | tmuky.us/24coachberlekamp

Jillian Miller Hired as Women's Basketball Assistant | tmuky.us/24coachmiller

Five Saints Named to the 2024 All-commonwealth Football Team | tmuky.us/24allcommonwealth

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

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

Follow the Saints on social media #LetsGoSaints



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 600+ 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 or contact Tom Brady at 859-344-3642 | bradyt@thomasmore.edu



COMMONWEALTH TEAM



ALL CONFERENCE





THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY
WELCOME BACK
COACH NEAL
HEAD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

Thomas More University held a press conference on May 2, to announce the hiring of Brian Neal as head women's basketball coach. Coach Neal returns to Thomas More after one year at Southeastern University, and previously served as an assistant coach during the 2022-23 season to then head coach, Jeff Hans.

SUBMITTED BY KRISTEN GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PR | GRAPHIC PROVIDED

During the 2022-23 season, Neal helped lead the Saints to an overall 31-4 record and the 2023 NAIA National Championship game. He also served as head coach for Thomas More for seven seasons (2004-2011), recording an impressive overall record of 171-31 (.847) with seven consecutive winning seasons, six consecutive 20 win seasons, five consecutive PAC Championships, and five straight NCAA DIII National Tournament appearances. Coach Neal reflects on his return to Saints athletics and taking the reins of the women's basketball program amid the University's transition to the NCAA Division II.

What is it like coming back to Thomas More University and Saints athletics?

BN: It's been great. Thomas More has a special place in my heart. I coached here for seven years previously. I basically raised four of my children in that gym, it seems like, over the years. It's also been a very welcoming, comfortable place. Thomas More, I don't know whoever you are, you come to campus, you'll feel comfortable. So to me, it just feels like being home.

Now is an exciting time for the Saints as we begin our third year as provisional members of the NCAA Division II. What are you most looking forward to in this upcoming season of competition in the GMAC?

BN: In all my years of coaching, I think I probably enjoyed the Division II years the best, for a couple reasons. I think it's really neat for the community, because it allows very talented young ladies, athletes, to stay home and not have to go far away – and play for a winning program. So I just love that challenge. To me, Division II, realistically, you have a chance to win a championship. In Division I, that's only for a very few schools. So I think you can set your goals on competing nationally in Division II.

You have experience coaching at a number of programs both here in Greater Cincinnati and most recently at Southeastern University in Florida. How do you bring those experiences at other programs to Thomas More and how does that influence how you approach coaching here?

BN: Well, it's been an interesting ride and I like to think that I took a little bit of information or learning from every place that I've been. I've coached Division I, II, and III, which is a little bit unusual. We've had some great years and we've had some not so great years, but I think I've probably learned the most from the adversity. What I've learned is – you've just got to keep taking the next step forward. You're going to take some bumps, but you've just got to get up and keep moving. I think, in general, it's made me a better teacher of the sport. It's also probably made me build better relationships with our student-athletes and with our staff.

This program is nationally recognized. How will you be setting the bar here as we enter a new era for Saints basketball?

BN: Well, I think the bar, all those young ladies that are student-athletes here, they came because of where the program is and where that bar is. They know coming in what the expectations are. I don't think I really have to set that per se, they see the banners on the wall and they know. You walk through our locker room and you know that you've taken on a huge undertaking. It's my job to take those pieces and put them together to where they are stronger than if they were by themselves.

MOREOVER

Visit tmuky.us/coachneal to read the original press release.
Visit tmuky.us/2024wbb for the women's 2024-25 schedule.



Minute Spiritual Break

Provided by Thomas More University Campus Ministry

SUBMITTED BY JONATHAN MILLER, BISHOP ROGER J. FOYS SCHOLAR



Statue of Our Lady of Consolata and the Christ child in the prayer garden.

Trusting God

Next to a busy highway in the middle of Nairobi, Kenya, sits a shrine dedicated to Our Lady Consolata. The walls and trees encircling the compound dampen the sounds of cars and people from the outside and bring you into something different, something set apart from the world. The grand architecture of the church, with levels and overhangs, contributes to this feeling, so separate from the malls and high-rises of the city. This sanctuary serves thousands of faithful each week and has brought many in need of Christ to Him through the Church. The adoration chapel is always full, and the people are always welcoming.

In 1902, four men of the newly founded Consolata Missionaries left Italy for Kenya, with the mission of preaching the Gospel. The men left for a place with few Catholics and little support, trusting God and answering His call of evangelization. Over the next century, by their efforts and those of many other faithful missionaries, Catholicism in Kenya grew immensely, and the Missionaries built the shrine in Nairobi that is such a haven of peace and worship.

This story is a beautiful example of what can be done with devotion and trust in God. He has a call for each of us, whatever it may be, and we have a choice, to answer it or not. When we hear a call, when we feel Him putting a task on our hearts, we must not only accept it but love the call and give ourselves wholly to God, saying in the words of our Blessed Mother, "Be it done to me according to your word." This is our sacred responsibility. If we falter or are scared of what He is asking us to do, we have only to look to those who came before us. To the Consolata Missionaries and so many others who simply said "Yes" to God with everything they had. If we follow their example, we will be tools of God's will and be used to build something truly great.

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 2025 ☐ Fall 2025 ☐ Spring 2026 ☐ Other _____

High School _____ Student H.S. Graduation Year _____

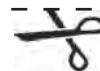
Are they a transfer student? ☐ Yes ☐ No Previous College or University _____

Interests/Desired Major _____

Referred by (name) _____ Thomas More grad year or affiliation _____

Phone Number (_____) _____ Email Address _____

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





THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

Make It **More.**

Office of Institutional Advancement

333 Thomas More Parkway
Crestview Hills, KY 41017-3495

Address Service Requested

GIVING TUESDAY

In 2024, this global giving movement continues to emphasize good deeds. Make a difference on Dec. 3, with a gift to Thomas More University.

THOMASMORE.EDU/GIVING

Follow Thomas More University on social media



@ThomasMoreKY