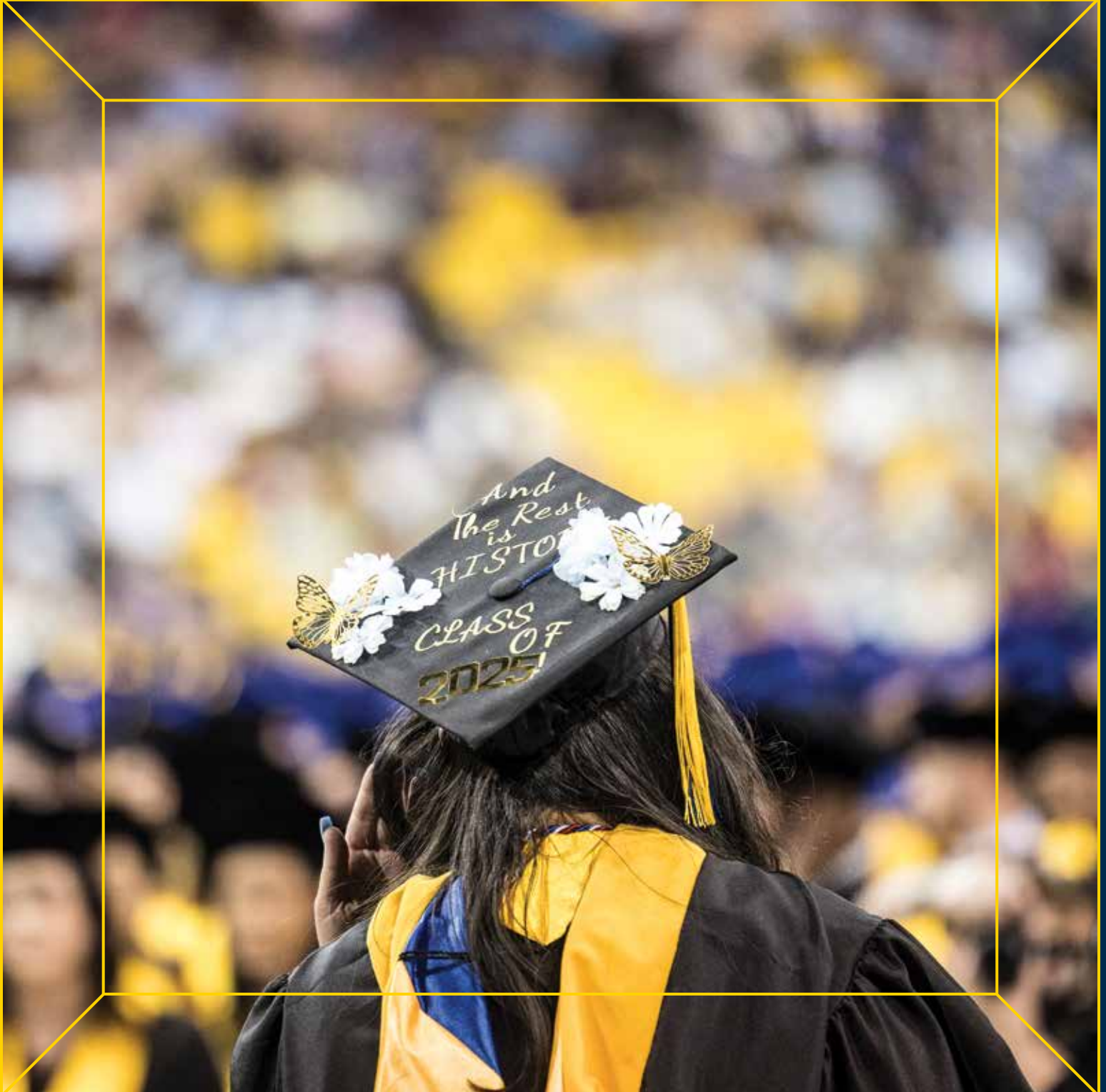


St. Scholastica

MAGAZINE



Content Highlights

ON THE COVER

The Class of 2025 walked across the stage at Amsoil Arena in Duluth on May 11. For a peek into the festivities, see pg. 16

Back cover photo by Dan Jandl Photography

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St. Scholastica Magazine is published for alumni and friends of The College of St. Scholastica by the Department of College Communications in partnership with the College Advancement Office.

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The opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the writers and persons featured and not necessarily those of The College of St. Scholastica.

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Identification Statement
Issue No. 73
Spring 2025
St. Scholastica Magazine

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President's Message



DEAR FRIENDS,

We recently celebrated our graduates at our 2025 Commencement ceremony on May 11 and I continue to be filled with joy when I see our students and their families at this timeless tradition honoring student achievement and success. In this June issue, you'll be reading stories about alumni and current students, meeting our new Trustees, and hearing about some of the happenings at the College. I am so proud of our community and the many ways in which our learners, alumni and employees make such a difference in our world. Each year we send forth students who have been shaped by the Catholic Benedictine heritage and prepared for responsible living and meaningful work. Inspired by our values, combined with their expertise in their professional fields of study, they embark ready to transform the world!

We have wrapped up a successful academic year and are excited as we look to next fall. Our new Student Center, which has been open since September 2024, has been an exceptional addition to our students' experience. Heavily utilized study rooms, meeting spaces and casual meeting spots are bustling all day and well into the evening hours. Students are really finding a sense of belonging and engagement, as we anticipated they would. So, thank you again for all your support in helping us realize this dream.

In other news, this year, as our 2020-2025 plan comes to a close, we engaged in a thorough strategic planning process. The deeply collaborative process was led by an exceptional task force made up of faculty and staff, with four co-chairs at the helm. The 2025-2030 Strategic Plan was presented to the Board of Trustees in May, and we are delighted to report that they approved the plan! You can expect to hear more about the content of the Strategic Plan in the fall of 2025.

On a personal note, I had the opportunity, along with my husband David, to join the St. Scholastica Choir on their 2025 tour to Italy over the spring semester break. The tour took the group to Florence, Assisi, Rome and to the sacred sites of the Saint Benedict Monastery at Montecassino, the Abby of St. Scholastica and St. Benedictine's cave Sacro Speco in Subiaco. It was a tremendous trip for our students who performed beautifully at several churches and cathedrals, as well as within sacred spaces. Our Saints exemplified our values and touched many people with their beautiful voices and talent. It was truly an unforgettable experience!

Thank you for all the ways you share our Saints' stories and for your ongoing support of our students and our Catholic Benedictine mission. Your impact is felt far and wide!

Thank you for being part of our Saints family. Blessings to you and Vivat St. Scholastica!

Barbara McDonald, Ed.D

BEYOND THE SCRUBS: A Global Nursing Journey

The last thing Kathryn Ford '23 expected was for her undergraduate career to take her to the Philippines for two months after she graduated from The College of St. Scholastica with a Bachelor of Science in nursing. Ford describes herself as a creative, an artist, and a lover of nature. A younger version of herself had imagined attending fashion school in Los Angeles. When this plan fell through, Ford had to reevaluate her priorities and passions. She knew she liked working with people and science, having grown up with a heavy focus on community and mutual aid. After receiving a scholarship from St. Scholastica, she knew that was where she was meant to be.

GAINING COMPASSION AND A NEW PERSPECTIVE

In the spring semester of her freshman year in college, Ford was hospitalized and diagnosed with bipolar disorder. "It was kind of a wild rollercoaster, learning how to navigate that at the same time as being a brand new nursing student. It changes the way you experience time, the way that you see yourself in your relationships and your future, how you experience pain and how much you sleep. You need all these things," she said of the diagnosis. "But as a nurse, it gives me a lot of empathy. You have a little bit more patience and insight into what people might find calming."

This personal experience gave Ford a front-row seat to what discrimination can look like within the healthcare sector. "Sometimes I think people will hear that somebody has a disorder like that and then totally write them off. It's like, 'They don't know what's going on' or 'They can't handle their emotions, so their reactions to things aren't valid anymore.'"

In the midst of this battle, Ford had to find a new way to interact with the world around her. The Center for Equal Access served as a useful resource in assisting her with accommodations and learning how to implement them. Alongside a tight-knit circle of friends, she was able to adjust to this new normal and find what worked and what did not. Through the challenges she faced, Ford gained a new perspective and compassion for patients she found she could use wherever she landed after graduation, including communities far from home.

NURSING CLINICAL CONNECTIONS ABROAD

The first time Ford traveled to the Philippines was close to halfway through her senior year when she took the opportunity to complete her capstone project abroad, as part of the Transcultural Nursing in the Philippines study abroad program. "Honestly, I was not sure what it was going to be like going there. I knew it was going to involve clinical hours somehow," she said. But she knew it would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The program was led by Dr. Gina Diaz, an associate professor in the nursing program and a Filipino native herself.

While there, Ford befriended a preceptor and a host who were both present for the nursing cohort during this trip, one of whom ran a series of free clinics within the mountains for people who lived there. Ford was so moved by the work that these women were doing and they invited her to come back. She readily took them up on that offer and the December after she graduated in 2023, she traveled back to the Philippines, this time alone.

A WINDOW INTO ANOTHER CULTURE

Ford shared, "I was very nervous, going there by myself. [It was] a very intimate, very vulnerable window into another culture... being a nurse in the heart of Tondo and understanding that the hospitals don't always pay enough to sustain even an apartment. Living in that space was very different, but I was just really honored to be able to do that. I gained a lot of confidence and a lot of perspective. That type of exposure is the opportunity of a lifetime that does not come every day."

Stationed in the mountains, Ford helped with the running of the pop-up clinics, sometimes seeing up to 300 children in a day. One of her barriers was not speaking the language: "I tried to learn Tagalog before I arrived, practicing every day and that gave me a sense of false confidence, because, pretty soon, we figured out that my grammar was backward and I was speaking Google Translate and mispronouncing a lot of things."

While a translator was provided during her time, learning the language was an integral tool for breaking the barrier that she felt existed between her and the patients she was seeing. "I feel like with the kind of work that you're doing, it just shows that you care to another level if you put in the time and effort to learn a language, and I never want to rely on the possibility of other people knowing and being comfortable with English," she said.

A CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Through this exchange, Ford was introduced to a culture that welcomed her with open arms and offered her an insider's view of life in the Philippines. "I got invited to so many things that I never expected to see in such an intimate way. I was at religious ceremonies — including a baby's christening — in people's homes, and in all kinds of places. I was even staying in an employee dorm that other nurses live in."

Living with the people of the Philippines for two months brought some fresh perspective to her career as a nurse in the United States. "There were a lot of things there that I think would make our health system better, but that's more ideologies and attitudes, including stewardship to the environment and its resources, and the way that people approach healthcare in its entirety."

"But then there are also some things there that were surprising to me that served as a warning to what can happen when we cut things too thin, like the nurse to patient ratios," she said. "When I returned to my work here, I was far less disgruntled with my job and with some of those conditions that I was talking about because I had experienced just something that blew some of those things that I thought were unmovable standards kind of out of the water." All in all, she found much to learn and admire from the care she observed abroad.

INTEGRATING EXPERIENCE WITH PRACTICE

After her time abroad came to an end, Ford wanted to focus her mind solely on what was in front of her. She has decided to think critically about her experiences and how she is able to integrate the medical practices of the respective countries through a mutual exchange of resources.

One of the barriers she describes as having faced while in the Philippines was being unable to prescribe medication to people. Looking forward, she would like to pursue her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), especially as it will allow her to prescribe medications when traveling and serving within the community.



The nursing program at St. Scholastica places great emphasis on Benedictine values, teaching a rigorous curriculum through the lens of the liberal arts. Ford's praise for compassion and empathy is a testament to the high quality of the program: "One thing I really credit St. Scholastica for is bringing awareness to community health nursing".

A GREAT WAY TO OBSERVE THE WORLD

Throughout the summer, Ford was making collaborative live paintings in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Duluth alongside her roommate. The paintings were sold to support afterschool programming. "It's about remembering the effect of my actions on the health of this community, That's what public health is really about," she said.

As part of her creative and community-centric efforts, she has also had the opportunity to paint for an Oktoberfest event, where the proceeds were donated to the Damiano Center, a local community center.

Through live painting at the Rathskeller, a local speakeasy, her creative door has also been opened to other opportunities, including the chance to paint the mural that is currently on display at the Miller Hill Mall. "I think that art is a really important part of processing what's going on and processing emotions and self-discovery, no matter what medium I'm working in. It's like breathing. It's

always going to be happening in one way or another. I think art's also a really great way to observe the world around you."

Ford's advice to students is all about expanding horizons: "The world is so big beyond these walls. It can turn into such a fishbowl sometimes, but try to break the routine a little bit or go to something that isn't just the typical college routine or one of the typical college spots. And really explore because there are really cool pockets and some really cool things going on. If you have your people backing you and you have friends that you feel passionate about, that would make such a big difference. You can make it, you're worth it!"





Hitting the Right Notes with Matinee Musicale

Two highlights of the 2024-25 arts calendar at St. Scholastica included concerts brought to campus by the College’s longtime community partner, Matinee Musicale. Matinee Musicale is one of the country’s oldest presenters of classical music, celebrating its 125th season this year.

For over three decades, St. Scholastica’s Mitchell Auditorium has been a regular venue for Matinee Musicale concerts. However, the College’s connection to the organization dates much further back than the 1993 building; Sister

Martina Hughes, OSB — a music chair, College president and prioress for the St. Scholastica Monastery — hosted meetings of Matinee Musicale’s Manuscript Section for local composers from the 1940s to the 1970s in St. Scholastica’s iconic Tower Hall.

In 2025, the College continues to play a major role at Matinee Musicale. Dr. Jeremy Craycraft (Music) serves as College Representative. Faculty members Dr. Andrew Taylor (Theology and Religious Studies) and Dr. Jessica Schroeder (Music) are members of the

governing board. Additionally, Brad Snelling (Library) serves as historian and chair for the organization’s Artist Committee, on which faculty emerita Dr. Penny Schwarze is also a member.

Both of Matinee Musicale’s 2024-25 concerts at Mitchell Auditorium were part of the College’s Spotlight series: renowned cellist Ifetayo Ali-Landing’s Nov. 10, 2024, recital and Canadian pianist Angela Hewitt’s deeply moving April 1, 2025, recital in honor of Dr. LeAnn House.

A FITTING “VESPER WALTZ” DEBUT

Renowned cellist Ifetayo Ali-Landing’s November recital with pianist Teresa Vaughan was a vibrant celebration of artistic expression that highlighted unique connections between music, nature, the Twin Ports and the St. Scholastica community.

An afternoon highlight was the inaugural performance of “Vesper Waltz,” a piece commissioned from Duluth composer Wendy Durrwacher. This composition draws inspiration from the song of the Vesper Sparrow, a bird known for its evening melodies. These melodies parallel the evening prayers, or vespers, sung by the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica.

Durrwacher’s waltz deeply resonates with the College’s history, reflecting this elusive bird’s song. Notably, the Vesper Sparrow was first identified in spring 2024 in the St. Scholastica Library’s Catalog of Birds, a list of campus bird species started in 1978 by faculty emerita Sister Donna Schroeder and her students.

The event attracted members of the St. Scholastica community, including Sister Donna herself, demonstrating a deep commitment to the arts and education. The premiere of “Vesper Waltz” holds special significance for the St. Scholastica Library as the piece was funded by its Friends of the Library program, aligning with the interdisciplinary project dedicated to celebrating the rich bird presence on campus.

A MASTER PIANIST PERFORMS BACH

Canadian pianist Angela Hewitt’s deeply moving April 1, 2025, recital at Mitchell Auditorium was given in honor of Dr. LeAnn House, a longtime chair of music at St. Scholastica who served for many years as the College’s representative to Matinee Musicale. Ms. Hewitt, who has been described by the BBC as “one of the great interpreters of Bach of our age,” performed the composer’s masterpiece “The Goldberg Variations,” a composition she played in public for the first time 50 years ago this spring.

This was Ms. Hewitt’s first appearance at St. Scholastica since 2015, when she gave a program organized by the CSS Library, CSS Archives and Dr. House to honor pianist and scholar Jan Chiapusso, an early faculty member and biographer of Bach who was brought to the College by Sister Martina in the early 1930s. Shortly after her 2015 recital, Ms. Hewitt embarked on a “Bach Odyssey” during which she performed all of the composer’s major keyboard works in London, New York and Tokyo.

At her April recital, Hewitt’s mastery of this music was evident from the first notes of the famous “Aria” which appears both at the beginning and conclusion of the hour and twenty minute “Goldberg Variations” which she plays from memory. Several concertgoers remarked on the audience’s rapt silence at the end of the performance before breaking into a prolonged, standing ovation, which brought Ms. Hewitt back for three stage calls. After the recital, St. Scholastica voice instructor Dr. Jennifer Lien (Music) offered an eloquent summation of the evening:

“I don’t have too many words to describe Angela Hewitt’s rendition of the Goldberg Variations tonight that are not trite platitudes. I’ll just note that Bach requires such restraint and discipline from the artist, but this restraint paradoxically draws the audience into a spectrum of experiences from exquisitely delicate to acutely intense. The sounds I heard tonight, her gorgeous flowing arm action, and her reverence for this musical journey all took me to a place of psychological clarity I don’t know that I’ve ever experienced from a work of instrumental music. For 90 minutes tonight, time stood still, the world was beautiful, and all was well. May art continue to bring us moments like these to sustain us in these challenging times.”

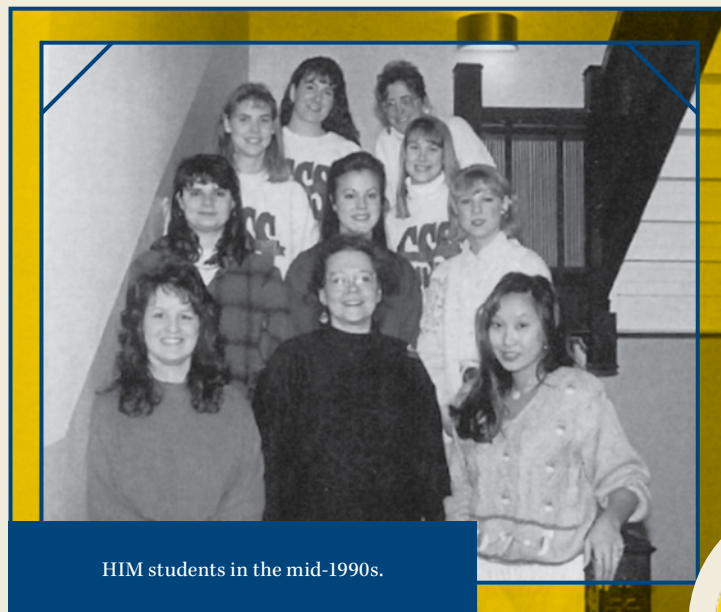


DR. LEANN HOUSE



SISTER MARTINA

Celebrating 90 Years of HIIM



HIM students in the mid-1990s.



Class of 1942 with Sister Loretta Sheehan.



St. Scholastica alums and faculty at the 2017 LaTour Eichenwald Forum on HIIM Leadership and Innovation (L-R): Katie Kerr (alum, faculty), Kathy LaTour (alum, former faculty), Beth Fait (former instructor), Shirley Eichenwald-Maki (alum, former faculty), and Janelle Wapola (alum, faculty).



St. Scholastica alumni and faculty at the 2024 LaTour Eichenwald Forum on HIIM Leadership and Innovation (L to R) David Marc, Madonna LeBlanc, Eric Nordgren, Kathy LaTour, Pam Oachs, Janelle Wapola, and Ryan Sandefer with Jennifer Mueller, the senior vice president of Health Information Career Advancement at AHIMA.

As we celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Health Informatics and Information Management (HIIM) Department at The College of St. Scholastica, we take a moment to reflect on the legacy, growth, and impact of this remarkable program. For nearly a century, the HIIM Department has been at the forefront of healthcare education, preparing professionals to lead in a rapidly evolving field where technology, patient care, and data integrity intersect. This milestone is not just a celebration of time—it is a recognition of the department's unwavering commitment to innovation, excellence, and the students who have carried its mission into the healthcare industry.

The foundation and success of the HIIM program would not have been possible without the dedication and leadership of the women who shaped its early years. Sister Patricia Thibadeau, who served as both superintendent and director of the program, played a crucial role in establishing its strong educational framework. Sister Loretta Sheehan, a medical record instructor at the College and associate record librarian at St. Mary's Hospital, helped bridge the connection between academic learning and practical application in healthcare settings. Mary Earns, the first program instructor, set the standard for quality education and mentorship, shaping the early curriculum that would become the backbone of the program's success.

Their pioneering efforts not only established the HIIM Department but also paved the way for generations of professionals who continue to uphold their legacy of excellence.

The medical world is constantly evolving, and so is the role of HIIM professionals. From paper records to advanced electronic systems, our field has adapted to technological advancements, regulatory changes, and the growing demand for data-driven healthcare. Our adaptability is what keeps us relevant and impactful, and ensures we continue supporting clinicians, patients, and healthcare organizations effectively.

We honor the resilience of those who shaped this profession as we celebrate 90 years." Each milestone reached, each challenge overcome, and each advancement integrated into our work serves as a testament to the strength of this field and the people who drive it forward.

Looking ahead, we must continue to evolve, embracing new technologies, advocating for data integrity, and fostering the next generation of HIIM leaders. By staying informed, engaged, and committed to lifelong learning, we can ensure that our profession remains vital in shaping the future of healthcare. The foundation built over the past 90 years is strong—now it is up to us to continue building upon it, making an even greater impact for years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY:

Beyond our 2004 Carter Partnership Award

The passing of President Jimmy Carter in late 2024 prompted a national reflection on his extraordinary life — a life defined not just by his years in the White House but by his lifelong dedication to humanitarian efforts around the globe. A recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002, President Carter’s legacy continues to inspire countless individuals and organizations working to make a positive impact on communities worldwide. For The College of St. Scholastica, this reflection brings to mind a significant moment of recognition that still resonates today: Receiving the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Award just over twenty years ago.

Collaborative efforts started in 1999 for the first full-service community school model in Minnesota, the Grant Community School Collaborative. In 2004, St. Scholastica and the now Duluth Community School Collaborative (DCSC) were selected for the prestigious award, which recognizes exceptional partnerships between institutions and their communities. This award was particularly significant because it was the first time the Carters had presented the honor to an organization outside of Georgia. The College and the Collaborative were recognized for their innovative and impactful work, which has continued to shape the Duluth community for over two decades.

An Unexpected Honor

In the winter of 2004, St. Scholastica representatives, including Jay Newcomb, Kathy Bogen (Executive Director of the Collaborative), Matt Hoeschen '04 (MBA '24) and several community members, attended the Carter Partnership Award banquet at the University of St. Thomas. At the time, there was little expectation of winning.

“Other partnerships were doing large development-type work, and we thought they were the most likely to win,” Newcomb, then the director of service learning, explained. Both Newcomb and Hoeschen recognized the development projects between metro-area colleges and their communities were strong contenders. However, when President Carter announced that St. Scholastica and the Collaborative had won, there was a sense of shock. The award was not just a recognition of the work already done — it was a testament to the power of collaboration, service and the belief that real change can happen through partnerships.

The recognition at the Carter Partnership Award banquet that evening in 2004 was just the beginning. Following the award, Newcomb, Bogen and many others continued to work to expand the Duluth Community School Collaborative’s reach. Today, the DCSC serves students and families at Myers-Wilkins Elementary, Lincoln Park Middle School and Denfeld High School, providing critical support and resources to some of Duluth’s most

underserved communities. The purpose is to “coordinate community partners and directly provide programming including academic enrichment, arts and cultural, recreation and physical activity, social-emotional learning, health and basic needs, family and community engagement, and employment readiness” (from Duluth Community School Collaborative, duluthcsc.org/about).

A Transformative Experience

One consistent presence in DCSC is alumna Rachel (Westbury) Thapa '07. As a freshman in 2003, Thapa wasted no time searching for a work-study opportunity and felt the pull to explore a support position for after-school programming at Grant Elementary (now Myers-Wilkins Elementary). This role ended up shaping her St. Scholastica experience and post-college life more than she could have expected. After a year in a different job, Thapa has been with the Collaborative ever since.

“I worked with the program as a work-study student for three of my four years at St. Scholastica,” Thapa shared. “I found my way back after college through a Reading Corps position, then as the afterschool enrichment program coordinator and youth development program director. We began working with students at Nettleton, and after Grant and Nettleton merged to form Myers-Wilkins, I stayed there until 2016. Families enjoyed the program and asked about expanding to work with their students when they moved up to



Jay Newcomb speaks at the press conference at St. Scholastica following the award ceremony.



Kathy Bogen (far left), Matt Hoeschen (center) and Jay Newcomb accept the award from President Carter (far right) and Mrs. Carter (center left) at the University of St. Thomas.

middle school. I didn’t anticipate moving from the elementary school because I loved working with the students there, but moving with the students I met as kindergarteners was also rewarding.”

At Lincoln Park Middle School, Thapa’s work also expanded as the full-service community school coordinator. The variety of the community school model work keeps things interesting, especially as the different aspects align with Thapa’s interests and studies as she earned a bachelor’s degree in Behavioral Arts and Sciences with minors in Biology, Languages and International Studies. “When I was in college, I considered education, nursing, psychology, counseling, social work; a lot of different things. I was also interested in the different health sciences. But I loved getting to work my work-study job. There were aspects of teaching and supporting kids with their overall health and well-being. I also enjoyed collaborating with families, the connections with culture and community, engaging with partners, and other relevant work.”

The community school model provides holistic and integrated support for student learning and development by

involving families, students, teachers, principals and community partners in co-creating additional programming and opportunities for students and families. These reinforced relationships and connections contribute to building a network of protective factors that can, in turn, build student resilience and offset the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Even if a young person has experienced an adverse childhood event, protective factors play a vital role in improving their mental health and wellbeing (source: 2022 St. Louis County, MN Student Survey Analyses). Protective factors are simple but powerful experiences, such as feeling that adults or peers care about them, having a positive identity, and experiencing empowerment. Thapa noted, “The work we do with families through DCSC can have a direct and positive impact in helping to create the conditions necessary for students to learn and thrive. We want to meet students and families where they are at and engage together as partners.”

One practical example is the school pantry at Lincoln Park. Thapa explained its importance this way: “It’s not just about addressing food insecurity; it

is important to implement programs or services that help build protective factors. Students have been involved as leaders in informing and helping with that process. They chose the fridge, they helped pick out the shelves, and now they help decide what items we’re going to stock. They helped determine how to set it up and facilitate it so that other kids might feel most welcome. We have a place where they can write caring messages to each other, so they realize this can be more meaningful and mutually supportive.”

Honoring President Carter’s Legacy

We celebrate the values President Carter championed: service, collaboration and the belief that through collective action, we can build stronger, more just communities. St. Scholastica’s commitment to service-learning and community engagement remains central to our mission and continues to shape the lives of our students. This legacy endures as one that fosters academic success and encourages students to think critically and act compassionately to improve the world around them.

New Trustees

Sister Jayne Erickson '84, OSB

Sister Jayne's educational background includes studies at the University of Wisconsin-Superior in music and health education, a bachelor's degree in youth ministry from The College of St. Scholastica, and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Northern Iowa. She enjoyed fourteen years of serving as a youth minister and director of children's ministry before becoming an elementary school teacher.

Upon retirement in 2017, Jayne became a live-in volunteer at St. Scholastica Monastery which ultimately led to a decision to enter the Benedictine Community where she is involved in Liturgy, the Oblate program, the Center for Spirituality and Enrichment and more. Throughout her life, Sister Jayne has worked to build strong relationships between people of all ages and recently became certified as a professional life coach. Her deepest interests include writing music for prayer and worship, enjoying the company of family and friends and spending time by, in, or on the water.



Owen Erickson '26

Owen Erickson is a first-generation college student pursuing a double major in psychology and educational studies complemented by a minor in organizational leadership. With a strong passion for higher education, he aims to shape the future as either a professor or a professional in student affairs. Growing up in a small town north of Duluth called Cotton, Owen graduated from South Ridge School in 2023. At St. Scholastica, he holds board positions in the Student Government Association, Native American Student Alliance and Psychology Association.

Beyond his studies, Owen thrives in volunteer work and values social interactions, believing in the power of community engagement. He actively contributes as a tour guide in admissions, sharing his enthusiasm for the institution with prospective students, and as an event coordinator in the student activities department, where he fosters a vibrant campus experience. His commitment to education and community service reflects his ambition to inspire and support others in their academic journeys.



Marc Fredson '95

Marc Fredson graduated from The College of St. Scholastica with a bachelor's degree in management and subsequently earned a master of arts in education in counseling from Seattle University in 2007. Marc has worked in healthcare marketing for nearly 30 years, beginning his career at Miller-Dwan Medical Center in Duluth. He currently serves as senior director of strategic marketing for UCLA Health in Los Angeles, part of the University of California system. In this role, Marc oversees marketing strategy for UCLA Health's hospitals and clinics, in addition to the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine.

Marc lives with his husband, Ryan, his mother-in-law, Sharon, and their three dogs, Waylon, Roland and Hal. In his free time, Marc regularly attends St. John's Episcopal Cathedral in L.A. and enjoys gardening, hiking, food, international travel and the arts, as well as visits to Palm Springs, where he and his husband own a home and enjoy the desert community.



Rhonda Kazik

Dr. Rhonda Kazik is the system chief nurse executive for Essentia Health. Rhonda has been active in nursing and health care for over 38 years working within critical access, community, teaching and academic hospitals, ambulatory, and post-acute care settings, and in health care systems spanning multiple states. She has held leadership roles in nursing, quality, operations, health systems engineering, nursing informatics, and research.

Rhonda received her doctorate of nursing practice from Rush University in Chicago in 2012 and has since authored multiple publications and given national presentations on systems performance measurement and improvement, quality and patient safety, technology impacts and clinical practice innovations. She taught these subjects, as well as epidemiology, as an adjunct faculty member of Rush University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Schools of Nursing, a contributing faculty position at Walden University's School of Nursing and an affiliate faculty position at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Rhonda also holds a master's degree in administrative medicine from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and is certified in Executive Nursing Practice.

Jean MacDonell '98

Jean MacDonell, MBA, is currently the president and CEO of Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital in Grand Rapids and Fairview Range in Hibbing. Jean attended The College of St. Scholastica for her bachelor of science in health information management and received her MBA from the University of St. Thomas. She has 27 years of experience in health care leadership, serving in various roles such as director of health information management and registration, vice president of support services and compliance officer, and vice president of clinic services, prior to being named president and CEO. Jean lives in Grand Rapids, MN with her husband Mike and daughters, Allie and Lizzie.





Holly Mirau (MBA '24)

Holly Mirau, director of media relations and communications at The College of St. Scholastica, is the staff trustee. She earned her BS from Crossroads College with a double major in biblical studies & theology and music. She worked for various nonprofit organizations before joining St. Scholastica's staff, where she earned her Project Management certificate and an MBA in Leadership and Change. An avid lifelong learner, Holly is continually seeking opportunities to engage her organization development skills and is passionate about helping organizations become their very best. At St. Scholastica, she is committed to supporting her colleagues through the work of the Staff Council and her role in communications.

In her free time, Holly enjoys traveling and exploring, reading fiction and nonfiction alike, and supporting the local arts scene as a fan and a musician. She and her husband, Luke, love living in the woods just north of Duluth with their rescue puppy, Ori.



Kristin Rognerud '03

Kristin Rognerud is a financial advisor, founding partner and owner of Ascential Wealth Advisors, an independent financial services practice in Duluth, MN. She has worked in the financial services industry since graduating from The College of St Scholastica in 2003 as a Webster Scholar with a bachelor's degree in economics. Kristin currently holds Series 7, 9, 10 and 66 securities licenses, along with life, health and variable annuities licenses. As a financial advisor, she primarily serves individuals in all aspects of wealth management and financial planning, helping clients make informed financial decisions that support their values and enrich the lives of their families and communities.

In addition to her work as a financial advisor, she has experience in management, regulatory compliance and entrepreneurship. Kristin has served as an adjunct faculty member and student mentor at St. Scholastica. She is a champion for women in business and an animal lover, supporting several local organizations focused on these causes. Kristin and her husband Dan live in Duluth and have four children. She enjoys running, walking her dogs and reading in her free time.



HONORING A DOUBLE LEGACY:

AIM Photo Exhibit Installed

The College of St. Scholastica's Native Initiatives unveiled a new photo exhibition of the American Indian Movement (AIM) in November 2024, featuring ten impactful photographs taken by Dick Bancroft between 1974 and 1989.

Bancroft was a self-taught photographer who used photography to capture and document historic activism movements globally, with a significant focus on AIM. These photographs, donated by the Dick Bancroft family, will be on permanent display in the Student Center on the Duluth main campus, reflecting both the history and ongoing struggles of Native peoples.

"St. Scholastica is proud to make this a permanent display for a few reasons," said Dr. Amy Bergstrom, associate vice president of Inclusive Excellence. "First, it connects us and is a reminder of the original peoples of this land and the importance of understanding the unique history of Native people. The decision to keep these on permanent display means we are committed as an institution to broadly reflect the history of America's original people and their history that is often left out in telling the history of this country. Additionally, this exhibit is rich with teaching opportunities and can be a resource for faculty, staff and students while serving as a reminder of this history. It is also powerful for Native students and employees to see a reflection of our lived history in a prominent place."

THE CEREMONY AND IMPACT

After Bancroft's passing in 2018, his family sought to honor his legacy and contributions to the movement by ensuring that his work continues to educate and inspire. Ann Bancroft, one of his daughters and a renowned polar explorer, attended the unveiling with other members of the Bancroft family. She recalled memories of her father's work in the Duluth News Tribune, saying, "What it really teaches you as a young person is ... there's a big world out there, and you want to be a part of it. You watch people make a difference."



Dr. McDonald and Dr. Bergstrom celebrate the photo installation with the Bancroft family.

The opening event included a reception, photo unveiling and traditional community meal in the Student Center in celebration of the Bancroft family's generous gift. As part of the ceremony, St. Scholastica Monastery Prioress Sister Beverly Raway '67, OSB, read the College's land acknowledgment. Dr. McDonald stated that the permanent display serves as a welcoming sign for Native American students, while also acknowledging an important piece of history.

Native students, including Vaeh Nason '27 of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and Angeline Lilya '27 from the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, shared their thoughts, expressing how the exhibit honors voices that were historically silenced. "This exhibit is a physical reminder of the people who led this movement and how they made history," said Nason. "It's a beautiful representation of the voices that weren't heard."

This exhibit reflects St. Scholastica's commitment to honoring Native history and providing educational resources for students and the greater community. To learn more about St. Scholastica's impactful exhibition on the American Indian Movement, including additional photos and insights from the Nov. 14 event, see the Nov. 20, 2024, story at css.edu/news.



Native students speak at the November 2024 event.



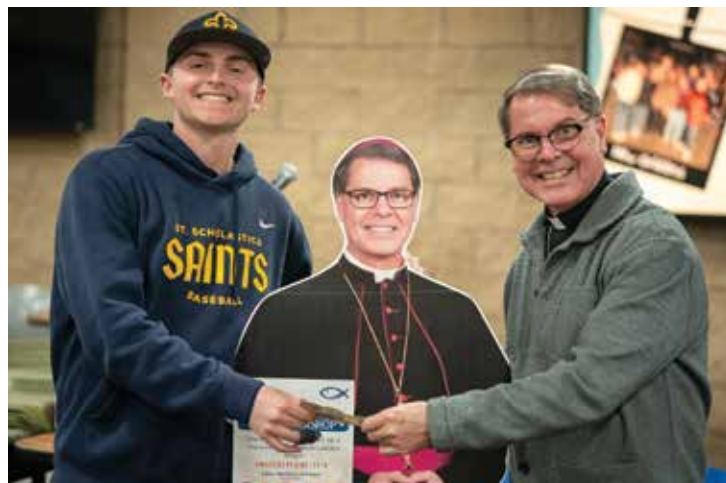
A Mission Integration Moment



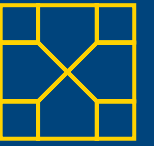
Our mission of forming students for responsible living and meaningful work requires that we help them envision a whole life — work, family, and civic engagement — that integrates values that promote human dignity and wholeness. In Benedict's Rule he instructs his monks to "listen... with the ear of their heart," to read the signs of the times, and to be obedient to God's call. While translating this to our current time is critical work, it doesn't mean it can't be fun! Have you heard about Bingo with the Bishop?

5TH ANNUAL FISH FRY & BINGO WITH THE BISHOP

The annual Fish Fry and Bingo with the Bishop began as a fun idea to build community among Catholic students. Carolyn Mikel '24, who was serving as a Peer Minister for Saints Catholic on the Campus Ministry student leadership team, wanted to plan an event that felt connected to students' traditional experience of a Lenten Friday at their parishes. The idea has been well received by students and has grown to 185 participants at this spring's fifth annual event. Students look forward to the fun, energetic atmosphere with good food, lots of great prizes and the lively Bingo calling by Bishop Daniel Felton. One highlight from recent years has included a nearly life-sized cardboard cutout of Bishop Daniel popping up around campus inviting students to attend the event, which he then gives out as a final prize of the night! This year Saints baseball player Beau Plaisance won the cutout.



Tayler (Boelk) Mercil '17



FIRST GEN ALUMNI AWARD

The First Gen Alumni Award honors a first-generation alum whose strengths, resiliency and lived experiences positively contributed to the St. Scholastica community.



Tayler (Boelk) Mercil graduated from The College of St. Scholastica in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in English. During her time at St. Scholastica, Tayler was a member of the Bella Voce Women's Choir, served as president of the English and Arts Club and was a writer for The Cable, the Marketing department, and The Northstar Reports. One of Tayler's fondest memories at the College was studying abroad on the theatre and literature trip in London with Dr. Merry Renn Vaughan and Dr. Stephanie Johnson.

Tayler was also a proud and active TRIO Student Support Services and McNair Scholars program member. While in TRIO, Tayler earned the Scholastica Leader award and the McNair Professional Growth Award. Tayler credits the McNair Scholars program as a significant influence in her life, having funded her road trip from Minnesota to Michigan to tour graduate schools. On this road trip, Tayler fell in love with Western Michigan University where she served as a graduate teaching assistant and graduated with a Master's of Communication in 2019 with a Teaching and Student Success designation. She now works at the University.

In the past year, Tayler was awarded the Western Michigan University College of Education and Human Development Staff Excellence Award and the Western Michigan University Make a Difference Award for her positive impact on prospective students and the WMU community. In addition to her work, Tayler enjoys taking classes at WMU and is currently working on her second master's degree, a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing-Fiction, with plans to begin her PhD in 2026.

Congratulations, Class of 2025!

1,133 Graduates

562 Bachelors

280 Masters

193 Doctoral

98 Certificates



A word from our student speakers...



Each of us was given a calling, and today, we stand ready to respond. The future of our professions and communities depends on people like us: those who lead with empathy, serve with humility, and act with purpose. May we continue to embody community—and other Benedictine values—by loving the unlovable, serving the oppressed, and reaching out to those in need to prioritize optimal care for our community.

– Amy (Schreyer) Leopold '21 (DPT '25)

This College has given us much more than just an education. St. Scholastica has given us a sense of belonging, purpose, and connection. Every tour I gave wasn't just about the buildings or programs we have; it was about inviting others into the community that has shaped who we all have become.

– Jason Amireault '25



Scan the QR code or visit our YouTube channel (@saintscholastica) to learn more about Jason's journey as a Saint.





Give to CSS Day 2025

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the St. Scholastica Community, Give to CSS Day was a resounding success! **415 donors contributed \$158,229.** We are so grateful for each and every gift. Your generosity will make a real difference in the lives of St. Scholastica students, on campus and beyond.

- The All Saints Annual Fund was the highest-performing fund this year, with 109 gifts totaling \$61,000. This fund provides support to the areas of greatest impact around the school.**

Fourteen generous donors made early matching gifts, leading the way and challenging the community to match their support.

Thirty-six supporters signed up to be Give to CSS Day influencers and helped us spread the word!

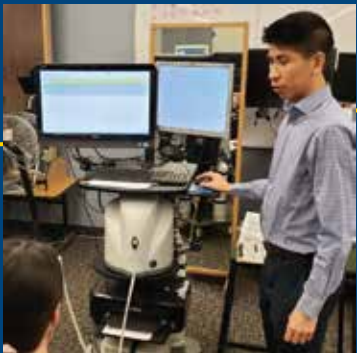


Spotlight on CEL's ELF

The Center for Experiential Learning (CEL) is a student hub for resources and tools that promote a holistic education by integrating high-impact practices (HIPs) into the student experience, which increases retention, engagement and career preparation. One of the resources available through CEL is the Experiential Learning Fund (ELF), created to widen students' internship opportunities by supporting students who are pursuing unpaid internships, research, or study abroad.

The Experiential Learning Fund (ELF) has now awarded \$38,000 to 58 students :

- Internships: 29
- Research: 9
- Study Abroad: 20).



JONAS ABELEDA '25
Majoring in Exercise Physiology, received ELF support for research

"This experience has positively impacted both my academic and career goals. Being able to immerse myself in this position has fully allowed me to deeply understand the core competencies of being a social worker and how the competencies actually play out in the real world. I have always envisioned myself working in a hospital setting, and this placement has definitely helped me realize I want to continue working in hospitals!"



TAKUDZWA MAJARAUNGA '26
Majoring in Computer Information Systems, received support from ELF for a local internship

"I had an internship with Duluth YMCA as an IT Specialist. This experience helped me land other internship offers from more prominent companies. Now that I have an internship experience on my resume, I was able to stand out as an applicant for other internships at these prominent companies. I ended up receiving an offer from a big investment bank where I will be heading to in the summer of 2025. The experiential learning fund is a very essential tool for the students because it motivates students to gain experience even from unpaid internships since they get the funds from the ELF to help them with other expenses as they go about the internship."



CAPRICE CASTELLANO '25
Majoring in Social Work, received support from ELF for Field Placement at St. Luke's in the emergency Department

"This experience allowed me to learn and contribute to the current body of research around pulmonary function, diseases, and rehabilitation. I was able to become trained and practiced in testing and research methods, applying for research grants and IRB approval. I was then able to interpret and consolidate my results and create a presentation that I presented at professional conferences and immersed myself in the professional setting. These are all crucial skills and experiences that will help my future career goals.

This was extremely helpful as I spent significant time working and conducting this research and sacrificing time from my jobs to immerse myself in this research experience. This allowed me to confidently invest my time fully in practicing these research/professional skills without worrying that I'd be missing out on income due to sacrificing time away from my work."

Briefs

01



New Doctoral Programs at St. Scholastica

MEDICAL SCIENCE (DMSC) AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (OTD)

This spring, The College of St. Scholastica announced the launch of two innovative doctoral programs: the Doctor of Medical Science (DMSc) and the Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD). Adding to the College's repertoire of doctoral programs, the DMSc and OTD are designed to equip healthcare professionals with the advanced skills and leadership training necessary to meet the complex demands of healthcare.

Beginning in spring 2026, the DMSc is specifically designed for practicing physician assistants and physician associates (PAs) looking to enhance their expertise and credentials in an evolving healthcare landscape. This groundbreaking program empowers PAs to lead change and tackle real-world healthcare challenges in high-level roles in clinical practice, education and healthcare leadership.

Additionally, St. Scholastica is at the forefront of occupational therapy education with the introduction of the OTD in June 2026. While the College has long offered a master's degree in Occupational Therapy, the doctoral program offers an enhanced focus on leadership and specialization. The OTD emphasizes advocacy, program development and policy-making through an immersive capstone project and educational experiences.

For more information on the new doctoral programs, visit css.edu/news and read the articles from **Feb. 4, 2025**.

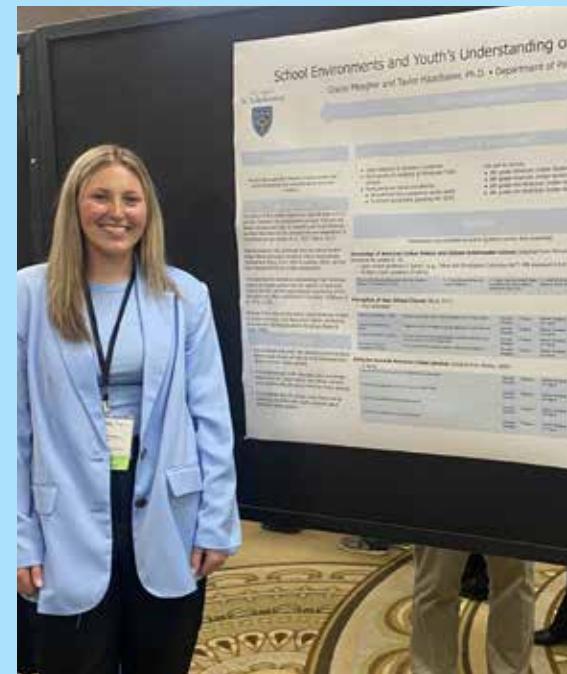
02

Psychology Student Receives Prestigious SUPER Fellowship

In recognition of her outstanding potential in the field of psychology, Gracie Meagher '25 received an esteemed Summer Undergraduate Psychology Experience in Research (SUPER) fellowship from the American Psychological Association (APA). This highly competitive fellowship is awarded to only 25 students annually who demonstrate a commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion in psychological research.

Meagher, a member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, conducted research on the critical topic of "School Environments and Youth's Understanding of Themselves and Others." Her project explored middle school students' perceptions of school climate, knowledge and attitudes about American Indian history and Ojibwe-Anishinaabe culture, and their understanding of their own and other racial groups.

Reflecting on her fellowship experience, Meagher stated, "I feel honored to contribute to the under-represented research focused on how our school environments shape youth's perceptions of American Indian history and Ojibwe-Anishinaabe culture while emphasizing well-being." More information about Meagher's research fellowship can be found in the **Feb. 17, 2025** article on css.edu/news.



03

CLASSROOM TO CLINIC:

Exploring Careers in Oncology

Biology students at The College of St. Scholastica had a hands-on learning experience in collaboration with the oncology department at Essentia Health. During a panel followed by round-robin style discussions, the students learned about ways to make a difference through work in oncology. See the Nov. 18, 2024 article at css.edu/news for more about this experience's impact on their educational journeys.

04

VETERAN TO ADVOCATE:

Jon Whaley

Jonathan Whaley '24 served as an army medic for twelve years. After being forced to retire medically, Whaley felt defeated. His story follows his journey to find a new home at St. Scholastica, first as a psychology student and then onto becoming a resource on campus, supporting other military students. You can read it in the Nov. 8, 2024 story on css.edu/news.



Briefs

05

Faculty Sabbatical, Tenure and Promotions Announced

Join us in congratulating the faculty who have been awarded a sabbatical and who have received tenure or promotion. "We are proud of your remarkable achievements in teaching, scholarship and service to the College and community at large," said President Barbara McDonald.

SABBATICAL AWARDED

- Dr. Kelly Erickson, *Occupational Therapy*
- Dr. Lynn Kalnbach, *Management and Business Studies*
- Dr. Karen Rosenflanz, *Global Sustainability and Justice*
- Dr. Dan Westholm, *Biology*

TENURE GRANTED TO

- Dr. Christine Cabelka, *Physical Therapy*
- Dr. Jenean O'Brien, *Biology*
- Dr. Karen Rissling, *Education*
- Dr. Daniel Stam, *Physical Therapy*
- Dr. Evan Tyler, *Physical Science*
- Dr. Kaya Zelazny, *Biology*

PROMOTION FROM ASSISTANT TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

- Dr. Lisa Kappes, *Exercise Physiology*
- Dr. Timothy Lorek, *History and Politics*
- Dr. Karen Rissling, *Education*
- Dr. Kaisa Syvaaja, *Occupational Therapy*

PROMOTION TO FULL PROFESSOR

- Dr. Bret Amundson, *Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences*



06

CSS Choir Tours Italy

The College of St. Scholastica Choir's Italy tour was both a musical and spiritual journey, reinforcing the College's Benedictine values and the power of music to bridge cultures and histories. Guided by Dr. Richard Carrick, the tour featured formal concerts in Assisi, Florence, and Rome. Traveling during a Jubilee year provided special opportunities to perform in some of the most sacred and historic sites of the Catholic tradition, including several papal basilicas in Rome and the burial sites of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica. In addition to the choir, the group also included Dr. McDonald, Sister Danile Lynch and Sister Lisa Maurer, and faculty and staff members Jessica Schroeder and Emily Valine.

07



CSS Theatre Club presents "John Proctor Is The Villain"

The CSS Theatre Club opened Kimberly Belflower's "John Proctor is the Villain" on March 21, one day after the show began its Broadway preview run. Selected in collaboration with the dean of Arts and Sciences, the Fine Arts department chair and the Theatre Club and directed by Matthew Singletary, the production was a hit, selling out multiple shows during its run.



FALL 2024 / WINTER 2025

SPORTS OVERVIEW

The St. Scholastica athletics teams made remarkable strides this year, showcasing talent across all sports. The men's and women's cross country teams had notable performances, with the men securing a trip to the NCAA Championships and the women finishing third at the MIAC Championships, earning multiple All-Conference honors. Meanwhile, the football team enjoyed its winningest season since transitioning to the MIAC, the volleyball team celebrated their strong season since 2019. The golf teams achieved record-setting accomplishments in their respective competitions.



MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

CALVIN BOONE

Calvin Boone and Lars Dewall of the Saints men's cross country team finished up the season with CSC Academic All-District Selections. Boone wrapped up his collegiate career by finishing 6th place at the MIAC XC Championships, earning a 1st Team All-Conference award and a trip to the NCAA Championships.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

GRACE MCCORMICK

The Saints women's cross country team finished third in the MIAC XC Championships, and followed it up with a second consecutive top 10 finish in the NCAA North Regional Championships. Regan Dewitt, Grace McCormick, Greta Leitheiser, and Kelsey Johannes each finished as MIAC All-Conference members.



MEN'S GOLF

CONNOR O'HARA

The Saints men's golf team finished their best year in program history with a new record for lowest average team score, 318.2. Connor O'Hara finished with the best single-season scoring average in program history, 76.1 per round, just four over par.



WOMEN'S GOLF

CARISSA OBERDING

The Saints women's golf team concluded their season with an average team score of 360.3. Carissa Oberding achieved a remarkable victory at the Gustie D3 Classic, where her day two score of 70 became the lowest in the program's history. This score was also tied for the third-lowest in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC). Additionally, Oberding's season average of 80.5 marks the best average in the program's history.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

AVA HAUS

The Saints women's basketball team finished with twelve wins, most since 2017, and their nine MIAC wins were the most since joining the conference in 2021. Ava Haus tied the program record for most points in a game with 37 against Saint Mary's. Haus picked up her first career MIAC All-Conference award, while Kloe Lind picked up her second in two years.



WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

ELLA STRITESKY

The Saints women's indoor track and field team finished with multiple all-conference members at the MIAC championships. Regan Dewitt and Ella Stritesky finished on the podium with 3rd place finishes in the 1,000m and the weight throw, respectively. Dewitt also earned MIAC All-Conference placement in the 800m, while the 4x200m of Jaden Elleffson, Ava Fink, Kayla Nelson, and Shayna Wick finished 4th.



MEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

TRENT BESETH

The Saints had much to brag about at the end of their indoor track season. Trent Beseth finished as the MIAC champion in the shot put and the weight throw while earning his second All-American award with a 2nd place finish at the NCAA National Championships. These performances saw Beseth win MIAC Field Athlete of the Year and Field Athlete of the Week five times. Beseth was joined at the national championships by Calvin Boone in the 1 mile and Lars Dewall who qualified in the 3,000m by winning at the MIAC Championships. Other MIAC All-Conference members included Joshua Monreal who finished third in the weight throw and sixth in the shot put, Noah Kubichek in the 400m and 600m, and Sean Alfaro Diedrich in the 60m.



MEN'S NORDIC SKIING

CHASE HIGH

The Saints men's nordic skiing team sent members to nationals for the fifth consecutive year with Chase High finishing in 3rd place in the 7.5k classic style in the CCSA region to punch his ticket to the NCAA National Championships. High, Leevi Tarjaane, Ben Boelter, and Jakob Craig all earned CCSA All-Region nominations, and Tarjaane also finished as the champion in the Ariens Invite 15k classic style.



WOMEN'S NORDIC SKIING

GRETA LEITHEISER

The Saints women's nordic skiing team finished the season with one national qualifier in Greta Leitheiser. Leitheiser finished 2nd place in the 20k freestyle at both CCSA Regionals and the CSS Invite. These performances earned her CCSA All-Region along with Mae Whitcomb.



STAFFING

NEW HEAD COACHES:

- Matt Bremer** - promoted from Offensive Coordinator to Head Football Coach
- Jared Drake** - Men's Basketball
- Sidney Brodt** - Women's Hockey

NEW STAFF:

- Karl Wright** - Assistant Athletic Director for External Relations
- Jacob Oyler** - Director of Athletic Communications

New staff for the Saints athletic department included the promotion of offensive coordinator Matt Bremer to the fifth head football coach in program history. Jared Drake was announced to be the next men's basketball coach. Sidney Brodt was announced as the new women's hockey coach. on the administration side, saints alum karl wright was named as the assistant athletic director for external relations and jacob oyler was brought on as the next director of athletic communications.



Matt Bremer



Jared Drake



Sidney Brodt



Karl Wright



Jacob Oyler

Dear Fellow Saints,



I hope this message finds you in excellent health and high spirits.

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our alumni family. To the Class of 2025, congratulations on your accomplishment! Your journey with us is just beginning and we are thrilled to have you join an alumni community as passionate and dedicated as you are. The experiences and memories you have made at the College will become a cherished part of our shared legacy. Alumni hold a pivotal role in shaping the life of our alma mater. Your contributions, expertise and support are invaluable in guiding current students and fellow graduates toward success. By fostering networking opportunities and engaging in various initiatives, new members enrich our collective experience, fostering pride and a deep sense of belonging within the extended Saints community.

Reunion Weekend is a wonderful opportunity to revisit campus and reconnect with classmates. There is such fun energy on campus as alums from different graduation years gather to share memories. It always amazes me how many similar stories there are across the different generations. It truly speaks to the enduring quality of a St. Scholastica education and the strength of our Benedictine values. I hope to see you there!

I have been honored to serve on the Alumni Board of Directors for the last seven years, with the last three as president. As the president of the Alumni Board, I have also had the privilege of being the alumni representative to the College's Board of Trustees. I have been proud to support the board's mission of increasing alumni involvement with the College by providing meaningful communication and events that are engaging to all alumni. I would like to thank all members of the Alumni Board both past and present and the Alumni Engagement team at the College for making my time on the board so meaningful and enjoyable. I wish the team success as they continue the work of creating meaningful connections to the College for all alumni both current and future.

The continued support of our alumni community will ensure the success of the alumni engagement team. Together, as a unified Saints community, we can support St. Scholastica to overcome challenges and continue attracting students who resonate with the College's mission and values rooted in the Catholic Benedictine heritage. How can you contribute? Share your experiences with prospective students, proudly wear your Saints gear and be an influencer by sharing your profound pride in St. Scholastica today.

Let us continue to stand strong as Saints, showcasing our commitment to our beloved alma mater.

Jennifer Alaspa

Class Notes

1990

Jennifer Pavlatos is a senior vice president and equipment finance officer at Trustmark in Naples, FL.

1995

Sarah (Triplett) Ellena, BAN, RN, PHN, LSH, has been named the 2024 School Nurse of the Year by the School Nurse Organization of Minnesota. This award annually recognizes one licensed school nurse for excellence in nursing practice and leadership. Sarah is a licensed school nurse for Cloquet Public Schools.

2000

Nathan Ahlberg was named 2024 Coach of the Year by the Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association. Nathan is the Northwood-Solon Springs head baseball coach.

2001

Jennifer (Schmidt) Keltgen (MA '02) is a physical therapist at Glencoe Regional Health in Glencoe, MN.

Christina (Logghe) Walz (MA '02) is the executive director at The Adoray Home Health & Hospice Board of Directors in Baldwin, WI.

2002

Molly (Peterson) Howard received a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of Minnesota School of Nursing. She is the Magnet Program Director at Sharp Grossmont Hospital in La Mesa, CA.

2003

Katarina Rush is a business banking relationship manager at Wells Fargo in Duluth, MN.

2006

Jessica (Allen) Schroeder is a clinic Supervisor at Aspirus St. Luke's in Duluth, MN.

2007

Nicole Swanson (DNP '21) is an advanced practice registered nurse and certified nurse practitioner specializing in gastroenterology and liver care at Essentia Health-Duluth Clinic.

2009

George Patronas (MA '14) is the Pharmacy Relations Program Manager at Essentia Health in Duluth, MN.

2011

Dr. Chiamaka Enemuoch (DNP '13) is the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce Board Chair.

For the second year in a row, **Blake Kroyer**, CRPC, AAMS, was recognized by Financial Planning, a financial trade publication, as one of the "Top 40 Regional Advisors Under 40" in the country. Financial Planning shines a light on financial advisors under 40.

2014

Rheanna Hastings and her husband live on Cape Cod, MA, with their five sons. Her husband is a priest at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, and she is a middle school teacher at Cape Cod Christian Academy. Their eldest son is attending West Point Military Academy in West Point, NY.



Megan Munns Prunte, MPH, RHIA, has joined Banner Health, headquartered in Arizona, as an IT Director of Person Identity Management. She will be working remotely from Carlsbad, CA.

2016

Eric Bottolfsen (MA/MBA) is a partner in a newly formed independent planning firm, allwealth Planning. allwealth Planning offers wealth planning with independence and a personal touch focusing on helping individuals, business owners, retirees, and people going through life changes and take the guesswork out of achieving their financial goals. The team is based in Scottsdale, AZ.

2017

George Dalbo (MS) is an education teacher at Beloit College in Beloit, WI.

2018

Deborah Goble Erickson has been inducted into the Brainerd High School Legendary Women Hall of Fame. Erickson serves as Crow Wing County administrator and is the first female to have the job. She began her career with the Crow Wing County Assessors Office in 1994 and served as president of the Minnesota Association of County Officers. For eight years, she was Minnesota's local government representative to federal elections committees and was awarded Outstanding Member of the Year in 2017 as president of both the Minnesota Association of County Officers and the Minnesota Association of County Auditors, Treasurers and Finance Officers.

Dr. Jessica Huber (DNP '23) is the Dean of Nursing and Health Sciences at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.

2019

Amy Campbell is a Community and Social Service Specialist for the Utah Department of Health and Human Services in Salt Lake City, UT.



Jackie (Sagedahl) Myers (DNP '24) is an advance practice registered nurse specializing in endocrinology at Essentia Health-Duluth Clinic.

Tia Pollak is an emergency medicine pharmacist at Essentia Health-Fargo.

2020

Megan Hoffman is a family nurse practitioner at MaineHealth Pen Bay Hospital in Rockport, ME.

Kale Olson (DPT '21) is working at Aspirus St. Luke's Hospital specializing in orthopedic injuries and knee issues, treating athletes young and old.

2021

Anna Bankey is a mental health therapist at Lakeview Behavioral Health in Brainerd, MN.



2022

Abigail Blonigen is an Engagement Specialist at Bolton & Menk, Inc., a civil engineering firm based in Mankato, MN.

2023

Jenna Fossell (DPT '24) is a physical therapist at Aspirus St. Luke's in Duluth, MN.

Megan Malyuk, advanced practice registered nurse and certified nurse practitioner, is specializing in urgent care at Essentia Health-Duluth Clinic.

2024

Krishia Balazar (DNP) is an advanced practice registered nurse and certified nurse practitioner specializing in family medicine at Essentia Health-West Duluth Clinic.

Bryce Bottila (DPT '24) is a physical therapist at Aspirus St. Luke's in Duluth, MN.

Chinthana Herath (DNP) is a physical therapist at Sentara Health in South Boston, VA.



Emily Murrey is a clinic manager at Aspirus St. Luke's in Duluth. She oversees the Obstetrics & Gynecological and Pediatrics clinics.

Jennifer Thul has been inducted into the National PA Honor Society, Pi Alpha, and graduated in December with her Master of Physician Assistant Studies from Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, NE.

2025

Johanna Gillquist (MEd) received the 2024 Leadership in Educational Excellence Award in October. Educators are selected for this award based on various criteria, including expertise, leadership in curriculum development, and positive impact on students, staff and the community.

2026

Scott Kliegle is an accountant at The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN.

Yiming Liu (MS) is a certified physician assistant specializing in emergency medicine at Essentia Health-St. Mary's Medical Center.

Michael Nkrumah (MS) is a certified physician assistant specializing in hospitalist medicine at Essentia Health-Virginia.

2027

Eleanor Jones (DNP) is an advanced practice registered nurse and certified nurse practitioner specializing in hospitalist medicine at Essentia Health-St. Mary's Medical Center.

Marriages

Desiree Aherns (MA '04) and **Chris Aakre**, June 14, 2024.

Molly (Geier) '15 and **Wes Lorence**, Sept. 27, 2024.



Taylor (Lindsey) '19 and **Sam Noeldner '19**, (MS '20), '22, Oct. 11, 2024.



Class Notes Continued

Births & Adoptions

Chelsey Johnson ’20 and **Ryan Peterson**, twin boys, Bodie and Baylor, Sept. 27, 2024.



Kristen Lilya ’20 and **Corey Kolkin**, twin boys, Asher and Andrew, July 2, 2024.



Deaths

Mary Louise (Dolan) Bardon ’50 died on Dec. 7, 2024. She is survived by sons, Richard (Leslie), Peter (Denise); daughter, Julia (Martin); grandchildren, Richard (Sarah), Jane, Molly (Jon), David (Brittany) and Alex.

Cora Ann (Anglim) Paulson ’50 died on Oct. 30, 2024. She is survived by children, Arthur Jr., David (Tammy), Nancy (John), John (Vanessa); grandchildren, Nathan, Nicole (Sam), Laura (Patrick), Ryann (Peter); Haley, Emily, Matthew and Jessica; and great-grandchildren, Lindsey, Jackson, Maxwell, Bailey, Beckett and Brooks.

Dora (Chase) Ward ’50 died on Oct. 10, 2024. She is survived by son, Jeffery; daughter, Mary; granddaughter, Kristyn; grandson, Michael; great-grandson, Jaxon; brother, Paul; sisters-in-law, Irene (Fredrick) and Viola (Donald).

Janet (LoFaro) Boase ’51 died on Dec. 24, 2024. She is survived by sister, Peggy (Ron); children, Steven (Lori), Brian (Kim), Julie (Anthony) and David (Jenny); grandchildren, Jessica (Jim), Kyle (Melissa), Courtney (Michael), Tony (Lisa), Matt (Allison), Robyn (Darren), Jordan (Bailey), Adam (Margaret), Thomas, Marcus, Symantha (Andrew), Breanna (Luke), and Anthony; great-grandchildren, Kalli, Ava, Brody, Ben, Blake, Willa, Drew, Emma, Jacob, Desi, Tanner, Bryce, Lincoln, Cannon, Scarlett, Georgia and Olivia; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Patricia (Ademino) Anderson ’52 died on Sept. 4, 2024. She is survived by brother, Peter (Cheryl); sisters-in-law, Helen and Joan; daughters, Carla (Lee) and June; sons, Rob (Rhonda) and Greg (Mary); grandchildren, Erin (Bart), Christy, Jana (Craig), Jessie (Joe), Derrick (Nicole), Rachael (Katie), Kevin (Michaela); eight great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Betty (Nikunen) Ornberg ’52 died on April 15, 2024. She is survived by son, David; daughter, Dawn Marie (Karl); numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a great-great grandson; and nieces and nephews.

Marilyn (Schroeder) Buffone ’53 died on Aug. 13, 2024. She is survived by daughter, Mary (Jamie); grandson, Sean; granddaughter, Brigitte; great-grandson, Jason; and sister, Kay.

Valeria (Wozniak) Haselhuhn ’53 died on Oct. 14, 2024. She is survived by son, Scott; daughters, Laurie, Lynn (Mark), and Anne (Kevin); grandchildren, Melissa, Sheryl, Katie, Jason, Jacob, Jessica and Zach; and ten great-grandchildren.

Constance (Herington) Krmpotich ’53 died on July 23, 2024. She is survived by children, Michael, Mark and Patricia (Carlson); eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Eileen (Bertie) Gottwald ’54 died on Jan. 19, 2025. She is survived by children, Paul (Jane), Mark (Jane), Michael (Jean), Joanne (Bill) and Jennifer (David); 11 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mary (Prushek) Leisman ’54 died on Jan. 2, 2025. She is survived by children, Mark (Suzanne), Cheryl (Dennis), and Suzanne; 7 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; brother, Joseph Jr.; and many relatives and friends.

Patricia (Dunleavy) Malinowski ’55 died on Sept. 9, 2024. She is survived by sister, Denise; children, Michael and Jean; grandsons, Christopher and Kevin; granddaughter, Virginia; 6 great-grandchildren; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Geraldine (Fontecchio) Hayden ’56 died on May 30, 2024. She is survived by husband, John; daughters, Mary (James), Elizabeth (Robert), and Sara (Scott); son, Michael (Susan); nine grandchildren; one stepgrandchild; and five great-grandchildren.

Mary (Sutter) Bellingham ’58 died on Jan. 9, 2025. She is survived by children, Robert, Mark, John, and Janet (James); sisters, Roberta and Etsy; and grandchildren, Chelsea, Trent (Amanda), Conor, Zoe, Charles and Oskar.

Elizabeth (Richards) Starcevic ’59 died on Oct. 29, 2024. She is survived by husband, William; stepdaughters, Sherry (Mark) and Debbie (Patrick); sister-in-law, Betty; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Corinne “Margaret” (Pallansch) Vener ’60 died on Dec.19, 2024. She is survived by husband, John; children, Michael (Kim), James, Anne (Dan), and Jack; grandchildren, Erin (Luke), Vinzenz, Michelle and Thomas; brother, Robert; and sister-in-law, Judy.

Mary Murphy ’61 died on Dec. 25, 2024. She is survived by sisters-in-law, Marianne and Eva; 12 nieces and nephews; many great nieces and nephews; and many friends.

Sister Mary Christa Kroening, OSB, ’62 ’62 died on Jan. 1, 2025. She is survived by nephews and nieces and the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery.

Judith (VanSoest) Linden ’63 died on July 26, 2024. She is survived by husband, Roger; children, Jon (Amy), Mark (Nancy), and Sara (Coley); siblings, Dorothy (Susan), Timothy (Kathy), and Richard (Lynette); grandchildren, Jack, Ben, Emily (Allen), Brandon, Daniel, Ellie and Thomas; and extended family and friends.

Carol (Kolojeski) Bort ’65 died on July 20, 2024. She is survived by sons, David (Jacqueline), Brian (Ellie), and Robert; grandchildren, Lucas, Logan, Abigail, Skyler and Emily; siblings, Julie, Joan, Denise (Stu) and Sue (Wes); and many nieces, nephews and other family and friends.

Patricia (Becks) Kaas ’66 died on Nov. 28, 2024. She is survived by husband, Michael; children, Michelle (Doug), Nicole (Mike), and Christopher (Kristi); grandchildren, Collins and Colton; brother, Robert (Carol); and two nieces and their families.

Sister Arlene Kleemann, OSB, ’66 died on June 24, 2024. She is survived by brother, George (Sandi); nieces, nephews, and many close friends; and the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery.

Phyllis (Haberman) Schlager ’66 died on June 16, 2024. She is survived by children, Catherine (Charles), Julie (James), and Robert (Kathryn); grandchildren, Parker (Vicky), Adeline and Thor; great-grandchild Paysen; sister, Agnes; sister-in-law, Marita; many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends; and her cherished Sisters from St. Scholastica Monastery.

Tracey Anne (Meyer) Guetter ’67 died on Feb. 1, 2025. She is survived by husband, Paul.

Barbara (Kosowick) Asplund ’68 died on Aug. 17, 2024. She is survived by husband, Oliver; children, Rick (Noreen), Jim (Renee), John (Sonja), and Lori; grandchildren, Kayla, Michael, Daniel, Tyson, Nicole, and Kyle; step-children, Randall (Julie Ann), Valerie (David), and Stacey; step-granddaughter, Isabella; and sister, Patricia (Harvey).

Janet (Rahe) Hennekens ’68 died on Feb. 13, 2025. She is survived by siblings, Mary Kay, Lois, Doris (Gary), Dewayne (Krystal), Marsha (Mark), Carmen (Jim), Keith (Jacque), Colleen and Michelle; sister-in-law, Nikki; and many nieces and nephews.

Patricia (Craig) Hertzelt ’69 died on July 12, 2024. She is survived by children, Theresa, Paul, Holly, David, Laurie, Anthony, Thomas, and Heidi; fifteen grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren.

Sharon (High) Eid ’70 died on July 28, 2024. She is survived by husband, Barry; daughter, Tara (Mike); brother, Daniel (Sandy); nephew Scott; stepchildren, James (Kim), Francine, Christine (Scott), Steven, Daniel; grandchildren, Kayla, Brenna, Devin, Vincent, Logan, Chase, Brennan, Luke, Alex, Timothy, Carolina and Isaac.

Sister Luella Walsh, OSB, ’72 died on Jan. 5, 2025. She is survived siblings, Jeanette and Leonard; many nieces and nephews; and the Sisters of St. Benedict of Crookston, MN, and Good Shepherd Monastery in Starr County, TX.

Mary (Downing) Shoaff ’73 died on Nov. 12, 2024. She is survived by sister, Catherine; brothers, Patrick (Holly), Will (Cindy), Tom (Janet), John (Holly), and Rob (Ellen); nieces, Jenny (Todd), Brianna (Steve), Trisha, and Katherine; nephews, Jake (Tasha), Adam (Amy), Andrew (Stephanie) and Joseph (Mariah); special great-nieces and nephews, Ruby, Finley, Elsie, Ella, James, Alex, Axel, Oskar, Lily, Madison and Gabriella; mentor, Marcy Gobell; and many cousins.

Bessie (Fuller) Thomas ’74 died on April 8, 2024. She is survived by daughter, April; siblings, Patricia, Richard (Ruth), Edward (Tamara); and several nieces, nephews and a host of special friends.

Randall Travalia ’74 died on July 17, 2024. He is survived by wife, Nancy; brother, David (Sally); children, Lindsay and Kelly (Emily); grandchildren, Ella, Bennett, Paxton and Linden; in-laws, Diane (Craig), Ron (Janice), Patty, and Tom; and many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Lori (Zelevnikar) Lightner ’75 died on June 27, 2024. She is survived by husband, Martin; children, Dan and Jen (Matt); grandchildren, Carter, Kyla, and Ella; sisters, Susan (Mike), Jane (John) and Patricia; and many other nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family.

Warren “Bun” Carlson ’78 died on Jan. 12, 2025. He is survived by wife, Brenda; daughters, Alexa (Paul) and Kelly (John); granddaughter, Hazel; two grandchildren due in May; brothers, Gordy (Karen) and Keith; sister-in-law, Jill; brother-in-law, Daniel (Laurel); nephews, Curt, Chris, Cory, Scott, Darrin and Jack; and nieces, Sheri and Grace.

Gail Olsen ’78 died on May 17, 2024. She is survived by husband, Lee; sons, Jesse, Rory and Dana; granddaughters, Luna, River, and Jocelyn; grandson, Nicholas; brother, Rey (Peggy); sister, Sandra; brothers-in-law, Tom and Chris; sister-in-law, Renell; and nieces and nephews.

Luanne Graham ’79 died on Jan. 1, 2025. She is survived by husband, Paul; two stepchildren; daughter, Lynnae; son, Colin (Crystal); grandchildren, Aubrey, Amelia, Eva, Davin, Brooklyn, and Sarah; brother, Father William Graham; and sisters, Sherry, Gloria and Julie (Clark).

Luann Phillipich ’82 died on Sept. 19, 2024. She is survived by brothers, Tom (Kathy) and Bob (Kathy); nephews, Adam (Stacy), David, John (Jessica) and Jeff (Nicole); niece, Amy (Ryan); and great-nieces and nephews.

Timothy Plevell ’87 died on Aug. 23, 2024. He is survived by mother, Sheila (Frank); sisters, Jill and Joy; niece and nephews, Jessica, Matthew (Amber), and Hunter; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Melva Tremaine ’89 died on July 28, 2024. She is survived by husband, Ron; brother, Jerry; sons, Mark (Bonnie) and Eric (Jenny); daughter, Kari (Dave); foster daughter, Betty (Bob); fourteen grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Travis Jones ’09 died on Dec. 31, 2024. He is survived by brother, Ryan (Brianna); grandmothers, Marilyn and Lois; aunts, Renee (Joe), Patty (Stony), Nancy, Tracy; and numerous cousins, friends and co-workers.

Michelle Proudfoot (MA ’92) (DNP ’12) died Nov. 3, 2024. She is survived by nephews, Greg and Geoff; cousin, Susan; and numerous other relatives.

Class Notes Continued

Deborah (Karkinen) Kramar '97 died on Feb. 14, 2025. She is survived by husband, James; father, John; brother, James (Betsy); nephew, Gus; niece, Samantha; and her canine companions, Sitka and Kenai.

Bruce Ericson '03 died on Jan. 8, 2024. He is survived by wife, Elnora; sister, Diane; sister-in-law, Susan; former spouse, Marlene; children, Ryan (Angela), Tracy (Christopher), and Kevin (Christina); grandchildren, Khloei, Prestyn, Helen, Dean and Millicent; niece, Michele (Pete); nephew, Brent (Pam); cats, Baby Jet and Starlord; and many other close family and friends.

Marsha Skoog (MED '04) died on April 27, 2024. She is survived by husband, Kent; sons, Jeremy (Autumn), Andrew (Julie), and Daniel (Kaylee); mother, Norma Jean; grandchildren, Landon, Trysten, Mason, Marty, Miles, Harper and Jameson; brother, Brandon; sisters, Pam (Ron), Robin (Jay), Kathy, Toni (Ivan), Lori (Ed), and Renee; and mother-in-law, Gunn.

Roseanne Byrne '05 died on Dec. 28, 2024. She is survived by husband, Mark; sons, Daniel (Emily), Timothy (Chelsea), and Peter (Erin); and grandchildren, Clara, Arlo, Logan, and Silvie.

Sheree (Couture) Hansen (MED '07) died on Oct. 17, 2024. She is survived by husband, Randy; brothers, Brad and Jeff (Deb); daughters, Elissa (Jon) and Krista (Drew); and grandchildren, Carter, Evelynn, Francesca and Hansen.

Hallie (Muhich) Stevens '20 died on Nov. 6, 2024. She is survived by parents, Brandy and Thomas; brother, Jacob; grandparents, Louie, Sally, and Kathy; aunt, Teresa; and uncle, Bishop Peter Muhich.

Ann Wick '23 died on Jan. 24, 2025. She is survived by son, Charlie (Rosalie); parents, Richard and Cookie Wallis; and brothers, David, Jeff and Michael.

Our Sympathy

Denise (Dunleavy) Delboy '60 on the death of her sister, Pat.

Julie Kolojeski '68 on the death of her sister, Carol.

Elizabeth Markon '77 on the death of her mother, Ann.

Ruth (Sandbulte) Peterson '78 on the death of her husband, Arlan.

Constance Gunderson '81 on the death of her mother, Lois.

Nancy (Paulson) Brickley '82 on the death of her mother, Cora Ann.

Patrick Pfahl '83 and **Susan McClernon** '84 on the death of their son, Anthony.

Theresa (Kovall) Schlenker '84 on the death of her mother, Joanne.

Jill (Omdahl) Plevell '86 on the death of her brother, Tim.

Anne (Vener) Karl '88 on the death of her mother, Margaret.

Denise (Paramski) Maloney '89 on the death of her father, James.

Georgette Debeltz-Sarkela '91 on the death of her husband, Bill.

Timothy Sisto '92 on the death of his father, Alexander.

Jennifer (Ekmark) Robichaud '95 on the death of her mother, Joy.

Andrea (Gapinski) Werden '97 on the death of her father, Dennis.

John Wakefield '99 on the death of his mother, Carole.

Thomas Olson (MA '00) on the death of his father, Marvin.

Jill (Kragenbring) Butkus (MA '01) on the death of her father, Rick.

James Cole '03 on the death of his father James.

Brenda Panger (MA '04) on the death of her mother, Avis.

Erin Bruneau '05 on the death of her father, Marvin.

Matthias Halbacka-Peterson '06 on the death of his father, Arlan.

Firestar (Charette) Charette '07 on the death of her father, Kenneth.

Cindy (Arceneau) Hemmesch '08 (MS '09) on the death of her mother, Bernie.

Adam Osborne '10 on the death of his father, Gary.

Krista Davis '11 on the death of her father, Jody.

Maryweather (Peterson) Leavy '11 on the death of her father, Arlan.

Kathleen (Bittner) Burich '13 on the death of her father, Scott.

Brenda (Johansen) Carlson on the death of her husband, Warren.

Sister Agnes (John Marie) Fleck, OSB



Sister Agnes Fleck, OSB, died on March 5, 2025. She was born March 18, 1935, in Wilmington, DE, to John Carl Fleck and Agnes Marie (Boyle). The family relocated to Virginia, MN, where young Agnes, taught by Benedictine Sister Lucy, was inspired to become a Sister. She attended

Stanbrook Hall High School in Duluth as an aspirant and at age 18 entered St. Scholastica Priory. After her vows in 1955, Sister John Marie, named in honor of her parents, taught elementary school in Cloquet, Ely, Wayzata and Minneapolis. She eventually returned to her baptismal name, Agnes. In the summer, she taught catechism and studied at The College of St. Scholastica, earning degrees in Elementary and Secondary Education, Theology, and English. At Central High School in Duluth, she taught English, composition, and cinematics, and at the College, composition and mythology. Sister Agnes earned a master's degree in English from the University of Minnesota and then following Shakespearian studies in London, England, returned to the College to teach British and American literature, drama, and her beloved Shakespeare for almost 40 years. An inquisitive, personable, and deeply student-

centered educator, she retired in 2014. She presented regularly at the annual Shakespeare Association of America meetings, traveling abroad every five years for the international association. Through various grants, she studied tragic drama and Japanese music and mythology and Chinese arts and culture in Beijing, Xian, and Guangzhou. She returned to China to teach English at Xinxiang University in Henan Province. In 2004, she traveled to Italy with the Benedictine Rome Study Program, visiting Rome, Venice, Montecassino, Subiaco and Norcia.

Sister Agnes was preceded in death by her parents and brothers John and James. She is survived by her sister-in-law Elizabeth (James) Fleck of Suwanee, Georgia, by nephews and nieces and by her Benedictine Sisters.

Sister Johnetta Maher, OSB

Sister Johnetta Maher, OSB, died on March 30, 2025, at age 102. She was born November 7, 1922, to John Stephen and Mayme (Grondine) Maher and baptized as Genevieve. She grew up in Watersmeet, a small town in the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Enrolling at St. Scholastica in 1940, majoring in Home Economics, Genevieve entered the Community in her sophomore year, taking the name Johnetta. She completed her student teaching at Stanbrook Hall and continued teaching there for five years after graduation. Sister then taught at the original Cathedral High for 15 years, while studying at St. Louis University in Missouri during the summer for her MA in Education.

Sister Johnetta joined the faculty at St. Scholastica as an associate professor in Home Economics and became Chair of the Behavioral Arts and Sciences Division.

As coordinator of the Early Childhood Family Education program, she developed three new teacher education courses for the College, the first such program in Minnesota to receive state certification, and received the Burlington Northern Education Award for her work. After retiring in 1998, Sister Johnetta cared for the artwork, fine furniture, and artifacts in the Monastery's Heritage Room. She enjoyed traveling and visited Ireland twice, as well as Paris, London and Rome. Her most unusual trip was a six-day voyage with her friend Sister Benita Hayden on a Great Lakes freighter from Duluth to Chicago and back. She enjoyed ringing the boat's bell when passing under bridges.

Sister Johnetta demonstrated hospitality with unmatched grace and generosity and will be remembered for her radiant smile, her deep love for God and ministry, and her appreciation of beauty. She was preceded in death by her parents, John Stephen



and Mayme (Grondine) Maher, brother John, and sisters Patricia (James) Vidmar and Margaret Maher. She is survived by her sister Frances Kessel, her cherished nephews and nieces, many good friends, and her Benedictine Sisters.



Due to space restrictions, please submit Class Notes of news occurring within the past 12 months. Class Notes items include weddings, graduations, new jobs, promotions, awards or honors, major life news, other achievements and death announcements. We reserve the right to exercise editorial discretion in the publication of alumni news and photos; submission does not guarantee publication. The items featured in this issue were submitted between July. 1, 2024 and Feb. 26, 2025.

If you submitted a note that is not featured, please contact Alumni Engagement at alumni@css.edu or 218-723-6071.

We'll be seeing you!

Events and programming for The College of St. Scholastica's alumni and donors are unique opportunities to connect, foster lifelong friendships and celebrate our community of Saints! We hope you will join us this year. To learn more about these and other alumni events, visit css.edu/alumni.

June 27-29, 2025

All Alumni Reunion
LOCATION: Duluth, MN

Sept. 2, 2025

Fall semester classes begin
Duluth, MN; St. Cloud, MN; Online

Oct. 1, 2025

Fall Community Day
LOCATION: Duluth, MN

Oct. 10-12, 2025

Homecoming Weekend
LOCATION: Duluth, MN

For more information regarding the events noted above, please visit css.edu/alumni. If you are interested in hosting a virtual event with fellow Saints, please let us know! We will send out the invitations, help to promote and facilitate setting up the technology. Email us at alumni@css.edu if you would like to plan a gathering.

For more information, contact Alumni Engagement at alumni@css.edu or 218-723-6071.

Tell your friends what you're up to

We need your personal and professional updates for Class Notes. Pictures also are welcome. (Please identify all subjects by name and by class year if applicable.) If your name has changed, please include your name while at St. Scholastica. You can send in your news via the Internet. It's easy!

Go to: css.edu/update. You may also e-mail your news to alumni@css.edu

Class Notes, including pictures, are now available online.

Name (first name/maiden or birth/current last name)			Class year
Address			
City	State	ZIP code	Phone
e-mail			
Spouse's name (first name/maiden or birth/current last name)			Class year
News • Birth/Adoption • Marriage Announcement • Death Announcement (attach additional sheets as necessary)			

Connect with St. Scholastica Monastery

For more information about the Benedictine Sisters Ministries and Vocations, as well as the Center for Spirituality and Enrichment and volunteer opportunities, visit duluthosb.org.

To sign up for Pathways magazine, visit duluthbenedictines.org/connect/newsletters, call 218-723-6555 or email monastery@duluthosb.org.



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Most of the estate gifts that St. Scholastica receives each year are restricted gifts for scholarships. Did you know that you can endow your own scholarship with a gift of \$25,000? We would work with you to define your scholarship's criteria and you would have peace of mind knowing that your generosity will benefit future Saints. Please consider supporting St. Scholastica through an estate gift.

Contact us to learn how you can leave a legacy to The College of St. Scholastica: Karen Finseth, 218-723-6104, advancement@css.edu. You may also visit css.giftlegacy.com.



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Department of College Advancement
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