

SUMMER | 2022

ST. SCHOLASTICA

MAGAZINE



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A sneak peek at the new Saints Athletics branding!
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EDITOR

Laura Johnson
Communications Director

MANAGING EDITORS

Holly Mirau
Tyler Winstead

CONTRIBUTORS

Brenda Kimlinger
Jesse Robinson
Lisa Roseth

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The College of St. Scholastica
1200 Kenwood Avenue
Duluth, MN 55811-4199
College Advancement: 218-723-6071
advancement@css.edu



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

I’m feeling especially nostalgic as I reflect back to August 2019, the month that I became the 13th president of the College. We have experienced so much together during the past three years, but one thing has remained constant: the strength and compassion of our St. Scholastica community. We are, and always have been, a people of hope, who care for and inspire one another while wholly committing to transform the lives of our students. Indeed, this community has had a transformative effect on me, too.

And we are growing! In May, we welcomed 719 new graduates into our Alumni Association, 461 who participated in the College’s graduation procession. The event represented a historic milestone; for the first time in 50 years, all of the commencement festivities were held on the Duluth Campus. You can read more and see pictures of this celebratory event in the pages of this magazine. Congratulations to the Class of 2022! We will be rooting for you.

We welcomed our new first-year students to our Duluth Campus as they embark on their own journeys of learning and deep reflection. We are also pleased to welcome new students into our graduate, extended and online programs, a testament to the institution’s continued commitment to adapt to and meet the needs of nontraditional learners. How exciting and humbling to be educating the next generation of leaders in the humanities, business, education, sciences and healthcare.

And of course, these efforts will be guided by our truly exceptional faculty and staff, the folks who play a vital role in educating our students’ hearts and minds, and championing their success in the classroom and beyond. Read about eleven

of these determined changemakers who took up the challenge to make our campus a more just, inclusive place in collaboration with our Center for Teaching and Learning and Office of the Chief Diversity Officer on page 8.

Physical transformation is afoot, too, as we forge ahead with our capital campaign: A Second Century of Saints: Believe. Belong. Transform. As of July 31, the campaign has over \$53 million of the \$62.6 million goal to accomplish our goals of building a long-awaited student center, increasing scholarship opportunities and preparing for emerging priorities. We’re excited to share a campaign update with you on page 12.

There is much to look forward to and celebrate as we prepare for our 111th academic year as a college community. And through it all, we remain under the prayerful watch of our sponsors, Sisters of the St. Scholastica Monastery, whose vision of a flourishing educational environment continues to inform our identity and inspire us to dream boldly as we plan for a vibrant, transformative future.

Thank you for being a part of our St. Scholastica community and for the important role you play in our history, present and future. I am honored to serve as your president!

Many blessings to you and your loved ones,

Barbara McDonald, Ed.D.
President

DEDICATED TO DULUTH

ZACH SCHNEIDER'S PASSION FOR DULUTH HAS INFLUENCED HIS EDUCATION, CAREER AND FAMILY. READ ABOUT HIS JOURNEY FROM JOURNALISM TO FATHERHOOD AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN.

A "GUINEA PIG" AT ST. SCHOLASTICA

Zach Schneider '10 acknowledges that his journey to The College of St. Scholastica took a "little bit longer than most."

The Duluth native graduated from Marshall School in 2006 and enrolled at North Dakota State to pursue a degree in architecture. "My parents always joked that they knew I wouldn't be an architect, but being good parents, they were going to let me figure it out for myself," he said.

And he did. After a few weeks in Fargo, Schneider came to two realizations: Architecture was not his passion, but Duluth was. Missing his community, family and friends, he began filling out transfer paperwork to begin a new adventure, this time at St. Scholastica.

"The men's soccer program was a big draw, and I knew that I wanted to explore continuing my soccer career," Schneider said. "I had also reached out to faculty for guidance in figuring out which major would be a good fit."

One of his first points of contact was then Director of First-Year Admissions Joe Wicklund '00 (MBA/MAM '11). Wicklund had studied communication at the College and encouraged Schneider to pursue a similar path.

"If you've ever met Zach, you likely know he is an incredible communicator and storyteller,"

said Wicklund. Incidentally, "The [journalism] program was brand new to the College, and Zach was the perfect pioneer, both in skills and personality, to navigate this new major."

Schneider described these conversations as fortuitous. While he had never considered a career in communications or journalism, he liked the idea of being a "guinea pig" and piloting the journalism program for the School of Arts and Letters. He also knew he enjoyed writing and talking to people, a skill set he was eager to build upon.

JOURNEY TO KBJR AND BEYOND

Another fortuitous moment happened during Schneider's senior year. He had landed a part-time position at the Duluth news station KBJR and had spent the past two years working under the mentorship of longtime sportscaster Tom Hansen. When Hansen needed to temporarily step away as sports director, the station presented an opportunity to Schneider: increase his part-time hours to full-time and run the sports department until Hansen's return.

"I went back to the College and said, I think I've got to do this. I had already quit soccer to focus on school and my job, and was seriously considering dropping my classes, running the department for the semester, and returning the following spring to finish out my degree."

But department faculty found an even better solution, allowing Schneider to accept the position as a 16-week internship so he could remain enrolled and graduate on time. Schneider praised professors Merry Renn Vaughan and Ray Gamache for making the accommodation when he was so close to the finish line.

"As the department chair at the time, this seemed like an easy thing to approve," said Renn Vaughan. "It helped Zach complete his degree while also allowing him to begin his dream job."

Schneider acknowledged it wasn't the first time the College had worked to help customize his educational experience. At one point, he had enrolled in four different colleges in four years, but in the end, graduated on time, earned his degree and had a "happy ending." The happy ending came with a notable accolade, too: Schneider was the College's first official graduate from the journalism major.

"It turned into a dream that I didn't know I had," he laughed. "A lot of kids grow up and want to do a certain thing, like be a sportscaster. I never really had that dream, but looking back, I'm so happy with the way it worked out."

After graduation, Schneider's career at KBJR spanned more than a decade. He worked on general assignment before transitioning to the role of weekend sports anchor.



Eventually, he took over as sports director when his mentor Hansen retired.

“In the world of local TV sports, that was pretty rare,” he said. “You have to go where the work, is and there are only so many jobs around the country that are open at the same time. I was obviously sad not to be working with Tom, but happy to be in that role in my hometown.”

After 11 years on the job, Schneider found himself at a crossroads: continue to chase his TV dream all over the country or pursue something new in Duluth that would provide more stability and time for family.

“I wasn’t sure if I liked high school football and volleyball, or if I just really liked East and Denfeld,” he said. “I wasn’t sure if I would have that same passion in the middle of Tennessee as I did when I watched Esko play Cloquet, and in the end, I decided that I didn’t really want to find out.”

Ultimately Schneider acknowledged he liked sports, but he liked Duluth more. He accepted a position as a financial advisor at Liberty Wealth Management and worked there for two years before beginning yet another new adventure, this time at Grandma’s Marathon.

TELLING THE STORY OF GRANDMA’S MARATHON

Schneider currently serves as the marketing and public relations director for the organization, which hosts the country’s 12th largest marathon each June. The work, while especially hectic in the months leading up to race day, is everything he could have hoped for: a world-class event in a town the size of Duluth, proof that “big things aren’t necessarily reserved for big places.” In addition to overseeing all of the organization’s media relations, Schneider sees his position as equal parts storytelling and relationship-building.

“Grandma’s tells the story of a group of people in the 1970s who thought, ‘why not us?’ and from that small start, it grew into one of the largest marathons in the country. My job is to continue building upon that community-centered brand and also introduce the race to those who might not know about it.”

And what makes the organization so special? In a word, community. From the 6,000 volunteers to 20,000 participants and everyone in between, Schneider celebrates Grandma’s Marathon as a testament to what can happen when a group of folks comes together for a common cause.

“It really goes back to the belief that I’ve always had: Duluth can do some pretty cool things.”

Coincidentally, the role has allowed Schneider the opportunity to reconnect with St. Scholastica alum and mentor Joe Wicklund, who serves on Grandma’s Marathon’s Board of Directors.

A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

Since joining Grandma’s, Schneider has also taken on two new titles: husband and father. He and his partner Megan were married in August 2020 along the St. Louis River, surrounded by 35 family members and friends. Like many couples, COVID-19 upended their plans for a big wedding, but looking back, Schneider described the intimate celebration as better than anything else they could have planned. “Pandemic or no,” he said, “small is the way to go.”

And then came Emmy. In September 2021, the couple was in the Twin Cities, celebrating a cousin’s wedding when Megan’s water broke and she was rushed to the hospital. Just three days later, Emmy made her unexpected entrance into the world, two and a half months before her due date. In total, the Schneider family spent 114 days at Children’s Hospital before they were finally able to bring their baby home to Duluth.

The journey has been emotional and gratitude-filled. “They’ll never be able to tell us why it happened,” Schneider recalled. “But in December 2020, we had been pregnant and had a miscarriage. So we talked a lot about how Emmy might be early, but she’s here. We get to hold her and touch her and look at her.”

During Emmy’s stay and in the months since the Schneiders have been home, the community has rallied around them in a big way, sending cards and dropping off meals. There has been such an outpouring of support, Schneider said, now their question is how to pay that support forward and give back to the community that stepped up during their time of need.

Again, it came back to a love for Duluth. “It was never more clear that I made the right decision to stay in Duluth. We could have experienced this somewhere else, a place that wasn’t our hometown, and feel a lot more alone than we do. In that regard, we’re very fortunate.”

Schneider and his wife aren’t sure what the rest of their daughter’s life will look like. She continues to meet with specialists at the Mayo Clinic, and they know that Emmy will have increased needs for the

foreseeable future. But they also know that since she’s been born, Emmy has changed their perspective into one of hope and gratitude.

“She’s made us better people.”



▲ Schneider with daughter Emmy.

ON THE LOVE OF LEARNING

Schneider, always the storyteller, explained why the Love of Learning is his favorite Benedictine value. “There’s a scene from one of my favorite tv shows, West Wing, where Martin Sheen, who plays the president, doesn’t know how to use a new speakerphone, and his secretary is giving him a hard time. He says, it’s not that I don’t know how, it’s that I haven’t learned yet!”

For Schneider, this reinforces what he also believed: Our knowledge is limitless, especially in the world we live in. If we want to know something, we can know it.

“Some people go to school for nursing, and they spend their professional life as a nurse. For me, what I appreciate most about the education I received at St. Scholastica is that it’s allowed me to adapt to several different roles and job titles. The professors, faculty and staff go out of their way to expose you to different topics and ideas during your time in school, and I’ve seen that pay dividends because something I may not have been totally interested in in my 20s suddenly has some added importance in my 30s. That versatility and focus more on critical thinking is one of the great things about St. Scholastica.”

ADVOCATING FOR THE COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY

The Twin Ports community’s largest regional advocacy event in the state returned to an in-person gathering. Duluth and St. Louis County at the Capitol Days was held in St. Paul on March 9-10, 2022, marking the 25th annual collaboration between the City of Duluth, Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce and St. Louis County.

Over 500 people came together to bring the voice of northeastern Minnesota to the State’s elected officials, including President Barbara McDonald and Rick Revoir, dean of strategic development. Together, they participated in a morning of lobbying efforts, meeting with legislators in-person and virtually to ask for their continued support of the State Grant Program.

The College also hosted two booths at the event’s Grand Reception, and food service partner Aramark was on-site offering sweet treats to attendees. During the Legislative Breakfast, College leaders were joined by State Senator Jennifer McEwen, who represents Duluth’s District 08.



▲ Minnesota State Representative Julie (Tamowski) Sandstede ’94 and President McDonald



▲ Duluth City Counselor Azrin Arwal, Laura (Schwartz) Johnson ’06 (MBA ’11) and Joe Wicklund ’00 (MBA ’11)

WHAT IS THE STATE GRANT?

THE STATE GRANT PROGRAM:

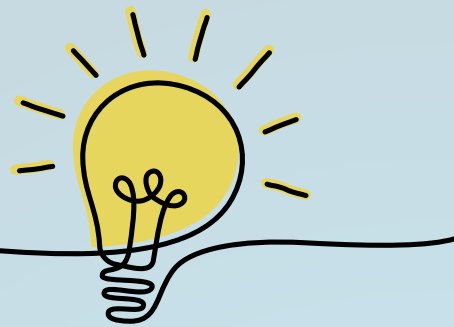
- Targets low- and middle-income families
- Supports all college options
- Has statewide impact
- Holds down additional borrowing
- Invests in the State’s economy by building the future workforce
- Confers 71,900 grants to students across the state

AT THE COLLEGE OF ST. SCHOLASTICA:

- For the 2021-22 academic year, 605 State Grant recipients — 35% of the student body — were enrolled as St. Scholastica undergraduates
- The average State Grant award was \$5,422
- In total, nearly \$3.9 million in State Grant awards were made to St. Scholastica students



INNATE ENTREPRENEURSHIP



TO MARKET, TO MARKET: PASCHA APTER HAS BROUGHT HER ENTREPRENEURIAL ACUMEN TO THE CLASSROOM, GIVING STUDENTS A REAL-LIFE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THEIR BUSINESSES.

Pascha Apter has been a business owner since 2008, but her entrepreneurial roots date back to her childhood and the bait and taxidermy shop her parents owned in Cloquet, MN.

“I worked in their shop as a young kid, counting the bait, nightcrawlers, leeches and getting them all packaged up,” she shared. “Even though it wasn’t glamorous, it didn’t make me shy away from wanting to be a business owner myself.”

Apter recalls writing commercials for brands like Twix and Bubble Tape as a kid, efforts that fueled an ambitious, entrepreneurial dream: Owning her own advertising agency by the time she was 40. “It was just an innate belief that that’s what I was destined to do.”

She attended St. Cloud State, earned her degree in advertising and began working at an agency in Duluth before transitioning to JPG Group in 2005. Located in Virginia, MN, Apter described it as a small-project shop that was poised for growth in Duluth. In 2012, she bought out her partner and Giant Voices, a full-service marketing agency, was born.

But her dream didn’t stop there.

“THE BEST OF THE BEST”

“One of my personal passions is helping start-up entrepreneurs shape their

business venture idea and bring it into the marketplace,” Apter said. “I’ve been a start-up mentor helping a founder try to get off the ground and shape their idea so it’s viable, a pitch coach and an angel investor, writing financial support checks to help new businesses get going.”

And now, this passion and experience have transformed into an exciting new endeavor: a semester-long course titled “Entrepreneurship,” the first of its kind to be offered within the Stender School of Leadership and Professional Studies. According to Apter, she’s taken what she’s learned — “the best of the best” — and integrated it into this 100% application-based class.

“Entrepreneurs like to do things on their own,” she laughed. “So it was really nice having the freedom as a new instructor to write the curriculum and develop 16 weeks of content with no boundaries.”

The class, primarily junior and senior business majors, was encouraged to consider strategic partnerships and who they want in their network to help. Entrepreneurship is not a “lone-ranger” kind of experience, Apter said. After all, “when people think of entrepreneurs, they might think of Elon Musk but they don’t think about his 700,000 employees.”

Beyond investors, accountants, bankers and vendors, Apter emphasized that an

entrepreneur must also think intentionally about other individuals — and pets! — in their support system that will keep them sane. She relied on her own network to coordinate guest speakers, including Bent Paddle Brewing Co.’s Laura Mullen and Duluth Pack’s Tom Sega to share their entrepreneurial journeys and success stories.

A MUTUAL INSPIRATION

To close out the semester, Apter wanted to get her students into the deep end by giving a real-life pitch to real-world investors, including St. Scholastica faculty. “It’s a bit like Shark Tank,” she said. “We’ll have quite an audience and a lot of excitement and energy.”

Apter hopes her students will leave her classes with an amazing head start, ready to become entrepreneurs with a deep knowledge of business and marketing. Eventually, she’d love to see the course opened up to other majors, as well.

The class itself had its own impact on Apter: “This is the first time I’ve taught at the college level, and I am kind of blown away by how much the curriculum and students have been such a welcome source of inspiration.” “I’m inspired by the kind of people who aren’t afraid of being innovative,” Apter said. “That’s who I like to spend my time with; that’s where I get my energy from.”

MEET THE ENTREPRENEURS

Bryceton Butkiewicz ’22, *business management and marketing major*

Venture idea: My venture idea is a grocery shopping app that works like a car GPS and gives you the best optimal route around the store. You enter your grocery list into the app by either typing it in or taking a picture of your handwritten note and having the app, convert it into text. Once you have your shopping list into the Fast Lane app when you get to the grocery store of your choice, the app will automatically allow you to select that store. The app then arranges your grocery items in order and gives you directions around the store. The app will even say if the item is on the top, middle or bottom of the shelf.

Just like a car GPS, if you make a wrong turn or go rogue, Fast Lane will reroute you to the best next optimal route. There is also a hands-free option that would work by giving you directions through your headphones. Through this hands-free aspect you can also ask the app commands like iPhone users can do with Siri. For example, you can say “Hey Fast Lane, add ketchup to the list,” or “Hey Fast Lane, what aisle is ketchup in?” Fast Lane will change the way people shop, making it more efficient and enjoyable.

I came up with this idea from my own personal experience. After I moved off campus for my last two years of college, I found myself facing a major problem: I had to start cooking on my own. This meant I had to go get my own groceries. I found myself running back and forth through the whole store trying to find the items I put on my list. I also had no idea what some of the items even were. For example, I had no idea that minced garlic came in a small jar. I would be looking for something and never find it. I knew that there must be an easier way, and that’s when I came up with the idea of Fast Lane.

“I’m inspired by the kind of people who aren’t afraid of being innovative”

– Pascha Apter

Favorite part of class: What I have enjoyed most about the Entrepreneurship class is taking an idea I had and making it come to life. Pascha Apter is an amazing professor and has helped me take an idea and really work through it and make it feel like it’s possible to bring this to the real market.

What comes next: I hope to either pursue my entrepreneurial idea Fast Lane or get a job in the marketing or management field here in Duluth.

Olivia Niska ’23, *organizational leadership major, marketing and business management minors*

Venture idea: Grateful Hearts, a subscription box for elderly/care facility residents. I came up with this idea while brainstorming for a “blue ocean” opportunity – a product or service that currently does not exist in the market or differentiation of an existing product. While searching for an idea that could solve a problem that exists in consumers’ lives, what came to mind was creating a way for busy individuals to share their love and gratitude for the elderly people in their lives, especially when their busy schedules often prohibit them from visiting as often as they’d like to.

This subscription box includes items that bring joy into the lives of older people. Additionally, the slogan for Grateful Hearts is “From the heart, from miles apart.” Family members and loved ones who live far away often feel guilty for not being able to give their loved ones the attention that they deserve, and this is a way to combat their loneliness and feel connected.

The unique offerings of this business are customizable products in each monthly box, a donation feature where customers can purchase a subscription for an elderly individual in need of some

love, and the ability to purchase just one box without the commitment of an entire subscription. These customized products may include photo gifts, monogrammed items, or simple customization of “sugar-free” or “peanut-free” food items. A key area for this business to succeed will be impeccable customer relationships. Our goal is to make this purchase seamless for the customers and make it incredibly easy for them to make quick customizations, access billing and account information, and add or cancel their subscriptions. Developing strong relationships will be vital for the success of Grateful Hearts as positive word-of-mouth will be generated, and our customers will likely be long-lasting.

Favorite part of class: Pascha’s entrepreneurship class has been amazing this semester. I have enjoyed being free to explore areas that are relevant and interesting to me in the world of business. The real-life application of concepts makes things more understandable and will be much more beneficial to translate into our future careers. Pascha’s experience developing her company and the work that she does with her clients has been a guiding force in creating each of our ventures. I went from starting the class thinking, “Wow, we get to play Shark Tank this semester!” and ending thinking, “Wow, I’ve created a business!”

What comes next: Looking towards graduation next spring, I have a lot to consider as I choose which career path I want to pursue. I am currently exploring opportunities in business development and/or event coordination areas; however, I am open to all aspects of business. I hope to find a job that offers a great combination of all my interests and talents!



▲ Bryceton Butkiewicz



▲ Olivia Niska

DIVERSITY WORK: DEEP AND WIDE

COLLEGE INTRODUCES EUE FELLOWSHIP DURING 2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR

What challenges does your team face in advancing equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)? And more importantly, what can you do about it?

These questions inspired eleven faculty and staff to participate in the College's inaugural Eue Fellows Program, named for legacy donor and alumnus John Eue '84. Offered in collaboration with the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer, the program

charged employees to identify a problem of practice related to EDI and then spend an academic year focusing on how to resolve it.

"Systemic change happens one person and one idea at a time," said Dr. Amy Bergstrom, chief diversity officer. "And that's what this program is all about, empowering our community members to consider tackling an issue that was both familiar and actionable, empowering them

to consider 'what is reasonable for you to address given your sphere of influence?'"

The cohort participated in an immersion experience last August and then met on a monthly basis before concluding in May. Thanks to the generosity of John Eue's estate gift, participants were awarded a stipend for their participation as Eue Fellows.

2021-22 EUE FELLOWS



Laurie Bisila, Assistant Professor, CNA Coordinator and Instructor

What was your problem of practice?

A tiered time approach to testing for English Language Learner Post-Baccalaureate Nursing (PBN) students.

What was the inspiration for your project?

English Language Learner students typically have lower exam scores and are more frequently referred to the Retention and Progression committee, often only missing a passing grade by only a few points.

What will success look like?

Participants' self-reported findings indicate that additional time on testing was helpful, reduced their anxiety and improved the equity of their educational experience.



Rilee Dawson, Head Softball Coach

What was your problem of practice?

My Eue project focused on enhancing the EDI commitment area of the Student-Athlete Development Program by increasing programming opportunities and conversations regarding EDI within athletics.

What was the inspiration for your project?

My inspiration was our student-athletes and the need to improve efforts around diversity and inclusion in the student-athlete experience.

What will success look like?

Ongoing programming and engagement with the Student-Athlete Development Program and collaboration with departments across campus.



Matt Hoeschen, Access Specialist, Center for Equal Access

What was your problem of practice?

I am creating a training video for faculty and staff on how to work with students with disabilities. This is a priority area which was determined from the campus-wide CEA survey conducted in the fall of 2021.

What was the inspiration for your project?

Students with disabilities feel they are treated differently based on the level of training and experience a St. Scholastica employee has had with that specific population.

What will success look like?

This training video will be embedded into a larger training course developed by CEA on Brightspace.



Laura Johnson, Communications Director

What was your problem of practice?

Develop an inclusive language style guide to provide a meaningful framework that honors community members' words and stories. The style guide will advance the College's inclusive excellence initiatives, avoid misunderstandings and misinterpretations and foster a campus culture where each and every one of our Saints can thrive.

What was the inspiration for your project?

A commitment to telling the St. Scholastica story through a lens of equity.

What will success look like?

Community involvement because we know that language evolves and words have different meanings depending on lived experiences.



Kelly Mullan, Associate Director of General Education, Director of the Dignitas program

What was your problem of practice?

Providing professional development to Dignitas faculty through the use of case studies and discussion in faculty meetings.

What was the inspiration for your project?

Dignitas is a cohort-based program where students remain in groups of 20 with one faculty, who is also their adviser, and one Mentor/Teaching Assistant (MTA) for the full first year at St. Scholastica. As a result, Dignitas faculty develop relationships with students that go beyond traditional classroom interactions.

What will success look like?

Success will look like my faculty indicating they feel better equipped to manage their classrooms and student challenges that come to them through their roles as advisers.



Lindsay Pacey-Allen, Director of Anatomy Labs & Instructor of Anatomy

What was your problem of practice?

My project is incorporating "anatomical homages" into undergraduate anatomy labs. These will discuss how we came to learn various anatomical structures or interventions, sometimes through unethical means and exploitations, that are related to our lab topic.

What was the inspiration for your project?

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent by Isabel Wilkerson. In her book, the author discusses African-Americans who were used for experimentation and perfecting surgical techniques on various body systems.

What will success look like?

Students having discussions about these anatomical homages and thinking critically about how various information has come to be.



Shelly Smart, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Faculty for the MSW Program

What was your problem of practice?

Administering a community needs assessment for Integrated Behavioral Healthcare (IBH) clinic opportunities around and near the Duluth Campus.

What was the inspiration for your project?

Integrating healthcare is a movement in U.S. healthcare systems working to treat the patient as a whole — encompassing the promotion of emotional health including the

prevention of mental illness and substance use disorders through providing treatment services — in order to build a system that is more efficient and effective.

What will success look like?

To have an IBH clinic experience for students studying healthcare at St. Scholastica that meets a need in the surrounding communities.



Carrie Taylor Kemp,
Employer Relations Associate

What was your problem of practice?

To evaluate barriers to internships for current students. These findings will inform the type and delivery of resources provided to students in order to increase internship activity. This also contributes to the College's Strategic Plan of increasing experiential learning.

What was the inspiration for your project?

National internship data point to a few specific reasons as to why students don't pursue or complete internships. Based on the data being collected, we anticipate that St. Scholastica students are experiencing these same barriers.

What will success look like?

Providing concrete support systems that make it easier for students to pursue experiential learning.



Nicole Tombers,
Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy

What was your problem of practice?

This project involves organizing and hosting a panel discussion of graduate healthcare alumni from underrepresented groups (BIPOC and LGBTQIA+). The goal is to allow alumni to share their stories and experiences with current graduate healthcare students in an effort to build community, support and networking opportunities amongst our historically underrepresented or marginalized students.

What was the inspiration for your project?

The inspiration for this project came from listening sessions with graduate students who reported feeling isolated within their graduate programs and called on the College to provide more support and community for them.

What will success look like?

Success in this project will include participation from both alumni and current graduate students, feedback on what worked/didn't work with the event and development of repeat or additional events in the future.



Julian Vela, *Academic Coordinator for the TRIO McNair Scholars Program*

What was your problem of practice?

My project is a phenomenology, looking at the experience that our TRIO McNair Scholars have with the high-impact practices of undergraduate research and learning community. We assume that our scholars experience this, and while this is a safe assumption, this study will actually give us a realistic starting line for how we can better improve our services.

What was the inspiration for your project?

The educational landscape should be ever-changing to adapt to the needs of our students. In addition, this change should be centering the voices of the students.

What will success look like?

Simply put, success for this project would mean that we have a better sense of our students' needs and desires for the program, and we can adapt and grow to meet those needs.



Zach Via, *Assistant Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry Department*

What was your problem of practice?

My focus was to incorporate mental health and wellness discussions into my General Chemistry I course.

What was the inspiration for your project?

There is a great deal of supporting research that indicates undergraduates are affected by increasing levels of anxiety, depression and other challenges to mental wellness.

Mental health is a core EDI issue; students need to feel that a classroom offers them a supportive, equitable and inclusive environment.

What will success look like?

I have received positive feedback from several students about the mental wellness discussions, and have developed a pre- and post- assessment that could be utilized in future discussions. It is difficult to precisely define success in the area of mental wellness as it is a continuing process of education.

TRANSFORMING EXPERIENCE INTO ADVOCACY



CHELSEA KNUTSON '24 IS A STUDENT, ADVOCATE AND ATHLETE – POISED TO TAKE HER LIFE EXPERIENCES AND APPLY THEM AS A HEALTH INFORMATION PROFESSIONAL.

TRANSFORMING EXPERIENCE INTO ADVOCACY

As a high school student in North Branch, Chelsea Knutson '24 knew she wanted to pursue a career in healthcare, but she wasn't exactly sure what type of healthcare studies she was interested in. Originally, she had considered becoming a medical lab scientist, and she had also looked into a surgical tech program, before ultimately landing on health information technology.

Knutson's own health played a factor in the decision. She was born with a rare form of muscular dystrophy and knew that there would be some limitations as a college student. "I have contractures on my joints so they don't straighten all the way," she said. "And I'm on a ventilator and require 24/7 caregiving which really hinders my ability to live away from home."

She enrolled at Anoka Technical College and was nearing the completion of her associate's degree when she learned about the College's health informatics and information management programs.

"St. Scholastica did a presentation in one of my classes, talking about the bachelor's and master's programs, and it got me interested. My goal was always to get a bachelor's degree, but I had to figure out where I'd be able to go. Knowing that I could pursue this – and be able to work from home – once I started, I loved it."

Knutson is currently enrolled part-time in the College's online health information and informatics management bachelor's program and will graduate in 2024. Overall, she said, her experience has been amazing.

"I love the online program and the flexibility to do the coursework as it fits into my schedule," she said. "I've also had a lot more praise for the work that I do, which is something that I've never had before." She is especially appreciative of the accommodations she's been offered – consideration for absences, extra time on tests, requesting a note-taker – even as an online student.

After she graduates, Knutson hopes to use her degree and experience for advocacy purposes. "A lot of people including myself struggle to get the equipment that they need. Insurance companies will say we don't need it because it's not a medical necessity. I hope this degree can help me advocate for better insurance approvals for equipment that people with disabilities aren't able to get."

THE LOVE OF THE GAME

In addition to her studies, Knutson plays competitive soccer and hockey, known as "power sports" because the athletes who participate use an electric or power wheelchair. She was introduced to power hockey at MDA Camp as a kid and the love of the game intensified; in 2018, one of her hockey teammates introduced her to power soccer.

"Every summer, we'd have a week where we'd play power hockey and compete in tournaments," she said. "People from the power hockey league in Minnesota would come and help us learn how to play the game. Eventually, we had a big North American meet-up in Minnesota and had two teams participate. I got to experience playing with teams all over the U.S. and Canada."

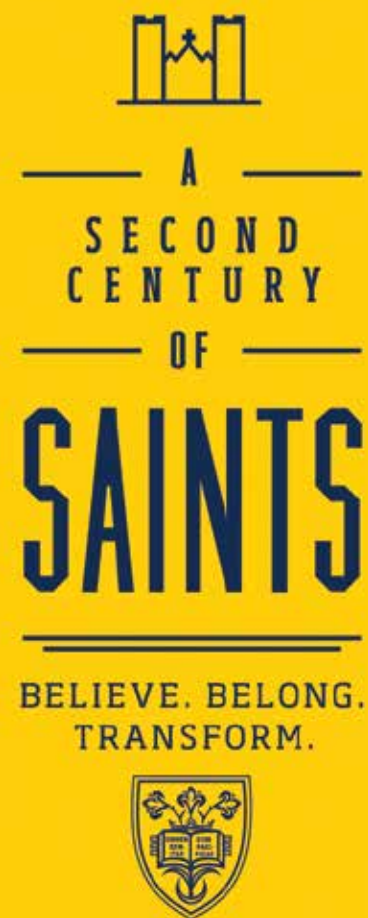
For Knutson, power sports have represented a fulfilling, social experience, one that is sorely missed since the pandemic has halted the teams' ability to come together safely. Nevertheless, she maintains an optimistic outlook. "I try to stay as positive as I can and love spreading awareness about disabilities and fun things that we are able to do with some adaptation."

DISABILITY-FIRST VS. PEOPLE-FIRST LANGUAGE

Knutson is driven to make a difference in disability awareness and advocacy on the court and in the classroom.

"I wouldn't be who I am without my disability, but I also don't want people to be like, 'oh she's the girl in the wheelchair.' As a disabled person, I use both [disability-first and people-first] language interchangeably, but it's important to ask."

Check out Chelsea Knutson's blog [Wheeling Through Life](#).



A SECOND CENTURY OF SAINTS IN ACTION

At the President's Dinner on June 25, 2022, President McDonald and guest speakers Mimi Stender, Cynthia Leas '69 and Scarlet Pantlin '23 shared about the impact of St. Scholastica in light of the capital campaign **A Second Century of Saints: Believe. Belong. Transform.** Here are some highlights from the halfway point of the public phase of the campaign.

For more information and to make a campaign gift, visit css.edu/campaign.



▲ At the President's Dinner, Linda Van Etta '72 represented the Reunion milestone classes to present President McDonald and Vice President for College Advancement Chris Mueller the largest class gift in the College's history.

Total raised
as of
June 30, 2022
**\$53,137,303 /
\$62.6 MILLION**

Student Center
**\$1,498,190 /
\$7 MILLION**

Scholarships
**\$1,178,639 /
\$5 MILLION**

Emerging
Priorities
**\$1,824,711 /
\$2 MILLION**

23
scholarships
created
last year

\$1.6
MILLION
scholarship
dollars
awarded



▲ Mimi Stender at the podium.



▲ Cynthia Leas '69 at the podium.



▲ To celebrate our ongoing scholarships and the creation of new ones, we reinstated an annual scholarship reception this spring.



▲ In April, we dedicated the Dan Seeler Entry Hall at the Burns Wellness Center. This beautifully upgraded space is now home to the Saints Athletics Hall of Fame.



▲ Scarlet Pantlin '23 at the podium.

“Our campaign tagline — **Believe, Belong, Transform** — is not just a set of words. They are the embodiment of what we will accomplish. Through the student center project, increased scholarship support and other new and emerging priorities, the St. Scholastica experience will be much different—and better. In fact, the transformation can happen so quickly that this year's sophomores will have a new student center for their senior year. What an amazing gift to our future Saints! This campaign is not simply about words. It is about action and what it means to people.”

— Mimi Stender, speaking on behalf of campaign co-chairs Tom Stender and Chris '01 and Ryan (MA '09) Dolan at the President's Dinner on June 25, 2022

ED CRAWFORD

BOARD PROFILE



As a college student in the 1970s, Ed Crawford '78 wasn't sure what he wanted to do for the rest of his life, but he knew one thing for certain: He wanted to be in the "people business." Crawford had taken a psychology course in high school and found himself gravitating towards the program as a college student, too. To him, psychology represented a "multitude of opportunities" to build relationships post-graduation. As it turned out, he shared, the degree would take him on a journey he could have never imagined, one that would eventually lead him back to his alma mater.

Crawford graduated from St. Scholastica and took a position in a mental health unit at St. Luke's before returning to the crisis shelter he had worked at as a college student. He had also decided to pursue his master's degree in community counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Superior. Life was good, he said, so when a friend called and asked if he would be interested in a part-time social work position with the Duluth Public Schools, Crawford was hesitant.

"I remember saying, why are you calling me? I don't have a social work degree. But the job description had said 'social work or related field', and of course, my related field was psychology. So I reluctantly applied, knowing that while I enjoyed my time at the crisis shelter, a half-time job at the district might be a good fit."

The rest, he said, is history. Crawford got the job, completed his graduate degree and within months, the half-time position evolved into a full-time one. He spent thirteen years in the role, working with elementary and middle school students. Then, Crawford transitioned to East High School where he also earned credentials in guidance counseling. During his time at East, Crawford found himself on the receiving end of yet another proposition.

"The principal made a suggestion, 'Do you ever think about school administration?' I never had the desire to pursue it, but they saw something in me that I didn't see in myself."

Crawford took the words to heart and joined a cohort of teachers who were placed in the schools as administrative assistants, essentially teachers who functioned as administrators with the requirement that they would earn their degree within a certain period of time. St. Cloud University had a presence in Duluth to provide the educational administrative certificate, so once more, Crawford took the leap and before he knew it, he had completed the degree.

Crawford worked as an assistant principal at East for seven years, transitioned to Denfeld for five years as a principal and ended his career as assistant superintendent in 2015. But of all the hats he wore in education, the role of guidance counselor was his favorite.

"That was where my comfort level was. I used my counseling skills as an assistant principal to really develop relationships with students, many of whom were having difficulties. Those skills were advantageous in the way that I interacted with students because they saw me as being genuinely caring and wanting the best for them."

Over the course of his career as an educator, Crawford also cared for approximately 50 foster children, a decision that was largely influenced by his own story and experience in foster care as a child. "Caring for foster kids contributed to the direction my life headed," he said. "It certainly impacted my life and my sense of family. I have been able to stay connected with some of them, and they truly are like family to me."

Although he retired in 2015, Crawford's work and commitment to building relationships haven't let up. He works as a part-time adjunct instructor in the education department at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and serves on several boards including the Duluth Sisters Cities International and the YMCA Heritage Foundation. His love of learning has also inspired him to teach himself a new skill: learning to play the keyboard. And his love of travel has taken him all over the world, including Nice, France where he has an apartment.

Crawford's journey also led him back to The College of St. Scholastica, where he served on the Board of Trustees from 2009-2018. He described his service as an opportunity to give back to the institution that had given him so much: a solid education, but more importantly, an intellectual, spiritual and moral compass.

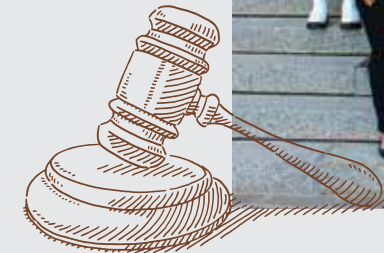
His time on the board also demonstrated that while the campus had evolved in many ways, the best parts had remained the same. "It was evident to me that the Benedictine ideals, values and spirit that I experienced as a student in the mid to late 70s remains a fundamental and integral part of the College community today."

In that regard, when he was asked to re-join the Board after completing his nine-year term, Crawford said yes. Enthusiastically.

"The teachings that were instilled in me as a student many years ago continue to be the guiding principles by which I live my life," said Crawford. "It's been heartwarming and reassuring to see that those remain the core values and principles of the College."

THE TRANSITION FROM STUDENT SENATE TO STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Written by Scarlet Pantlin, staff writer for The Script and College Communications intern



▲ The 2021-22 Student Government Association.

The College of St. Scholastica's Student Government Association, also referred to as SGA, has undergone a somewhat recent transformation. For decades, SGA was known as Student Senate before the organization underwent a transition to SGA in 2019.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE STUDENT SENATE?

Students Lori Huseby and Taylor O'Brien were a part of that transition. Huseby, a math, chemistry and computer science major, served as chair of internal affairs with SGA, and O'Brien, a nursing major, served as chair of external affairs.

According to O'Brien, the Student Senate was transformed into SGA to help balance the voting power between the senators and the executive board. With this balance of power, the executive board members – president, vice president, financial vice president, webmaster, director of operations, diversity vice president and the student trustee – are not allowed to vote on new bills.

The coordinating board consists of the chair members of internal affairs, external affairs, student affairs and academic affairs as well as the executive board. Since the executive board is hired, they are not allowed to vote; however, since chairs are sworn in just like senators, they are able to vote on bills.

Huseby offered an in-depth explanation as to why this change was necessary and why there was a perceived imbalance of power. "The main driver behind it was that we had this big group and we felt that it was the executive board coming and passing things, which is great because we're still getting things passed, but we wanted to have more senator input.

"We wanted to make them feel like they're not just coming here to vote 'yes' for the agenda of the executive board, but to come with ideas and be able to make that change as a representative for their class."

Both O'Brien and Huseby felt that the transition has really benefited SGA. O'Brien noted the improvement of student

involvement after the transition was made. Huseby also shared that the transition was a bit challenging at first, but the involvement from senators and the boards has improved.

PREPARING FOR NEXT YEAR

Every year, SGA has new senators, chair positions and executive board members. The president and vice president are voted on by all students, new senators are voted by their class, and the other executive positions are interviewed and chosen by a hiring committee. The hiring committee consists of the newly elected president, vice president, a representative from the EDI office and the advisor of SGA.

For the upcoming academic year, students elected Rachel Praught, the academic affairs chair during the 2021-22 school year. Praught is an organizational leadership major with minors in psychology and HR management. Aside from her studies and SGA, she works in admissions, volunteers with Loaves and Fishes and is involved in Active Minds and Ballroom Dance Club.

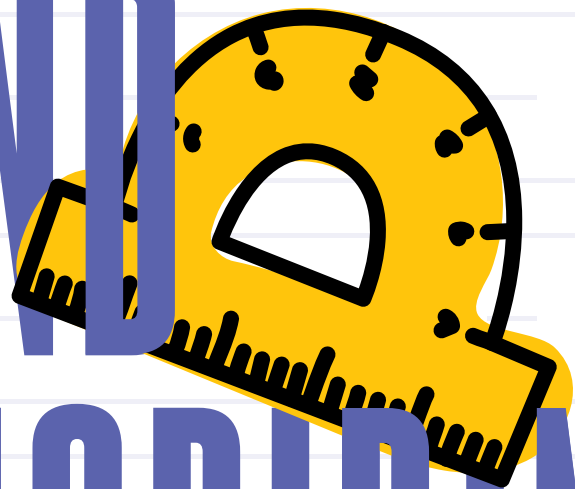
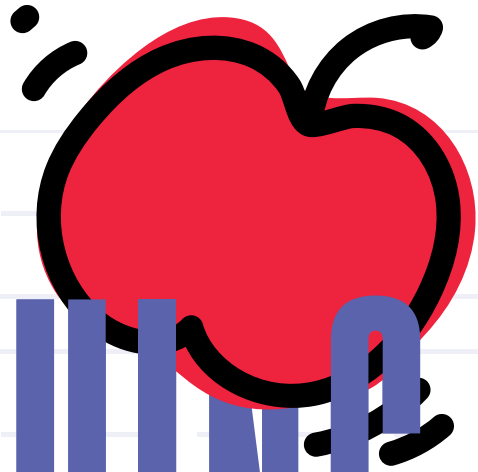
When asked what made her join SGA, Praught expressed her dedication to being an impassioned leader and a voice for others.

"I was inspired to run for SGA President because of the phenomenal team I had become a part of. The SGA coordinating board became a second family to me and many of them encouraged me to run for president months before," she said.

"I also built a strong bond with many of the general senators who also made me feel extremely empowered through their thoughtfulness and encouragement. I felt that my actions spoke louder than words, and because of the projects I had accomplished in my role in Academic Affairs, I and others were excited to see what I could do in a presidential role."

Praught's goals for her presidency consist of bringing more mental health awareness to campus, bringing awareness to SGA's resources for students, and increasing diversity and inclusivity within the community at St. Scholastica.

TEACHING, LEARNING AND INSPIRING



“IF YOU WANT IT, IT’S HERE FOR YOU”

The yellow bus wound through campus and parked in front of Somers Main Lounge. Outside, a small welcome party had formed; faculty and students from the School of Education, staff from the College’s Marketing department and even President Barbara McDonald gathered to eagerly greet the special guests. And inside, the passengers were eager, too, their noses pressed up against the windows, trying to get a glimpse of Tower Hall.

Lakewood Elementary’s kindergarten class had finally arrived.

The campus visit had actually been their idea, a well-deserved reward for “showing their paw power” – the school mascot is a lynx – and achieving a collective class goal: filling in Mr. Potato Head with all of his pieces. When their teacher Katie Stresow (MEd ’17) had asked the class where they would like to go on a field trip, they made two requests, the public library and “the Castle.”

Stresow is also a student, currently enrolled in the College’s doctorate in educational leadership (EdD) program. Her class of 17 had seen Tower Hall as the background on her laptop and the image left an impression.

“I never would have thought to bring a kindergarten class to a college campus,” Stresow said. “But I really liked that the kids brought that up. When I reached out to Chery Lucarelli [chair of the program], she loved the idea, too. We realized it would inspire them and help plant the seed that this is a possibility someday. ‘If you want it, it’s here for you.’”

And on a sunny April afternoon, the students’ wish came true. They stopped at Mount Royal Public Library, then made their way to St. Scholastica for lunch, a tour and a high-five greeting from Storm the Saint Bernard. For many of the students, it was a day of firsts, including their first visit to a college dorm room. “They saw the bunk beds and asked if it was a hotel,” laughed Stresow. “One of the girls in my class said, if we’re spending the night in this hotel, I get the bed with the pillow.”

The visit was especially meaningful for Stresow, too, a way to share a piece of



▲ Stresow’s kindergarten class with Storm outside the mailroom.

her identity as a graduate student with her class. “Learning never ends and I’m modeling that for my students. I tell them, ‘you can be a teacher but still be learning as well.’”

MAKING AN IMPACT, ABROAD AND AT HOME

Stresow’s own journey into education began as a young child. Her mom ran a daycare in Hermantown, Minnesota and she grew up with other kids in an environment filled with teaching and learning. She pursued psychology as an undergraduate student at UMD but found herself unhappy and unfulfilled by the coursework.

“My mom said, why don’t you just go into education? You love teaching and you love kids,” she recalled. “I hate when my parents are right, but she was right. And immediately when I joined the elementary education program, my grades improved and I found myself really liking the coursework, wanting to go to school.”

Stresow graduated in 2011 and began her career overseas teaching in international schools in Russia, Slovenia and Israel. She returned to the States to pursue her master’s degree at St. Scholastica and joined the Duluth Public Schools in 2016. Although she needed to adjust and adapt to U.S. based standards and curriculum, the most rewarding part of her international career has always remained the same. “Kids are great anywhere,” Stresow said. “That is the best part of the job; it’s the kids.”

During the pandemic, Stresow had a lot of time to “sit with herself” and reflect on what else she could be doing as an educator. She wondered how she could challenge herself in new ways when an email about the College’s new EdD program arrived in her inbox. It felt like a sign.

“I thought, you know what, that’s what I’m looking for. I love to learn, I loved my time at St. Scholastica and eventually, this might be the right path to open up more doors within education and have an even bigger impact.” She applied and was accepted into the program’s first official cohort.

“Learning never ends and I’m modeling that for my students. I tell them, ‘you can be a teacher but still be learning as well.’”

– Katie Stresow

Two years in, the experience has been an inspiring one. “I do a lot of listening, hearing about everyone’s life experiences and taking it all in,” she shared. “I feel like the other members of the cohort have lived such full lives; I’m really in awe of their accomplishments. Erin [Karlgaard] was nominated for teacher of the year in Minnesota, and having conversations with

her gives me goosebumps!” Stresow admitted that, along with feelings of inspiration, she has also battled some imposter syndrome, and questioned whether or not she truly belonged in the program. Through feedback from Lucarelli, conversations with fellow learners in her professional learning community (PLC) and the passing of time, Stresow has come to recognize that her contributions are meaningful; her voice does matter.

“I love my PLC group,” she said. “We’ve built such great relationships where we can sit and meet to bounce ideas off one another and talk about coursework or just life. They’ve really taken me under their wing and made me feel very welcomed.”

Ultimately, the experience has earned Stresow some solidarity with her kindergarteners, whether they are in the classroom or embarking on a field trip. “I tell them, even when you get older, things are still challenging. I still struggle and things aren’t easy, but we get to learn from each other. And I get to learn from them.”



A LEGACY OF LIVING VALUES: REMEMBERING SISTER GRACE MARIE BRAUN

Sister Grace Marie Braun, OSB, died on May 30, 2022 at St. Scholastica Monastery in Duluth. Sister Grace Marie leaves a rich legacy, one we can honor by living the values she so faithfully embodied throughout her life.

Born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin in 1926, Sister Grace Marie attended The College of St. Scholastica. After graduation in 1948, Sister Grace Marie entered the Monastery, making her Final Monastic Profession in 1953. She completed her MA in Dietetics at St. Louis University and was a professor at the College for 25 years, seven of which she served as Director of Food Service for the Monastery, the College and Stanbrook Hall High School.

During her years as prioress from 1975 until 1987, Sister Grace Marie oversaw several major projects, shaping the future for both the Monastery and College. Among these were the establishment of the Benedictine Health Center in 1980 and the creation of the Benedictine Health System in 1985.

After her time as prioress, Sister Grace Marie served in various leadership positions for both the Sisters and beyond. In 1996, specifically, God called Sister Grace Marie to what she described as “a most extraordinary ministry” with the National Office of Post Abortion Reconciliation and Healing (Project Rachel). Sister Grace Marie lived a balanced life, enjoying vacations, travel, tennis and cheering for the Green Bay Packers. “Once a Packer, always a Packer,” she would say with a smile.”

◀ Herb Klippen, general contractor, shows a section of the Benedictine Health Center plans to Mother Grace Marie Braun, Prioress, and Sister Kathleen Hofer, Chair of the Building Committee.

COMMUNITY

Sharing responsibility to create and support community. Creating a climate which promotes a sense of community while valuing the uniqueness of the individual. Manifesting an ability to adapt to circumstances without compromising our values.

When Sister Grace Marie was elected prioress in 1975, she came into a time of disruption for the community of over 325 sisters. However, Sister Grace Marie was a valiant woman, who could remain determined and courageous in difficult times. She knew that decisions made and actions taken could impact the Monastery and College communities as well as other Community ministries.

Former College president (1975-1981) Bruce Stender reflected on her election as prioress at that particularly challenging time.

“Sister Grace Marie was a very holy woman with many talents,” Stender said. “Maybe the Holy Spirit guided her Sisters to select her as the prioress when they did. She was the right person at the right time.”

“She kept the community together,” said Sister Beverly, who serves as the current prioress. “She navigated that time with grace.”

LOVE OF LEARNING

Preserving the intellectual and material heritage entrusted to us by past generations. Transmitting the treasures of human culture to new generations. Creating scholarly, artistic and scientific works which enrich and enlarge human life. Integrating thought and action as complementary aspects of a full human life.

Sister Grace Marie was also a builder – of not only community but of physical spaces to benefit the present and future.

“She loved the College,” Stender said. “It was an important commitment for the Sisters to maintain a presence in this region and to continue to strengthen the College and provide great opportunities for education.” He remembers her as “a constant learner” who never stopped seeking new information to expand her understanding to benefit others.

She led the Community in recognizing the need for a barrier-free chapel and expansion of the College library. The

solution would require incredible sacrifice and grace. Sister Grace Marie led the Community in weeks of individual and communal prayerful discernment before this major decision was made. The renovation of the chapel/library complex resulted in Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel moving down into what became a barrier-free space and the library into what became a three-story facility with an elevator in 1986.

STEWARDSHIP

Utilizing human resources responsibly. Providing wise and respectful use of all material and monetary resources. Promoting prudent use of natural resources and energy. Finding time for work, play and prayer in daily life which will promote physical, mental and spiritual growth.

Sister Grace Marie’s activity serving as prioress also reflected a great interest in stewardship. In addition to her building projects and preserving Benedictine healthcare and education in the region, Stender emphasized Sister Grace Marie’s managerial skills:

“She was a darn good fundraiser and protected the assets of the monastery.”

She would go on to serve as founder of the Monastery Development Office, Director of Human Resources for the Monastery, Director of the Benedictine Associate Program, always with a heart for stewarding the gifts and resources of the Community. In addition, Sister Grace Marie served as a member of the Vocation Ministry Team, the Strategic Planning Team and the Space Study Group.

RESPECT

Cherishing and promoting the worth of all human life. Treating all persons with dignity and reverence. Honoring and supporting the spirituality of each person. Valuing the dignity of all work. Promoting participation of all persons in the decisions affecting their lives.

Stender was quick to recount Sister Grace Marie’s partnership with the College when thinking of the Benedictine values.

“She always shared what was on her mind. We could trust each other in our conversations and deliberations.”

Others echoed this great respect. “Sister Grace Marie always saw the individual,” Sister Kathleen said, “and would ask:

‘How do we continue to love and support the people of God [i.e., all people]?’” “In private, she would come to offer wisdom,” Sister Beverly recalled, “but never would her own voice be weighted.”

HOSPITALITY

Creating a welcoming atmosphere personally and institutionally. Listening and responding sensitively to all. Extending warmth and acceptance to all. Welcoming new ideas and being open to change.

Stender remembers that era of the College, which saw tremendous student growth that Sister Grace Marie helped to facilitate.

“She had unconditional positive regard for people,” Stender said. “Even for those that might not share the same values or focus, she always treated people with dignity and respect.”

“She was receptive,” Sister Beverly said of speaking with Sister Grace Marie. “Her heart was with you. Even in her last days, she would turn the conversation and say, ‘How are you?’”

HONORING A LEGACY OF LOVE

From the ripples of grief left in the wake of loss, solace can be found in learning from a life well lived.

For Stender, it is perhaps the “wisdom that she carried with her” and “the grace provided to her through her spiritual life” that we can take with us for generations. “[She was] a true role model.”

Another Sister recalls Sister Grace Marie’s generous and active listening. “Sister Grace Marie always had time to listen [and] had a great, deep down peace and willingness to journey with.”

“To live as she lived,” Sister Beverly advised, “is the greatest way to honor her legacy of love.”

During their first days on campus, a video recording of the Sisters explaining the Benedictine values is shown to the incoming class.

“Always remember you are Benedictine for having been here,” Sister Marie Braun shares in the video message.

“Live the Benedictine values, and you will make a difference. You will touch the world.”



▲ Tammy Ostrander, Nicoshia Wynn, Dr. McDonald, Ellen Case on behalf of Brian Case, and Becky Urbanski pause for a photo following the award ceremony.

REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT MCDONALD ON OUR FIRST IN-PERSON REUNION SINCE THE PANDEMIC:

"Again, welcome to you all, our good friends and alumni of the College. I hope you have had a fantastic time catching up with your classmates and enjoying Duluth. We are so glad that you have been able to join us as we celebrate our 110th year. It's extra special this year because we are able to meet in person – and extra special for me as this is my first face to face opportunity to celebrate with you all since I began my presidency almost three years ago.

We've been blessed with the Benedictine Values this College holds so dear, including that of Community, which was our beacon call during the difficult pandemic times – a call to care for one another to pray for one another, and to come together in new ways of teaching and learning to ensure that our students were successful. So it's a joy to be here after successfully navigating some of the most challenging times for our community.

Congratulations to the classes of 2020, 2021 and 2022 for being inducted into the Saints Heritage Club! And a special congratulations to those alums who are celebrating a reunion year – I hope this weekend has been filled with memories and renewed friendships."

Congratulations to our 2022 Alumni Award winners Dr. Tammy Ostrander, Nicoshia Wynn (MA '05), Dr. Becky Urbanski '80 (MA '89), and Brian Case '91 (MA '09).

KUDOS TO THE CLASS OF 2022!



▲ Sebrin Ahmed celebrates commencement with family.

HONORING SAINTS WITH AN ON-CAMPUS CELEBRATION

The College celebrated its graduates with an in-person procession on Saturday, May 14. The sunny day also marked a historic occasion: For the first time in over 50 years, all of the Spring Commencement festivities, including Mass and graduation brunch, were held on the Duluth Campus.

Held in the Burns Wellness Commons, the nontraditional, non-seated event allowed graduates to be formally recognized by cohort.

In total, 461 graduating students processed across the stage in cap and gown as proud family, friends and loved ones watched. Additionally, the College hosted a virtual commencement ceremony to recognize and celebrate graduates' achievements.

The Class of 2022 joins an alumni family of over 30,000 Saints who are serving and transforming their communities around the globe. Congratulations to these hardworking, resilient graduates!



▲ Nursing majors Brooke Good, Aziza Houser, McKenzie Walsh, Alina Skutevik and Kaitlyn Skutevik pose in front of Tower Hall.



▲ Heidi Schaaf enjoys Rose Carpenter's mortar message.

FINDING ANOTHER MISSION:

A VETERAN HELPING VETERANS

**“I believe it takes a
veteran to help a veteran.”**

– Jason Chapman

“I noticed a lot of veterans needed help,” said Jason Chapman, a retired E-6 Petty Officer First Class with the US Navy. “I thought the best way to do that was a one-on-one approach through social work.”

Jason Chapman is a Duluthian native and first-generation American – his parents and brothers moved from England who served in the U.S. Navy from 1993-2013. Chapman is currently in the Clinical Social Work Master’s program at The College of St. Scholastica, where he also received his BA earlier this year.

“I needed to find another mission,” Chapman said, “and I always wanted to go back to school.” In 2018, he enrolled at Lake Superior College, receiving an Associates of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences before continuing St. Scholastica in 2020. Speaking of his decision to go into social work, Chapman recalled an early source of inspiration.

“I had a high school guidance counselor who served six tours in Vietnam who was also in a social work program.”

A lifelong Catholic, Chapman was interested in St. Scholastica due to its faith-based roots. “The Benedictine values are the values that I go by,” he said.

St. Scholastica is also proud to be a strong supporter of veterans and has a dedicated team to help ensure the success of veterans in higher education. Among this team is Jack Lee, who is himself a military veteran with a degree in social work. Lee is a mentor for student veterans and assists with orientation and reestablishing them in civilian life. This includes advocating for veterans with faculty and staff at the school, serving as a source of familiarity and identifying where any cracks and fissures may be for veterans in the civilian world.

“He props up those fissures with healthy habits and serves as an example for others,” Chapman said. “He’s already been through it – he’s a veteran who completed the social work program, so it’s nice to be able to drop by his office and pick his brain.”

For coursework, Chapman has found some interesting overlaps between what he’s learning and what he has experienced himself.

“We learn about ourselves and each other,” he said. “When we speak about mindfulness, we talk about centering ourselves, thinking clearly and not tunnel visioning; to live in the now.”

In addition to being a “lifer,” or one who retires from the military after 20+ years, Chapman is also a husband and father of two boys, whom he noted are very supportive of his mission. When speaking of pursuing a college degree as a non-traditional student, Chapman didn’t find it overwhelming, but more of an “acclimation” to the contemporary college lifestyle.

“I think the military raised the bar for me. Five in the morning isn’t early for me, and we have a saying in the Navy: ‘We work until Zero Dark Thirty,’ which means we work until the job is done.”

Beyond work ethic, Chapman also noted another strength that the military has offered him in regards

to civilian life generally and social work specifically.

“We work with all walks of life in the military, all identities,” he said, “which really prepares you for the real world where you will see that again.”

For his future aspirations, both immediate and long-term, Chapman reiterated his mission, “I want to cut my teeth at the VA,” he says. “Eventually, I want to start my own practice helping veterans.

“I believe it takes a veteran to help a veteran.”



BRIEFS



Student Employee of the Year

Elena Bissonette '22 was presented with the College's Student Employee of the Year honor. Bissonette, a triple major, is poised to graduate this spring with degrees in organizational leadership, Spanish and educational studies.

Bissonette's nominators from Career Services and the School of Education and Social Work celebrated her many contributions – training in other students, representing the College at events and always asking what else she can do to help serve students in their academic and career success.

President Barbara McDonald presented Bissonette with her accolade and also recognized the other four nominees: Amelia Warmka, Jaci Tourtellott, Gallaya Karpeh and Jessica Schatz. President McDonald shared, "We are honored to have exemplary student employees who go above and beyond in support of the mission of the College."

Putting the "Win" in Winberg

Ashley Winberg, now a senior in the College nursing program, was named the regional alpine skiing champion at Marquette Mountain in February 2022, a title she held before the COVID-19 pandemic. She next went to Lake Placid, NY in March for the National USCSA Championships, finishing 4th. Finally, Ashley achieved 1st place on the dual panel slalom and 6th place in the Combined All American Individual overall.

Congratulations, Ashley!



2022 Senior McNair Winners

Congratulations to Heather Springer, Marissa Bober and Dustin Blacketter – winners of our 2022 McNair Senior Awards!

Heather Springer was awarded the Engaged Scholar Award for her exemplary participation in seminars, advising, research and scholarly activities, finding opportunities and bringing positivity in everything she did. Next for Heather is a Master's program in Occupational Therapy at Lenoir Rhyne University.



Marissa Bober received the Research Excellence Award for her rigorous and original research working with lions at the Lake Superior Zoo in 2020, and bison in 2021 (through a National Science Foundation internship at Texas A&M). Marissa will be pursuing an MS in Integrated Biosciences at University of Minnesota-Duluth in the fall.



Dustin Blacketter received the Spirit of McNair Award in recognition of his exceptional determination in overcoming obstacles and achieving a very high level of academic success. A graduate of the psychology department, Dustin will be taking a gap year before pursuing a PhD.



Seas the Day Appreciation Luncheon

On May 11, the faculty and staff of St. Scholastica came together for a nautical-themed appreciate luncheon, "Seas the Day." In addition to special awards for exemplary faculty and staff, the luncheon also included costume contests (both group and individual) as well as the raffling of prizes.



Little Shop of Horrors with a Twist

Little Shop of Horrors was performed in February with an impressive cast of principles and understudies. The decision to cast understudies came after Merry Renn Vaughan, associate professor and show director, was forced to cancel a show she was directing last fall.

"We had to cancel due to COVID after only one performance because we did not have any understudies to go on in place of the actors," Vaughan said. "I didn't want that to happen again." In preparation for the show, Vaughan and musical director Sharon Dixon Obst cast an understudy for each of the production's four main leads with a rewarding twist: they also had the opportunity to perform.

In total, nearly 50 members of the St. Scholastica community contributed to the sci-fi musical including students, alumni, faculty, staff and guest artists.



SAINTS



SPRING 2022

ST. SCHOLASTICA ATHLETICS INTRODUCES REBRAND

In June, the St. Scholastica Athletics Department announced a new look going forward with a purpose to unify the look of its teams with the rest of the institution. With the department approaching its 50th anniversary and with its move to the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) prior to the 2021-22 academic year, it was time to welcome the future of St. Scholastica Athletics with a new look for the next generation of Saints athletes. This new brand identity was developed in partnership with Out There Advertising.

St. Scholastica Athletics pursues excellence while fostering a positive experience and sense of community through commitment, integrity, respect and sportsmanship. All of these elements can be found within the new logo – inspiring power and pride. With this in mind, we present to you our new look for St. Scholastica Athletics.

THE SHIELD

The updated shield logo pays homage to the school's Benedictine heritage and tradition. Adaptability has always been a characteristic of the Benedictines. One will see this adaptability, combined with a strong sense of traditions and beliefs, within the new logo. The logo thoughtfully combines elements from the past to create a new look and positive momentum moving forward. The logo is meant to convey the grandeur of Tower Hall, with the Benedictine values.

Elements of the new shield includes a perspective of Tower Hall on the hill, the fleur-de-lis from the College's crest and stars depicting the holy trinity representing the school's Catholic heritage. Additionally, the shape of the shield is identical to the college crest.



WORDMARK

Much like the shield, the updated wordmark brings a sense of history, while still remaining modern. It evokes calligraphy, while coming across as strong and bold.

The Saints wordmark will appear on every St. Scholastica uniform as the department transitions to new uniforms over the next few years.

SAINTS

COLORS

The core colors for the new logo are taken directly from the College's colors to create consistency, unity and pride. The gold emphasizes the feelings of achievement, wisdom and triumph, while the navy blue represents loyalty, faith and confidence. The use of these colors strengthens the brand and allows the St. Scholastica community to embrace and relate to its values and mission.

Additionally, secondary colors of light blue and gray will not only distinguish St. Scholastica from its competitors, but also ties in the perspective one has entering campus and seeing the setting of Tower Hall under blue skies.



REIMAGINED STORM

Storm, our beloved mascot, got a new look with this rebrand. It utilizes the new color schemes and represents the determination and fighting spirit of St. Scholastica. It is used to communicate our focus, grit and underdog mentality. Storm is used to instill passion and a competitive spirit among our audiences.



WELCOME TO THE DAN SEELER ENTRY HALL

In April, The College of St. Scholastica held a dedication ceremony for the new Dan Seeler Entry Hall within the East Entry of the Burns Wellness Commons, named after the former St. Scholastica men's soccer and men's hockey player.

The new space features the new St. Scholastica Athletics Hall of Fame wall. In addition, new state-of-the-art soccer benches were installed and recognized during the ceremony.

Seeler was inducted into the St. Scholastica Athletics Hall of Fame in 2013 and played soccer and hockey for the Saints from 1978-82. Seeler is the only St. Scholastica men's soccer player prior to 2000 to have recorded at least 10 points in a game. He is also only one of three players in program history to record five goals in a single game. On the ice, Seeler was a goaltender for the Saints and was named the team's Most Valuable Player for the 1981-82 season.

ST. SCHOLASTICA WELL-REPRESENTED AT BEIJING WINTER OLYMPICS

St. Scholastica was in the spotlight at the Beijing Winter Games with Head Cross Country Coach Chad Salmela on the airwaves with his biathlon and cross country ski coverage, as well as alum and biathlete Paul Schommer competing. Also taking part in her first Olympics as an official was former Women's Hockey All-American defenseman Alex (Blair) Clarke.

Schommer qualified for his first Olympic Games by virtue of his performances at the IBU World Cup events. Schommer used a personal-best finish of 22nd in the 20-kilometer individual event on Nov. 27 in Oestersund, Sweden to qualify.

Clarke said her dream to officiate the Olympics came prior to the 2018 games after she refereed a Canada versus United States preliminary game in Edmonton in 2017. Clarke became the first woman to officiate in the Western Hockey League in September 2021 and has officiated for 11 years.

◆ Paul Schommer



EBEN EBAI JR. BECOMES ST. SCHOLASTICA'S FIRST ALL-AMERICAN SPRINTER

St. Scholastica junior sprinter Samuel Eben Ebai Jr. finished fourth in the 60m dash final in March at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track & Field Championships to earn All-American accolades.

After having to "sweat-it-out" in the prelims on whether he made the final spot for the finals, Eben Ebai also had to wait out a false start to begin the final. After that competitor was disqualified, Eben Ebai was one of seven sprinters vying for the fastest indoor sprinter in NCAA Division III. After a clean start on the second attempt and after everyone crossed the finish line, Eben Ebai would finish fourth with a time of 6.87 to earn All-America honors. The fourth-place ties for the second-highest finish at a NCAA Indoor Championship in program history.

He is the first men's runner to earn All-America accolades in school history and is the third St. Scholastica men's track & field All-American all-time during the indoor season. Eben Ebai entered the championships tied for the 11th fastest seed in the 20 sprinter field.

BOONE AND BENEKE QUALIFY FOR NCAA OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

For the first time since 2016, St. Scholastica Track & Field program sent multiple competitors to the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships. Calvin Boone qualified in the men's 1,500m run in his final race of the season, while Lily Beneke qualified for the women's Hammer Throw after she captured the MIAC Championship in the event.

At Nationals, Boone placed 18th overall as he became the first St. Scholastica men's athlete to compete at the NCAA Cross Country Championships and NCAA Track & Field Championships in the same academic year. Beneke fouled on all three of her throwing attempts in the prelims and failed to place in the event. She was the third Saint to compete in the women's Hammer Throw at a NCAA Championship and entered the championships with the 13th-best mark in NCAA Division III this season.

HOCKEY TEAMS HOST FIRST MIAC POSTSEASON COMPETITION

The St. Scholastica Men's and Women's Hockey teams both finished fourth in the MIAC this year and, in doing so, hosted the first MIAC postseason events in school history at Mars Lakeview Arena at the end of February. The women's team went on to defeat Augsburg University 6-3 for the school's first MIAC postseason win. Unfortunately, for the men's they fell in overtime 4-3 to Bethel University.

BOOK BRATBAK AND DYBWAD AT NCAA SKIING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The St. Scholastica Nordic Ski program sent one male and one female to the NCAA Ski Championships in Utah in March. Senior Emil Book Bratbak became the first Saints skier in program history to compete at four consecutive NCAA Championships and is only the second St. Scholastica athlete to qualify individually for NCAA Championships in four consecutive years. First-year women's skier Victoria Dybwad also qualified after a strong finish to her first season as a Saint. Dybwad was the third first-year women's skier to qualify for a NCAA Championship in program history.

At the Championships, Book Bratbak became only the second St. Scholastica skier to post multiple top-20 finishes at a single NCAA Championship, joining Olympian Paul Schommer who did it in 2012.



SAINTS SPORTS AWARDS

The Saints Sports Awards returned in April with the ninth iteration of the event that recognizes all of St. Scholastica's student-athletes' accomplishments throughout the year. For the first time the event was held in the Mitchell Auditorium and was in-person for the first time since 2019. Below is a list of this year's award winners.

MALE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:
Calvin Boone, *Track & Field*

FEMALE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:
Victoria Dybwad, *Nordic Skiing*

MALE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE RECIPIENT:
Mack Nelson, *Football*

FEMALE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE RECIPIENT:
Haley Rohwer, *Volleyball*

MALE PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR:
Calvin Boone, *Cross Country at NCAA Championships*

FEMALE PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR:
Olivia Howe, *Softball at North Central*

MALE GAME OF THE YEAR:
Basketball vs. Bethel

FEMALE GAME OF THE YEAR:
Soccer at Saint Mary's

MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:
Calvin Boone, *Cross Country*

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:
Morgan Friday, *Soccer*

MALE TEAM OF THE YEAR:
Tennis

FEMALE TEAM OF THE YEAR:
Hockey

MALE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:
Emil Book Bratbak, *Nordic Skiing*

FEMALE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:
Rachel Anderson, *Hockey*

JOHN BAGGS SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD:
Mack Nelson, *Football*

TO SEE NEW INDUCTEES, VISIT [BIT.LY/3VVLW54](https://bit.ly/3VVLW54).
FOR THE WINTER/SPRING FIRST TEAM ALL-MIAC SELECTIONS, VISIT [BIT.LY/3SE4CLQ](https://bit.ly/3SE4CLQ).

◆ Emil Book Bratbak
and Paul Schommer



DEAR FELLOW ALUMNI,



Greetings from your Alumni Association! I am sure you have enjoyed many summer activities wherever you may have traveled or resided in the past few months.

Graduation was a success for the over 700 students who completed their degrees this spring — over 460 participated in the in-person graduation on-campus. All graduates received an alumni pin to welcome them to the Alumni Association, where they join more than 33,000 St. Scholastica alumni. The pin signifies both achievement and promise and we hope it is worn with pride.

By the time this magazine reaches you, we will have celebrated our 110th Reunion. June 24-26 was a weekend filled with excitement and joy as our alumni visited campus for the first in-person Reunion since 2019. It was a time to honor members of the Saints Heritage Club and induct new members celebrating their 50th reunion years, the classes of 1970, 1971 and 1972. We also recognized outstanding alumnus in an award presentation.

I have been honored to serve on the Alumni Association Board for seven years and as the president for the past three years. It was also a privilege to be an alumni representative on the

College's Board of Trustees as the Alumni Association Board President. I have been proud to support the alumni board's mission of connecting alumni to one another and the College through meaningful events, benefits and communication. This year's Benedictine Value was "Love of Learning," and I hope I displayed that value along with each of the other values while representing the College. Beginning with my eldest sister as a St. Scholastica student, I learned how to carry out the Benedictine values and lifelong ideals forward beginning early in my life. I would like to extend a thank you to all the current and past alumni board directors and the Alumni Engagement team for supporting my leadership on the alumni board.

Also completing their terms on the alumni board are Krystal Hoheisel-Eberling '15 and Laura Banken '14.

Taking leadership for the next two years as Alumni Board President is Jennifer Alaspa '00. She will be joined by Hannah Bahr Puryear '10 as President-Elect, and Emily Foyt '12, as Secretary. Newly elected alumni board directors now serving three years include Brandi Durkin '13, Ryan Fagen '21, Scott Greening '11, Anthony Klar '13, Lloyd Munjanja '11, and Jeff Phillipich '03. Emily Foyt '12 is serving

her second three-year term. Congratulations to these alums who will be working on behalf of our alumni in the next year.

There are many upcoming events and activities for alumni to join. Opportunities are also available for mentoring, volunteering, establishing an Affinity Group or helping with events such as Homecoming (coming up on Oct. 1, 2022). Please visit css.edu/alumni or contact Alumni Engagement at alumni@css.edu.

With such a large group of alumni over many decades of class groups there are openings for you to represent your age groups on the College Alumni Board. Contribute to the future of the College and build some new friendships, renew old friendships as leaders and supporters for those having graduated from St. Scholastica. Remember, we are all Saints for Life!

*Susan Koering '73, President
The College of St. Scholastica
Alumni Association*



CLASS NOTES

1970

Mary Jo Wickum Pasek was honored by the Honorable Representative Kevin McCarthy for her work and service to Bakersfield College, The Bakersfield College Foundation and the Kern County Community. His remarks about her talent and commitment were read into the Congressional Record on Dec. 20, 2021.

1974

Reverend Marina Lachecki just published her fourth book, "St. John's Ministry on Madeline Island: A Century of Island Spirit." She writes in the field of creation spirituality and environmental education.

Susan C. Richards (MA '75) has a three-book contract for the Jessica Kallan Mystery series. The first two books in the series, "Write to Die" and "Dead Write," are available online or through local bookstores. She is currently in the process of completing the third book. She also has a stand-alone suspense novel, "Where Secrets Live," due to be released Sept. 6, 2022.

1995

Dawn Johnson (MA/MBA '15) has published a book, "Outwit the Workplace Bully: 8 Steps You Need to Know to Reclaim Your Career, Confidence, and Sanity," available on Amazon.

1998

Chris Klay (MA '99) is the new president and CEO of HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital in O'Fallon, IL.

2000

Dena (Wuebkers) Hagen, Director of Special Education of the Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative, received the 2022 New Special Education Leader Award from the Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE). She received this award for her commitment to students with disabilities and their families and her active involvement in professional and community affairs.

2001

Elissa Grossell-Dickey will publish a second novel, "Iris in the Dark," coming June 7, 2022, from Lake Union Publishing. Her debut novel, "The Speed of Light," was released on March 1, 2021, also from Lake Union.

2003

Beth Conley (DNP '21) is looking forward to continuing her career at Essentia Health as an advanced practice registered nurse specializing in neurology.

Carmen Schroeder (MA '07) is on the oncology and hematology team at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth.

Lisa Zallar, APRN, CNP, (MA '07) has joined St. Luke's Lester River Medical Clinic.

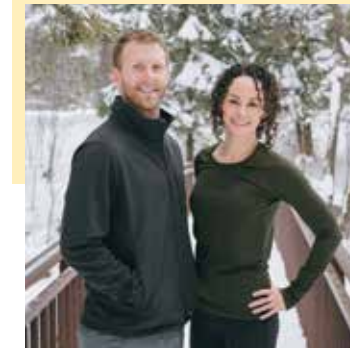
2004

Ryan Hirsch is a partner at RMS, a leading provider of audit, tax and consulting services.

Leah Berg, MS, RN, CPHQ, was promoted to director of quality management at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth.

2006

Dr. DJ Lahti (DPT '08) and **Jamie (Smith) Foreman** '01 (MA '02) together have opened Exel North Physical Therapy and Performance in Hermantown.



Nicole Swanson (DNP '21) is an advanced practice registered nurse and certified nurse practitioner specializing in internal medicine at Essentia Health in Duluth.

2008

Dr. Brian Dorr (MA) (MBA '10) is the Total Rewards Manager at Hennepin County. In December 2021, he successfully defended his dissertation and is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management.



Shannon (Smith) Davis is an acquisitions editor at Harvard Education Press, a mission-driven publisher covering critical issues in education.

2009

Ben VanTassel is the new director of administrative services for the City of Duluth.

2010

Rob Downs III is a mortgage banker at National Bank of Commerce in the Solon Springs, WI, branch.

Karlyn Johnson, PMHNP, APRN, CNP, is on the psychiatry team at Sanford Health in Bemidji, MN.

2011

Sarah Greeman, APRN, CNP, is working at St. Luke's Hospital Urgent Care in Duluth.

2012

Laura Blabac (MS) received the Minnesota Health Information Management Association (MNHIMA) Distinguished Member Award at their recent annual conference. This award honors those whose dedication to the profession has been demonstrated through exemplary work, service, achievement or lasting contribution to the HIM profession in a tangible way.

Jill Essay has joined Essentia Health St. Mary's-Superior Clinic specializing in cardiology.

Yodit Gidey was selected as one of Duluth's "20 Under 40" in 2022. This is awarded to individuals who are successful in their chosen fields, who are role models in their careers or who have demonstrated leadership in their business or the community.

CLASS NOTES CONTINUED >>>

Liz Zappitello (MA/MBA) is the Chief Nursing Officer at Community Memorial Hospital in Cloquet, MN.

2013

Gabi (Herrara) Caldecott is a Family Office Client Service Consultant at Wells Fargo in the Twin Cities.

2014

Alexandra Atkinson (DNP '21) has joined the gastroenterology team at Essentia Health-Duluth Clinic.

Nicholas Bates, PhD, is a Senior Clinical Specialist at Abbott Labs in Plymouth, MN.

Kellie (Larsen) Margarit (DNP '21) is an advanced practice registered nurse and certified nurse practitioner at the Essentia Health-Proctor Clinic, where she specializes in family medicine.

Lauren (Wilson) Wuorio is an advanced practice registered nurse and certified nurse practitioner specializing in family medicine at Essentia Health-West Duluth Clinic.

2015

Gretchen Kreklow, DDS, has joined Rowell Dentistry in Grand Rapids, MN.

Paul Schommer qualified for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing as a member of the U.S. Biathlon team. This was Schommer's first Olympic Games, after finishing 22nd in the 20-kilometer event to qualify.

Kelly Schultz has joined St. Luke's Mental Health Clinic in Duluth.

2017

Joshua Klous is a family nurse practitioner at Lakewood Health System in Staples, MN.

Joshua Robak, MD, graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences in May. In June, he began his residency in psychiatry at Creighton University in Omaha, NE.



2018

Tori Anderson (MS '20) is a physician's assistant at Essentia Health-Duluth Clinic on the neurosurgery team.

Alexander Bianchi, PA-C, is working at Essentia Health-Duluth Clinic specializing in internal medicine.

2019

Kylie Cochran (MSW) has joined St. Luke's Mental Health Clinic in Duluth.

Rachel Deluca, APRN, CNP, is working at St. Luke's hospital in Duluth on its psychiatry team.

Alicia Desmarais (DPT) is a physical therapist at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth.

Dawn Turchi (MSW), a licensed independent social worker specializing in behavioral health, has joined Essentia Health St. Mary's-Superior Clinic.

2021

Dani Edin (DPT) has joined St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth.

Jennifer Rose (DNP), APRN, CNP, is working at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth on its Community Care Team. St. Luke's Community Care Team visits several area assisted living facilities and nursing homes to care for residents.

Carmen Schroder (MS) is on the oncology and hematology team at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth.

Bethany Wendlandt (DNP) is a family nurse practitioner with Centracare Neuroscience Pain Center in St. Cloud, MN.

MARRIAGES

Jessica (Amiot) and Cody Adams '15, Nov. 21, 2021.



BIRTH/ADOPTIONS

Heather (Johnson) '09 and Kyle Heffner '09, a boy, Drake, Nov. 27, 2021.



Alex (Grivette) '11 and Thomas Kelly '10, a daughter, Minnie, Jan. 26, 2022.



Karissa (Lange) '12 and Will Goetsch, a boy, Dylan, Sept. 25, 2021.



Dr. Emily (Kahnau) '13 (DPT '16) and Connor Blacksher '14, a girl, Emerald Allyn, Nov. 24, 2021.



Chelsea (Johnson) '14 and Ryan Peterson, a boy, Beckham, Nov. 22, 2021.



Lakeisha (Lommel) '16 and Mitchell O'Neil '16 (MS '18), a girl, Aaliya Marie, Feb. 22, 2022.



Tera (Bergeron) '17 (MS '20) and Evan White '18, a daughter, Hadley Mae, May 24.



DEATHS

MGenevieve (Gales) Lange '42 died on April 14, 2022. She is survived by children, Richard (Brenda), Ann Marie (Mark) Miller, Therese (William) Bidstrup, Lawrence (Dianna) and Gail (John) Losch; grandchildren, Anderson, Addison, Edison (Carly), Amanda, Marta, Lawrence John II, Mark, Breanna, Trevor (Teera), Lindsay (Sean) and the late Rebekah; cherished great grandmother of Lily and Milo Losch; and siblings, Georgia Minelli, Frances Gales and Virginia Nelson.

Lorraine Gay '46 died on Feb. 25, 2022. She is survived by many relatives in Minnesota, the Amon family and friends in California.

Rosemary (Vaida) Simons '47 died on Oct. 16, 2021. She is survived by children, Michael Simons, Toni Cunningham, Sally McGrath, Janet Simons Folger, Susan Gajewski, Terry Levenson, Rachel Sama, Claire Simons, Robert A. Simons Jr., and Cathi Crouse; sister, Barbara Grillo; 15 grandchildren, a great-grandchild, 4 step-grandchildren and a large extended family.

Marcella (Carpenter) Tourville '47 died on Jan. 1, 2022. She is survived by daughters, Claudette (Bill) Thompson, Yvonne Simpson, Dianna (Bryan) Marozas, Renee Tourville, Mary (Robert) Stamm and Taunya (Paul) Bennett, as well as her son Robert.

Marie (Ehlen) Behnke '51 died on June 4, 2021. She is survived by brother, Norb (Barbara) Baeseman; sons, James (Ruth), Ronald (Brenda), Richard, Raymond, Roger (Yvonne) and Darryl (Lisa) Behnke; 18 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Mary (Geimer) Ribich '52 died on Jan. 18, 2022. She is survived by son, Mark Ribich; granddaughter, Lindsey Ribich; daughter, Catherine Ann Grubich; grandsons, Christopher Constantini, Sean Constantini and Nikolai Grubich; granddaughter, Carly Grubich; and great-granddaughter, Madelynn Grubich.

Gertrude (Brophy) Denn '54 died on March 30, 2022. She is survived by husband, William; children, Kathy Tischler, Tom (Jeannette) Denn, Lisa Adami, Mary (Nick) Hernandez, Nancy Denn; 12 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Margaret (Neussendorfer) Billias '55 died on Feb. 11, 2022. She is survived by brothers, Bro. Felix O.S.B., Cyril (Esther) and Alex (Lucille); stepchildren, Stephen (Bela Breslau), Athan (Keiko Ikeda) and Professor Nancy Billias.

Barbara (Stack) Gleeson '55 died on Jan. 5, 2022. She is survived by husband, Jerry; brother, James Stack; 7 children and their spouses/significant others; 14 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Mary "Peg" (Emley) Smith '55 died on Feb. 8, 2022. She is survived by husband, Bill; children, Julie Kerry, Jim (Julie) Smith, Mark (Marilyn) Smith, Mary (Mark) French, Paul (Maria) Smith, David (Cara) Smith, and Sarah (Steve) Foutch; 12 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Joan Mary Bickford '59 died on Jan. 11, 2022. She is survived by sister-in-law, Cheryl; nephew, Sean (Christine Singleton); niece, Leanne (Thomas) Joseph; nephew, Robert (Kyla Brown); grandnieces Jaiya, Kiryn and Maliya Joseph, and Aurora Brown-Bickford, as well as step grandnephews, Liam and Connor Singleton.

Sister Melanie Gagne '59 died on Dec. 11, 2021. She is survived by the Benedictine Sisters; brother, Rev. Ronald Gagne; sister, Mary (Gagne) Jaeb, and many nieces and nephews.

Margaret (Forster) Colbert '60 died on Dec. 17, 2021. She is survived by husband, Gerry; sons, Michael (Lauri), Dan, Bill (Marie), Patrick (Julia); daughters, Debra (Brian) Murphy, and Becky (Andy) Dykstra; 15 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

Amelia (Salvi) Roberts '60 died on May 20, 2021. She is survived by children, Bobby Jean (Jan) Roberts, Earl Roberts, and Jimmy (Oksun) Roberts, 4 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Jean (Pavlovich) Till '64 died on April 11, 2022. She is survived by husband, Joseph; sons, Bradley (Rachel) Till and Joseph IV (Nicki); grandchildren, Olivia and Joey Till; and sister, Julie (Craig) Nippet.

Sheila (Quinlan) Egan ’67 died on Feb. 12, 2022. She is survived by, Tom, and their dog, Remi; sons, Patrick, Robert, David, Thomas and Richard Egan; and nephews, Joseph LaBat and David LaBat.

Mary “Toni” (Mancina) Genalo ’67 died on Nov. 2, 2021. She is survived by husband, Tom; children, Larry (Gayle) Genalo, Daniel (Alison) Genalo and Kristen (Bastian) Rau; brother, Michael (Marjorie) Mancina; grandchildren, Tara (Kenny) Buchanan, Jacob Genalo, Nicole Genalo, Dexter Rau and Malina Rau; 4 great-grandchildren, multiple nieces, and nephews, and of course, her faithful and loyal 7-pound companion, Jumbo.

Karen Gallagher ’68 died on Feb. 22, 2022. She is survived by siblings, Neal John Gallagher, Valerie Flegel, Margaret “Peg” (Clint) Grinsteiner, Patrick Gallagher, Ed “Chuck” (Lillian) Gallagher, Jackie (Arnold) Guerra; nieces and nephews, Alexandra Gallagher, Greg Buschmann, Stacy Ford, Christopher Flegel, Chad Grinsteiner, Robyn Miller, Melissa Gilbert, Nathan Guerra, Beth Whiteman, Andre Guerra, Todd, Jason and Michael Gallagher.

Margaret (Eklund) Griggs ’68 died on Jan. 22, 2022. She is survived by husband, Fred; sons, Jeff, Kevin (Molly); daughters, Becky, Laurie (Ryan) Starling; sisters, Patricia (John) Murray, Marion Adineh; 5 grandchildren, 1 great-granddaughter; and many beloved cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Mona Lee (Vito) LaFlair ’68 died on Oct. 5, 2021. She is survived by husband, James; brother, Jerry Vito; and several nieces and nephews.

Deborah Cimperman Clasen ’70 died on April 10, 2022. She is survived by husband, Steve; son, Cory (Renee) Clasen, Jeremy (Sue) Clasen; grandchildren, Calvin, Taylor, Danica, Trevor, Kaelyn, Emma Grace; brothers, William (Mary) Cimperman, Ron (Judy) Cimperman; sister-in-law Ann (Eugene) Cimperman; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbors and friends.

Kathleen (Ryan) Boone ’73 died on Nov. 16, 2021. She is survived by son, Joe (Becky) Boone; daughter, Ellie (Jack) Langlas; 6 siblings, Jack (Jan) Ryan, Pat (Ann) Ryan, Claudia (Cal) Ryan-Mosley, Joe (Tracy Constable) Ryan, Mary Ryan (Dave) Fenske and Jean Ryan. She also leaves many nieces and nephews, 6 grandchildren, good friends and former students.

Cindy (Riste) Haynes ’73 died on Dec. 14, 2021. No obituary available.

Kathleen (Perko) Zorman ’73 died on May 6, 2022. She is survived by daughters, Cassie (Corey Haugen) Zorman, Nicole Zorman; brother, Daniel (Elaine) Perko; special friend, Mark Ahonen; and grandson, Clayton Zorman.

Luella (Brunelle) Brown ’76 died on Feb. 28, 2022. She is survived by children, William “Bill” (Wendy) Brunelle, Jeffrey Brunelle, Brian (Alli) Brunelle, and Lisa (Jamie) Mitchell; special son, Colin “Kelly” Brunelle; brother, Kent (Deb) Beaulieu; sisters, Gloria Hanson, Katherine Pemberton, and Susie (Tom) Roy; special grandson, Dakotah (Hallie) Brunelle, 14 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and numerous other family members.

Mary Hieb-Ekstrom ’76 died on April 16, 2021. No obituary available.

Mark Mayerle ’76 died on Nov. 29, 2021. He is survived by sisters, Judy (Al) Burroughs and Sister Judine Mayerle, O.S.B. ’64; brothers, Jim (Kris) Mayerle and Tom (Susan) Mayerle; nieces and nephews, Karen (Jason) Payne and Kerry (JaNet) Burroughs, Cheryl Lewis and James and Erika Mayerle, Jennifer, Scott (Melissa), and Rob Mayerle.

Mary (Vogt) Lee ’80 died on Oct. 17, 2021. She is survived by children, Sue (Rich) Powell, Brigitte (Dave Rampier) Klejeski, Brady (Donna Voge) Klejeski, Michelle (Tony) Roffers, Karissa Lee, Robert E. Lee IV; grandchildren, Felix and Harper Powell, Jessi Klejeski, Xavier Klejeski, and Marlee and Everlee Roffers; and many extended family.

Joyce Ferrari ’81 died on Feb. 2, 2022. She is survived by son, Ricky (Dolly) Ferrari; daughters, Deanna Ferrari, Ann (Sean) Guard and Darla (Curt) Fiedler; brother, Richard (Tess) Heineman; sister, Linda Frank; 9 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mary Catherine (Cathy) Holt ’82 died on Jan. 30, 2022. She will be missed dearly by her family and friends, and all who have been blessed to have had her in their lives.

Marlene Pikula ’83 died on Dec. 16, 2021. No obituary available.

Laureen Smith ’87 died on March 4, 2021. She is survived by sons, Colin Farley, Daniel Farley, and Joseph Farley; sister, Claudia Smith; brother Gregory Smith; niece, Erin Hartfield; nephew, Jake Akervik; and many other family, friends and loved ones.

Nancy (Runcie) Veeder ’87 died on Dec. 16, 2021. She is survived by children, Troy, Nonnie (Melissa), Parris (Jackie), Cassandra (Tim); brothers James Runcie and John Runcie; grandchildren, David, Julia, Suzanna, Lauren, Grace and Jackson, and Ian.

Brian Case ’91 (MA ’09) died on May 18, 2022. He is survived by wife, Ellen; sons, Samuel and Daniel; parents, Delbert “Del” and Jeanne Case; brother, Phil Case; sister, Jennifer (Brian) Abrahamson; parents-in-law, Lawrence and Kay Roch; sisters-in-law, Lori (Ron) DeFrance, Cathy (Mike) Ortscheid, LeAnn Johnson; and extended family and friends.

Jean (Lynard) Gardner ’91 died on April 20, 2022. She is survived by children, Leslie (Rene) Prado, Josie Cappel, Tony (Michele) Gardner, Mary (Larry) Mota, and Michael (Valerie) Gardner; brother, Tom (Wally) Lynard; grandchildren, Justin Bucksbaum, Jasmine Gardner, Andy Gardner, and Sterling Gardner; by various nieces and nephews; and by many friends all over the world.

Clyde Atwood ’93 died on Sept. 14, 2021. He is survived by sisters, Kim (Peter) Spoor, Dawn (Mark) Schulze; and his fur baby, Lily.

Thomas Wilkinson ’94 died on May 15, 2022. He is survived by mother, Sheila Wilkinson; aunts and uncles, Harry and Shirley Berg, Craig Walters, and Don Ball; many cousins; and special friends, Greg, Karen and Jeff.

William Kliever ’97 died on May 16, 2022. He is survived by wife, Evelyn; stepchildren, Kristi Redus (Stu), Richard (Melissa) Cernota and Nora (David) Haigh; grandchildren, Jennifer Perez, Christofer Green, Trevor and Carly Cernota, and Cassidy and Ian Haigh; great-grandson Ryan Perez; and brother, James (Charlene) Lindberg.

Susan Elofson-Anderson ’00 died on March 27, 2021. She is survived by husband, Brian; brothers, Robert, Rex (Sherri); sisters, Bonnie (Dave) Ekstrom, Connie (Karl) Krolick, and Leilani (Dan) Celley; and many nieces and nephews.

Nina Massey (MA ’07) died on Sept. 2, 2021. She was loved and cherished by many people including her parents, George Massey, Jr. and Margaret Woodard Massey.

Kimberly Davis ’08 died on Jan. 10, 2021. She is survived by children, Nathan Schreck, Samantha Davis, Evan Davis, Nadia Davis, and Marlow Segobiano; siblings, Kendra Coots, Kristen Wasinski, Kara Zander, Kourtney Sanchez, Katy Schreck, Kyla Schreck; and nephews, Derek Alliss, Kevin Alliss, Lucas Zander, Joshua Wasinski, Elijah Wasinski, Kyra Sanchez, Jared Sanchez, Audrey Coots, Samuel Coots, Bennett Coots, Olivia Schreck, Diana Alliss (great-niece); and parents, Karol Jean Riddle and Russell Charles Schreck, Jr.

Daniel Reis ’08 died on April 9, 2022. He is survived by father, Joseph F. Reis; brother, Patrick; grandmother, LaVon True; and other family members and many friends.

Anthony Gould (DPT ’10) died on March 7, 2022. He is survived by brother, John; nieces and nephews; 12 grandnieces and nephews; and numerous truly good friends.

Kristine (Rubedor) LaFleur ’11 died on May 4, 2022. She is survived by parents, DeWayne and Maurine Rubedor; sister, Kathy (Dean) Crowell; brother, David (Byron) Rubedor; nephew, Daniel Crowell; nieces, Amber (Greg) Becker, and Katie (Adam) Rubedor-Green; and many other cousins, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Amy (Broglia) Wilcox ’13 died on Feb. 23, 2022. She is survived by parents, Pam and Paul Broglia; brother, Christopher Broglia; children, Holland Wilcox and Paige Wilcox; and the many close friends she made everywhere life took her.

Jean (Kurth) Danen ’57 on the death of her husband, Richard.

Jacqueline (Gallagher) Guerra ’64 on the death of her sister, Karen.

Sister Judine Mayerle ’64 on the death of her brother, Mark.

Susan Koering ’73 on the death of her sister, Beverly.

Sandra (Humleker) Granger ’74 on the death of her husband, Rick.

Anna Marie (Lepore) Hockenbery ’82 on the death of her father, Ted.

Donna (Fox) Bigelow ’83 on the death of her father, Henry.

Dawn (Atwood) Schulze ’86 on the death of her father, Michael.

Lisa (Lepore) Ekman ’87 on the death of her father, Ted.

Ellen (Roch) Case ’89 on the death of her husband, Brian.

Maria Jacenko ’89 on the death of her partner, John.

James Antilla ’90 (MA ’94) on the death of his brother Jeffrey.

Scott Holden ’90 on the death of his father, Loren.

Brenda Liker ’90 on the death of her father, Richard.

Dana Britz-Cook ’91 on the death of her father, Larry.

Stacy (Pelletier) Deadrick ’91 on the death of her father, Gene.

Suzanne (Klejeski) Powell ’91 on the death of her mother, Mary Jo Lee.

Evelyn Kliever ’92 on the death of her husband, Bill.

Molly (Herzan) Burton ’02 on the death of her father, David.

Jensina (Pederson) Campbell ’06 on the death of her mother, Sandra.

Samantha (Szczech) Axt ’08 (MBA ’20) on the death of her father, Edward.

Shannon Davis ’08 on the death of her mother, Debra.

Sheryl (Scheer) Sandahl ’12 on the death of her mother, Dorothy.

Elizabeth Gearhart ’16 on the death of her father, John.

Jacob Pederson ’17 on the death of his mother, Sandra.

Jeanne (Lepore) Holmquist on the death of her father, Ted.

Mary (Butorac) Paloranta on the death of her sister, Sharon.

Jeanne Case on the death of her son, Brian.



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 Nov. 28, 2021 and June 13, 2022.

If you submitted a note that is not featured, please contact Alumni Engagement at alumni@css.edu, 218-723-6071 or 866-935-3731.

We'll be Seeing You!

Our events and programming may have changed, but the mission of the Alumni Association remains the same: to meaningfully connect our alumni with one another and the College. We hope you will join us and our global community of Saints, as we continue to embark on a journey of virtual events together!

Yoga Two Times per Month

Check css.edu/alumni for dates and times
Virtual

September 6, 2022

Convocation and Saints Heritage Club
Duluth Campus

September 30, 2022

Student Talent Show and
Young Alumni Award Presentation
Duluth Campus

October 1, 2022

Homecoming, Alumni Gathering and
Various Athletic Games

October 10, 2022

AHIMA Alumni Social
Columbus, OH

November 29, 2022

Vespers and Lighting a Tradition
Duluth Campus

December 17, 2022

Fall Commencement
Duluth Campus

February 26, 2023

Alumni Gathering
San Diego, CA

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 of your own.

For more information, contact Lisa Roseth '04,
Director of Alumni Engagement
at lroseth@css.edu or 218-723-6016.

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)			



#SAINTSRISEUP

#CSSATHLETICSWEEKOFGIVING

♦ SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 1 ♦

Mark your calendar for September 26 when we will kick off the third annual Athletics Week of Giving! Join us for an exciting week of support as the Saints community comes together to lift up the incredible athletes and teams at St. Scholastica and ensure our athletic programs' strength and quality for years to come.

what is your legacy?



We invite you to endow a scholarship through a planned gift.

Did you know that leaving a charitable gift to endow a scholarship at the College will support one of the College's campaign priorities? We will help you define your scholarship's criteria so that your legacy is part of our *A Second Century of Saints* campaign. Future students will benefit from your future support of St. Scholastica. *Believe. Belong. Transform!*

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.

WE LOVE STORM'S FURRY FRIENDS!

This spring, Alumni Engagement sent bandanas to alumni pet owners who snapped a photo to share. Storm has a good-looking pack of pals!

