

SPRING 2024

MOREOVER

Thomas More University





SAINTS SOFTBALL COMPLEX NOW OPEN FOR COMPETITION

March 29 marked the first home game at the Saints newly renovated softball complex which includes synthetic turf, upgraded dugouts, fieldhouse, restrooms, and a paved lot. An overview shows the complete complex with the field covered in anticipation of the ribbon cutting which took place on April 13.



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

Make It **More.**



As we complete another academic year, it brings me great joy to share the remarkable accomplishments happening within our Thomas More University community. Guided by our Strategic Plan – Lighting the Way, and through the support of our Second Century Campaign – It's time for More, we are pushing ahead to realize our goals and drive forward the continued transformation of our University.

Underscoring our commitment to student success, one of the objectives set into motion through our Strategic Plan is the enhancement of our athletic facilities. As a result, Thomas More Athletics recently cut the ribbon on a newly-renovated, state-of-the-art softball complex. As our softball team proudly takes to the field this spring, they are surrounded by enhancements that reflect our dedication to our student athletes' development and success.

Another transformative addition to campus will be receiving its final touches in the coming weeks. When our new academic center opens to students this fall, it will house the Robert W. Plaster College of Business, the Dr. Anthony '65 & Geraldine '66 Zembrodt Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation (ZCEI), and the newly-formed Center for Faith, Mission, and Catholic Education. Please keep an eye out later in the summer for communications regarding how we will be celebrating this exciting new addition to campus, and all of those who have made it possible.

Through our Strategic Plan – Lighting the Way, we also continue to deepen our commitment to academic excellence and innovation. Throughout this publication, you will read about some of our students' recent accomplishments through the Zembrodt Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation (ZCEI). The establishment of the ZCEI is just one facet of our academic growth set forth by our strategic plan, and it is one that is quickly earning a distinctive reputation, both regionally and beyond. It is no coincidence that Thomas More University will host the Kentucky Governor's School for Entrepreneurs (GSE) this summer.

A spirit of innovation and entrepreneurial mindset is integral to our mission as we prepare students for their futures. As a Catholic liberal arts university, we not only educate the next generation of great leaders and thinkers; we work to ensure every graduate has the knowledge and ability to contribute effectively while remaining committed to his or her responsibility to others.

None of these achievements would be possible without support from you, our dedicated alumni, faculty, staff, students and community. Your support and engagement continue to drive us toward a future filled with even greater promise and possibility.

If you haven't been back to campus recently, I encourage you to return for a visit or event soon. For those of you who live a little farther away these days, I invite you to join me as I hit the road this summer. Details about my Presidential Roadshow are on page 21 of this publication; I sincerely hope you will join us.

As we reach the close of the academic year, I am filled with gratitude for all that we have accomplished together. I also look forward to the next year with eagerness and anticipation; the momentum we've built is palpable.

Go Saints!

Joseph L. Chillo, LP.D.
President



THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY

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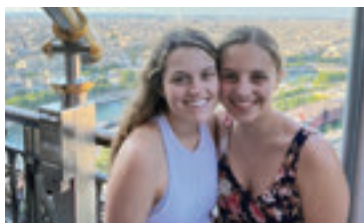
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SPRING 2024



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Saints softball team captains Annika Gels, Becca Mowen, and Delaney Kemper handle the scissors at the ribbon cutting ceremony dedicating the newly renovated complex.



Innovation destination



The Zembrodt Center focused on entrepreneurship and innovation

SUBMITTED BY LYNA KELLEY AND JUDY CRIST, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNICATIONS | PHOTOS PROVIDED

Entrepreneurship and innovation are alive and well at Thomas More. Since welcoming alumna Jeni Al Bahrani '05 as its inaugural director in January 2023, Thomas More University's Dr. Anthony '65 & Geraldine '66 Zembrodt Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (ZCEI) has introduced a plethora of initiatives to prepare students for successful futures. Established to foster academic excellence and innovation, the ZCEI sprang from a goal set forth in Thomas More's five-year Strategic Plan: Lighting the Way. New initiatives increase the potential for entrepreneurialism relating to student success both in the classroom and after graduation from the University.

Fostering external partnerships, the Center welcomes alumni and community leaders to engage with current students, providing them with real-world experience. In March 2023, a group of students visited the Urbana Café in Cincinnati, Ohio, to hear from founder and Thomas More alumnus Daniel Noguera '06/'09. Noguera took time to share his start-up story and answer questions about students' entrepreneurial ideas. Another opportunity for students to engage with community business leaders came in April 2023, when David Knox, executive director of Blue North, came to campus to share information about the entrepreneurship support system in Northern Kentucky.

The fall semester welcomed a lineup of alumni to campus including Jim Evenschweiger '80, CFO of the Greenacres Foundation; Michael Selm '07/'10

with Fidelity Investments; Dr. Armando Ratana '06, owner/partner of Capital Center for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Jeff Johns '14, senior vice president with Seed Strategy; and Sarah Tomes '99, CEO at LPK, Inc. Global Brand Design Agency. These high-powered business leaders shared their stories of success with students as they spoke to the need for an entrepreneurial mindset in today's business, medical, and non-profit environments.

The ZCEI hosted the 2023 Roebing Capital Saints Shark Challenge on May 3 (results online at tmuky.us/23sschallenge). The pitch competition was the culmination of a semester-long entrepreneurship class taught by local entrepreneur and Thomas More alumnus John Cioffi III '96. The class provided a platform to showcase the students' innovative business ideas as they competed for cash prizes. The ideas were judged by a panel of experienced entrepreneurs and business leaders. "We were excited to host the 2023 Roebing Capital Saints Shark Challenge and give our

Students who participate in The More Company spend time with advisor Jeni Al Bahrani (center) as they focus on innovation.

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MOREOVER [Spring 2024]



INNOVATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

students an opportunity to share their entrepreneurial ideas with industry experts,” says Al Bahrani. “We hope this competition encourages and inspires students to pursue entrepreneurship and helps to build a strong culture of innovation in our community.”

In fall 2023, the University’s student-run Business Society also shifted to be housed under the ZCEI, with Al Bahrani serving as advisor. The society, renamed The More Co., serves all Thomas More students to cultivate and elevate the business and entrepreneurial experiences on campus and in the community.

A new entrepreneurship class, Entrepreneurial Mindset, was also

Top and right: photos from The More Co. activities.

introduced to teach students from all majors how to view problems as opportunities and create innovative solutions. The course launched in fall 2023. “We are developing many opportunities for students to open their minds, challenge them to think creatively, and motivate them to work on real-world problems along with businesses ranging from small start-ups to Fortune 500 companies,” says Bruce Rosenthal, Ph.D., dean of the Robert W. Plaster College of Business. “Programming through the ZCEI inspires students to find their passion, hone their strategic skills, and Be More!”

MOREOVER

Saints shine at StartUpCincy

At StartUpCincy Week in October 2023, five regional universities – Thomas More University, Miami University, Xavier University, Northern Kentucky University, and the University of Cincinnati – took part in the panel discussion “From Dorm Room to Boardroom: How Top Universities are Incubating Top Talent,” highlighting their respective entrepreneurship programs, curricula, and resources. Panelists discussed the ways in which entrepreneurship students bring valuable talent to the region through career paths and corporate roles.

From the Thomas More contingent in attendance, ZCEI Director Jeni Al Bahrani and Thomas More senior business administration major Erin Preston were featured as part of the panel. “Thomas More University is quickly becoming the innovation destination of our region,” says Al Bahrani. “StartUpCincy is a great way for our community to build stronger relationships. At Thomas More, we are committed to advancing the region in entrepreneurship and innovation through teaching the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders. Erin is a great example of how entrepreneurship education can benefit students, creating impact and value in their personal and professional endeavors.”

Preston currently serves as CEO of The More Co. Additionally, through the ZCEI Fellowship, she provides thought leadership and strategy in building the ZCEI’s programs; Preston gains real-life entrepreneurial skills giving her the ability to recognize opportunities, solve problems, and add value to existing companies. “It is so rewarding to be part of a program that is growing at such a rapid pace and elevating our University’s impact,” comments Preston.

The ZCEI focuses on project-based learning curriculum, co-



Jeni Al Bahrani and Erin Preston on stage at StartUpCincy.

curricular programming, building ecosystem connections, and the ZCEI Fellowship program, which equips Thomas More students with the tools needed to unleash their inner entrepreneur and carve their own pathways of opportunity. These elements are the perfect complement to the Catholic liberal arts education provided at Thomas More.

MOREOVER



SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

Jeni Al Bahrani '05

Director of the Zembrodt Center

SUBMITTED BY LYNNA KELLEY



Jeni Al Bahrani

Jeni Al Bahrani, professor of practice, serves as the inaugural director of the ZCEI. The Center provides an incubator space for students, faculty, and staff to explore and test ideas before advancing them as initiatives. “We were thrilled to welcome Jeni Al Bahrani as director of the newly established ZCEI,” says President Chillo. “Thomas More University is quickly becoming the innovation destination for young entrepreneurs looking for resources to develop their ideas in an academic environment, and Al Bahrani brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to support and grow these initiatives in northern Kentucky and the greater Cincinnati region.”

Al Bahrani came to Thomas More from Transylvania University, where she started the inaugural Center for Entrepreneurship. There she assisted aspiring entrepreneurs to start a business, existing business owners to grow their business, and corporations to use innovation as a driver to define and redefine business models. “As an alumna, I am a product of the Thomas More mission, and I know its Catholic liberal arts education is about more than a mission,” explains Al Bahrani, “It’s also about how you will use your education in your professional and personal life. I am thrilled to lead the Center as a way to complement majors in all of the University’s academic colleges and to promote the applications of entrepreneurial concepts in support of each student’s passion.”

“Mrs. Al Bahrani brings a wealth of experience in creating entrepreneurial programs, as well as drive, determination, and an understanding of the importance of the entrepreneurial mindset to all aspiring leaders and business people,” says Dean Rosenthal of the Robert W. Plaster College of Business. “Under Mrs. Al Bahrani’s leadership, Thomas More students will learn the value of challenging the status quo, tangible and transferable skills to make meaningful contributions to a variety of organizations, and how to find their passion.”

The goal of the ZCEI is to increase the potential for entrepreneurialism as it relates to student success both in the classroom and after graduation. “After meeting with Jeni and understanding her approach to engaging students, we became excited about the possibilities,” says Anthony ’65, Ph.D., and Geraldine ’66 Zembrodt, the alumni who made the Center possible. “We know that we need innovation not only in the population at large but in the way we teach it. The future of Thomas More University relies not only on its rich past but on always challenging the status quo. Jeni is the way of the future.”

MOREOVER

Saints compete as innovators

As innovation and an entrepreneurial mindset permeates the culture at Thomas More, teams of student innovators headed to compete in contests across the Commonwealth. Teams representing the Saints attended the Governor's School for Entrepreneurs (GSE) Intercollegiate Pitch Competition in Louisville during the final week of February. In March, a team competed in The Econ Games 2024, hosted by the University of Kentucky's Gatton College of Business and Economics.

The GSE Intercollegiate Pitch Competition focuses on entrepreneurship and has two categories: The Exploratory Track and the Developed Track. The Exploratory Track is for early-stage business ideas; the Developed Track is for businesses closer to being launched or already operating. Monetary prizes are awarded in both tracks. Thomas More students advanced to the final round of 16 participants after successfully navigating the initial two stages of the competition, which included participants from undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs throughout Kentucky. Business administration major Tyshaun Thomas presented All the Goods and political science major Colin Wilmhoff (minoring in entrepreneurship and innovation) presented Arthropod Centered Engineering (A.C.E.).

The focus of the The Econ Games is not just economic analysis, but the broader spectrum of solving real-world business problems through innovation. Participation in this event, which has been in place since 2017, marks a significant milestone for the University. Originally the competition was designed to immerse students in the practical aspects of economic analysis, but has since evolved into developing future business leaders skilled in identifying and solving complex business problems. Participants engage with extensive datasets to identify underlying trends and develop actionable insights in various business scenarios. Thomas More's team, made up of Ezequiel Villarreal (major in economics with a concentration in data analysis, minor in accountancy), Sondre Taklo (business administration/4+1 MBA program), Nick Hubbard (economics/4+1 MBA program), and Matthew Weil (computer information systems, minor in accountancy), leveraged the opportunity to showcase their problem-solving skills and innovative thinking.

"These competitions offer our students an invaluable platform to apply their academic knowledge to real-world business scenarios," says Jeni Al Bahrani, team advisor and director of the ZCEI. "It signifies our dedication to providing our students with real-world experiences that emphasize both problem-solving and innovation. We are excited to see our students apply their knowledge and creativity in this competitive setting, showcasing the high caliber of education and training they receive at the University."

Competitors in The Econ Games: Weil, Taklo, Villarreal, and Hubbard.



Student foody innovator interview

Donnie Simpson is a senior on the Thomas More men's lacrosse team and a thriving member of The More Co. student club. He actively pushes to be an innovator and, in 2023, took second place in the Fifth Third Bank Fast Pitch Competition. The competition sparked his passion for food and community, and drew the attention of Spectrum News to visit campus and interview him about how he shares his foody talents in fellowship with classmates. Check out the interview at tmuky.us/24simpson.



Kick off of the Square1 NEXT Final Pitch Event.

Square1 NEXT Final Pitch Event

Square1 held its annual NEXT Final Pitch Event, presented by U.S. Bank, on March 19, on campus. The program and competition is a unique experience for high school students and a platform for them to showcase the innovative ideas they have worked on during the 2023-24 academic year. The teams pitch their ideas for prize money and scholarship dollars.

As Northern Kentucky's innovation destination, Thomas More supports the top performing teams with an opportunity for financial assistance to attend the University. This year, the four-year, full tuition scholarship was presented to Megan Crosby of Copilot, an innovative product that assists first-time car drivers. Scholarships in the amounts of \$25,000 and \$22,000 were presented to Henry Hudepohl and Cono Presti of ViteRight, a team from Beechwood High, and to Bene Gyan of Get Connected, a Walnut Hills High School student entrepreneur, respectively. "We are committed to advancing the region in entrepreneurship and innovation through teaching the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders," explains ZCEO Director Jeni Al Bahrani. "Providing scholarship dollars to these young changemakers encourages them to continue their education. Being immersed in a liberal arts education is a great way to help them thrive and encourage creativity – a necessary element to being innovative and entrepreneurial."

Headlines in campus news

COLLABORATION BENEFITS KIDS CAFE

Professors Ellie Megerle (SOC105) and Kirk Mayhew (ART115) collaborated to create a learning community of students who participated in the Clay Alliance's 24th Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser held in November 2023. Empty Bowls is an international movement to involve the pottery community in helping the hungry. In SOC105 the students learned about poverty and the effects it has on family life, and in ART115 students created pottery which was donated to use at the Empty Bowls event. Proceeds benefitted Kids Cafe of the Freestore Foodbank, which has over 15 locations in greater Cincinnati serving children in need.

LILLIE DANIEL RANKS AS A TOP SCORER

More than 600 students and professional scientists from across the state attended the Kentucky Academy of Science (KAS) 2023 Annual Meeting held last November. Among them, Thomas More University student Lillie Daniel ranked among the top scorers for research presentations. Daniel's presentation in the ecology category was titled "A comparison of bat acoustic monitoring survey methods within an Ohio river riparian forest." Congratulations to Lillie!

FIFTH THIRD PITCH COMPETITION

The ZCEI followed up the spring 2023 pitch event with the Fifth Third Bank Fast Pitch Competition in October 2023. This pitch competition was open to all students from across campus. Teams of undergraduate innovators pitched new concepts, ideas for growth potential for existing businesses, and community growth models. The top team took home \$2,000 to help get their idea off the ground, with second place receiving \$1,000, and third \$500. To read more about this competition and the winning entries, visit tmuky.us/53pitch23.

MOCK INTERVIEW COMPETITION RETURNS IN FALL 2023

The annual mock interview competition, supported by Republic Bank & Trust Company and alumnus Richard Lindhorst '75, took place in October as students went through a rigorous evaluation process with the top three students awarded a combined \$2,000 in prize money. "I believe practicing and coaching the interview process for young professionals is important for their personal development," reflects Mollie Flanagan, sales and service manager with Republic Bank. "We met some great people who are excited for their career path! I look forward to partnering with Thomas More again next year!" For more about this initiative and a list of the winning students, visit tmuky.us/23mockinterview.

THOMAS MORE THEATRE DEBUTS COMMISSIONED CHRISTMAS PLAY

One of the first projects new theater director Phillip Webster took on was to commission an original Christmas play to be performed by the University's student actors. Renowned Northern Kentucky playwrights Alexx (Rouse) Robinson and Zach Robinson jumped on board to write the piece. The final product, "Christmas Carol Untold," tells the tale of a local theater troupe that stumbles upon Charles Dickens's lost diary, and accidentally summons his restless spirit from the afterlife. Holiday hijinks ensue. For a Q&A with Webster and the playwrights, visit tmuky.us/untold.

HISTORY AND LAW CLUB TAKE HONORABLE MENTION

Congratulations to the History and Law Club which is affiliated with the national history honor society Phi Alpha Theta as the Lambda-Sigma Chapter. Established in 1921, Phi Alpha Theta has nearly 1,000 chapters. This past year, this student club took part in the Phi Alpha Theta best chapter competition and received the Honorable Mention Award for Division 1 (based on performance in 2022-23). Anthony "Tony" Baker, faculty advisor and adjunct history instructor, says, "The award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the students and the wonderful support from the history and legal studies department."

From top: Students participate in the Clay Alliance's 24th Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser; The winning team at the Fifth Third Bank Fast Pitch Competition; Round one of the Mock Interview Competition; Display graphics for the commissioned original Christmas play.



Headlines in campus news

JULIETTE DUKE, 2024 SUMMERFAIR EMERGING ARTIST

Annually, junior and senior art majors from local universities, representing the next generation of artists to emerge on the local art scene, are nominated by their professors, juried by Summerfair, and given the opportunity to exhibit their work among their peers. Juliette Duke was honored to join the ranks of emerging artists and exhibited her art in February with 19 of her peers. Congratulations, Juliette.

IRL SPRING INTERFAITH PANEL

Thomas More University hosted "Who's My God?," an interfaith dialogue featuring a panel of religious experts. Brian Adams, Ph.D., moderated the conversation with panelists representing a variety of religious affiliations. Panelists included Shakila T. Ahmad representing Islam, Brett Greenhalgh representing The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Hannah Keegan for Roman Catholicism, and Rabbi Gary Zola, Ph.D., for the Jewish faith. This particular event took a different approach than previous talks and focused on the personal aspect of who God is for the participating panelists. For the press release and a recording of this event, visit tmuky.us/irlspring.



WM. T. (BILL) ROBINSON III '67
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GSE COMES TO THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY

In partnership with the Kentucky Governor's School for Entrepreneurs (GSE), the University prepares to host GSE's annual Summer Startup program on campus in 2024. GSE's Summer Startup identifies and empowers Kentucky high school students to become the Commonwealth's next generation of entrepreneurs through a three-week, on-campus residential experience. Thomas More is one of only two institutions chosen to host GSE in 2024, with the other being the University of Kentucky. For more information, visit tmuky.us/24kygse.

HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM

Thomas More announces its plan to launch a new undergraduate degree program in hospitality management for the upcoming 2024-25 academic year, contingent upon accreditation and state approvals. The program is housed in the University's Robert W. Plaster College of Business and focuses on providing hands-on learning to future industry leaders. Coursework includes experiential learning in both lodging and food service industries, along with an exploration of current and future trends. Thank you to community partners Columbia Sussex Corporation and St. Elizabeth Healthcare for their continued support with this field of study. To read more about this development, visit tmuky.us/hospmgmt.

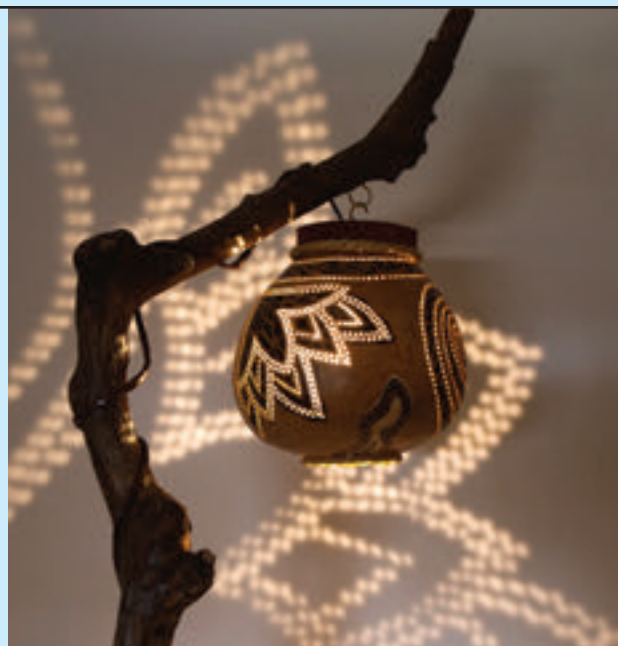
SAINTS SERVE YEAR THREE

On a Tuesday in October 2023, Thomas More University closed normal daytime activities, allowing over 1,100 faculty, staff, and students to participate in the third annual Saints Serve, a day of service benefiting local non-profits and charities. The campus-wide event encourages the Thomas More community to come together and assist those in need throughout northern Kentucky and the greater Cincinnati region. The day is a direct reflection of the University's mission, as individuals and groups act out their "responsibility to others" through service projects. To read the release from the event and view a photo gallery, visit tmuky.us/23saintsserve.

DEAN'S LIST RECOGNITION

Congratulations to all the Saints who achieved academic excellence and are included as members of the Dean's List. For that list, please visit tmuky.us/deanslist.

From top: Juliette Duke's artwork which appeared in the Summerfair Emerging Artists exhibit; At the Spring IRL Interfaith event, panelists share their personal relationship with God as part of the question "Who's My God?"; Year three of Saints Serve saw 45 unique organizations receive help with 70 different projects.





SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

Physics/Astronomy Students Ash Coleman '24 and Lindsay Dawson '24

SUBMITTED BY DAVID KLENK '22,
GRADUATE ASSISTANT COMMUNICATIONS

Saints Spotlight interviewed Ash Coleman and Lindsay Dawson, both of whom have been doing great work in Thomas More's physics and astronomy departments. These two student researchers have been part of projects with NASA Kentucky for the past three years as they gather data in the study of eclipsing binary stars (Ash) and variable systems/exoplanets (Lindsay).

What makes your work important to you?

Ash Coleman (AC): Originally, I was doing astronomy and I really do love just exploring how things work. Space is one of those big, unexplored frontiers. It's really cool to be able to get other people involved, like what Dr. Ryle does with his public outreach. To explain to other people, there are things out there, that we can't even reach yet; that are just so absolutely brilliant to see. I'm going into plasma, and a lot of people aren't aware of this, but over 90% of known matter in our universe (not on Earth) is actually made of plasma. Once we start to really understand that, we can also start to understand a lot more about astronomy.

Lindsay Dawson (LD): I have done a few projects at this point, especially with Dr. Ryle and with NASA. My favorite research project has been working on gathering transits of exoplanets; that's when they eclipse their host star. That's really important to me because I'm excited to see if there is life on other planets and if those are places that we could actually go to one day. I feel like that just has a lot of applications now, since we're at a state in our world where things are uncertain: climate change, resources. There's another side of it, where I'm interested in outreach and educating people. It's really important to me to share how excited I am for science and all of the wonders that I've experienced as a physics and astronomy student. I'm really excited to share that.

Can you share about your experience with NASA Kentucky?

AC: I started doing a little bit of research alongside Dr. Ryle back in 2019-2020, but COVID interrupted that. Then in 2021, Dr. Ryle wrote a research proposal and we wrote our statements of how this is going to be helpful for our future and for our current life as a student. We submitted these research proposals to NASA Kentucky. My current project is eclipsing binary systems, which are important for fundamental astrophysics, because you can get a lot of the stellar parameters of high-mass stars, which is under-researched. It's been a really cool experience. It's a lot of talks and presentations. I've done upwards of 10 talks; four this semester. It's not just getting experience in research, you also get experience in communicating and in writing papers and making presentations and seeing how a proposal is written and that's necessary for your future career.

LD: My experience has been really interesting, the way I got started into NASA Kentucky kind of feels like happenstance, but maybe it wasn't. I was in Dr. Ryle's Physics II lab and he asked, "Do you want to help out in the Observatory?" I was like, "That sounds great, why not?" I originally planned on helping a senior take data, but then over the summer Dr. Ryle asked, "Would you want to do research and maybe get a grant?" I replied, "Money sounds great!" I

got the grant, and now we've had grants ongoing for the past three years. That in and of itself is awesome because we get to do what we enjoy doing and get paid for it, and also be a student, which is a big part of it for me. I've been doing work with variable systems, pulsating variables which are fundamental objects in astronomy, exoplanets, and now cataclysmic variables, which are very hard to understand but they tell us more about massive stars and supernova explosions and things of that nature. Working with NASA Kentucky, and Dr. Ryle especially, has been fantastic. Not only do I have research and outreach experience, but I also have a sense of belonging in the field. I feel like I'm a researcher, I'm a physicist which is great going into the future and into a career.

What accomplishment you are most proud of?

LD: I got into an internship this past summer (2023) with the Cincinnati Observatory. For those who aren't familiar, it's the birthplace of American astronomy. During the internship, which is still ongoing, I was able to work with the education department and get experience working with kids. I haven't worked with kids and so a part of me was nervous to do it. I'm proud of helping serve underrepresented communities and going out and educating children in those communities. That's really helped me grow into, not just a scientist, but someone who likes communicating science. That's something I hope to take into my career.

AC: I am most proud of the internship that I did last summer (in plasma research). Getting into it was a lot of networking and talking to people who were in the field. I was very scared to do that because there are all these really cool people in this field and I don't know anything; Kentucky doesn't really have plasma physicists. The internship was in Alabama and I drove the farthest I've ever driven in my life. I got to do not only one research project that they had set out for me, but I also got to help every grad student and outside person who came in to work on their giant magnet. I watched them take data and just get this huge experience. I also got this huge outpouring of support from all these people and it solidified that I'm in the right place. Physics is where I'm meant to be. It's not really an accomplishment, more a feeling of belonging that makes me proud to have continued on in physics, even when it got hard.

To listen to or read the entire interview, visit tmuky.us/24physics.

MOREOVER



KET on campus

Lindsay Dawson and Professor Wes Ryle were the focus of an on-campus interview by Kentucky Educational Television in spring 2024. Look for the interview in May 2024!



Erin Preston, Alivia Friend, Madison Rae, and Kay Baker in the gardens of Giverny, former home of Monet.

INT 255: French Art in Paris

Study abroad is one option for students to achieve their experiential learning credit while at Thomas More. Alivia Friend recounts her time in Paris, as a student abroad learning about art.

SUBMITTED BY ALIVIA FRIEND, THOMAS MORE STUDENT | PHOTOS PROVIDED

In summer 2023, my peers and I had the privilege to go to Paris, France, on a study abroad trip through Thomas More University's INT 255 French Art in Paris with professors Florence Dwyer, Ph.D. and Becky Bilbo, Ph.D. This experience brought a lot of firsts for me, which I believe helped me grow as a person while learning in and outside of the classroom. I had never traveled outside of the country before without my family and I was traveling with students I didn't know before taking the class and trip. This forced me to get out of my comfort zone; to talk to students I don't think I would have except for this experience. My roommate for the trip is now one of my best friends.

While on the trip we were asked to write at least a page every day in our journals after we got back to our rooms and describe what we did that day and what we learned. I am glad we did this exercise as now I have a journal which includes everything I did and matches the pictures I took each day. The trip went like this:

Day 1: Wednesday, June 7

Today was the first day in Paris. We got in four hours later than planned due to plane problems, arriving at around 1 p.m. We went to lunch; I really loved the lasagna, not so much the salad, but that could be the dressing. The dessert was really rich because the chocolate is different. We went back to where we were staying to unpack and change for our first activity which was the Eiffel Tower! Due to it being so windy we could not go to the very top but the level we could go to was high enough. There are four ways to go up, one on each leg. There were restaurants and shops on the levels, which surprised me but is great marketing. Once we came down, we saw locals trying to sell us things like key chains, little Eiffel Towers, toys, etc. I did get five key chains to bring back home for people. Lastly, I tried my first crepe with chocolate. I really liked it, it was made at a stand right outside and it was cool to watch it being made in front of me.

Day 2: Thursday, June 8

The time change really hit me. We landed at 1 p.m. the day before and went straight to lunch and walking around, I didn't feel the time change right away. Waking up at 7 a.m. in Paris, when it is 1 a.m. in Kentucky, was very odd. I was asleep by 10 p.m. and up by 6 a.m. the next day. The sun is up at 4 a.m. and out until 10 p.m. during June; that much sunlight also messed me up a little. Today was our first full day. We started by going to the top of the Arc de Triomphe. You could see so much up that high. The stairs, up and

down, was like a leg day at the gym; then we walked two miles to an art museum where the Olympia Paintings were. After the museum, a few of us went to check out designer stores. We tried McDonald's. I did not like it, but they had way more choices than in America. After, the whole group met up and changed clothes to see the Eiffel Tower at night. It did not disappoint; it was so pretty and made for really cool pictures. We sat in grass and took in the atmosphere and talked about what we liked about the day and what we want to do in Paris.



Alivia and best friend Erin Preston on the deck of the Eiffel Tower, which was constructed as the centerpiece of the 1889 World's Fair.

Day 3: Friday, June 9

The weather was amazing! We took an hour train ride out to Fondation Monet in Giverny. When we arrived, we found a spot on the grass to have a picnic. The French are known for having big lunches with family; therefore, we got different foods to try. We had cheese, meats, bread, crackers, and cookies. Once we were done eating, we headed inside to look at Monet's home that he lived in until his passing. The home was older, and it was cool to see the decorations from that time-period. The garden around the house was so pretty, I made sure to get lots of pictures. After everyone had seen the whole place, we headed back. All the students decided to go out and try a restaurant that college students hang out at. We saw a lot of students playing cards. I enjoyed the French fries and the atmosphere. Overall, a really good day.

Day 4: Saturday, June 10

We started the day on a boat ride to see the city from a different view. I found this very relaxing and peaceful. Afterwards we ate at the Restaurant Polidor. This was, hands down, my favorite restaurant of the whole trip. I had ravioli, chicken, mashed potatoes, and sorbet ice cream. Then we took a tour of the Senate. After leaving the Senate, some friends and I explored little shops around Sacré-Coeur Basilica to get another amazing view of the whole city. We went inside this big, beautiful church, all around were little shops and artists. Lastly, before it started raining, we were able to stop and try a little restaurant where they make everything in-house. I had amazing, fresh pasta which I really enjoyed. It started raining, so we went back and went to sleep. It was an exhausting day.

Day 5: Sunday, June 11

Today, three of us got up and went to see Place du Pantheon and the gardens outside the Senate before everyone met up. We had a late meetup time due to the metro being shut down. I don't see how locals can get around on time when the metro is down, but I guess they know shortcuts. We went to a street market to try fresh food made by locals and we ate at the park. I had fried rice and potatoes; it was pretty good. I enjoyed shopping local and helping small businesses. We then went to the famous Du Louvre, which holds the Mona Lisa. She is very protected with bullet proofglass and security all around. I also picked out two paintings that will be talked about in my final paper. After, some of us went to dinner together and watched the rain fall. Then I went back and started to map out my final paper before bed.

Day 6: Monday, June 12

Today was our last full day together as a group. We started at the National Archives, seeing hotels in Paris, then went to a more modern art museum which reminded me of the Creation Museum back home. We got a lot of cool pictures, then we walked to Notre Dame. We couldn't go in due to the rebuilding going on because of the 2019 fire. After Notre Dame, a few of us packed our bags and took the RER to a Disneyland hotel to stay the night. We walked around the Disney Village and had some food and shopped the Disney Stores before heading to bed.

Day 7: Tuesday, June 13

This was our free day. Six students, including myself, went to Disneyland Paris. I had so much fun, two friends and I got in early because we stayed at the Disney Hotel the night before. We made sure to hit all the big rides and then headed to the buffet when the lines started to get long. From there, we went shopping to let our stomachs settle; I purchased some souvenirs for my family. We all



Erin and Alivia at the Arc de Triomphe. The Arc was designed by Jean Chalgrin (1739–1811), in the Neoclassical version of ancient Roman architecture and is one of the most famous monuments in France.

decided that we should get a pass and check out the other park (Walt Disney Studios Park) since we accomplished all we wanted on this side. We rode some rides and watched the parade, ate some snacks, and called it quits at 9 p.m. We were there a total of 13 hours. We took the RER back to where everyone else was and packed our bags. We had six hours before we had to be at the airport to head home.

Day 8: Wednesday, June 14

The last day. I only slept three hours after packing my bags and getting ready to leave. We got to the airport, and I ate some quick food to hold me over until the lunch on the plane. On the plane, I couldn't sleep, so I listened to music until it was lunch time. I had the ravioli, it wasn't bad. Once we landed, we had to go through TSA to board our plane from New York to home. At home, I unpacked all my bags and looked at my fit app to see how much walking we did. Day 1 was 10,852 steps, Day 2 - 24,439, Day 3 - 17,509, Day 4 - 15,828, Day 5 - 23,661, Day 6 - 22,960, Day 7 - 24,764, and Day 8 11,539. That is 151,552 steps in seven days - just crazy!

I am glad that I made this trip and will return to Paris one day. It was wonderful to try new foods, communicate in a different language, experience the time change, and open the door to another study abroad trip this spring to Japan with Professor Bruce Rosenthal, Ph.D. The scrapbook I made when I came home (it was easy as everything was already organized) will always remind me of what a great time I had making new friends and learning new things during that fantastic summer trip to Paris.

MOREOVER



Catholic Connections

Thomas More offers opportunities for connection with young Catholics from across the nation

SUBMITTED BY KRISTEN GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & PR

Opening Mass at SEEK 2024 gives a sense of the magnitude of this event for young attendees.

As the Catholic liberal arts university of the Diocese of Covington, Thomas More challenges students of all faiths to examine the ultimate meaning of life, their place in the world, and their responsibility to others. The start of 2024 brought two opportunities for students to engage with this mission while connecting with Catholic, faith-based communities from across the nation. Nine students traveled to St. Louis for the 2024 SEEK Conference, the annual gathering of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), contributing to a record-setting attendance for the event. Held Jan. 1-5, the SEEK Conference drew in a whopping 24,000 from across the United States and internationally, including 11,000 college students from all 50 states and Washington, D.C.

Attendees of the Conference kicked off the new year with an invitation to deepen their faith through prayer, learning, and fellowship rooted in Christ. This year's conference focused on the theme "Be the Light," bringing together inspirational presentations from over 100 speakers,

opportunities for Mass, confession and Eucharistic adoration, and a performance from popular American folk band, Judah and the Lion. "SEEK was an eye-opening experience. A very memorable five days I will never forget," says Jackson Poulos.

"One of the most impactful things for me was celebrating the Mass with everyone," says Michelle Bump. "...I am so grateful that Thomas More gave me and others an opportunity to get to know Jesus, ourselves, and each other better through attending this conference."

Another opportunity to represent Thomas More came just a few weeks later in January during the March for Life in Washington, D.C. Tens of thousands have participated in this gathering in the nation's capital for the past 51 years, and this year was no different. The theme of the 2024 March was "With every woman, for every child," emphasizing the need for care, support,

and resources for women throughout all stages of motherhood, and a life-affirming culture that respects the inherent dignity of all people.

March for Life participant Kyle Rufra reflected that "seeing how much passion there is in a march inspired by love" was striking.

Faith Comer, who has attended the March each year since the eighth grade, says, "You can see people from all walks of life on this March, but it is mostly young people which also gives us hope for the future of the pro-life movement."

MOREOVER

Looking ahead to 2025

The 2025 SEEK Conference takes place in Salt Lake City, Utah Jan. 1-5. The date for the 52nd March for Life has not been officially announced, but is typically scheduled on or around Jan. 22, the anniversary of the landmark Roe v. Wade decision. If you would like to contribute to Thomas More students attending these events, please contact Kyle Isaack at **859-344-3344** or **isaackk@thomasmore.edu**.

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

Robert W. Plaster College of Business



Jeni Al Bahrani '05, professor of practice and director of the ZCEI, was nominated for the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Women of Northern Kentucky Awards.

These awards honor women who exemplify notable achievement, outstanding service in their professions or to the Northern Kentucky community, and the qualities of personal integrity, perseverance and leadership.



John D. (Jack) Rudnick Jr., Ed.D., professor, business administration, was interviewed on EWTN Sacred Heart Radio for several interviews on the Sonrise Morning Show and Driving Home the Faith to

discuss the social construct of "loneliness among the elderly" during the holiday season and throughout the year. He also presented a project on "digitalizing Thomas More University immunization health records" for Harvard Medical School's Executive Education program in the Fall of 2023 where

he earned a certificate on "Leading Digital Transformation in Healthcare." Dr. Rudnick was also recognized as a peer-reviewer for journals published by the American College of Gastroenterology.



Robinson

Malcolm Robinson, Ph.D., business administration & economics, was featured towards the end of 2023 in two pieces by WalletHub. The first featured Robinson's advice on High-Yield Savings Accounts.

The second was a feature on the Best Personal Loans. Robinson was also featured as an expert by moneygeek.com in its 2023 study Stagflation in Economics. When 2024 rolled around, moneygeek.com again asked Robinson for his expertise for its article Gross Domestic Product (GDP): Definition, Types and Alternatives. Robinson also shared his pick for the Best Credit Repair Companies in an entry on creditdonkey.com. Robinson was featured in WalletHub's 2024 piece about Umbrella Insurance, lending his expert opinion as to who can benefit from this type of policy and when it's a good investment. For links to all of Robinson's articles, visit tmuky.us/econguru.

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences



Petroze

Christy Mariani-Petroze, Ed.D., associate professor and chair of the School of Education, and **John T. Spence, Ph.D., AICP**, professor, political science, recently had their



Spence

research on civics education recognized through publication in the peer-reviewed journal of the Kentucky Council for the Social Studies, Social Studies Teaching and Learning. Entitled, "Using a Simple Conceptual

Framework for Informing Thoughtful Student Engagement with Democracy in High School Civics Classes," the article aims to provide social studies teachers with a model for preparing their students for an analysis of democracy and citizenship based upon understanding the fundamental basis for our democratic institutions and processes, appreciating the important roles of citizenship, and having realistic expectations for political outcomes based upon compromise. Mariani-Petroze and Spence plan to further their research by testing the

NOTES CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



Keegan

The Center for Faith, Mission, and Catholic Education names inaugural director

Hannah Keegan was named as the inaugural director of the Center for Faith, Mission, & Catholic Education. Keegan, who earned a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas and a master's degree in theological studies from the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., has served as an adjunct faculty member in the theology department for the past five years.

In his 2019 inaugural address, President Chillo vowed to lead with "an unyielding commitment to mission and a defining student experience that affirms the unique identity of the University and the significant position we occupy in the higher education landscape as a high-quality Catholic institution." The Center is a key component of the University's Strategic Plan: Lighting the Way, as well as Chillo's vision to secure the University's position as the regional leader in Catholic education.

The mission of the Center is to cultivate an authentic Catholic

culture throughout Thomas More University by serving as a catalyst for transformative faith experiences, intentional mission integration, and creative Catholic educational programs on campus and in the wider community. The Center encompasses existing programs, such as Campus Ministry and the Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III '67 Institute for Religious Liberty, and will pioneer new initiatives devoted to further integrate mission into academic programs and provide a resource to Catholic schools and partners within the region. "The Center is a beautiful invitation for all of us at Thomas More to rekindle our desire to know how the encounter with Christ informs and enriches our educational task as a Catholic university," explains Keegan. "I am grateful for the opportunity to begin this collaborative work and curious to see what can grow among us as we continue to pursue the love we have for the students and subjects we teach."

"Hannah Keegan will be a tremendous leader for the Center," says Kevin Reynolds, Ed.D., Senior Vice President for Mission and University Advancement. "As an educator, scholar, community leader, and passionate advocate for her Catholic faith, Hannah will bring the vision of the Center to life."

MOREOVER

NOTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

effectiveness of this framework for teaching civics through focus group interviews with social studies high school teachers and analysis of student survey responses prior to, and after, being introduced to the proposed model. Collaboration between the two professors grew out of a joint presentation on the subject of civics education made at the Lilly Teaching Conference held at Miami University, Ohio in November 2022. Mariani-Petroze also had research on professional learning communities (PLC) published in the *Journal of Catholic Education*. Entitled “The Positive Impacts of a Professional Learning Community Model on Student Achievement in Small Schools,” the article explores the impact of professional learning communities on student achievement in a small school setting. Mariani-Petroze led the faculty in high-quality, effective professional development using PLC objectives and norms to analyze NEWA MAP data. The faculty adapted instructional practices and implemented formative assessments to influence student growth in math and reading scores. The study results indicated that the PLC training that took place between the Fall and Winter MAP testing cycles positively impacted student growth results, earning St. Theresa, a diocesan school in Covington, national Blue Ribbon status. For more on this research, visit tmuky.us/petrozeplc.

Kayla Steltenkamp, Ed.D., assistant professor, School of Education, was featured as a speaker at the Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference (CLEC) national conference in February 2024. Her presentation was



Steltenkamp Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, this annual gathering brings together faculty, administrators, directors, advisers, and other stakeholders in the field, providing a platform for content experts to present on a wide array of timely topics.



Webster **Phillip Webster**, assistant professor and theatre director, was interviewed by LinkNKY about his hopes and goals for the theatre program. To read the article, tmuky.us/webster.

St. Elizabeth College of Natural and Health Sciences



Galbraith-Kent **Shannon Galbraith-Kent, Ph.D.**, professor and chair, department of biological sciences, hosted a webinar on the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund for the Kentucky Academy of Science in fall 2023.

Questions answered included: What is the state of conservation funding in Kentucky? What are our future prospects, and how can scientists and advocates help?



Lorentz **Chris Lorentz, Ph.D.**, professor, department of biological sciences, and fellow colleagues at the University of Cincinnati recently published a paper in the peer-reviewed journal

Transactions of the American Fisheries Society. The title of the article is “River connectivity increases the diversity of fish communities in gravel pit lakes.” To read the article, visit tmuky.us/lorentz3.



Saraswat **Jyoti Saraswat, Ph.D.**, mathematics and physics, and John D. (Jack) Rudnick Jr., Ed.D., professor, business administration, co-authored the article, “Quality improvement tools frame blood platelet compliance transition: An evaluation case on processes and outcomes” that appeared in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*, Fall 2023.

Administration/Staff



Connor **Terry Connor '92**, vice president and director of athletics, was featured by LinkNKY in an article covering his extensive career at the University. To read the article, visit tmuky.us/tconnor.



Shipp **Debby Shipp**, director of Corporate Engagement and Co-op Education, presented at the Rotary Club of Florence in fall 2023, speaking to how the University connects with regional businesses. Visit tmuky.us/shipp to read an article covering the presentation.



Chillo

Chillo: year four as a top regional leader

SUBMITTED BY LYNNA KELLEY

Cincinnati Magazine includes President Chillo as one of the region's 300 most powerful business leaders for a fourth consecutive year in its annual compilation entitled *Cincinnati 300*. *Cincinnati 300*'s fourth edition recognizes leaders from across the business community who are the most influential, most powerful,

and most impactful as they guide the region's public, private, and nonprofit companies, as well as professional service organizations.

This special publication recognizes Chillo's accomplishments with the Second Century Campaign: It's time for More, the largest capital campaign in Thomas More's history. The campaign was launched three months into the COVID pandemic, and has since seen

unprecedented success, surpassing its initial \$30 million goal three years ahead of schedule. The magazine also recognizes Thomas More's transition to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II in the Great Midwest Athletic Conference (G-MAC). The University announced its approval to move forward to year two of NCAA DII provisional membership in July 2023. This move transitions the Saints from the Mid-South Conference (MSC) in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), where they have competed for the past four academic years.

“I have learned that good leadership matters to the success of the organization, but servant leadership matters more,” Chillo is quoted in the piece. “Being mission-driven and understanding the challenges your organization faces today and those it will face tomorrow requires you to develop a strategy that's agile and results-focused.” **MOREOVER**

AAQEP approves School of Education accreditation

SUBMITTED BY LYNA KELLEY

The School of Education announced approval of a full seven-year accreditation term from the Association for Advancing Quality Educator Preparation (AAQEP). The action is effective immediately, extending through Dec. 31, 2030. “This recognition from the AAQEP reaffirms our unwavering commitment to excellence in educator preparation,” says President Chillo. “It is a testament to the dedication of our faculty, the diligence of our students, and the collaborative spirit that defines our educational community. At Thomas More, we are working to transform education in the Commonwealth by addressing the need for more highly qualified K-12 teachers. We look forward to continuing our journey of academic distinction and innovation in preparing the next generation of transformative educators.”

The accreditation decision was based on a review of the program’s Quality Assurance Report and the AAQEP Quality Review Team Report. The report praises the School of Education’s work in leveraging relationships with local school district partners in supporting teachers to develop culturally responsive practices. “The journey towards AAQEP accreditation has been both an enriching experience and a testament to our collective dedication to excellence,” says Alissa Ayres, assistant professor and director of Graduate Programs in the School of Education. “Through a commitment to best practices in educator preparation, we have not only met the stringent standards set by AAQEP but have surpassed them. Receiving this accreditation underscores our pursuit of quality and innovation in shaping educators who are not only competent but compassionate,



reflective, and dedicated to the transformative power of education. It is a proud moment for our School of Education and a reaffirmation of our mission to prepare educators who will make a lasting impact in the lives of their students and communities.”

The School of Education launched an umbrella of expanded and upgraded initiatives in 2023 under a new model called the Education VILLA, which stands for: Visualizing educators of excellence through Innovative methods promoting Leadership and Learning in an Atmosphere of growth, critical thinking, and research. The name draws on Thomas More University’s history as a teaching college, founded to train Catholic school teachers as Villa Madonna College in 1921. VILLA initiatives are set to roll out in phases over the next several years including strategic programming targeted at increased student success, academic innovation and excellence, and responsible stewardship. To read the original fall 2023 story on the Education VILLA, visit tmuky.us/educationvilla.

MOREOVER

Faculty/staff nurture innovation in the region

SUBMITTED BY JENI AL BAHRANI, DIRECTOR, ZEMBRODT CENTER FOR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP | PHOTO PROVIDED

In support of innovation and entrepreneurship in the region, faculty and staff from the University joined representatives from the University of Cincinnati, the University of Dayton, Mount St. Joseph University, Xavier University, and leaders from Cintrifuse, 1809 Capital, Alloy Development Co., Pieces for Developers, and Main Street Ventures, among others, as judges for the inaugural X-Squared High School Pitch Competition at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, Ohio. Participants from Thomas More included professors Jeni Al Bahrani, Yvan Demosthenes, Gregory Mazza, and Phillip Webster, as well as staff member Marian Rice.

The January event was the result of a partnership between Square1 and St. Xavier High School’s Leo H. Gerbus ’53 Center for

Entrepreneurs and Innovation, and Career ConneXions program. Organized by Timothy “Mac” McDonald, Chair of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at St. Xavier High School, and Keith Schneider, founder and president of Square1, Inc., the competition showcased the entrepreneurial spirit and innovation of student-founders from 35 startups representing nine high schools in the region. “The quality of pitches from these student-founders was outstanding. Their innovative spirit and potential as future entrepreneurial leaders are exactly what we look for in Thomas More’s entrepreneurship



From left: Webster, Al Bahrani, Demosthenes, and Mazza.

and innovation program,” shares Al Bahrani, director of the ZCEI. The top-performing teams were awarded both cash team prizes and college scholarships for each member who chooses to attend one of the participating colleges.

MOREOVER



A MESSAGE FROM
KEVIN REYNOLDS, Ed. D.
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR MISSION
AND UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Transformational Philanthropy

When done well, philanthropy is transformational, not transactional. The tremendous work happening at Thomas More, as a result of gifts from so many of you, is all aimed at ensuring that a University education is a transformational endeavor for our students. Recognized this past year as a Top 25 U.S. Catholic University by the Catholic Herald, we continue to root ourselves in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and our values as the Catholic university of the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky.

The University was also recognized as a Top 10 Small College in the South by The Wall Street Journal and ranked highest among all colleges and universities in the Greater Cincinnati region. Niche.com lists Thomas More second in Best Value Colleges in Kentucky and the Robert W. Plaster College of Business is ranked third in the Commonwealth and first among private institutions. These are just a few snapshots of the ways in which Thomas More continues to secure our position as the regional leader in Catholic education and as THE innovation destination in Greater Cincinnati.

These accomplishments are reflective of President Chillo's student-centered leadership and a commitment to student success, academic excellence and innovation, and responsible stewardship, the three prongs of the University's Strategic Plan: Lighting the Way. This plan is supported by the Second Century Campaign: It's time for More, the University's comprehensive capital campaign, which exceeded its initial \$30M goal in 2023, three years ahead of schedule. The campaign has now surpassed \$37M as our alumni and friends have continued to provide transformational investments in our mission and the students we are blessed to serve.

Within the \$37M total are gifts or pledges totaling \$7.2M towards the University's endowment. \$5.2M of that endowment total is towards scholarships. This investment represents more than \$260,000 towards student aid every year, and that number will grow as the endowment grows. Since the launch of this campaign, 37 endowed scholarships have been created or increased via a major gift contribution. This is how we secure a future for higher education and respond to the growing challenges of college affordability and a competitive landscape. Our donors believe that all students who want to access a quality, values-based education should have the ability to do so, and they have invested to reduce cost as a barrier to that access.

Much of the innovation happening at the University – The Zembrod Center, Education VILLA, the Center for Faith, Mission, & Catholic Education, the Institute for Religious Liberty, and the new academic center construction – are all direct results of transformational philanthropy and a donor base that is committed to the transformative power of Catholic education. Founded in 1921 by the Benedictine Sisters, Villa Madonna College (now Thomas More University) was Northern Kentucky's first college. We are grateful for the donors who have helped us steward and build upon that 103-year legacy of innovation and the transformational education that the University has provided this region in our first century and beyond.

MOREOVER



**CONTINUING TO SUCCEED
IN SUPPORT OF:**
student success
academic innovation
responsible stewardship

Construction concludes

Construction winds down on the new academic center, soon to be home to the Robert W. Plaster College of Business; Dr. Anthony '65 and Geraldine '66 Zembrod Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation; the Center for Faith, Mission, & Catholic Education; and the Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III '67 Institute for Religious Liberty. This state-of-the-art facility provides four floors of classroom, office, and meeting space, and houses the Will Ziegler '53 Auditorium. The Second Century Campaign - It's time for More capital campaign reached its goal three years ahead of schedule. In this photo honorary chair Will Ziegler '53, with co-chairs Melissa Lueke and Bob Sathe, pose in front of the nearly complete building.



Why I Give: *A tribute to the Hillenmeyers*



Triskele yearbook photo shows Mary Farrell Hillenmeyer (left) at work in the Villa Madonna College public relations office with John Menzies and Joan Ackerman.

SUBMITTED BY FLYNN ASHLEY,
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT
PHOTOS PROVIDED

In 1983, Mary Farrell Hillenmeyer (Aug. 28, 1929 - Aug. 4, 2023) was named “Lady of the Year” in Maysville, Kentucky, and if you spent any time with her or her family, you know why. The generosity, love, and faith that the Hillenmeyer family has demonstrated over the years is nothing short of transcendent.



Mary Farrell Hillenmeyer

The Hillenmeyer family has deep roots at Thomas More. Mary met her future husband Ernest B. Hillenmeyer, Jr. (Ernie) at Villa Madonna College in 1956. Ernie was serving as the chair of the Board of Overseers and Mary served as the assistant public relations director from 1956 to 1961. In October 1961, after the passing of Ernie's

first wife Ellen in 1960, then president of Villa Madonna College Monsignor John F. Murphy celebrated Ernie and Mary's nuptial mass at St. James Church in Ludlow, Kentucky.

The legacy of the Hillenmeyer family, however, did not start with Ernie and Mary. In 1915, Monsignor Herbert F. Hillenmeyer was secretary to Bishop Ferdinand Brossart and chancellor of the Diocese of Covington. Monsignor Hillenmeyer served on the chair of the Villa Madonna College Board of



Msgr. Herbert Hillenmeyer

Trustees for many years and helped President Murphy raise funds for the construction of the Crestview Hills campus where Thomas More University now resides. In 1975, an endowed speaker series to honor Monsignor Hillenmeyer, entitled the Hillenmeyer Lecture Series, was established and has brought faculty, political leaders, historians, bioethicists, and educational leaders across the country to celebrate intellectual thought over the past 50 years.

In more recent years, the Monsignor Herbert F. Hillenmeyer Trust, managed by Mary and her family, have established two endowed scholarships at Thomas More University to support students from Fort Thomas, Kentucky, and students from the Diocese of Covington outside of Kenton, Campbell, and Boone counties.

The impact that the Hillenmeyer family has had on Villa Madonna College, Thomas More College and Thomas More University has been transformative. Personally, the Hillenmeyer family has had an impact on me as well. Growing up in Maysville, I served at Mass with Deacon Ernie while Mary served as the president of parish council for St. Patrick Church. Their love and faith served as an inspiration for me to dedicate myself to a life of service to higher education.

I hope you join me in honoring the Hillenmeyer legacy as we reflect on our service to others, generosity, and pursuit of higher education. Their generosity and love for our community has opened up so many doors to a transformative education at Thomas More.

MOREOVER

To read more about Mary's life, visit tmuky.us/mhlife.

For an article about the Hillenmeyer lecture series, visit tmuky.us/lectureseries.





The University is pleased to honor these three individuals who have made a significant impact on the Northern Kentucky region and demonstrated a commitment to advancing Catholic education

SUBMITTED BY KRISTEN GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & PR

BISHOP WILLIAM A. HUGHES AWARD DINNER

presented by



The 26th Annual Bishop William A. Hughes Award Dinner, presented by DBL Law, was held at Drees Pavilion in Devou Park on April 17. Honorees at this year's event included Robert M. Hoffer, managing partner for DBL Law; Bob Sathe, chairman of MCF Advisors; and Coach Jim Connor '50, former director of athletics, baseball coach and men's basketball coach for Thomas More, who was honored posthumously.

Bishop William A. Hughes Award

Robert M. Hoffer received the Bishop William A. Hughes Award, named for the former bishop of the Diocese of Covington and chancellor of Thomas More University. The award has been bestowed annually since 1996 to honor those who have made significant contributions to Catholic higher education. Hoffer was recognized for his involvement with and fundraising for many local Catholic institutions and schools, including Notre Dame Academy, Covington Catholic High School, Diocesan Catholic Children's Home (DCCH), St. Elizabeth Foundation, Carmel Manor, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, and various ministries of the Diocese of Covington. Additionally, Hoffer has shared his time and talents volunteering for various organizations serving the community, including Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky (HONK), the Kenton County Airport Board, American Heart Association, and Covington Cursillo.



Bob Hoffer (center), with President Chillo and Board Chair Judith Marlowe received the Bishop William A. Hughes Award.



St. Thomas More Medallion

Bob Sathe received the St. Thomas More Medallion, the University's highest non-academic service award for extraordinary service to the University and to communities which it serves. Sathe has led many fundraising efforts, in addition to serving as a trustee at Thomas More University and as a member of the executive committee of the Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III '67 Institute for Religious Liberty. Notably, Sathe currently serves as co-chair for Thomas More University's Second Century Campaign - It's time for More, which recently surpassed \$37.5 million in support. Sathe has played a role on many boards throughout the region including Playhouse in the Park, Carnegie Arts Center, Cincinnati Ballet, Fine Arts Institute, Metropolitan Club, Coldstream Country Club, Cancer Family Care, Boy Scouts, Red Cross, and Bethesda Hospitals.

Bob Sathe (center), with President Chillo and Board Chair Judith Marlowe received the St. Thomas More Medallion.

Dr. Raymond Hebert Distinguished Service Award

Coach Jim Connor '50 was posthumously honored with the Dr. Raymond Hebert Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes those who have made a significant contribution within the University. Known for his dedication, fairness and gentlemanly demeanor, Coach Connor returned to his alma mater from 1978-1990 to serve as athletic director, also coaching baseball and men's basketball. In addition to Thomas More, Coach Connor coached at Newport Catholic High School, Boone County High School, and Bellarmine College. His Thomas More career basketball record stands at 133-235. Notably, he was named NAIA District 32 Coach of the Year in 1981 and inducted into the Bellarmine College Sports Hall of Fame, and the Northern Kentucky Athletic Directors' Hall of Fame. Together with the Thomas More Boosters, he spearheaded the construction of the Connor Convocation Center. He is widely regarded for his legacy of sportsmanship and dedication to athletic excellence. The Dr. Raymond Hebert Distinguished Service Award was accepted by Coach Connor's family, including his son Terry Connor '92, who currently serves as vice president and director of athletics for Thomas More University.



Connor family members in attendance to accept the Dr. Raymond G. Hebert Distinguished Service Award on behalf of Coach Connor.



Honoring Coach Connor

During the Bishop William A. Hughes Award program, President Chillo surprised the Connor Family with a special announcement. In recognition of the impact Coach Connor has had on the lives of many student athletes, plans were announced to commission a statue of Jim Connor, to be placed outside of the Connor Convocation Center. "The people are what make Thomas More the special place that it is," explains President Chillo. Look for more details soon.



Honoring Outstanding Alumni

Do you know someone who deserves to be honored at the next Alumni Awards celebration?

The Alumni Awards were established to honor outstanding alumni and community leaders whose talents and expertise have made a significant impact as they continue to live the Thomas More University mission. Previously held as biennial awards, the Alumni Association now awards these annually. Nominations are being accepted in the fields of:

Citizenship

Service

Professional Achievement

Emerging Leader

and

Lasting Influence (faculty/staff)

Deadline for nominations is **June 1, 2024**.

For more information, visit tmuky.us/alumniawards.

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



2024

Evening of Innovation

SUBMITTED BY LYNNA KELLEY AND JUDY CRIST, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNICATION AND CREATIVE SERVICES

The Evening of Innovation series was introduced by the Alumni Association and President's Giving Society to provide a unique opportunity for the Thomas More University community of alumni and friends to foster and strengthen relationships with entrepreneurs and innovators who shape the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky region.

Two events were sponsored in 2023 with the first held in April featuring Dr. Doug Flora, LSSBB, executive medical director for St. Elizabeth Cancer Center. Flora presented on the innovations happening in cancer care and research. The Center, which opened in 2020, expands St. Elizabeth's efforts in prevention, genetic screening, precision medicine, clinical research, and treatment options. Flora is using his extensive experience as a leader in oncology services to build the most innovative team available in the field and explained his vision for changing the way cancer care is delivered in the region.

The second event, held in November, was the result of an exciting, long-running partnership between faculty members Jyoti Saraswat, Ph.D., and William Wetzel, Ph.D., and Michele Hobbs, founder of Knox Joseph Distillery at the OTR Stillhouse. Held at the Stillhouse in Cincinnati, Ohio, the interview with Hobbs explored the innovation and entrepreneurship witnessed by the success of the Stillhouse under Hobbs' direction. "What an amazing opportunity it has been to collaborate and grow with Thomas More University," says Hobbs. "Working with great minds of a growing University is like having extra talent in my back pocket. It's a fortunate gift."

"Just as a bourbon is transformed as it ages in the barrel, it is exciting to witness the journey and see the successes of the OTR Stillhouse under Michele's leadership over the past five years,"



Dr. Doug Flora, LSSBB, presents at the April Evening of Innovation.

says Wetzel. "We are blessed to have an opportunity to partner with Michele and the Knox Joseph Distillery on our research into the chemical fingerprint associated with bourbon. In addition to having the chance to peer into the chemistry of this complex spirit, this research has proven to be a wonderful opportunity for our undergraduate chemistry and mathematics students to explore both interdisciplinary collaborations and entrepreneurship."

With regards to the continued growth of the series, President Chillo expounds, "Events like these are essential to helping Thomas More University secure its place as the innovation destination of the region. We gather to celebrate not only the achievements of our partners and professors but also the boundless potential of innovation itself. I have no doubt that the conversations and connections forged at these events will lead to groundbreaking ideas, collaborations, and solutions that will propel our region forward."

MOREOVER

Presidential faculty innovation grants

Over the course of several years, faculty and staff had an opportunity to apply for and receive grants through a limited

University funding source as they sought to work on innovative ideas and research. One such grant was awarded in 2017 and 2018 to faculty members **Jyoti Saraswat, Ph.D.**, and **William Wetzel, Ph.D.**, to fund an analysis of bourbon in partnership with OTR Stillhouse. The resulting work by Saraswat was entitled "A Statistical Analysis of Kentucky Bourbon and Other Alcoholic Beverages" with a complementing paper by Wetzel entitled "A Chemical Analysis of Kentucky Bourbon." The goal and hope is that the work creates a platform for assessing the authenticity of bourbon and identifying counterfeits. To learn more about the research, visit tmuky.us/kybourbon.



November Evening of Innovation, from left: Michele Hobbs, William Wetzel, Ph.D., Jyoti Saraswat, Ph.D.,

JUNE

CITY OF CRESTVIEW HILLS 2024 SUMMER CONCERT

Signature sponsor Republic Bank

Friday | June 28, 2024 | 6:30-10 p.m.

Bands: Doghouse and E5C4P3 (Journey tribute band)

Hosted at Thomas More University

Free entry | no outside food/beverages

For more information, visit crestviewhills.com

JULY



ALL SAINTS CLUB ATHLETIC GOLF OUTING

Friday | July 26, 2024 | 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

A| Jolly Golf Course | Alexandria, KY

Sponsor deadline July 5 | Golfer deadline July 12

To be a sponsor or RSVP, visit tmuky.us/tmagolf

RAISIN' HELLBENDERS ON THE RIVER: CONCERT FOR CONSERVATION

Saturday | July 27, 2024 | 3-9 p.m.

Biology Field Station | California, KY

RSVP required | Visit tmuky.us/24rhccsite

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.

SEPTEMBER

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

Sept. 19, 2024 | 7 p.m.

Ziegler Auditorium

Details coming soon

at thomasmore.edu/religiousliberty

HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Sept. 26-28, 2024 | Save the dates

50TH ANNIVERSARY CLASS OF 1974

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME AWARDS

Details coming soon at tmuky.us/alumnievents

THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN... to a location near you!

President Chillo is going on a roadshow
in 2024. If you live in one of these
locations, we would love to invite you
to meet the president! Contact us today
at alumni@thomasmore.edu
or **859-344-3344**.

May 17, 2024 **Columbus, OH**

May 18, 2024 **Dayton, OH**

July 11, 2024 **Indianapolis, IN**

July 28, 2024 **Washington, D.C.**

August 8, 2024 **Lexington, KY**

August 9, 2024 **Louisville, KY**



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

Make It **More**.

WEDDINGS

♥♥♥ **Summer (Smith) '16** married fellow alum **Jaime Leon '16** on Nov. 4, 2023. "Summer and I met while attending Thomas More during our junior year (2014-2015). We graduated in 2016 and have been together for nine years. We currently reside in Erlanger, Kentucky where we have a pet cat named Buddy. Summer is an academic specialist for Northern Kentucky University's College of Informatics, and I work as a police officer for University of Cincinnati Health Police-Department of Public Safety. We loved and enjoyed our time at Thomas More!"

Allison (Moning) Fieler '17 married her husband Paul at the end of October 2023. Congratulations!

Taylor Kessen '17/'19 and Libby Butler married on Nov. 11, 2023. Congratulations!

Sarah (Steelman) '18 married Austynn Machado on Sept. 29, 2023, in Banff National Park in Canada. This photo was taken at Lake Moraine.

Claire (Cerimele) '19 and Grayson Farrell, a 2020 graduate of the University of Cincinnati, were married on May 27, 2023. Congratulations!

Sam Simpkins '19 married Tori Haessig in Sunman, Indiana on July 8, 2023. Congratulations!

♥♥♥ **Alli Borders '20** and **Colton Dolezal '21** met as Saints athletes playing women's volleyball and men's soccer in 2017. They were married on July 2, 2023. Congratulations!

Cody Johnson '20 and Shannon (Becks) were married Sept. 16, 2023. Cody writes about how they met, "Unlike most couples meeting at the bar or through school, we ended up meeting through TikTok. I needed a wedding date and posted a TikTok, I honestly didn't believe it blew up the way it did and I'm so happy it did. Needed a wedding date, ended up with my forever wedding date."

Anja Arlinghaus '22 married Chris Stoeckel on Sept. 3, 2023. Congratulations!

Sammie Kleier '22 not only started a new job as a high school English teacher at her alma mater, Notre Dame Academy, but also married Andrew Bezold on Sept. 30, 2023. Congrats!

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.

ENGAGEMENTS

Maggie Waller '15 became engaged to Stephen Decareaux last fall. Congrats!

Megan Caldwell '18 became engaged in January 2024 to Don Ward. Congrats!

Taylor Budde '19 recently became engaged to her boyfriend, Thomas.

♥♥♥ **Miranda Kavanaugh '22** and **Michael Frost '22** are engaged. Michael wrote, "We started dating our senior year of high school. We continued dating through all four years of college at Thomas More, both graduating with degrees in biology and later starting our careers at Thermo Fisher Scientific. Miranda and I both serve on the leadership board for a food pantry that we helped start during our senior year. It's an interfaith partnership that uses a family-centric, food-kit model to help families struggling with financial hardship make ends meet. In the past three years, we've served hundreds of neighbors in need across Northern Kentucky, and in November we had an official ribbon-cutting ceremony with the community, City of Union government, and our different partners' organizational leadership. We celebrated six years together last summer, and on Valentine's Day of this year we became engaged!"

ANNIVERSARIES

♥♥♥ **Andy Meier '00** and **Alyson (Morrow) '00** met while attending Thomas More. They celebrated 17 years of marriage on Sept. 22, 2023. They currently reside in Tampa, Florida where they have two children. Andy works as a vice president of tax and Alyson works as a pediatric speech pathologist.

♥♥♥ **Steven D. Jaeger '02** and **Emily Walters (Meier) '04** are celebrating their one-year anniversary this month on Sept. 10, 2022. Congratulations!

♥♥♥ **Angela (Casebolt) Collins '98** and **Chris Collins '98** celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on Oct. 24, 2023. Congratulations!

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! ♥♥♥



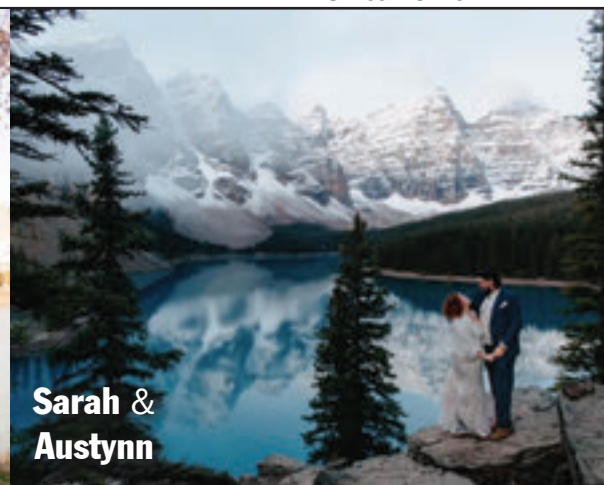
Summer & Jaime



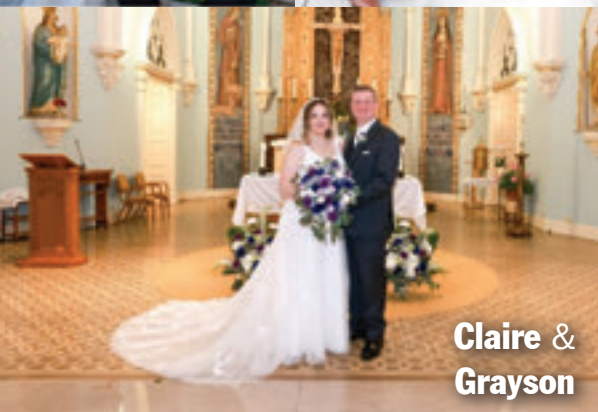
Allison & Paul



Libby & Taylor



Sarah & Austynn



Claire & Grayson



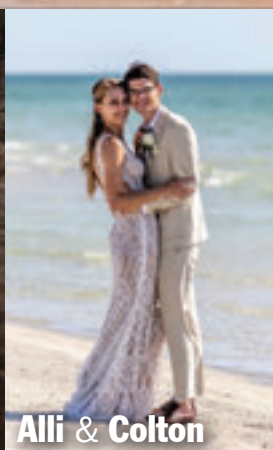
Sam & Tori



Sammie & Andrew



Cody & Shannon



Alli & Colton



Maggie & Stephen



Don & Megan



Michael & Miranda

NEW ARRIVAL

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!

♥♥♥ Elizabeth (Kramer) '14 and James "Alex" Bramer '17 welcomed their second child, Vince, on Aug. 17, 2023. Beth's dad also attended Thomas More so they are third-generation Little Saints!





With alumnus
**Armando Retana '06,
MD, DDS**

SUBMITTED BY DAVID KLENK '22, GRADUATE ASSISTANT COMMUNICATIONS
PHOTO PROVIDED

Dr. Armando Retana '06, who currently resides in Washington, D.C., returned to campus in fall 2023 to spend a day speaking to students and former faculty mentors about his experiences while at Thomas More and as a member of the medical community. Retana has a thriving medical practice and spoke to Saints Spotlight about his journey from student to becoming a top-rated oral/maxillofacial surgeon.

What brought you to Thomas More as a student?

AR: I came to the United States from Costa Rica about age 15 and spent my high school years in Maryland. I went to a Maryland liberal arts school called St. Mary's College of Maryland for one semester, but because of my immigration status at the time and St. Mary's being a state-funded institution, I had to leave the school. Through a connection with my uncle and John Powers, an alumnus of Thomas More, I came here to a private, Catholic institution that could look beyond my immigration status. I came in my second semester freshman year and finished all three and a half years at this school.

What stands out in your mind about your student experience?

AR: What stands out – I was involved in so many things. I was a biology major; I also played soccer. I was involved with the International Student Group and also with Alpha Delta Gamma (ADG). All those things stand out. Like being a fraternity brother, I didn't even know what a fraternity was at the time. I remember learning the concept through my cousin who was here already. He was part of the fraternity and introduced me to it. A lot of the great memories I have are my ADG memories, along with soccer games and the camaraderie of being on the soccer team and being a team player. What stands out the most is the mentorship of Dr. (Chris) Lorentz and Dr. (K. Siobhan) Barone. Those two treated me like I was one of their kids and they went above and beyond to help me achieve what I wanted to achieve at Thomas More and beyond – setting me up with amazing recommendation letters and amazing opportunities like research projects that I did with Dr. Barone in immunology. Trips with Dr. Lorentz to Chicago for research symposiums. All those memories right now, just thinking about it gives me goosebumps as to how much I did here and how many people impacted me. Dr. Camp's Border Studies class - I had the opportunity to go to the border with Mexico and spend a whole week looking at the immigration situation and me, being an immigrant, it really hit home. Those families, what they're going through, what the Church was doing for them - it really touched my heart to be there. Hopefully, I'll get to experience that again with my family; I want to take my wife and my kids down there. It gives you a different perspective on life when you see what the

situation is like for those families. Being from an immigrant family, I know I never went through what they go through. I was able to get here (to the U.S.) in a different way than they do every single day. Very impactful. All these activities I did at Thomas More really shaped me as a young man and stimulated my mind in ways that I can't even describe.

Share a short history behind your career path and important turning points.

AR: I was kicked out of college because of my immigration status and that's how I ended up at Thomas More – that was a huge turning point for me. If I had not been kicked out of that college and did not come to Thomas More, I may not be a doctor today, I may not be a surgeon today. Another big turning point was getting my green card. While I was a junior, thinking about applications for dental school or medical school and thinking, "How am I going to pay for medical and dental school? My dad can't afford it, I can't afford it, how am I going to do it?" Once I got my green card, that's where my answer was. You can take out student loans from the U.S. government; they're willing to give you student loans to become a doctor because they know you're going to pay them back. That's what I did, I took out loans. I graduated with student debt, but that is okay. It's low-interest loans that you pay back over time, that's what we consider good debt. You've invested in yourself, you're the only one that can mess it up. You're the best investment you can make. That was a big turning point for me, being able to borrow money from the U.S. government to put myself through school and become a doctor.

What current projects have you been working on?

AR: My entire career, I worked to improve myself and improve my skillset so I can provide for my family. Now, I'm working on my family. My wife and I have been together for almost 10 years, we've been raising the kids together. I am working on being present for my kids and my family: mentoring them, being a parent. A lot of times I feel like we get so caught up in our career and individual goals, and we're not focusing on our family, not paying attention to the kids, being involved with them. I try hard to make sure I make it home on time to talk to and be with them. Especially with electronics these days; these kids can be on their electronics with their friends all day long. The next thing you know you don't have a relationship with them; they look at you like you're a strange person in the house. My biggest project right now is being present for my wife and kids, that's something I don't take for granted.

Any advice for incoming students?

AR: Incoming students, I would say, don't be afraid to take risks. We like to live in our comfort zone and we don't like to be in an uncomfortable zone, but sometimes you have to take a little bit of risk. Whether it's financial risk or whatever it may be, don't be afraid of it. Be positive, never think you're going to fail, always think you're going to make it. Speak it into existence; work hard. Nothing ever comes to you just by osmosis or just because – you have to make it happen. Same with your college experience, you can just let it happen or you can make it happen. Make your college experience what you want it to be, take advantage of it. You're only here for a limited amount of time and then the next thing you know you're in the real world. Enjoy it, do as much as you can, and follow your heart.

MOREOVER

To hear or read the entire interview, visit tmuky.us/retana.

CLASS NOTES

1950s



Brother Donald Smith '56, SM, is an art alumnus of Villa Madonna College and a Marianist Brother. He completed a 4x6' mosaic for St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Cincinnati, Ohio which is installed near a side entrance. Titled, "Mary, Mother of Children Around the World," this photo includes Brother Don (right) and Brother Roger Bau, SM, as they finish the installation of the beautiful new piece.

1960s

Pauline Baumann '64 was recognized by Covington Latin School, receiving the 2023 Honorary Alumna Award for her service to the school.



Deacon Jerry Franzen '64, on Feb. 6, 2024, celebrated with his classmates the 25th anniversary (Silver Jubilee) of his ordination to the permanent diaconate of the Diocese of Covington.

1970s

Philip Staley '70, now retired, is the former director of technical affairs for Intervet, a veterinary vaccine manufacturer. He now resides in Arizona with his wife of 52 years, Tommye Staley,

and is currently on the Superstition Mountain Museum Board of Directors.

John Cimprich '71, alumnus and former faculty member, won the 2023 Best Subsequent Book prize from Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society for his third book "Navigating Liberty: Black Refugees and Antislavery Reformers in the Civil War South."



Karen George '74/'88 debuted the fiction publication, "How We Fracture," a collection of short stories. Her book won the Rosemary Daniell Fiction Prize and is now available through Minerva Rising Press.



Gary Pranger '76 received recognition from Covington Latin School with the 2023 Bonitatem Award for his outstanding service to the school and community.

Teresa Humphreys '78 is retired! After receiving a Master of Science in genetics at the University of Kentucky in 1980, she spent 14 years performing basic science research, followed by 29 years in clinical research. Humphreys is currently spending time contemplating her next chapter in life.

1980s

Robert L. Benne '82 and wife Elma celebrate their 60th Anniversary on Sept. 28, 2023. They met at Boone County

NOTES CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Alumni champion See, Test, and Treat Initiative

St. Elizabeth Healthcare personnel and Thomas More alumni **Trish Doering Nortmann '84**, vice president patient services; **Mary Gilday Beck '87**, nursing; **Sr. Kay Kramer '86, CDP**, nurse midwife/family nurse practitioner; and **Dr. Kevin Schuler '01**, executive medical director of Peri-operative Services and medical director of Cancer Quality and Accreditation, helped to plan and implement the first See, Test and Treat event in Northern Kentucky. This free cancer screening and health education program is for medically underserved populations in the region. One of the key features of this event was empowering prevention by delivering dignified cervical and breast cancer screenings with same-day/prompt results, with a focus on health education. For more about the See, Test, and Treat initiative, visit tmuky.us/stt.



NOTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

High School and married in 1963. Robert was a non-traditional student who worked hard to earn his business degree while they were raising two children. He has retired from work with Cincinnati Gas & Electric Co.



John Pratt '85 was honored by Indiana's Greenburg Rotary Club #3437 in District #6580 as they presented him with the Paul Harris Fellow Community Award. Pratt is an author, historian, and educator with Greensburg Community High School. To read the release, visit tmuky.us/pratt.



Sr. Sally Duffy '88 was honored by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber as one of its four 2024 Great Living Cincinnatians. She has dedicated her life to service as a Sister of Charity. Visit tmuky.us/24great to read the release.



Richard W. Wurth '89 was honored by the Cincinnati Business Courier with a 2023 C-Suite Award for CEO. He has been the CEO of the Children's Home of Northern Kentucky Behavioral Health serving for more than 11 years.

1990s



Wonda Winkler '90 was honored in the Cincinnati Business Courier with a 2023 C-Suite Award. She is currently the president & CEO at the nonprofit Brighton Center located in Newport, Kentucky.



Julie Rosel Belton '93 was honored with the NKY Chamber's 2023 Gary Beatrice Leadership Award.

Maureen (Comer) Eiting '93 started a position as a sales enablement specialist and executive assistant to the CEO at Prolocity.



Dr. Keith Myrick '93, former Thomas More basketball player, was profiled in an article from the International Business Times about his successful horse racing adventure, from his formative years in Valley Downs, to his thrilling victories in renowned races. To read the article, visit tmuky.us/myrick.



Douglas Williams, Jr. '97 was named special agent in charge of the FBI's Houston Field Office.

2000s



Kimberly Halbauer '00, Kentucky regional president for Fifth Third Bank, was named to Louisville Business First's Power 50 List. The List honors the 50 most influential people among Greater Louisville's business, nonprofit and civic communities. This is Halbauer's third consecutive year on the list.



Yvan Demosthenes '04 completed his Doctor of Education on Dec. 16, 2023, at the University of Dayton's School of Education and Health Sciences. His dissertation was entitled "Succession Planning in Nonprofits Using Career Development as the Action Plan." Demosthenes was also interviewed by Mission Facilitators

International about what he feels are the characteristics to look for in an 'imperfect' employee. To listen to the interview, visit tmuky.us/mfi.



Mike Bischoff '05 was named the executive director of the Chaffee Shuttle, a Colorado-based, free year-round transit service designed to increase mobility options for residents, businesses, and visitors. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in business from Xavier University and an MBA in accounting and finance from Thomas More University. To read the article, visit tmuky.us/bischoff.



Brandon Busby '05/'17 recently spoke to students in Thomas More's Accounting for Government and Not-for-Profit Entities class about the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) organization. Busby graduated from the University with a double major in business administration and accountancy, and later returned to complete his MBA. He is currently the comptroller of the DAV, based in Erlanger, Kentucky.



Robert Mangine '06 was promoted to the role of vice president of tax and assistant treasurer at ChemEd. Mangine has been with the company for almost seven years and was previously with Deloitte for over a decade.

Stephanie (Frondorf) Perkins '06 was inducted into East Central High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Perkins was a three-sport athlete in high school and

NOTES CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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



Our Responsibility to Others

SUBMITTED BY KRISTEN GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & PR

The third annual Women's Conference was held on Friday, March 15, bringing together over 100 attendees to celebrate and honor the achievements of women across the region during Women's History Month.

The 2024 Women's Conference featured three speakers and two panelists, representing a range of vocations, including health care, education, hospitality, nonprofit leadership, and public service. Each speaker focused on an aspect of the event's theme, "Our Responsibility to Others," a core tenet of Thomas More University's mission. The conference encouraged attendees to contemplate their own personal and collective responsibilities and to seek opportunities to make an impact.

Alecia Webb-Edgington, president of Life Learning Center, gave the keynote address. Webb-Edgington shared how her career journey, which began in public safety with Kentucky State Police and led to high-profile roles as Kentucky's homeland security director, representative for the 63rd district

TMWC CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY



WOMEN'S
CONFERENCE

TOP: During the luncheon panel entitled "Leading Through Service,"

Kathy Fields moderates as Jayne (Dillon) Murphy '91 and Brittany Mention, Ed.D., serve as panelists.

RIGHT: Women featured at the Conference included (from left) Sr. Kay Kramer '86, CDP, Danielle Amrine '20, Payton Marshall, Kathy Fields, Alecia Webb-Edgington, and Jayne (Dillon) Murphy '91. Not pictured is Brittany Mention, Ed.D.



NOTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

went on to play volleyball (1 year) and softball (4 years) at Thomas More as a standout student-athlete. For the EC write up, visit tmuky.us/perkins.



Stephen Spaulding II '09 was promoted to vice president, chief environmental health and safety officer at Turner Construction Company. Spaulding has 20+ years of industry experience, and has served Turner in various capacities including environmental, health, and safety, project engineer, superintendent, financial cost engineer, and laborer. He also leads training in environmental health and safety for Turner's Annual Construction Management Training Program for local minority and disadvantaged businesses. Spaulding has received certification as a construction health and safety technician (CHST) and certified environmental specialist (CES).



Blair Trame '09 took on a director role at Ernst & Young's Hong Kong office. He most recently was working for KPMG US as a director in its Infrastructure Advisory practice while also teaching as an adjunct professor with Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy.

2010s



Rita DiBello '10 started a new position as manager in the Nonprofit Services Division at Ignite Philanthropy.



Brandi Corbello '11 was named Tech Startup Chief Customer Officer of the Year at Indico Data, where she has been employed for over two years. Corbello came to town in late April

2023 to talk about her new venture, called Melan, which launches in May (skin cancer/Melanoma awareness month). Melan is the positive result of Corbello's melanoma diagnosis in 2019. The company supplies high-quality sunscreen made from clean ingredients, while also giving back to melanoma research and educating customers to become self-advocates for skin care.



Aaron Monk '11 was honored with the Distinguished Alumnus of the Past Decade Award by the Northern Kentucky University Salmon P. Chase College of Law. Monk has been at Kohnen & Patton LLP for eight years specializing in corporate law with an emphasis on mergers and acquisitions.



Kayla (Ritter) Rickels '11 had a very eventful 2023. She not only became a mother, but also earned her Doctor of Education. Rickels

defended a co-authored dissertation that explored the motivators, barriers, and approaches of social justice actualization within institutions of higher education. Kimberly Haverkos, Ph.D., dean of the Thomas More University College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, served on her dissertation committee. Well done, Kayla!



Nathan Klare '12 had artwork chosen as the feature for the 22nd Annual Art in the Park festival held in September 2023 in Bellevue, Kentucky. This was Klare's seventh year as an artist participating in the multi-disciplinary event.



Winter Okoth '15, Ph.D., was awarded a doctorate in microbiology from Griffith University in 2023. Her dissertation was entitled "Development & preclinical evaluation of whole blood-stage malaria vaccine using cationic liposomes." For more information about the work Okoth is doing, visit winter-okoth.com.



Ian O'Donnell '15 began a new position as law school and student relations specialist at Frost Brown Todd. In this role, he works with students, and also develops skills in legal recruitment.

Emilie Mattei '17 was honored by First Tee of Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky with the Coach of the Year Award. Every year, the organization honors coaches, teachers, and seniors in their program for exemplary work.



Justin Austin '19 was named one of the Top 50 Rising Stars by Business Insurance America. The Rising Stars program honors insurance professionals, age 35 or

younger, for their key achievements, career goals, and contributions to the industry. He was also named the Goering Center Rising Leader of the Year Honoree for demonstrating success at advancing one of the Goering Center's 10 Best Practices of Successful Family and Private Businesses. Austin moved into a senior partner and strategic advisor role at USA Insurance Services in June 2023. Previously, he was the Midwest regional select practice leader at USI.

Taylor Budde '19 earned her Master of Arts in international affairs from George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs and is currently an operations analyst at Palantir Technologies. She also recently became engaged to her boyfriend, Thomas. Congrats, Taylor!

Gillian Casey '19 started a position in the marketing team of CTI Clinical Trial and Consulting Services as a communications associate.



Amy Smith '19, Ed.D., was promoted to acting chief for the City of Seattle CARE Department. CARE aligns community-focused and non-police public safety investments and programs, including Seattle 911 Center and the CARE Crisis Responder team.

Rachel Whitehill '19, under pseudonym Rae Maybee, had an article published by Critical Distance entitled "Growing

Up on Halo." To read the article, visit tmuky.us/maybee.

2020s



Colleen Fausz '20 moved into a role as chief financial officer, chief administrative officer, and general counsel at KLH Engineers, one of greater Cincinnati's top engineering firms. Fausz oversees KLH's financial operations; accounting and

benefits; and contracts and dispute resolution. She also plays a key role in the firm's strategic planning and decision-making process. Previously, Fausz was a partner at DBL Law and during her over 20 years with the firm practiced in business and transactional estate planning and probate, and banking and commercial sectors. For the full story, visit tmuky.us/cfausz.



Rachel Sampson '20 was named by Key Bank as head of community banking. In this newly created role, Sampson leads teams responsible

NOTES CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

TMWC CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

in the Kentucky House, and senior police advisor with the U.S. Department of State, came "full circle" at Life Learning Center, a Covington-based nonprofit dedicated to helping at-risk individuals achieve long-term self-sufficiency and success. "Service is not just a noble endeavor; it is the very essence of your calling. It's the manifestation of your deepest desires to make a difference and leave a lasting legacy of compassion, empathy and selflessness. As you're embarking on your journey to fulfill your calling, remember that service is not only a privilege – it is our responsibility," Webb-Edgington shared with the audience.

Following the keynote, Sr. Kay Kramer '86, CDP, presented a compelling reflection on Catholic Social Teaching and how it has informed her work with migrants along the U.S.-Mexico border. Kramer, a certified nurse-midwife, family nurse practitioner, educator, and member of the Congregation of Divine Providence, asserted that a key pillar of our responsibility to others is to be informed on issues surrounding poverty, immigration, and human dignity. "What we want to do is to transform the world, right?" Kramer asked the audience. "We want to love people enough that the world is transformed."

The focus on faith-centered service continued as Danielle Amrine '20, chief executive officer of Welcome House of Northern Kentucky, took to the podium. Amrine reflected on how a personal interaction with a social worker at a formative age sparked her passion and career in nonprofit work, culminating in her leadership position for Welcome House, where she provides a continuum of services aimed at ending homelessness across the Northern Kentucky region.

The final portion of the event was a panel discussion led by Kathy Fields, CEO/founder of Heroes R Forever Inc., featuring Jayne (Dillon) Murphy '91, co-author of "Holy Chow: Hospitality," and Brittany Mention, Ed.D., faculty at Thomas More University School of Education and CEO of Mention Consulting LLC. The women shared their reflections on leadership and service and how both have played an integral role in their personal and professional successes.

Payton Marshall, weekend morning anchor for FOX19, served as emcee for the 2024 Women's Conference. Special thanks to the event sponsors: Mubea, the Congregation of Divine Providence, and St. Elizabeth Healthcare.

Videos of the Conference sessions are available at tmuky.us/24tmwc.

MOREOVER

BELOW (from left): Sr. Kay Kramer '86, CDP, entitled her session "Not to be Served, but to Serve," Danielle Amrine '20 speaks on the subject of "Empowering Lives, Building Hope - Unveiling the Tapestry of Community Service," and keynote speaker Alecia Webb-Edgington addressed the group in a talk entitled "Find Your Purpose by Building a Life of Service."



MOREOVER [Spring 2024]

NOTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

for the strategy, implementation, and execution of a variety of consumer products and services designed to acquire and deepen relationships with clients in low-to-moderate income and diverse segments, as well as the national consumer sales strategy for these segments. To read more about this, visit tmuky.us/sampson2.



RJ Whitehill '20 earned his Juris Doctorate from Saint Louis University and took a position as an associate at Pontello & Bressler, LLC.



Bryce Kremer '21 was promoted to senior tax accountant at Dean Dorton. "I am looking forward to my new role and am excited to start VonLehman's merger!"



Abby Link '21 changed jobs and cities. After working for the Planning and Development Services of Kenton County as the community development project coordinator,

she has transitioned to a new role as a planner with Toole Design Group in Columbus, Ohio.

Davin Marro '21 started a new position as a bio-informaticist at Stowers Institute for Medical Research.

Michael Thompson '21 was named Mount St. Joseph University's first ever artist-in-residence.



He holds open studio time on campus weekly to work with students and in January-February 2024 held a

solo show entitled The Kool-Aid Wino in the Studio San Giuseppe Art Gallery on MSJ's campus.



ADG Rho Chapter takes home the prize!

Thomas More Alpha Delta Gamma Rho Chapter brought home the 2023 Tri-State Alumni Association Most Outstanding Alumni Chapter Award for the sixth consecutive year. In attendance were (from left): William "Nick" Whalen '05, Brian Hesse (ADG Foundation Director from Rockhurst University), Chris Sapp '95, Aaron Judd '09, Zackary Fries '18, Andy Schoettker '81 (ADG Foundation Vice President), Anthony Medellin (ADG National President from Bellarmine University), and Derrick Cabrera (ADG Foundation President from St. Louis University).



Caroline Trennepohl '21 made a career change to corporate giving specialist at Total Quality Logistics. Previously, Trennepohl was campaign manager at the E.W. Scripps Company.

Sammie Kleier '22 not only started a new job as a high school English teacher at her alma mater, Notre Dame Academy,

but also married Andrew Bezold on Sept. 30, 2023. Congratulations! (see photo under weddings).

Elizabeth Barker '23, a School of Education Master of Arts in Teaching graduate, was awarded the Warm 98.5 Teacher of the Week. Elizabeth is a 5th grade ELA teacher at Villa Madonna Academy. To view Warm 98.5's Facebook video of this honor, visit tmuky.us/barker.

Follow Thomas More Alumni on social media:



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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



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY
CLASS OF 1974

50
year anniversary

CELEBRATING THE 50TH REUNION OF THE CLASS OF 1974

As a member of the class of 1974, mark your calendar to return to campus for Homecoming activities this fall. A 50th Reunion Luncheon is planned specifically to honor you and your classmates (see **page 21** for Homecoming dates).

In addition, we are excited to announce a unique giving opportunity in the form of a 50th Reunion Class Gift. You helped shape Thomas More, help us shape the next 50 years by coming together to make a gift to the Second Century Campaign and cementing your legacy.

We are seeking Class Champions and Donors to honor the Class of 1974 during the Homecoming celebrations this fall. Watch for more information from the Institutional Advancement team and our Lead Class Champion Mary Jo (Volpenhein) McFadden '74! If you are interested in helping, please email advancement@thomasmore.edu or call 859-344-3344.



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

Marilyn (Kroger) Adick '60, Dec. 30, 2023

Janet Berger '71, Sept. 23, 2023

Sister M. Eileen Bertsch '59, July 24, 2023

Jean Carr '79, Oct. 30, 2023

Sister Marylyn Ehrman '63, Nov. 11, 2023

Joseph Grefer '69, Nov. 2, 2023

Jared Halpin '01, DMD, May 5, 2023

George D. Kramer '54, Ph.D., Feb. 10, 2024

Sandra Laney '93, Aug. 1, 2023

James Nelson '76, May 26, 2023

Jennifer (Waldbillig) Pippin '14, Jan. 7, 2023

Richard M. Sacksteder '70, Dec. 16, 2023

Frank Schweitzer '57, Jan. 23, 2023

Thomas Stapleton '63, June 19, 2023

Ronald Turner '75, Sept. 28, 2023

Matthew Wellbrock '20, Nov. 6, 2023

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.





Women's team in competition during the 1974-75 season.

In February 2024, The All Saints Club hosted two Chalk Talk speaker series events in celebration of the men's and women's basketball programs. These events were a follow-up to the Centennial History Series - Athletics Volume which is focused on celebrating the University's success in sports both on an individual and team level. These stories were featured in the online Northern Kentucky Tribune and are now available in book form for Saints supporters to enjoy.

This year represents the 50th anniversary for women's basketball and to acknowledge that milestone Chalk Talk featured Thomas More's first women's basketball coach, David Manning. Manning was a full-time computer science professor at Thomas More when he became the women's basketball coach. With no prior basketball coaching experience and an annual team budget of \$300, Manning outlined the challenges in putting a team together and navigating a practice and game schedule that was always on the road. At the time, the college did not have an on-campus facility.

Manning explained that he purchased a few books that were written by former National Basketball Association greats, including Jerry West, which helped outline some of the fundamentals of the game, helping to make the practices more structured as most of his early teams had no prior playing experience. Other challenges described were showing up for their first game versus Xavier University and learning that their uniforms required numbers to be on the front and back. The Thomas More squad retreated to the locker room in order to add numbers to the front of their jerseys.

The 1982-83 team was the first women's team to benefit from an official athletic budget, 18-team schedule, an assistant coach, and players with prior basketball experience. Despite these

Chalk Talk

presented by



Coach David Manning, women's basketball celebrate 50 years

SUBMITTED BY TOM BRADY, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT FOR ATHLETICS | PHOTOS PROVIDED



improvements, the University did not have a winning season for over a decade. Manning coached for 10 years

and several players from his early teams were in attendance at the Chalk Talk. It was a great history lesson for all who attended, to learn about the early days of the program which is now established as a national powerhouse in basketball.

1982-83 team photo. Back: Coach Dave Manning, Laura Childress, Laura Rogers, Karen Spenlau, Jane Scheper, Coach Tom Silbermagel. Front: Kimi Flynn, Mimi Tagher, Sue Lalley, Krissy Flynn, Tina Filary, Beth Averbek.

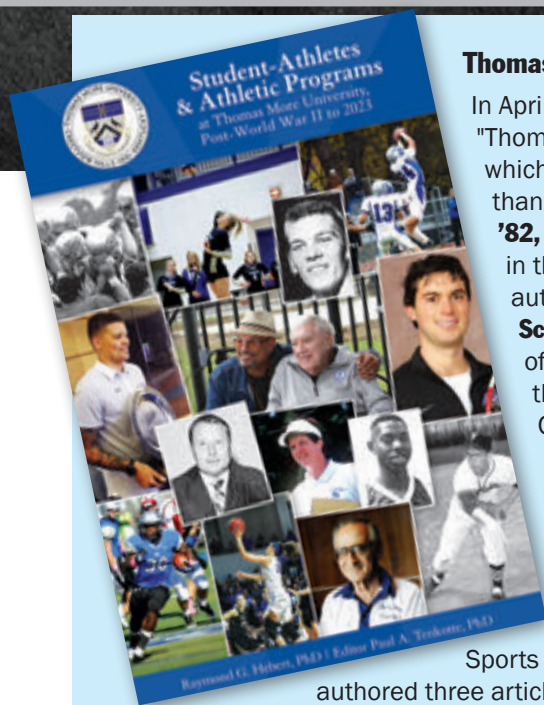
MOREOVER

SUPPORT YOUR SAINTS! Become a member of the

The mission of the All Saints Club is to provide the financial aid and resources necessary to all Thomas More University athletic programs. With your support, students like those highlighted in these pages can compete at the highest levels in their sport and graduate. We can enhance the overall experience for all 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





Thomas More University's centennial history book series - athletics volume

In April 2023, Thomas More University published the Centennial history entitled: "Thomas More University at 100: Purpose, People, and Pathways to Student Success," which includes 95 articles, condensed into 29 chapters in over 320 pages with more than 400 color, glossy photographs. Alumnus and former faculty member **Paul Tenkotte '82, Ph.D.**, was the overall editor who guided the articles through weekly publication in the NKY Tribune. Professor Ray Hebert, Ph.D., was the internal editor and primary author, helped by the then-archivist Thomas Ward and former archivist **David Schroeder '90**. The volume was a success but had one major deficiency – because of page number restraints, the number of articles featuring athletics was limited to three: one about the legendary Coach "Gentleman Jim" Connor, after whom the Convocation Center is named; a second about the women's basketball program because of its national success (three national championships); and the men's basketball program because, in the early years, of its having several of its stars/leaders then playing in the professional ranks with the Cincinnati Royals of the National Basketball Association (NBA).

Now, a parallel volume, featuring Villa Madonna/Thomas More's greatest athletes/teams of distinction, is available. With the help of Tenkotte plus the

Sports Information Office in the Athletic Department (especially Michael Pagano who authored three articles) and Vice President/Director of Athletics **Terry Connor '92**, a companion volume entitled: "Student Athletes and Athletics Programs at Thomas More University: Post-World War II to 2023" brings together an additional 22 articles focused on the growth of intercollegiate sports at the University.

Special thanks to Tom Brady and the All Saints Club for the role they have played in the production and distribution of this compendium and also to Stevie Publishing, Inc. (owned by **Robert Stevie '68**). Copies of both texts can be purchased through The More Store on campus (call 859-344-3335 for hours) or online at tmuky.us/historybooks.

Text-to-give provides new avenue for athletic funding

The All Saints Club, in partnership with Thomas More University athletics, has initiated a text-to-give program to generate scholarship dollars and/or budget-relieving funds for the University's 23 NCAA Division II and eight intercollegiate sports programs. Participating teams organize a designated text-to-give night where student-athletes reach out to family, friends, and other backers to ask for support. Benefactors access the provided link to contribute financial support at various levels. In addition to raising support, these events are great teambuilding opportunities as the Saints continue to celebrate their move to NCAA Division II Athletics.

This partnership is a win/win scenario as athletic teams receive 80% of the proceeds and 20% directly impacts the All Saints Club Annual Fund, providing support for scholarships and other areas of greatest need. Thus far, the text-to-give campaign has generated over \$135,000 with the support of over 2,050 donors to the University. Many of these donors are new to the University and all athletic programs are on pace to complete a text-to-give campaign by May 31.

If you would like to make a contribution through the All Saints Club to support athletic programs and student-athletes, please contact Tom Brady at 859-344-3642 or bradyt@thomasmore.edu.

Nominations now open for Class of 2024 Athletic Hall of Fame

Who do you know that deserves to be included in the Athletic Hall of Fame? This designation honors former student-athletes, coaches, and others closely associated with the University's athletic programs. Inductees to the Hall of Fame show distinctive, unique, or exceptional athletic ability, or have made positive contributions to the athletic programs of the University.

To see who is currently a member of the Hall of Fame, visit tmuky.us/halloffame. To nominate someone for the class of 2024, visit tmuky.us/24nominate. Deadline to nominate is **June 1, 2024**.

The 2024 Hall of Fame ceremony occurs during Homecoming Weekend, September 26-28. Recipients are invited to celebrate their achievements and must attend in person to be an honoree.

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.

Football has Five Earn CSC Academic All-District Honors | tmuky.us/23cscfootball

Women's Volleyball has Three Earn CSC Academic All-District Honors | tmuky.us/23cscwvolleyball

Men's Soccer has Five Earn CSC Academic All-District Team Honors | tmuky.us/23cscmsoccer

Women's Soccer has Four Earn CSC Academic All-District Team Honors | tmuky.us/23cscwsoccer

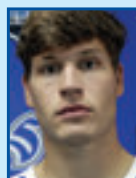
And Still More Good News

Athletic Department Achieves 3.02 GPA During Fall Semester | tmuky.us/23gpa

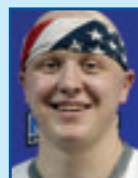
Notable achievements in the Saints record books



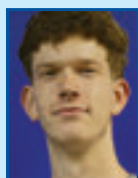
Smith



Jolly



Albers



Lipscomb



Young



Mayer

BASEBALL

Head Coach Jeremy Martin 100 wins

BASKETBALL

women's

Alex Smith 1,000 career points

men's

Reid Jolly 2,000 career points (2nd on University's scoring list)

VOLLEYBALL

men's

Ben Albers Set new Saints record in kills

Caleb Lipscomb Set new Saints record in solo blocks

Connor Young Set new Saints record in assists and aces

WRESTLING

Daulton Mayer Set new Saints records breaking pins/falls and wins

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

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

Follow the Saints on social media #LetsGoSaints



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.

Jack Perdue Named G-MAC Pitcher of the Week | tmuky.us/perdue

Men's Basketball Falls in the G-MAC Tournament Finals To Close Out Their First Season in DII | tmuky.us/gmacconf

Jolly and Dudukovich Earn G-MAC All-Conference Honors (basketball) | tmuky.us/24gmacmbb

Alex Smith Earns G-Mac First Team All-Conference Honors (basketball) | tmuky.us/24gmacsmith

Women's Basketball Wins First G-MAC Tournament Game Against Hillsdale | tmuky.us/24gmacwbb

Men's Wrestling Takes Second at the NCWA GLC Championship and Qualifies 10 for Nationals | tmuky.us/24ncwaglc

Jolly Records Triple Double in Senior Day Win Over ODU | tmuky.us/24jolly

Mayer Named G-MAC Athlete of the Week for a Second Time (wrestling) | tmuky.us/24mayer0219

Chambers Named IVA Defensive Player of the Week (volleyball) | tmuky.us/chambers

Lelli and Moselane Named to NCR All-American Team (rugby) | tmuky.us/24ncraa

Mayer Claims G-MAC Title as the Saints Place 5th at G-MAC Championship (wrestling) | tmuky.us/24gmacwrestling

Mayer Named G-MAC Athlete of the Week (wrestling) | tmuky.us/24mayer0116

Mayer and Moore Earn Spots in Latest National Rankings (wrestling) | tmuky.us/openmat

Reid Jolly Named G-MAC Athlete of the Week (basketball) | tmuky.us/23jolly1211

Arsenault Named Back to Back G-MAC Bowler of the Month | tmuky.us/23arsenault1204

Merritt Earns First G-MAC Bowler of the Month Award | tmuky.us/23merritt1204

Five Saints Earn G-MAC Football Honors, as Brown Wins Co-Freshman of the Year | tmuky.us/23gmacfootball

Ferrando Named G-MAC Defensive Athlete of the Week (volleyball) | tmuky.us/23ferrando1113

Nakhid and Slim Earn G-MAC All-Conference Honors | tmuky.us/23msoccer

Popovic Earns Freshman of the Year as Three Saints Earn All-Conference Honors | tmuky.us/23wsoccer

Elgin Phillips Earns G-MAC Special Teams Athlete of the Week (football) | tmuky.us/phillips

Balthasar Zimmerman Named G-MAC Offensive Athlete of the Week (soccer) | tmuky.us/zimmerman

NCAA DII News

Baseball Secures First Division II Win Against Kentucky State | tmuky.us/24d2baseball

Women's Basketball Ranked 10th in Latest D2CSC Region Poll | tmuky.us/d2csc

Men's Basketball Receives Votes in Latest D2CSC Region Poll | tmuky.us/24d2cscmbb

Saints Pick Up Road Victory Over Southwest Baptist, First DII Win | tmuky.us/23mbball

Women's Basketball Defeats Wisconsin-Parkside for First Division II Win | tmuky.us/23wbbball

And Still More Good News

Host Site Information for Women's and Men's Basketball G-MAC Quarterfinals Against Hillsdale - Thomas More named as one of only two universities to host for both men's and women's first round G-MAC tournament games | tmuky.us/24gmacbbball

Men's Wrestling Competes at the NCWA National Championships; Moore & Thomas National Champions | tmuky.us/24ncwa



MOREOVER [Spring 2024]



SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

Student Athlete - Wrestling

Daulton Mayer

SUBMITTED BY DAVID KLENK '22,
GRADUATE ASSISTANT COMMUNICATIONS
PHOTO PROVIDED

Daulton Mayer is a member of the Saints wrestling team and has experienced tremendous success on the mat at the collegiate level. He currently holds Saints records for wins and breaking pins/falls. He completed the 2023-24 season winning his weight class (285 lb.) in the NCWA GLC Championships which qualified him for Nationals. Moreover caught up with him to talk about his wrestling career and Thomas More experience.

What originally drew you to Thomas More?

DM: It was a collection of a lot of things. I had a couple of family members come to Thomas More. My grandma is an alum and so is my aunt on the other side of my family. I'd say the biggest thing was wrestling. Wrestling opened the door for me to go to college and start figuring out what I want to do. I had a lot of friends, team members already here because Russell (Jason Russell – head wrestling coach) was very good about recruiting Northern Kentucky and lower Cincinnati guys.

What are you studying and what drew you to that path?

DM: I am a secondary education major with a specialization in social studies. I am going to teach high school social studies. My mom is a high school social studies teacher. She taught before she had me and my brother and took a 10-year break to stay home with us. She started teaching again as we shifted to high school. In my senior year, she moved to Walton. I had her a couple times and seeing her in a different type of area, seeing her be a teacher rather than a mom, the passion that she had inspired me. I initially did not come to Thomas More with the idea of being a teacher, I was in business admin at first and accounting, and switched up my mind on that pretty quick. Seeing her, thinking back to that - I had always been told I'd be a good teacher, good leader. After experiencing a couple of classes here, I was ready to be a teacher.

What has your experience been like wrestling at Thomas More?

DM: It has been great. I did not have the most success in high school and did not know what to expect in college. Only about 1% of wrestlers make it in college. It is pretty cool having the success I have had and making lifelong friendships along the way. This year, we really came together as a team. We had a great group of freshmen, a lot of them stuck on throughout the year. It is cool having everybody together throughout the year. Me, Ryan Moore, and Shay Horton (fellow wrestling teammates) especially, it was our last ride together. We have known each other since early middle school/elementary school, we have been wrestling against each other at times, being at different schools. Taking in every moment together and appreciating our last ride together here at Thomas More, before we go our separate ways.

What are your aspirations and plans for the future?

DM: At the moment, I am debating between going straight to work or going on to get a master's degree. The goal is to teach and coach, and potentially move towards administration - become an athletic director as the years progress, but that is in the future.

Thomas and Moore excel at NCWA Championship

In mid-March, the Saints wrestling team had 10 members qualify to compete in the National Collegiate Wrestling Association (NCWA) National Championships. The NCWA is comprised of 162 entities (institutions, conferences, organizations, and individuals) that organize wrestling programs of many colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. Two Saints walked away as national champions at this year's Nationals.

In the 141 lb.-weight class, sophomore Cole Thomas defeated Bruno Alves from Apprentice by a 16-10 decision and in the 149 lb.-weight class, fifth-year Ryan Moore defeated Zac Cowan from Bellarmine by a 7-2 decision. Congratulations to the newest Saints National Champions!



TOP: Cole Thomas in action during the final round of the 141 lb.-weight class Championship. Thomas comes out the champion.
BOTTOM: Ryan Moore performs an excellent move during the 149 lb.-weight class finals to secure his place as champion.

What is your advice for incoming freshmen or students looking to get into wrestling?

DM: I would say get involved in everything you can. I understand we have a lot, as athletes, and it is hard sometimes, but I think it pays a lot to get involved in other school things. Appreciate every moment that you are here, because it goes quick. It is insane to think that I have been in college for four years already. For anybody who wants to get into wrestling, I would say do it. It is hard, but the life lessons and skills that you learn throughout it and some of your lifelong friendships come out of it.

MOREOVER

To hear or read the entire interview, visit tmuky.us/mayer.



Minute Spiritual Break

Provided by Thomas More
University Campus Ministry

SUBMITTED BY BRENT YOUNG
BISHOP ROGER J. FOYS SCHOLAR



Earlier this week Andrew Cole (director of Campus Ministry) asked me to write a short passage for Moreover. I was instantly worried because I don't know what made me qualified to write for Moreover. My first reaction to anything that's scary is to pray about it. So, I prayed. A line from 1st Corinthians came to me: "God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called." Even though I am not much of a writer, I do what I must to be a vessel in God's mission, so here I am now.

If you are anything like I am, you are busy. You are running a million miles a minute and go through the motions to achieve your daily tasks. Personally, I am balancing two jobs, six classes, family, friends, a girlfriend, and extracurriculars. My number one priority, though, is my faith. In the past couple of years, I have struggled with fitting faith into my life. That was the completely wrong way to think about it. I need to fit my life into my faith.

Now that's easier said than done. We all have so many priorities and responsibilities but prayer is a priority. I have some strategies to get my prayer in. The first and very simple one is to pray in my car while I drive. This can be as simple as reciting a Hail Mary or an Our Father. Praying in the car can be peaceful and calming. While praying, I like to listen to worship music.

Sometimes our days are filled with so much that remembering to pray can be difficult. I have alarms set on my phone at certain times in the day to remind me to pray. Easy times to pray are before meals, before and after classes or work meetings, right after I wake up and right before I go to bed. God is listening at all times of the day, so it's up to us to speak to Him.

If you have a free night, I encourage you to join a men's or women's group at your local church. Yes, you are probably tired from your long day, but there's nothing better than being close to God right after a hard day. Being around fellow busy adults can be beneficial as you can share and learn ways to find time to pray and be close to God during the busy week.

Sometimes God will call you to do something that is unexpected. Whether that's being asked to lead a prayer group, to volunteer at a soup kitchen, or, in my case, being asked to be a Confirmation sponsor. Doing something unexpected for God is wonderful. Being a Confirmation sponsor encouraged me to pray more and read more religious texts. You never know when God will call you to do something out of the blue, so always watch out.

I hope by reading this you feel encouraged to pray more and get closer to God and your faith. Life gets busy and none of us will ever be perfect with our devotion to God, but we owe it to God to try our best.

Know a Prospective Student?

Tell us about a prospective student:

Prospective Student Name _____

Phone Number (_____) _____ Email Address _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

High School _____ Student H.S. Graduation Year _____

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

Interests/Desired Major _____

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

Phone Number (_____) _____ Email Address _____

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



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

Make It **More.**

Office of Institutional Advancement

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Crestview Hills, KY 41017-3495

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