

SPRING 2026

MOREOVER

Thomas More University





Students enjoyed giving back as part of Saints Serve, a University tradition that unites community through service and connection.



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

Make It **More.**



This time of year gives us the opportunity to reflect on and reaffirm our commitment to service and stewardship. At Thomas More, we are *Called to Serve*, a calling woven into the fabric of who we are and in our mission to challenge students of all faiths to examine the ultimate meaning of life, their place in the world, and their responsibility to others. From Team IMPACT to our Career Closet, Compassion Pantry, Saints Serve program, and annual Women's Conference, we're dedicated to making a difference in the lives of others.

This spirit of growth is also reflected in the tremendous success of our Second Century Campaign: *It's Time for More*. Thanks to our donors' generosity, Thomas More is already enhancing our students' experience, improving our campus, and expanding opportunities, now and in the future.

Spring also brings about commencement, one of the most meaningful milestones of the year. I am continually inspired by our students and am proud of what they have achieved during their time at Thomas More. We look forward to honoring them alongside their families and friends on May 16, confident they are prepared to lead with integrity, compassion, and responsibility to others.

Growth also means adapting to an ever-changing world. Emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, are reshaping how we live, learn, and work. Guided by the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, we are committed to engaging these tools ethically, thoughtfully, and strategically while honoring our Catholic faith, morals, and values. Our academic leaders are taking part in national and global conversations focusing on how to responsibly integrate these tools into different disciplines, now and in the future. In doing so, Thomas More is positioned to offer meaningful thought leadership by advancing new ideas and insights at the intersection of faith, ethics, morality, innovation, and technology in service of the greater good.

This year I've also continued collaborating with fellow higher education leaders across our region. Together, we are considering how institutions must evolve to meet the changing needs of both students and employers. From attracting and retaining talent to preparing graduates for their careers, our focus is on our students' transformation as they embark on their next chapter.

As always, thank you for being an integral part of what makes Thomas More unique. Together, we are building something enduring, and we would not be here without you.

God bless, and go Saints!

Joseph L. Chillo, L.P.D.
President, Thomas More University

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MOREOVER

SPRING 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 03 Vatican Visions**
by John D. (Jack) Rudnick, Jr., Ed.D.
- 06 "More To the Story"**
by Kristen Gallagher
- 10 Saints Serve**
by Kristen Gallagher
- 12 Compassion Pantry**
by Libby Esterle
- 18 Homecoming**
by Libby Esterle
- 26 Alumna Training Takes Flight**
by Libby Esterle
- 34 Team Impact**
by Libby Esterle

SECTIONS

10 Campus/Student News
14 Faculty/Staff Note
18 Alumni News
24 Class Notes
28 Giving Back
34 Athletics



Vatican Visions: Faith Fueled AI Hackathons and Forums Ignite Catholic Higher Education

SUBMITTED BY JOHN D. (JACK) RUDNICK, JR., ED.D.,
PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF THE MBA PROGRAM

In early Nov. 2025, I had the privilege of being selected as one of 50 global higher education faculty members to attend a series of meetings in Rome at the Vatican. The sequence of experiences offered incredible insights into how faith, ethics, morality, and technology are combining to emerge as a powerful tool through which this convergence is helping to evangelize our Catholic faith.

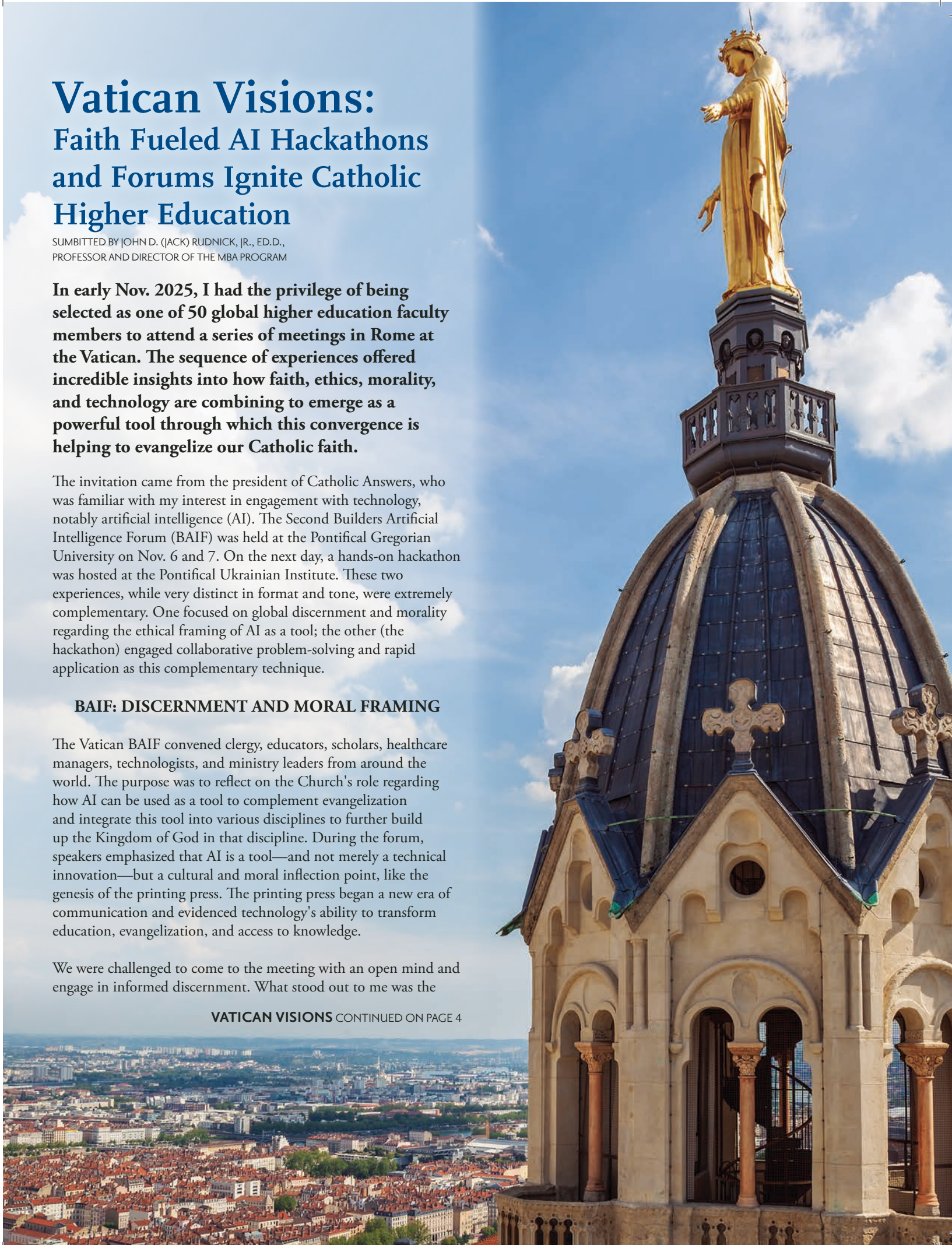
The invitation came from the president of Catholic Answers, who was familiar with my interest in engagement with technology, notably artificial intelligence (AI). The Second Builders Artificial Intelligence Forum (BAIF) was held at the Pontifical Gregorian University on Nov. 6 and 7. On the next day, a hands-on hackathon was hosted at the Pontifical Ukrainian Institute. These two experiences, while very distinct in format and tone, were extremely complementary. One focused on global discernment and morality regarding the ethical framing of AI as a tool; the other (the hackathon) engaged collaborative problem-solving and rapid application as this complementary technique.

BAIF: DISCERNMENT AND MORAL FRAMING

The Vatican BAIF convened clergy, educators, scholars, healthcare managers, technologists, and ministry leaders from around the world. The purpose was to reflect on the Church's role regarding how AI can be used as a tool to complement evangelization and integrate this tool into various disciplines to further build up the Kingdom of God in that discipline. During the forum, speakers emphasized that AI is a tool—and not merely a technical innovation—but a cultural and moral inflection point, like the genesis of the printing press. The printing press began a new era of communication and evidenced technology's ability to transform education, evangelization, and access to knowledge.

We were challenged to come to the meeting with an open mind and engage in informed discernment. What stood out to me was the

VATICAN VISIONS CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



paradoxical synthesis of technology and faith to create innovation in Catholic anthropology. The dignity of the human person and the relational nature of learning and ministry are foundational to our Catholic faith. Matthew Harvey Sanders, founder of Longbeard Incorporated and forum founder, stressed that AI must always complement human judgment, pastoral encounter, and moral agency. It can never be a substitute.

The conversations were intentionally broad, reflective, and forward-looking. Education, healthcare, evangelization, and pastoral ministry were the main areas of focus. Discussions highlighted the responsibility of Catholic institutions to model ethical leadership rather than respond reactively to cultural change. Formation emerged as a central theme. Prohibition is not a realistic response as the technology is here, and there is a need to embrace this tool for the purpose of educating students, parents, teachers, clergy, members, and parish administrators.

This segment of the meeting concluded with the establishment of work groups in healthcare, evangelization, and education to set moral guidelines and parameters for responsible, transparent, and ethical uses.

THE HACKATHON: COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION IN ACTION

Hackathons are not what I envisioned. My initial impression was that it was ethical hacking. Rather, it is an intensive time-bound event where individuals form teams of various sizes (ranging from one to 10), identify a problem, and through a methodical process rapidly design a prototype solution. These solutions typically are rooted in coding, data analysis, and application of digital tools. While hackathons are common in the technology sector, it was incredibly interesting to see the application of this in the context of Vatican activity and work toward faith-informed content. This was energizing.

The tone of the day was collaborative versus competitive. Teams came together organically around shared interests, and conversations flowed organically and naturally across these disciplines. The focus was not on producing polished products but rather brainstorming, creating ideas, iterating rapidly, and conjecturing how technology could address real human issues. Several insights emerged that are relevant to Catholic higher education:

- Hackathons lower barriers to participation and foster inclusiveness. One did not need to be an expert coder to contribute meaningfully. (I had a different role that contributed to the process by helping all to keep a project scope focus). This collaborative decision-making process aligns nicely with a focus on formation of the whole person as well as integrating ways of knowing. In addition, there is an emphasis on aligning activities and outcomes to Catholic social teaching tenets.
- The hackathon model fosters community. Working closely on a shared challenge with colleagues created relationships quickly, and relationships were rooted in a shared effort. Typically, technology can lead to isolation relative to innovation and dismiss human connections.



Disclaimer: This reflection was polished and refined with the assistance of Magisterium AI (www.magisterium.com), a Catholic AI tool built by Longbeard to provide accurate, cited answers grounded in the Church's magisterial teachings, scholarly resources, and tradition. It synthesizes authoritative Catholic documents to ensure fidelity to the faith while preserving the author's original voice and insights. The views and personal experiences expressed are those of the author alone and do not constitute official Church teaching.

- One of my takeaways is that intentionally targeting digital innovations through structured brainstorming can strengthen human connections while simultaneously producing solutions to a problem.
- Ethical reflection and a focus on the morality of technology and human values can coexist. Questions about data use, bias, human oversight, transparency, intended consequences, and unintended consequences were purposely integrated into the design process of the hackathon. The presence of clergy, coders, ethicists, and technologists together reinforces that moral discernment around technology can take place inside innovation, not outside of it.

Lastly, the hackathon offered a concrete response to Pope Leo XIV's charge at the beginning of the Builders Forum. Rather than being concerned about the risks of technology, the event invited participants to engage in responsible, creative, reflective technology applications. In doing this, the process transformed apprehension of technology into agency and human control.

REFLECTION: CHARTING A PATH FOR THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY

For me, the Vatican forum and hackathon opened new ideas into how Thomas More University can become a thought leader and approach innovation in a mission-oriented manner. We often speak about experiential learning and interdisciplinary collaboration as well as ethical leadership. The hackathon model has the potential to bring these elements together into a single workable model.

Hackathons are not limited to computer science or engineering, as was demonstrated in Rome. These events can be applied to education, healthcare challenges, business process improvement, parish ministry, and educational design. This process aligns nicely with the Thomas More University's Catholic mission and demonstrates an ability to integrate faith, reason, and action into solving real-world problems.

Hackathons align nicely with workforce readiness. One of the responsibilities of an education at Thomas More University among faculty members is to prepare workforce-ready student graduates. This is another tool in the "quiver of opportunities" to contribute to problem-solving. A faith-informed hackathon can produce practical outcomes simultaneously aligned with a moral framework—a differentiating factor of Catholic higher education.

This trip confirmed that technology and thoughtful engagement—written in hope, responsibility, and trust—are not mutually exclusive. The activities suggest that Thomas More is well positioned to become a thought leader by being intentional about advancing technology toward the common good. Blending ethical discernment with experiential learning models, like hackathons and real-world internships and co-ops, helps students and educators to not only understand how to use technology but to use it wisely, virtuously, and in the service of others. The journey to Rome was not an endpoint but an invitation that I look forward to exploring with colleagues, community members, board members, and partners in the months ahead.



St. Carlo Acutis

"If we get in front of the sun, we get sun tans, but when we get in front of Jesus in the Eucharist, we become Saints."

- St. Carlo Acutis

SUBMITTED BY AMBER KONERMAN '23, ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

St. Carlo Acutis was just like any other kid growing up in the early 2000s in Italy. He enjoyed watching action movies, playing football, Pokémon, and playing video games. At age 14, St. Carlo created his own website for the biggest interest of his life, the Holy Eucharist.

St. Carlo was born on May 3, 1991, to Andrea Acutis, his father, and Antonia Salzano, his mother, in London, England. A couple months after the birth of St. Carlo, the family moved to Milan, Italy. St. Carlo's love for the Holy Eucharist began at a very young age. He could not pass by a church without going in and saying "hi" to Jesus. When he was seven years old, St. Carlo received his First Holy Communion per his request. Because his love for the Eucharist was so strong, St. Carlo's mother returned to the Catholic faith. His father did the same shortly after.

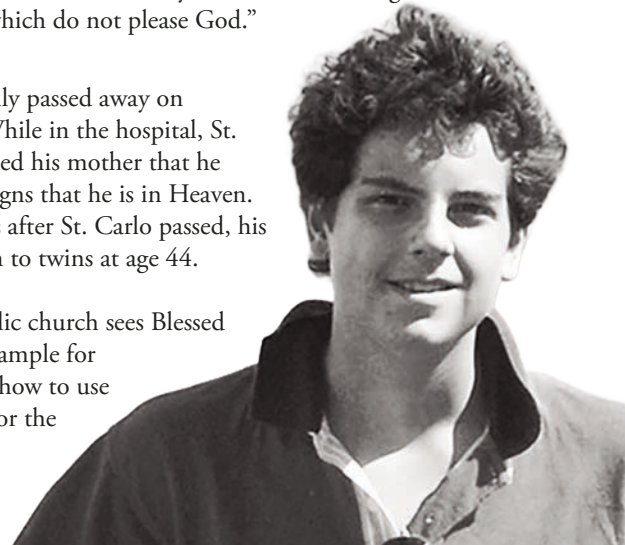
St. Carlo called the Holy Eucharist his "highway to Heaven." His reverence for the Body of Christ was exceptional. He found Eucharistic miracles specifically interesting. As he and his parents traveled the world, St. Carlo documented the Miracles to the website that he created. By age 14, he created a Eucharistic Miracles display that would tour the world accompanied by his website.

As St. Carlo grew up, his love for God and the Eucharist was strong. He believed that if people came to know the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, they would turn to God. Throughout his teenage years, St. Carlo became a catechist so he could help spread the word of God.

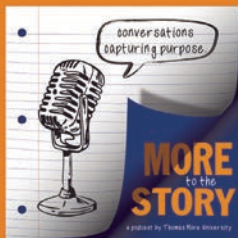
At age 15, St. Carlo fell ill and was diagnosed with leukemia. With only days to live, St. Carlo offered up his suffering for the Pope, the Church, and his direct entry into Heaven as he had a fear of purgatory. St. Carlo took his inevitable death with grace saying, "I am happy to die...I have lived my life without wasting a minute on those things which do not please God."

St. Carlo peacefully passed away on Oct. 12, 2006. While in the hospital, St. Carlo had promised his mother that he would send her signs that he is in Heaven. Exactly four years after St. Carlo passed, his mother gave birth to twins at age 44.

Today, the Catholic church sees Blessed St. Carlo as an example for young people on how to use gifts and talents for the glory of God.



To learn more about the St. Carlo Acutis portrait by renowned artist Holly Schapker, please see page 9.



More to the Story

Thomas More University

6:12



- 4:88

"MORE TO THE STORY" invites listeners into meaningful conversations that inspire connection, celebrate achievements, and prompt reflection on how they're pursuing purpose in their everyday lives.

Sharing the authentic stories of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the University, the podcast is hosted by **Michael Weller '27**, who brings a thoughtful student perspective to each conversation.

The first four episodes center on the theme of momentum. Listeners will meet four individuals who are moving the University community forward in meaningful ways.

- **Episode 1:** *Building Bonds and Brotherhood* with Brent Young '27
- **Episode 2:** *Leading through Service* with Ethan Ruschman '26
- **Episode 3:** *Championing Student Success* with Dr. Cate Sherron
- **Episode 4:** *Strength in Community* with Jeramie Connor '13/'21

Listen in 10–20 minutes—
between classes or on the go.

Listen to More to the Story now on Spotify and YouTube.



Have a story, passion, or perspective that's moving our campus forward?

We'd love to share it. Reach out and be part of "More to the Story" at Thomas More University.

Apply at: tmuky.us/podcast or scan the QR code.



MEET YOUR HOST



Michael Weller '27

Michael Weller '27 is a junior Sports and Entertainment Marketing major with minors in Communications and Business Administration. Alongside hosting the "More to the Story" podcast, he competes on the Men's Track and Field team in shot put, discus, hammer throw, and weight throw. He serves as Vice President of Alpha Delta Gamma (Rho Chapter), provides play-by-play commentary for the University's athletics, is a Bishop Foy's Scholar, and is Editor-in-Chief of *The More You Know*, Thomas More's student-led online newspaper.

Michael has enjoyed hosting the podcast as a new yet familiar experience. "I really like getting to know new people on campus and sharing their stories."

One of his favorite moments came during an episode with Dean of Students Jeramie Connor: "It's exciting to see how invested the administration is in making this place better and giving students a unique, meaningful experience."

MEET YOUR PRODUCER



Kendra Yurt '24/'26

Kendra Yurt '24/'26 is the producer of "More to the Story." Working closely with host Michael, she is responsible for creating content, scheduling the guests, brand design, and editing the final product. She was a member of the Thomas More Women's Lacrosse team while she earned her BA degree in Criminal Justice. She will graduate this May with her Master's degree in Public Health from Thomas More and is thrilled to be a Graduate Assistant on the Marketing and Communications Team.

BRENT YOUNG

In the debut episode of "More to the Story" host Michael Weller talked with junior Brent Young about leadership, purpose, and finding his path in accounting.

Brent shared his journey from exploring a medical career to earning Accounting Student of the Year, discussed revitalizing Alpha Delta Gamma through service and brotherhood, and reflected on how faith, community, and ambition are shaping his legacy on campus.



E1: Building Bonds and Brotherhood

More to the Story



ETHAN RUSCHMAN

In this episode of "More to the Story" host Michael Weller sat down with senior psychology major Ethan Ruschman and discussed faith-driven service and leadership on campus.

Ethan shared how his Catholic upbringing shapes his work in campus ministry, Alpha Delta Gamma, and the Saint Serve Committee, including launching a second annual day of service and organizing major fundraisers, while also reflecting on his plans to pursue a doctorate in occupational therapy and continue serving communities beyond graduation.



E2: Leading through Service

More to the Story



DR. CATE SHERRON

In this episode of "More to the Story" host Michael Weller invited Dr. Sherron, chair of the Department of Philosophy, Political Science and Economics, to talk about the intersection of ethics, athletics, and student leadership.

Dr. Sherron shared insights from her role as Faculty Athletics Representative during the university's transition to NCAA Division II, her academic work in biomedical ethics and death and dying, and her leadership of the James Graham Brown Scholars Program. Listeners heard how she supports student-athletes, mentors high-achieving scholars, and fosters a campus culture rooted in intellectual growth, service, and meaningful community engagement.



E3: Championing Student Success

More to the Story



JERAMIE CONNOR

In this episode of "More to the Story" host Michael Weller spoke with Dean of Students Jeramie Connor about leadership, mentorship, and building a stronger campus community.

Drawing from his experience in the U.S. Marine Corps and the FBI, Connor shared how a mission-focused mindset shapes his approach to student success, including launching a new peer mentorship program within First Year Experience courses. He discussed expanding student engagement through clubs and campus events, increasing visibility and accessibility, and fostering a culture where students are encouraged to fully invest in the Thomas More experience—and in turn, see it give back to them.



E4: Strength in Community

More to the Story





CENTER FOR
FAITH, MISSION, &
CATHOLIC EDUCATION
at THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY

Fostering Fellowship and Community Connections

The mission of the Center for Faith, Mission, and Catholic Education (CFMCE) 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—both on campus and in the wider community. The CFMCE hosted a dynamic slate of panels, lectures, film screenings, and other interactive events throughout the fall, bringing this mission to life.

The CFMCE's first event of the 2025-26 academic year was "A Heart of Service," a presentation by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow held on Sept. 11. MacFarlane-Barrow, founder of Mary's Meals, returned to campus for this event just as his nonprofit reached an extraordinary milestone—feeding three million children every

school day across 16 countries. MacFarlane-Barrow demonstrated how small acts of love, by anyone, can create profound change.

This event was followed in Oct. by a visit from renowned artist Holly Schapker. Members of the Thomas More University community gathered in prayer as Schapker's portrait of St. Carlo Acutis was installed and dedicated on the second floor of the Academic Center. After the dedication, Schapker gave an inspiring presentation about the creation of the portrait and her once-in-a-lifetime visit to the Vatican in Sept. for the canonization of St. Carlo Acutis and St. Pier Giorgio Frassati. A screening of "Roadmap to Reality," a film that offers a reflection on the life and message of St. Carlo Acutis for modern youth and young adults, followed Schapker's presentation.

Another film screening was held in Nov., in tandem with Veterans' Day. "Fighting Spirit," presented by the Angelico Project, honors combat chaplains as unsung heroes who bring courage and comfort to the front lines and highlights Servant of God Emil Kapaun, who bravely served as an Army chaplain during the Korean War. Following the film screening, Scott Carte, who is leading the cause for Fr. Kapaun's canonization, led a Q&A session, and Fr. Ray Enzweiler, Ph.D., gave a blessing to all veterans and active-duty military personnel.

“Having this portrait at Thomas More University is more than just art—it's an invitation for students to reflect on faith, purpose, and the impact one person can make when they live their life with love and conviction.”

— Holly Schapker



Msgr. William Cleves, President Emeritus, Ray Hebert, Ph.D. Dean Emeritus,
President Joseph L. Chillo, LPD, Joan Robinson, Rabbi David Saperstein, and David A. Armstrong, JD



The Neltner Family, Holly Schapker, and President Joseph L. Chillo, LPD., attend a ceremonial unveiling of the new St. Carlo Acutis portrait.

The final event of 2025 was presented by Wm. . . (Bill) Robinson III '67 Institute for Religious Liberty (IRL), which is a part of the CFMCE. The IRL hosted its keynote event on Nov. 19, honoring the 10 years since its founding and celebrating its mission to advance the American concept of religious freedom as an inalienable right. This special anniversary event featured Rabbi David Saperstein, the former U.S. Ambassador for International Religious Freedom and the first guest speaker for the IRL a decade ago, together with Monsignor William Cleves in conversation about the present condition of religious freedom both domestically and around the world.

“It is wonderful to see, and to share with our students, how faith in Christ touches every aspect of reality—from politics to world hunger, to art and beauty, to our use of technology,” says Hannah Keegan, director of the CFMCE. “I am excited to continue this event series to try and keep shedding light on the fact of Christ alive in our midst, inviting us to live in the world in whatever way we are called with a new horizon.”

“It is wonderful to see, and to share with our students, how faith in Christ touches every aspect of reality.”

– Hannah Keegan

Two additional events affiliated with the CFMCE were presented by the Angelico Project. On Feb. 26, Ziegler Auditorium hosted “The Way of Beauty: Seeking God through Art and Music,” featuring David Clayton. Creator of “The Way of Beauty,” Clayton shared a powerful vision for spiritual and artistic renewal.

On Mar. 26 a panel on civic engagement entitled: “Humble Conviction: True Engagement in a Polarized World” featuring Justin Giboney and Fr. Aaron Wessman. Giboney is a founder of the AND Campaign, dedicated to educating and organizing Christians for civic and cultural engagement, and Fr. Wessman is the director of Glenmary Home Missionaries. Their contributions focus on what Christian engagement looks like in this polarized world and

what it means to be called to serve and work for the common good. Rounding out early spring events was a presentation on Apr. 23 by author and poet Sally Read “Poetry: The Language of God,” highlighting poetry as a pathway to God, based on her own experiences.

For more information about the CFMCE, upcoming events, and ways to get involved, please visit the Center’s web page at tmuky.us/cfmce.



"To the Heights!"

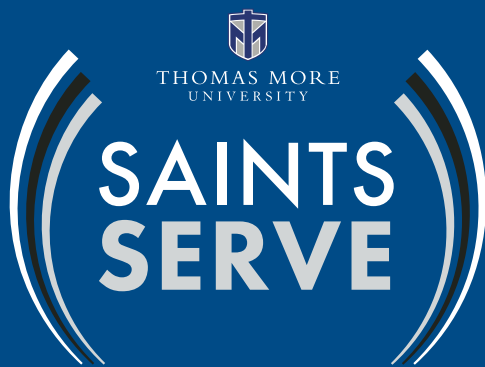
Thomas More Students Join Thousands at SEEK26 Conference

Thirty students from Thomas More University recently attended “SEEK26”—a national conference organized by FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). This year, Thomas More students journeyed to Columbus, OH alongside thousands of their peers to “encounter Christ through prayer, adoration, the sacraments” and a lineup of inspiring speakers.

The theme of the conference was “To the Heights,” a mantra of the recently-canonized St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, who has become a global patron for youth and young adults. In addition to the conference events in Columbus, simultaneous conferences were also organized in Colorado and Texas.

Popular sessions included Fr. Mike Schmitz, a Roman Catholic priest widely known for his podcast “The Bible in a Year,” as well as Matt Fradd, host of the “Pints with Aquinas” podcast, among others.





SAINTS SERVE: UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY JOINS HANDS FOR 5TH ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE

SUBMITTED BY KRISTEN GALLAGHER

On Oct. 14, 2025, Thomas More University celebrated its fifth Saints Serve Day—a tradition that unites the University community through service and connection. More than 1,100 Thomas More students, faculty, staff, and alumni volunteered at 50+ community nonprofits and civic organizations across Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. Normal campus activities were suspended so all traditional students could engage in a service project organized by the University.

Service to the community has always been crucial to Thomas More's mission as a Catholic liberal arts university. In 2021, President Chillo founded Saints Serve as an affirmation of this commitment as the University celebrated its Centennial anniversary. "Saints Serve is an expression of our Catholic mission and our dedication to forming ethical leaders who serve the common good," President Chillo says. "Each year, I'm inspired by the energy and compassion our students, faculty, staff, and alumni bring to our community through Saints Serve, and it's meaningful to see this initiative grow over the past five years."

SAINTS SERVE THROUGH THE YEARS

Since its introduction in 2021, Saints Serve has expanded from serving 42 organizations in its first year to 60 in 2025. In total, volunteers have carried out over 13,578 hours of service to the community. Additionally, over 81% of the student body has participated in Saints Serve each year, electing to a "day on, rather than a day off" following midterms and fall break.

Over a dozen organizations have hosted Saints Serve volunteers each year, including: Be Concerned, Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery, Brighton Center, City of Crestview Hills, Emergency Shelter of NKY, Empower Youth, Freestore Foodbank, Go Pantry, Master Provisions, Matthew 25 Ministries, ORSANCO, Parish Kitchen, Project Linus, Sisters of Divine Providence, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and Wasson Way Trails.



THE IMPACT OF SERVICE

Over the years, Saints Serve experiences have inspired students to return to the organizations where they volunteered. One example is Alyssa Freihofer '28, who has become a regular volunteer at the Holy Family Home, a retirement and care center for the Congregation of Divine Providence, after she first visited through Saints Serve in 2024.

"When I volunteered with the Sisters of Divine Providence for Saints Serve last fall, I felt a great sense of peace. I decided that God was directing me to continue working there as a volunteer," Freihofer says. She and another student now visit and play cards with the Sisters weekly.

This year, Saints Serve volunteers also played a role in grant-funded projects at two partner organizations. At Best Point Education & Behavioral Health, Thomas More volunteers helped clear the way for the installation of a new sensory garden. Once completed, this garden will be a therapeutic and educational resource for children who face emotional, behavioral, or learning challenges.

Another grant-funded project is taking shape in Elsmere, KY. With the help of a grant from the Kentucky Division of Forestry,



the Kenton County Conservation District (KCCD) is restoring property adjacent to Howell Elementary and will soon plant native trees and shrubs and install new walking trails there. During Saints Serve, volunteers from Thomas More helped with the early phase of this project by removing invasive plant species.

“When I volunteered with the Sisters of Divine Providence for Saints Serve last fall, I felt a great sense of peace. I decided that God was directing me to continue working there as a volunteer.”

– Alyssa Freihofer

EXPANDING SAINTS SERVE

During the opening convocation for the 2025–26 academic year, President Chillo announced that, as Thomas More marks its fifth year of Saints Serve, the initiative would expand to include a Saints Serve day in the spring. The inaugural spring event took place Apr. 21, 2026, further strengthening the University’s commitment to serving the surrounding community.

“I’m grateful for everyone who made Saints Serve 2026 a successful event and look forward to continuing to find new ways to build meaningful connections with our community,” says Dr. Kelly French, vice president for strategy and impact and chief of staff. “Saints Serve is a powerful reminder that impact begins with showing up for each other and for ourselves.”

The next Saints Serve will take place Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026. Organizations interested in becoming a partner site can learn more at tmuky.us/serve or by scanning the QR code.



FOOD PANTRY



Compassion Pantry receives \$10k grant as momentum grows in the fight against food insecurity

Thomas More's Resource & Support Coalition (RSC) recently applied for, and received, a \$10,000 grant from ADM Cares to help reduce food insecurity on campus. ADM Cares is the charitable arm of Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), a global company specializing in food and nutrition processing in Erlanger, KY.

The grant will help boost efforts at the Compassion Pantry, the student-led food pantry that provides students with access to food and personal hygiene supplies. According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, an estimated 23% of college students nationwide, or 3.8 million, experienced food insecurity in 2020, the most recent year for which data was available.

A majority of students said they've skipped meals or ate less than they should because they simply could not afford food. The Government Accountability Office also found that fewer than two in five food-insecure students met the criteria for potentially being eligible for benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as food stamps. To help address these issues, the Monsignor Cleves University Honors Program launched the Compassion Pantry in the 2021-22 academic year. More recently, the James Graham Brown Scholars (JBGS) have been maintaining and expanding the pantry's capacity while the RSC, led by faculty and staff, has been managing the ADM Care grant and recent improvements to the pantry.

"With this grant, we aim to provide roughly 4,750 meals," said Emilee Huser, RSC chair and career planning coordinator. "We also want to create shelf stable meal kits that can feed the student and also serve as a meal for their family."

So far, the RSC has been able to:

- Double the pantry space and reorganize storage, providing more space for donations
- Invest in high quality food storage bins
- Purchase a new freezer
- Create shelf-stable meal kits for students, including vegan meals and snacks as well as options like:
 - Taco Night
 - Mashed Potato Bowls
 - Cincinnati Chili Night

Each meal kit includes vegetable options, seasonings, and a side item.

"Food insecurity often goes unaddressed," said Noah Francis '26, Compassion Pantry co-director. "It can affect everything from athletic performance to classwork, so we are working hard to increase our pantry's capacity, and we're excited to see how it can grow and improve in the future. We also hope to develop an electronic-tracking inventory system and identify specific food needs our students may have, so we can be more focused and efficient."

Beginning in the fall of 2023 academic year, all traditional Thomas More undergraduate students were automatically enrolled in an all-access dining plan, part of the Saints Essentials program. By providing access to the dining hall, and one meal swipe per day at the other campus café locations, food insecurity is reduced, but there are some students who still struggle.

"Sometimes students are juggling classes, work, and sports and their schedules don't align with the hours food services are open," Huser explained. "In addition, international students and student athletes often stay on campus during summer and holiday breaks when on-campus dining services are closed. However, with this grant we are hoping to increase the number of meals provided to 1,500 during the school year and 3,250 meals in the summer."

To learn more, check out Instagram, @tmucompassionpantry. To donate, please visit tmuky.us/pantrygift. You can also visit the Amazon Wishlist to see what items are needed for the Compassion Pantry.

ADM EMPLOYEE ALUMNI

Donald Berberich, Jr. '94	Michael Otterman '19
Shannon Culp '99 / '22	Hrusto Selimovic '19
Melissa Strange '01	Bobby Meredith '20
Charles Zimmer '11, Ph.D.	Erin Fannon '21
Kara Moore '14	Robert Bagadion '22
Angela Snow '15	Mason Hill '24
Bradley Greenwell '15	

RSC MEMBERS

Emilee Huser	Josh Ostertag '20
Kelsey Wicher	Julen van Egmond '25 (student rep)
Ashley Hall '25	Kim Patton
Anna Kowalok	Kourtney Hamm '24 (student rep)
Cate Sherron, Ph.D.	Amber Konerman '23
Sara Swan	Stephanie Burnside '24



Do you know a Thomas More student or recent graduate preparing for an internship, interview, networking event, or other career opportunity who may need professional attire? If so, our Career Closet is here to help.

Thanks to the generosity of our dedicated alumni, parents, and friends of the University, Thomas More's Career Closet provides students and recent graduates with access to free professional clothing as they begin their career journeys.

From suits and shoes to accessories, our Career Closet helps students and recent graduates look polished and feel confident as they pursue internships, interviews, and their first professional roles.

We invite our alumni, parents, and friends to help keep this valuable resource available by donating gently used professional clothing and accessories. As always, we appreciate your support!

To learn more about the Career Closet or to donate items, please contact our Coordinator of Career Planning, Emilee Huser, at huser@thomasmore.edu.



FACULTY & STAFF

Notes

ROBERT W. PLASTER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



Rudnick

John D. (Jack) Rudnick Jr., Ed.D.,

professor and director of the MBA program, served as a content peer reviewer for three scholarly publications: *New England Journal of Medicine Catalyst*, which focuses on innovations in care delivery, *International Journal of Leadership Studies*, published by the University of Richmond Jepson School of Leadership Studies, and the *Academia Global and Public Health Journal*, focusing on the promotion of health, disease prevention, and outcomes across various populations and regions.

In Oct. 2025, Dr. Rudnick joined colleagues from Georgia (USA) and Croatia at the 27th International Leadership Association (ILA) conference in Prague, Czech Republic to present a scholarly paper titled "Context and Decision-Making Drive AI Companionship as a Crisis Consultation Tool."

In Nov. 2025, he represented Thomas More as a delegate to the Vatican Builders AI Builders Forum in Rome, Italy. This intensive, two-day forum examined the urgent need for guidance and ethical guardrails amid the rapid global expansion of artificial intelligence across industries. The gathering focused on how AI can be responsibly synthesized in ways that reflect the Church's values, mission, identity and enduring commitment to human dignity.

Additionally, Dr. Rudnick supported a seven-hour global hackathon in Rome. Involving 25 participants, this activity included priests, deacons, software developers, information technology students, and higher-education faculty—addressing challenges related to AI in higher education, healthcare, and evangelization. Read more on page 3.

Dr. Rudnick collaborated with Thomas More University Master of Public Health student, Kevin Kapuku, to direct student-faculty research with the publication "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Process Improvement (PI) Emerge to Mitigate Risk: A Literature Review on Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Worker Safety" in a special issue on health through the University of Negev (Beersheba, Israel) in the *Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*. He also published an invited editorial in the *Annals of Clinical and Medical Case Reports* entitled "The Other Pandemic: Financial Abuse of Older Adults in The Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI)".

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



Campbell

Shane Campbell, Ph.D.,

assistant professor for the School of Education, successfully defended his dissertation—*Empowering Future Educators: Exploring Preservice Elementary Teachers' Self Efficacy with Integrated STEM Experiences in a Science Methods Course*—earning his Doctor of Philosophy in STEM Education.



Enzweiler

Fr. Ray Enzweiler, Ph.D., dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and John D. (Jack) Rudnick Jr., Ed.D.,

professor and director of the MBA program, presented their paper, "Reclaim Humanism: AI and Catholic Studies for 21st Century Andragogy," and, along with assistant professor of theology Caitlin Dwyer, represented Thomas More University at the National Meeting for Catholic Studies at Providence College in Providence, RI.



Garriga

Maria C. Garriga, Ph.D., professor of foreign languages, spoke to the Northern Kentucky Tribune about her professional journey as a certified health and wellness coordinator. "Conflicting health advice and misinformation

leave many people confused about what actions will truly improve their well-being; and research shows that 80% of people who attempt lifestyle changes without support revert to old habits within months," Dr. Garriga told the online paper.



Oldfield

Steve Oldfield, M.A., assistant Professor of Creative Media: Art, Communication, Music, and Theatre curated an art exhibit featuring an expanded collection of paintings by Kentucky-born artist, Jim Hall at 8 North

Center for the Arts. The art exhibit, *Lineillism Revealed: The Vertical Visions of Jim Hall*, was open Jan. 30 - Feb. 7 and showcased the artist's impressionistic painting style using all straight and vertical lines with most pieces

featuring more than 100,000 tiny lines.



Robinson

Malcolm Robinson, Ph.D., professor of economics, was featured as a subject matter expert in two recent articles published by WalletHub, a personal finance company dedicated to empowering consumers to lead financially healthy lives. Dr. Robinson weighed in on two topics, including “Points on Driver’s License,” and “Best No Annual Fee Credit Cards.” He was also featured in another one of WalletHub’s article on Budget Percentages.

ST. ELIZABETH COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES



Hinkel

Austin Hinkel, Ph.D., assistant professor of mathematics and physics and director of the Thomas More Observatory, recently had an article accepted for publication in The Physics Teacher, a peer-reviewed academic journal published by the American Association of Physics Teachers. The article shares an assignment Hinkel developed to engage students by integrating NASA’s Planetary Defense concepts into astronomy lessons using a Kaggle-based Python simulation. The interactive activity allows students to model asteroid orbits, detect potential Earth collisions, and visualize Kepler’s laws via animations from the simulation, fostering both conceptual understanding and ethical reflection on real-world applications.



Lorentz

Chris Lorentz, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences and director of the Biology Field Station, served as moderator for a panel discussion at the 49th annual Governor’s Conference on Energy and Environment. Dr. Lorentz, who is chair of the Ohio River Basin Alliance (ORBA), led a discussion about the restoration and protection plan for the Ohio River Basin. Dr. Lorentz and the ORBA board are working with Congressional representatives from Kentucky and Indiana on a multi-year, multimillion-dollar initiative to bring federal investments to the region to ensure healthy waters, economies, and communities for generations to come.



Spangler

Lisa Spangler, RN, Ph.D., department chair of the School of Nursing, was recognized as a finalist for the 2025 Lifetime Achievement in Nursing Award by Mount St. Joseph University. Dr. Spangler and colleagues celebrated her nomination at the Leader-

ship in Nursing awards, held on Oct. 22nd, honoring exceptional nurse leaders who inspire through compassion, innovation, and dedication.



Smith

Harold J. Smith, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the department of mathematics and physics, and Tyler L. Beaumont, a junior at Thomas More majoring in mathematics and physics, recently published an article entitled “Exploding Dice Combinatorics.” The article appears in the December 2025 issue of Parabola Magazine, an online mathematical magazine published by the University of New South Wales (Australia) for high school students and others interested in mathematics.



Thapa

Dinesh Thapa, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics, had his article, “Lattice Engineering Novel 2D Monolayer in Zinc Pnictides,” published in the American Chemical Society (ACS) Omega Journal. Soon after the discovery of electronically promising two-dimensional (2D) graphene monolayer from the mechanical exfoliation of graphite, many theoretical and experimental researchers are fascinated to exfoliate and synthesize novel 2D materials because of their unprecedented electronic applications. Dr. Thapa attempted to provide the synthesis route to the experimentalists, predicting stability of novel 2D form of zinc pnictide materials via computational modeling.

Additionally, his article “Singlet and triplet excitations in chemically functionalized single-walled carbon nanotubes” was published in the Journal of Materials Chemistry C, Royal Society of Chemistry, in collaboration with theoretical researchers from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), and North Dakota State University (NDSU).

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF



Catchen

James Catchen, MPA, director of dual credit and transfer pathways, and **Teri Daniel**, director of global education and designated school official (DSO) were selected to participate in the 2025-26 Leadership exChange Program by the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative, an initiative of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. The Leadership exChange is a year-long program that provides comprehensive skills and tools to help faculty and staff lead strategic change initiatives, foster

▲▲▲FACULTY/STAFF NOTES▲▲▲

innovation, and drive continuous improvement on campus. Throughout the program, participants learn and use student-centered approaches to design solutions that improve student success outcomes.



Chillo

Joseph Chillo, LP.D., President and CEO, has been appointed to the Principle Review Committee convened by the Executive Council of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Members of the Committee, representing each state and every type of institution in the SACSCOC membership, will review and make recommendations for improvement to the Principles of Accreditation.

In Oct. 2025, the publishers of Cincinnati Magazine named President Chillo as one of the region’s 300 most powerful business leaders. For a sixth consecutive year, Chillo was recognized in the annual publication entitled Cincinnati 300, which recognizes leaders from Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky’s largest and most successful companies, nonprofits, government entities, and professional services agencies. President Chillo has been included on the list each year since the beginning of his tenure at Thomas More.

Additionally, the National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities (NAICU) invited President Chillo to speak at its Annual Meeting & Advocacy Day in Feb. 2026, as the organization convenes in Washington, D.C. in Feb. to mark its 50th year of impact in independent higher education. President Chillo will serve as a panelist to discuss institutional strategies for government relations and working effectively with government stakeholders in an evolving political landscape. He will share his perspective following the establishment of the Office of Community & Government Relations at Thomas More, with a presence for this office established in the OneNKY Center in Covington.

*Visit the Faculty/Staff Notes page at tmuky.us/spring26notes for links that were provided to presentations and interviews.



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.



MOREOVER [Spring 2026]

President Chillo, Regional Thought Leader

As president of Thomas More University Dr. Chillo recognizes the importance of collaborating with fellow higher education professionals to help shape the future of the field.

“It’s an honor to participate in thought leadership opportunities throughout our community—both regionally and across higher education,” said President Chillo. “I truly enjoy connecting with others who are passionate about advancing the mission and impact of higher education.”

Here are some highlights showcasing President Chillo’s position as a regional thought leader:

- On Mar. 17, President Chillo was part of a panel that spoke at the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce’s Eggs ‘N Issues: State of Higher Education in Northern Kentucky breakfast forum. Topics included how higher education leaders are responding and adapting to an ever-changing workforce including talent acquisition and retention, shifting demands, and improving skill sets with a focus on innovation, new opportunities, and prioritization.
- President Chillo also spoke with Dr. JP Novin on “The Plexuss Presidential Podcast” on Jan. 22 regarding the impact AI is having on higher education and the workforce. President Chillo outlined Thomas More University’s strategy for ethically and responsibly incorporating AI and technology across the curriculum while ensuring its grounded in the university’s Catholic values. The podcast also talks about how traditional academics are evolving, the value of a liberal arts education, and how faculty and students can best evaluate and effectively use AI-generated content.
- In Sept. 2025, President Chillo accepted the nomination to serve on the Principles Review Committee for the Executive Council of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The committee is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations for improvements to the *Principles of Accreditation* standards that ensure accredited institutions maintain educational quality, institutional integrity, and continuous improvement. President Chillo is part of a team representing each state and every type of higher education institution. The committee’s recommendations will be shared with the Executive Board and membership for vote and adoption during the College Delegate Assembly in Dec. 2026.



Thomas More University Ranked Top College in Kentucky for 'Best Salaries' by *The Wall Street Journal*

Thomas More University has once again earned national recognition for its exceptional return on investment, ranking among the Best Colleges in the U.S. for 2026 by *The Wall Street Journal*/WSJ/College Pulse. The rankings, published online on Sept. 29, 2025, highlight institutions that best prepare graduates for financial success.

For the second consecutive year, Thomas More ranked highest among all colleges and universities in Kentucky and highest in the Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati region for Best Salaries. The WSJ/College Pulse analysis found that a Thomas More education adds an average value of \$34,703 to graduates' salaries, placing the University 148th nationally in this category, which examines schools' impact on graduates' salaries relative to cost of attendance.

“A Thomas More education is transformational and empowering.”

- President Joseph L. Chillo, LPD

“This national recognition from *The Wall Street Journal* affirms what our students, alumni, and community have long known: a Thomas More education is transformational and empowering,” said Thomas More University President Joseph L. Chillo, LPD. “To be ranked highest in Kentucky and the Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati region for graduate salaries two years running is a testament to our dedication to student success and thriving academic community. As a Catholic Liberal Arts university, we prepare students not only for successful careers, but for lives rooted in meaning and purpose.”

The WSJ/College Pulse rankings, developed in collaboration with research partners College Pulse and Statista, evaluate colleges based on their impact based on several components, including student outcomes, learning environment, and diversity. Thomas More's continued success in these rankings reflects its mission to develop and sustain challenging programs of study marked by superior teaching and scholarship within the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.





THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY



At the center of the excitement
was the crowning of the 2025
Homecoming Royalty.
*Queen Sabrina Doll '26, and
King Brent Young '27.*



Go Saints!



Homecoming King Brent Young '27 and Homecoming Court member, Ethan Rushman '26 (not pictured) were featured on our "More to the Story" podcast. Read more on page 7.

Homecoming 2025 was a week filled with spirit, celebration, and connection across the Thomas More Community. Students, alumni, families, and friends came together to honor tradition through games, reunions, and campus events that highlighted what it means to be a Saint.

Homecoming Court Members:

- Luke Iden '26
- Savannah Faught '26
- Blake Kibler '27
- Maggie Merse '26
- Ethan Rushman '26
- Morgan Mueller '27
- Francisco Seva Sotomayor '26
- Kylie Ropp '26

Save the Date
For Homecoming 2026!

"it's October 3rd"

Alumni engagement was a major part of the celebration, with activities including the **Class of 1975 50-Year Reunion**, **Athletic Hall of Fame Happy Hour**, **2025 Alumni Awards**, **A Walk Down Memory Lane**, and **Saints' Presidential Pre-Game and Tailgating with the Saints**.



Saints Nation!



Brittany Smith



Amanda Sheeley '07



Sara Utecht



Anna Kowalok



Rebecca Smiley '18



Belle Wilson '25



Taylor Anne Tallon '19/'21



Anne Campolongo



St. Leslie Keener



Julie Kirkpatrick



Keynote Speaker

March is Women's History Month

"Called to Community" Women's CONFERENCE 26

In honor of Women's History Month, Thomas More's fifth annual Women's Conference took place on Friday, Mar. 20, from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in Ziegler auditorium. Open to the public, more than 80 alumni, college students, faculty and staff, parents, high school students, and community members attended the interactive conference.

This year's theme, *Called to Community*, focused on what it means to lead and serve and the importance of seeking support and creating new communities when needed.

Local 12 News meteorologist Anne Campolongo served as the emcee and keynote speaker Julie Kirkpatrick, President & CEO of meetNKY, discussed how to be a successful leader, the importance of creating trust and driving momentum through strategic service, and the value of intentional mentorship.

“Nothing meaningful
[and/or] measurable
happens alone.”

- Julie Kirkpatrick

Break out sessions led by Amanda Sheely '07, Anna Kowalok, Sara Utecht, and Brittney Smith explored eight dimensions of wellness, guided reflection focused on connections, community, and love, and the resilience needed to overcome Adverse Childhood Experiences.

Sr. Leslie Keener, Congregation of Divine Providence, concluded the event by monitoring a Young Alumni Panel featuring Thomas More alumnae ranging from 2018 to 2025. Panelists shared how they have found and cultivated community within many different fields following graduation.



SAVE THE DATE

We look forward to seeing you next year!

March 19, 2027



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY



WOMEN'S
CONFERENCE

43rd Annual Lawyers Lunch

On Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026, Thomas More hosted the 43rd annual Justice Donald C. Wintersheimer '53 Lawyers Lunch commemorating the 548th anniversary of St. Thomas More (born Feb. 7), the patron saint of lawyers and politicians.

The event began with Mass, followed by lunch and a program presented by Kate Molloy, Circuit Judge for Kenton County 16th Judicial Circuit Division 3. Judge Molloy began her presentation by posing the question, "What do we do when legal obligation and moral conviction appear to collide?"

She went on to discuss how St. Thomas More viewed the law as something to help protect human dignity and ordered liberty and, to that end, the importance of developing a whole person—mind, body, and spirit—all of which are at the very heart of a liberal arts education.

Started in 1982, this event is also a great reminder for how a Catholic university liberal arts education can positively impact our community and greater society as well as our students and graduates. It echoes our university's mission and guides our work, encouraging our students to consider their place in the world, their responsibility to others, and the ultimate meaning of life.



“Don't give up the ship in a storm because you cannot hold back the winds.”

—St. Thomas More

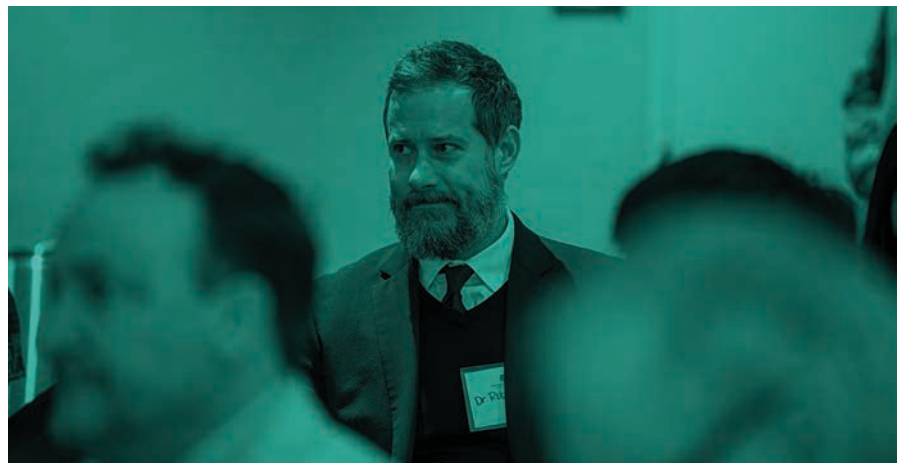
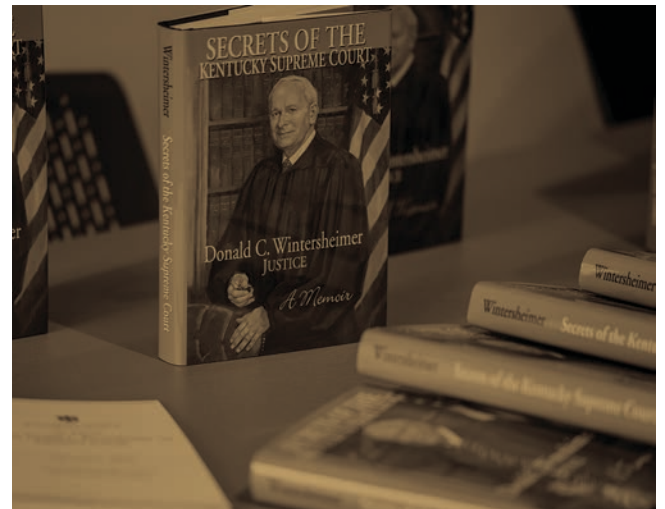
About Judge Molloy

A graduate of Holy Cross High School, Northern Kentucky University (cum laude), and the Salmon P. Chase College of Law, Judge Molloy brings more than four decades of legal experience spanning private practice, appellate work, and judicial service.

Prior to her current position, Judge Molloy was Senior Staff Counsel to the Kentucky Supreme Court, a partner at Arnzen, Molloy, Storm & Turner, P.S.C. for more than 30 years, and previously served as a staff attorney for the Kentucky Court of Appeals. She is admitted to practice in Kentucky and before the United States Supreme Court, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and multiple federal district courts.

A recognized leader in the legal profession, Molloy has received the Northern Kentucky Bar Association Life Achievement Award and holds a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Rating. She has been named among the Best Lawyers in Kentucky and Southwest Ohio and recognized as one of the Top 25 Women Lawyers in Kentucky. In addition to her professional service, she has lectured widely on trial and appellate practice and served as adjunct faculty at the Salmon P. Chase College of Law.





WEDDINGS

Tomas Casares '24 and his bride, Maggie Olivari tied the knot in Argentina on Dec. 13.

Erin (Preston) '24 and Casey McKinley, married the weekend of Sept. 20.

ANNIVERSARIES

Saints Sweethearts

Brett '02 and Monica (Feinauer) '01 Ruschman starting dating while attending Thomas More. They celebrated their 20-year wedding anniversary on Sept. 4, 2024.

NEW ARRIVALS

Saints Sweethearts

Samuel '18 and Caitlin '19 Borst welcomed their second child Flora Borst on Jul. 29.

Aric '24 and Madison '24 Iwasaki welcomed their fi st child on Oct. 2, 2025.

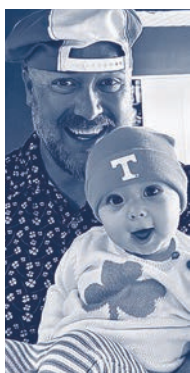
Saints Sweethearts

Paul '16 and Courtney '17 Kleier welcomed their third child—and fi st son—John “Jack” to their family in Nov.

Saints Sweethearts



Madelyn (Dinkins) Anderton '22 and her husband, Vincent, welcomed their fi st son, Jesse Walker, on Aug. 30.



Patrick '01 Eagan and his wife Lindsay welcomed their son, John Patrick on Sept. 22. Lindsay serves as Head Softball Coach, Assistant Athletic Director, and Senior Woman Administrator and Patrick serves as the Assistant Softball Coach and is an

assistant professor of History & Legal Studies at Thomas More.



Destiny '20 and Jonathan Kelly welcomed their fi st child, Gwenth, on Sept. 5, 2025.



CLASS NOTES

Jennifer Baldwin '76 Adjunct Instructor, was one of six to be awarded the prestigious Summerfair Award in Nov.

John Wenderfer '71 received the Bill Cappel Community Contributions Award presented by the Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame on Nov. 13.

Dr. Ed Connor '89 was featured in the *Northern Kentucky Tribune* in Oct., sharing insights on children's cell phone use and its long-term implications.

The *Cincinnati Business Courier* recently released its inaugural Power 25 list, recognizing leaders who are driving economic growth and strengthening the vibrancy of Greater Cincinnati. Among those honored were **Kenneth Geis '00**, Administrator of the Village of Batavia; **Gary Holland, Jr. '93**, Founder & CEO of One Holland Restaurant Group; and former Trustee Bill Butler of Corporex Companies.

Lori Rappold '95 was promoted at Onit from Senior Director of HRBP & Talent to Vice President for HR & Talent. Her leadership continues to shape talent strategy and organizational growth.

Timothy Hampton '97 was recently promoted to Associate Director of

Medical Affairs at Corcept Therapeutics, where he has served for nearly four years.

Laura Berkemeier '06/'18 was named Board President of Pones in Sept.

Kim Halbauer '00 was featured in a One on One story for the *Lane Report* in Sept.

Gee Horton '06 was recently invited to deliver the keynote address at CODA summit, a national gathering of leaders in public art and creative innovation, held in Washington, D.C. Gee shared his personal journey and highlighted the groundbreaking work taking place in Cincinnati's public arts community.



Kristi Nader '02 joined Thomas More as the Administrative Assistant to the VPCAO and Office of Academic Affairs.

Kristi brings an MBA and extensive leadership

experience from the Covington Business Council, Cathedral Foundation, and Beechwood Schools.

Amy Stevens '09, Shannon Culp '99/'22, and Alicia Townsend '00 were named among the Top 50 Women Leaders of Cincinnati for 2025 by The Women We Admire.

Melissa Strange '01 is running for Kentucky's House of Representatives' 4th District seat.

Kenny Ash '18 joined Expedient as Vice President of Strategic Alliances, bringing his expertise and relationship-driven leadership to a growing technology organization.

Antonio Booker '13 was nominated for the Lyman T. Johnson Torch of Excellence Award.



Shane Campbell '13 successfully defended his dissertation, *Empowering Future Educators: Exploring Preservice Elementary Teachers' Self-Efficacy within*

Integrated STEM Experiences in a Science Methods Course.

Stephanie Crisler '10/'13, Director of Physician/APP Recruitment & Integration at The Christ Hospital Health Network has been selected as a 2025 Greater Cincinnati Leaders of Impact nominee for the American Heart Association.

Oliver "Ollie" Owen '18 has been named Head Varsity Soccer Coach at La Salle High School, after several years of leadership as Assistant Head Coach. He also serves as a District Discovery Program Coach with FC Cincinnati.



Nick Pennekamp '16 was promoted to Chief Financial Officer at Batesville Products. Previously serving as Controller, Nick has been instrumental in

strengthening financial performance, driving operational efficiency, and supporting long-term growth.



Mamee Salzer '16 brings 10 years of experience to her new role as the Graphic Designer for Thomas More's Marketing and Communication

Team. In this role, she develops and implements creative concepts that support the University's marketing and communications outreach efforts. She also started her own company, Mixed Breed Creative, LLC providing freelance design, photography, and visual arts for a wide variety of clients.



Nicholas Groene '24 graduated from the Department of Criminal Justice Training Academy in Richmond, Kentucky on Jan. 15, 2026. A member of Class 565,

Nick earned the Fitness Excellence Award in recognition of his dedication and performance. He began his career with the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport Police Department.



Sydney Hilderbran '24 joined the Harris Creative Co. team as a Junior Designer. Already working on major branding projects, Sydney

is making her mark with creativity and energy.



Anna Oliverio '21 earned her master's degree in Jun. 2025 and began working at Medpace in Jul.

Rachel Schultz '23/'24 recently began serving as Youth Choir Assistant Director at Holy Spirit Parish in Newport, supporting music ministry and creative outreach.

Drew Seiler '20 earned his PhD in Biology from the University of Louisville, where he was also named Outstanding Biology Graduate Student. His dissertation research on Barro Colorado Island, a renowned Smithsonian site, explored insect ecology—from studying "arthropod rain" and its role in forest food webs to building an ant "catapult" to examine how arboreal animals dislodge foraging ants.



Julia Stahl '21 is the Research and Instruction Librarian at Thomas More's Benedictine Library. In this position, she supports students in research, source

evaluation, and the ethical and effective use of generative AI, helping Saints learn smarter and think deeper.



Izabelle "Belle" Wilson, Thomas More's Outstanding Nursing Graduate for the Class of '25, helped resuscitate a passenger experiencing cardiac arrest on a flight

to Las Vegas. Now serving as a Neonatal ICU nurse at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Belle attributes her quick thinking and confidence in that critical moment to the thorough, hands-on education she received.

Read Belle's article on page 28.



Kendra Yurt '24/'26 recently won first place for her MPH thesis presentation on "Health Literacy: An Evaluation of the Northern Kentucky Health Department's

Water Management Survey and Education for *Legionella* Prevention." A Graduate Assistant in the Marketing and Communications Team, she will earn her Master's degree in public health in May.

President Joseph L. Chillo LP.D. and five alumni were named to *Cincinnati Magazine's* Cincinnati 300 list, recognizing the region's top business leaders. Among his milestone achievements is the Second Century Campaign, which raised more than \$40 million, the largest capital campaign in the University's history. Other alumni recognized include:

- **Crystal Morrison '14**, the head of Capture Services at Fidelity Investments
- **D. Lynn Meyers '77**, the Producing Artistic Director of Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati
- **Garren Colvin '86**, the President and CEO of St. Elizabeth Healthcare
- **Moir Weir '00**, the President and CEO of United Way of Greater Cincinnati
- **Gary Mitchell**, the President and CEO of Divisions Maintenance Group



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

Alumni Association

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

Send your good news — along with a digital photo — by email with the subject line "News" to alumni@thomasmore.edu, or submit your update online at tmuky.us/alumninote.

Are You & Your Spouse



If you met your spouse while attending Thomas More (or Villa Madonna), be sure to include your anniversary date so we can celebrate your milestones for years to come! You can send this information by email to alumni@thomasmore.edu or call 859.344.3545.

Alumna's Training Takes Flight

Just six months after graduating from Thomas More University, nursing alumna Belle Wilson '25 found herself responding to a life-threatening emergency at 30,000 feet—an in-flight crisis that tested her training, composure, and the hands-on education she says prepared her for the moment.

BW: It kind of goes back a little bit, but I'm Dolly Parton's biggest fan. She was supposed to have a concert in Las Vegas in early December, and of course I had to go. A few months before the concert, she postponed because she got sick. We already had flights and a hotel booked, so we decided to go to Vegas anyway.

The night before the flight, I was working, and a coworker had these little stickers. One said "Nurse Off Duty." I grabbed it and said, "I'm putting this on my suitcase for Vegas." It was just something silly.

The next morning, we boarded an early flight. Everything was great. I was watching "Elf," looking at the sunrise—it was peaceful. Then about 30 minutes before landing, an announcement came overhead asking for medical professionals to come to the front of the plane.

I'd only been a nurse for six months. I remember thinking, I'll wait and see if someone else gets up. No one did. So I stood up. I'm a NICU nurse, so I was secretly hoping it would be a baby. When I got to the front, the flight attendant looked at me and said, "Do you think he has a pulse?" I checked—and I did not feel one.

I told them to grab whatever supplies they had, laid him down, and started a sternal rub to see if he would respond. He was breathing slightly on his own, which was reassuring, but it was still very scary.

Thankfully, two other people responded—another nurse from Dayton Children's and a firefighter. We removed the patient's shirt off and placed an AED to analyze his rhythm. Before we had to start compressions, we got a pulse back.

We suspected low blood sugar, but the emergency kit didn't include a glucometer. **That's something I now hope to advocate for—getting glucometers added to airplane emergency kits.**

“Everything I did that day, I learned hands-on at Thomas More.”



We found IV supplies and started fluids to stabilize his blood pressure. The firefighter was even able to start the IV on the first try despite hitting turbulence! The EMS met us on the tarmac, we provided a report, and he was taken off the plane.

On How Thomas More Prepared Her

BW: I think 100% of how I handled that situation goes back to my education at Thomas More. I started at Thomas More in 2021, worked in the bookstore, and was involved on campus. My senior year, I was honored to receive the Pat Gieske Outstanding Nursing Student Award.

Our professors didn't just teach us textbook nursing—they taught us how to think. They would challenge us in class, then challenge us again in clinicals with real patients. They constantly asked: What's happening? Why is it happening? What could happen next?

That mindset helped me on the plane. I wasn't just reacting—I was thinking ahead.

I had professors stay late to help me understand material before exams. They cared about us as people, not just students. That confidence they instilled in me is what allowed me to stand up when no one else did.

Thomas More teaches you how to be a real nurse—not just pass tests, but act in real life.

On What This Means to Her Now

BW: It's crazy that this happened only six months into my career. You hear about nurses with 30 years of experience responding to emergencies—and then there was me.

From this story, all I want is to spread awareness—about preparedness, about advocacy for better emergency tools, and about the strength of Thomas More's nursing program.

Everything I did that day, I learned hands-on at Thomas More. The only way I can think to give back is to encourage more students to join the nursing program.

It truly is the best education out there. I'm biased—but it's true.

Learn more about our nursing and new MSN programs by visiting thomasmore.edu/msn



“Our professors didn't just teach us textbook nursing— they taught us how to think.”

Below: Meredith G. Hitter MSN, RN educating her sophomore class NUR 207, Parent Child Nursing





THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF PHILANTHROPY

A Reflection on the Success of the Second Century Campaign It's Time for More.

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

On Sept. 14, 2021, just two days after celebrating Villa Madonna College's centennial anniversary (founded in 1921), our community gathered (outside and in facemasks, per COVID health and safety guidelines) at the grotto in front of the Madonna statue near the Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel. This statue has been part of our campus since we were located in Covington, representing the legacy that we build upon and still hold paramount in our mission and identity. The location was a perfect backdrop for President Chillo to announce that the new Strategic Plan: *Lighting the Way* would be accompanied by the most ambitious comprehensive capital campaign in University history, *The Second Century Campaign: It's Time for More*.

Despite launching in tumultuous times, the campaign clearly aligned with our Catholic mission and identity, our student-centered academic culture, and our fervent commitment to the transformative power of a values-based, liberal arts education. Most importantly, it also resonated clearly with

our donors and friends. Within five years, The Second Century Campaign exceeded its initial \$30M goal, raising more than \$47.2M and changing the trajectory of our University forever.

The campaign's signature project was constructing the new Academic Center. This 34,000 sq. ft. building is home to the Robert W. Plaster College of Business, the Wilbert L. Ziegler '53 Auditorium, the Dr. Anthony '65 and Geraldine '66 Zembrodt Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, the Center for Faith, Mission, & Catholic Education as well as a variety of offices, meeting spaces, and classrooms designed to match learning environment with pedagogy. The addition of the new coffee shop on the second floor is particularly noteworthy, especially for our students. This first academic building constructed on the main campus since 1971, it has elevated the experience for our students and faculty across all three colleges and all academic disciplines. Beyond the new Academic Center, this

campaign has helped expand our footprint in many other ways. The acquisition of the Northern Kentucky Rackett Club, which we all know as Five Seasons, has made an immeasurable impact on where our students gather and engage for health and wellness.

We also acquired office space right across the road from campus from our friends at DBL Law. Located at 207 and 209 Thomas More Parkway, Covington Hall and Centennial Hall are now known as North Campus. Our Psychology and Education Departments found a new home in Cabrini Hall. We launched a new partnership with the Florence Y'alls to sponsor the field as Thomas More Stadium and provided our baseball program with the best facility in NCAA Division II athletics. On the main campus we resurfaced the track and installed new turf on what is now called Republic Bank Field. The Connor Convocation Center received a state-of-the-art video board appropriately named after coach Jim Weyer. We also constructed a new softball facility with a turf field, locker rooms, offices, and a field house.



Celebrating the new dedication of our Registrar's office



Groundbreaking for the new softball field



Ribbon cutting of the new Academic Building

The Saelinger Family helped us dedicate the Office of the Registrar in honor of their beloved aunt, Sr. Irmina Saelinger, a Benedictine Sister, who served in many roles over the years, most notably as our first registrar. The Saints Center was renovated into a student center complete with a new student lounge and Food Lab. Seilier Commons was also fully renovated to enhance aesthetics, increase capacity, and add dining options. In honor of the significant support we've received from our Diocesan partner St. Elizabeth Healthcare over many years, we named our College of Natural & Health Sciences after them. But more important than our spaces is the work that happens within them. The incredible gift that a values-based, Catholic liberal arts education provides for our students and in our region is beyond any comparison in the way it shapes the leaders of tomorrow.

A Thomas More education is an incredible gift and one that we need to keep accessible to students and the best way we do this

is through scholarships. I'm so proud to say that this campaign funded 55 scholarships and 52 of those were endowed scholarships—representing more than \$7M invested into the Thomas More University Endowment and providing more than \$350,000 in financial assistance to students each year. While new buildings and upgraded spaces are important, growing the University's endowment and establishing endowed scholarships ensures that Thomas More has the financial viability to sustain indefinitely. During this campaign and President Chillo's tenure, our endowment has grown from \$19M to more than \$40M.

The Second Century Campaign saw more than 200 donors contribute at the Centennial Society level or higher. This community-wide support and involvement made all the difference in this campaign. Certainly, many were inspired to give based on the vision that our campaign leadership helped us cast. Bob Sathe and Melissa Lueke, neither of whom are alumni but both former Trustees and board chairs

served as co-chairs for the Second Century Campaign. They were joined by Will Ziegler '53, who served as honorary chair. Their steadfast leadership and involvement were inspiring and humbling. My team and I will forever be grateful for their support and engagement.

This campaign may be complete, but our mission will continue to be inspired by the founding orders of the Benedictine Sisters, the Sisters of Notre Dame, the Congregation of Divine Providence, and our patron, St. Thomas More. We will continue to share God's love and demonstrate our commitment to the values of a Catholic liberal arts institution and provide students with the transformational gift that comes with a Thomas More University education.





Why I give

Honoring LCPL Adam D. Peak Through Opportunity

Submitted by Caleb Finch '07

Some people leave a mark so lasting that their presence continues to shape your life long after they are gone. Adam Peak, '06 Thomas More University graduate, was one of those people to fellow students Caleb '07 and Brittany '10 Finch.

"He wore shorts in the winter, a winter hat in August, and had complete confidence in his terrible haircut. Time spent with Adam guaranteed laughter until your sides hurt, your plans changed, and somehow the simplest hangouts became lifelong memories," said Caleb.

But beyond the humor was someone deeply loyal and caring—and a friend who always said yes. Adam could put the jokes aside, truly listen, and offer advice, and was rooted in genuine concern for the people he loved. Adam was a student in Thomas More University's Education Department, inspired by his family and especially by his sister Angela, who has Down Syndrome. His desire to become a teacher reflected his compassion and sense of responsibility. After college, Adam enlisted in the military, following his brother Sean's example of how love and protection guided his choices.

Tragically, in 2010, Adam was killed in action serving Operation Enduring Freedom. To remember him, Caleb, Brittany, and many friends and loved ones came together with a shared purpose: to honor him in a way that reflected the size of his heart. Within days, supporters coordinated a memorial hockey game to raise funds

in his name for his family. That hockey game grew into the Adam Peak Memorial Golf Outing which has been going strong for 14 straight years. Each year before the golf outing begins, more than 120 people gather including family members, fraternity brothers, friends, and supporters, and even some people who never met Adam.

"As the national anthem plays, we look around and feel Adam's presence," said Caleb. "It's a random hangout, full of laughter and connections, exactly the kind of moment Adam loved. His mom once said, 'Act the same way you would if he were right next to you' and every year, we do."

The simplest hangouts became lifelong memories."

— Caleb Finch

Soon after, Caleb, Brittany, and others that knew and loved Adam partnered with Thomas More to establish the Adam Peak Memorial Scholarship, giving back to the university that shaped him. What started as hope to help one student grew into something lasting.

Today, the scholarship continues to grow along with the golf outing raising more than \$90,000 since 2017. Through this scholarship, Adam's kindness, loyalty, and willingness to say "yes" lives on, helping support Thomas More students as they begin their own unique adventures. By raising funds, Caleb and Brittany are honoring their friend, giving back to the community, and providing financial support to students, reflecting the way Thomas More supported Adam.



Please visit thomasmore.edu/donate to find out more about giving options.
If giving online is not your preference, you can use the envelope in the center of this issue to donate by mail.

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

Dr. Stephen Hellebusch '72, Feb. 5, 2025
Leroy Neltner '73, Feb. 11, 2025
Betty (Manis) Mitchell '00/'02, Feb. 16, 2025
Paul Meyer '75, Feb. 21, 2025
Edward Hare '69, Mar. 8, 2025
Bradley Mullen '81, M.D., Mar. 15, 2026
Kenneth Wolfe '72, Mar. 18, 2025
Marianne (Posey) Hall '78, Apr. 2, 2025
B. Nanette (Ison) Wagner '72, Apr. 24, 2025
Michael Farro '73, Jun. 6, 2025
Joseph Seifert '83, Jun. 12, 2025
Hikari Nakamura '05, Jun. 15, 2025
James Julian '73, Jun. 16, 2025
Judith (Williamson) Taylor '93, Jun. 27, 2025
Dr. Virgil Rogers '70, Jul. 4, 2025
John Wehby '70, Jul. 13, 2025
Richard Roenker '68, Jul. 15, 2025
Beverly (Bowersock) Miller '72, Jul. 23, 2025
Dr. Doyle Friskney '73, Jul. 26, 2025
Daniel Pieschel '71, Aug. 4, 2025
Sister Mary Paul Hanneken '65, SND, Sept. 3, 2025

Sister Deborah Harmeling '70, OSB, Sept. 4, 2025
Gerald Thelen '61, Sept. 17, 2025
Joan (Droege) Thelen '61, Sept. 18, 2025
Mary (Horn) Turner '75, Oct. 17, 2025
Timothy Jacobs '79, Oct. 25, 2025
Carol (Hellman) Hart '65, Nov. 5, 2025
Sister Ruth Kettman '70, CSJ, Nov. 10, 2025
Sister Claire Engbersen '67, SND, Nov. 13, 2025
William Kohlhepp '61, Nov. 28, 2025
June (Steltenkamp) Consbruck '51, Dec. 6, 2025
Monica (Daugherty) Dunlap '72, Dec. 12, 2025
Sister M. Theresa Bowman '73, CDP, Dec. 14, 2025
Dr. William Rauckhorst '62, Dec. 28, 2025
David Thelen '63, Jan. 4, 2026
Marian (Buchert) Vogt '51, Jan. 4, 2026
John Lewin '50, Jan. 13, 2026
Sister M. Sharron Goller '68, SND, Jan. 30, 2026
Lawrence Rasche '70, Feb. 1, 2026
Joan (Hallbach) Schoettelkotte '72, Feb. 18, 2026
Kylie Anderson '21, Feb. 20, 2026
Lam Pham '20, Mar. 21, 2026

Monsignor Murphy Legacy Society

CREATE YOUR LEGACY AT THOMAS MORE

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

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

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





2026

Honoring Outstanding Alumni

Do you know someone who should be honored at the Alumni Awards celebration?

The Alumni Awards 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. These awards are held annually and nominations are being accepted in the fields of:

Citizenship

Service

Professional Achievement

Emerging Leader

Honorary Alumna/Alumnus

and for faculty/staff/university friends:

Lasting Influence

Legacy

Deadline for nominations is **June 1, 2026**.
For more information, visit tmuky.us/26nominate.

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

2025 Alumni Award honorees



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.

JULY



St. Elizabeth
HEALTHCARE

ALL SAINTS CLUB ATHLETIC GOLF OUTING

Friday | July 31, 2026

At Jolly Golf Course | Alexandria, Kentucky

Golfer deadline July 17

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

RAISIN' HELLBENDERS ON THE RIVER: CONCERT FOR CONSERVATION

Saturday | July 25, 2026 | 3-9 p.m.

Biology Field Station | California, Kentucky

RSVP required | Visit tmuky.us/bfsconcert

OCTOBER

HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Thursday-Sunday | October 1-4, 2026

Thomas More University | Crestview Hills, Kentucky

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

ALUMNI TAILGATING/SAINTS FOOTBALL GAME ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

Details coming soon at tmuky.us/alumnievents

Follow Thomas More Alumni on social media:



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Thomas More University Alumni



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

Alumni Association

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.



Bishop William A. Hughes Award Dinner

presented by



Thomas More University recently honored five outstanding community members at the 28th annual Bishop William A. Hughes Award Dinner on Wednesday, Apr. 15, 2026, at the Drees Pavilion. Sponsored by DBL Law, the awards are presented each year to individuals who have demonstrated leadership in the community and made a significant impact on Catholic education.

Bishop William A. Hughes Award Louis (Lou) '81 and Marilyn Esselman

Lou's connection to Thomas More spans generations. In '66 his sister graduated from Thomas More (then Villa Madonna College), Marilyn received an honorary degree in '90, and two of their children graduated from the University.

In '81, Lou was elected to the Alumni Board and served as president from '84 to '87. They also both worked bingo and Marilyn served as the secretary for the athletic boosters. Lou was the public address announcer for the men's and women's basketball games for about 13 years.

Lou and Marilyn are active with St. Thomas Parish, where Marilyn was a Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teacher and conference secretary. She was also the Santa House Fund Raiser Program Treasurer at Ruth Moyer Elementary School. Lou has been a volunteer at Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky since '93.

Dr. Raymond Hebert Distinguished Service Award Thomas Gilday '75

For 40 years Thomas was an accounting professor, providing practical life skills such as financial literacy for first year students. He was named Instructor of the Year in '97, Outstanding Undergraduate Faculty Member in '20, and received the Outstanding Student Advocacy award also in '20. In '21, he was named Faculty Emeritus in recognition of his meritorious service. He also served as the department chair, participated in many University committees, and helped establish the Jamaica Service Learning program.

Thomas launched the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program in '81 and remained active through '20. In '04 and '10, he was recognized by Delta Epsilon Sigma for his dedication to community service. Thomas's University roots run deep—his

father taught at Thomas More for 23 years, and his sister, as well as his children, are all Thomas More alumni.

St. Thomas More Medallion Charles (Chuck) '74 and Julie Geisen '76 Scheper

Chuck and Julie are honored for their exceptional leadership, and shared commitment to service, mentorship, and community advancement at Thomas More and throughout Northern Kentucky.

A counseling and mental health professional for 25 years, Julie served the DCCH Center for Children and Families, Brighton Center, and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington, where she supervised the Child Guidance Program. Upon retiring, she has served on boards for the Covington Education Foundation, Independent Public Schools, Interact for Health, BRIDGES for a Just Community, Parish Kitchen, Partners for Change, and the Thomas More University Distinguished Alumnae League.

As the chairman of Bexion Pharmaceuticals, Chuck helps advance cancer and neurological disease treatments and is active with the Cancer Support Community. He was also COO of Great American Financial Resources and leading Pioneer Financial Services and Manhattan National Life Insurance Company. Chuck served as the interim mayor of Covington, was the founding chair of the Catalytic Development Fund of Northern Kentucky and has served on numerous regional boards.

Together, Chuck and Julie have received the Northern Kentucky Chamber Frontiersman Award, the Metropolitan Club Persons of the Year Award, Northern Kentucky University's Lincoln Award, the Devou Cup, and individual Bishop Hughes awards. Julie was also named an Outstanding Woman of Northern Kentucky, and Chuck was named a Great Living Cincinnati in '25.



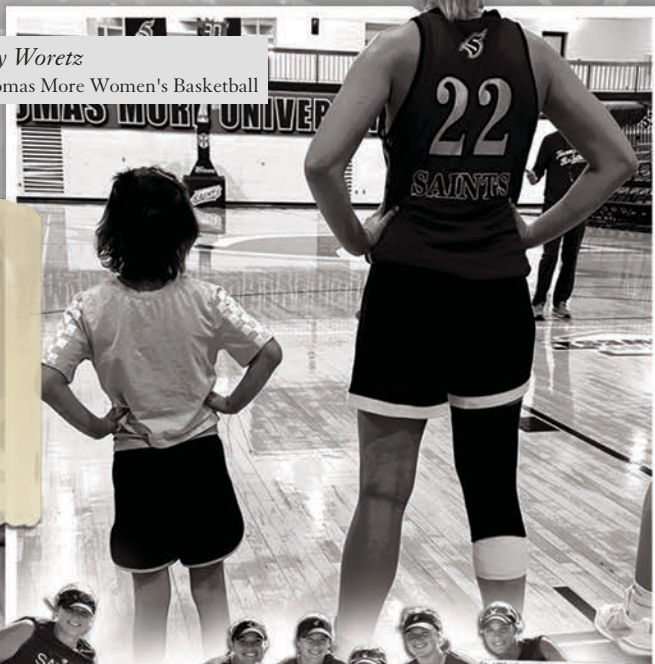
TEAM IMPACT

THOMAS MORE
ATHLETICS



Jackson Elsea
Thomas More Men's Basketball

Lily Woretz
Thomas More Women's Basketball



Cohen Bramlee
Thomas More Soccer



Avery Tronsdal
Thomas More Softball



NCAA DIVISION II

MAKE IT *YOURS*



"Team IMPACT has given him a chance to experience being part of a team, which has been very special."
- Carrie Bramlee

THE POWER
OF TEAM

Making a Positive IMPACT

At Thomas More, we are passionate about sports and dedicated to supporting our student athletes. In turn, our athletes are passionate about giving back to their community and Team IMPACT is one way they are able to make a positive difference

Founded in Boston on Mother's Day in 2011 by a group of former college classmates, Team IMPACT connects children with serious disabilities or illnesses with athletic teams across colleges nationwide. The children get the chance to experience what it's like to be part of a sports team by signing with the team and also attending games from the sidelines.

Team IMPACT's process includes matching children with teams, creating a customized game plan to suit each child's unique needs, supporting social and emotional growth, providing ongoing support, and ensuring that milestones and goals are met.

"It's been great to watch our student athletes give back to our community through Team IMPACT," said Terry Connor, Vice President and Director of Athletics. "In addition, Team IMPACT has been a positive influence on our students and the families and children it serves."

To date, Thomas More has participated in this program, connecting more than 15 children with many of our athletic teams including:

MEN'S

Baseball | Basketball | Football | Lacrosse
Soccer | Volleyball | Wrestling

WOMEN'S

Basketball | Dance | Lacrosse
Softball | Volleyball

To learn more or become involved,
please visit teamimpact.org



Jude Simmons
Thomas More Baseball



Kyra Perry
Thomas More Volleyball



Allen Tumey
Thomas More Wrestling

SAINTS in the Spotlight

Defining moments across Saints Athletics

NCAA Division II competition demands consistency, discipline, and deep dedication and our student athletes have embraced the challenge. Enduring high-pressure matchups and program-building moments, our teams continue to compete with purpose while shaping the future of the University's athletic programs at the national level. These achievements offer a closer look at the students leading that progress forward.

Football

Senior kicker **Luke Iden** etched his name into the Saints record book by becoming the program's all-time leader in career field goals during NCAA Division II competition.

Men's Bowling

The Saints men's bowling team won its second Great Midwest Athletic Conference Championship, earning another program milestone during the NCAA Division II competition. Sophomore **Jake Fitzgerald** was named to the All-Tournament Team.

Men's Cross Country

Senior **Noah Francis** was one of only 42 student athletes nationwide to earn a \$10,000 NCAA postgraduate scholarship, recognizing academic achievement, athletic involvement, leadership, and service.

Women's Lacrosse

Junior **Alex Nunn** set multiple program records while helping the Saints rally to a season opening win over Capital University. Nunn posted 16 draw controls in the comeback victory, setting a new single game mark and becoming the program's career leader with 211 total draw controls.

Great Midwest Athletic Conference Elite 26 Award Winners

Women's Bowling

Sophomore **Baylee Spickard** was recognized as having the highest academic achievement among championship competitors in the Great Midwest. A Tourism and Recreation Management major with a 3.93 cumulative GPA, Spickard's season included a 177.4 average score across 44 games.

Women's Soccer

Soccer senior **Olivia Mohs** earned this recognition among championship competitors and is majoring in Business Administration, pursuing her MBA with a 4.0 cumulative GPA.

The achievements don't stop here. Visit thomasmoresaints.com to stay connected with your favorite teams and explore full game recaps, feature stories, and program headlines from across all Saints Athletics.



Left to right: Luke Iden, Jake Fitzgerald, Noah Francis, Alex Nunn, Baylee Spickard, and Olivia Mohs

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





Minute Spiritual Break

Provided by Thomas More University Campus Ministry

SUBMITTED BY ZOE LYNCH '28 | BISHOP ROGER J. FOYS SCHOLAR

“The Power of a Name”

Have you ever considered how a name has the power to transform just one person? Kensington, PA, is notorious for being a “zombie land oasis” where addicts go for their next fix and often never leave. It’s also overrun with trash, needles in the street, and public drug use. Yet, it’s also a place of hope—where everyone has a story and where, more importantly, everyone has a name.

As a volunteer for Mission Youth Philadelphia, I’ve witnessed the transformative power that saying another’s name has on both parties. There are two types of hunger in this world: physical and spiritual hunger. Mother Teresa once stated, “Poverty does not only consist of being hungry, but rather it’s a tremendous hunger for human dignity.” It’s easy to alienate those that we don’t consider a contributing member of society. However, human beings are not meant to be alone—rather we desire to be seen, loved, and respected and in communion or community with others.

In 2023, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy declared that the United States is facing an “epidemic of loneliness” caused in part by the exponential growth of technology (social media) and COVID-19 post effects. He also stated that “loneliness is far more than just a bad feeling—it harms both individual and societal health. It is associated with a greater risk of cardiovascular disease, dementia, stroke, depression, anxiety, and premature death.” (Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation, Pg. 4). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the United States” (Suicide Data and Statistics), and reports that suicide rates in the United States have dramatically

increased by 37%. From 2000 to 2018, the suicide rate had nearly doubled from 29,350 to 49,316. Why have suicide rates risen so drastically? People in the United States, and other countries, are missing something integral: their relationships with God and with one another.

The desire to be known, loved, respected, and adored is at the very foundation of the human heart. At the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), Jesus called on his followers to share the good news of God’s redeeming love. Each one of us is called to go forth and become fishers of men, bringing the Gospel message to every nation. However, this call to holiness can often be a daunting path that many do not feel equipped for: “God doesn’t call the equipped but equips the called” (Hebrews 17:13-25). As missionaries, we came equipped with the Word and whatever conversation opener the Lord provides (most often a PB&J sandwich). In evangelization, the goal should not be to just feed and shelter those who are most in need but to bring them the Gospel and show them they are loved by asking them their name and story.

We all have one thing in common: the need to be loved. At birth, we were given the gift of a name—one that is uniquely our own and speaks to our identity, dignity, and worth. There are times in our lives when each of us has felt the unwanted sting of our name being misused, forgotten, or replaced with a label that diminishes our worth as a child of God. As a missionary, I’ve seen how simply asking someone their name can restore what the world has stripped away. They are no longer a statistic, an addict, or a burden to society—they are a human being, worthy of love and redemption.



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 2026 ☐ Spring 2027 ☐ Fall 2027 ☐ 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!

MOREOVER [Spring 2026]



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

Make It **More.**

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You've spent your career caring for others.
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Thomas More University's Master of Science in Nursing program is designed to help registered nurses expand their influence and elevate their careers. Through specialized coursework, leadership development, and real-world learning, nurses gain the skills needed to step into leadership and drive meaningful change across the healthcare landscape.

Choose the path that aligns with your goals:

- Nurse Executive Track - Prepare to lead teams, influence strategy, and shape care delivery
- Healthcare Informatics Track – Use data and technology to improve patient outcomes and system performance

Learn more and apply today.
Classes begin August 2026.



visit thomasmore.edu/msn
or scan the QR code.

Scan the code or call Admissions at **859.344.3332** for more information on these options.

